

== The ==

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Committee.

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Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642.



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

Telegrams:
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Jan. 6th, 1921.

The Campaign against Tropical Disease.

THE personal appeal which LORD MILNER made to the members of the West India Committee a few weeks ago for contributions towards the Fund which he is raising to provide for the maintenance of the London School of Tropical Medicine has met with a very gratifying response. It says much for the generosity of the members that so soon after subscribing upwards of £22,775 for the West India Committee's Endowment Fund they should already have contributed £27,085 towards the London School. In view of the announcement which we were able to make in our last issue to the effect that the School proposed to send out an expedition to the West Indies next spring to investigate the distressing disease known as filariasis, it is probable that this total will be considerably increased, for when the West Indian communities awake to the full realisation of the splendid work which is being undertaken by the School in the direction of stamping out preventable tropical disease, we may be sure that they will not allow the movement to be hampered through lack of funds. The coming expedition, which is being sent out on the invitation of LORD MILNER, may be regarded as the

first fruits of the policy of duplicating the appointments to the higher posts in the School, so that experts might from time to time be able to visit those countries requiring their assistance without hampering the general work, which consists largely of training medical officers for service in the tropics. The main attack of the expedition will be directed against filariasis, a complaint which is terribly prevalent in the British West Indies, and especially so in British Guiana, where Dr. ROSE has estimated that at least 40 per cent. of the population have been at some time or other infected with the parasite known to medical scientists as *filaria bancrofti*. This infection has many symptoms, some of the most important being fever and ague, known locally in Barbados as the "rose," chyluria, and abscesses, while it has as a ghastly sequel elephantiasis, that cruel disease responsible for terrible deformities, the legs of the sufferers in some cases swelling to gargantuan proportions, which render them terrible to look upon. It is known that the parasite of filaria is conveyed from man to man by mosquitoes, the *culex fatigans* being the principal carrier in the West Indies. This, being a domestic mosquito, can be easily controlled, and when once this has been done a link in the chain of the development of the disease will be snapped and consequently filariasis will necessarily disappear. The object of the London School of Tropical Medicine's expedition will be, therefore, to impress upon the local authorities the urgent necessity of securing the destruction of all domestic mosquitoes, as has been done so very effectively in the Panama Canal zone. Incidentally, such a campaign as is contemplated would involve the destruction of the *stegomyia fasciata*, the carrier of yellow fever also. Besides carrying on a vigorous anti-mosquito campaign, the expedition will also conduct experiments with various treatments with the object of endeavouring to kill the filaria worms *in situ* by injecting drugs into the veins of the persons infected, as has been done in the case of Bilharzial disease (thus continuing on the spot the admirable work already done by Dr. GEORGE C. LOW at the headquarters of the School in London in this connection), and of turning to practical advantage vaccine therapy for those inflammatory lesions well known to accompany filariasis, such as, for example, lymphangitis and other septic complications. Those who were responsible for selecting British Guiana as the field of operations of the expedition have shown praiseworthy imagination, for it must be obvious that it must be more

difficult to control mosquitoes in a country in which the inhabited portion is below the level of the sea than in islands of limited area. From this it follows that if success is achieved in British Guiana, the task of cleaning up the West Indian Islands will be easy by comparison. That the communities throughout the West Indies will watch with sympathetic interest the progress of the work conducted in the neighbouring mainland colony by the helminthologists of the School is a foregone conclusion, for if a cure for filariasis is found, a real and lasting benefit will be conferred on them by the eradication of a disease which has a peculiarly devitalising effect, sapping as it does the very life blood of the sufferers and rendering them listless and utterly indisposed to work even when they may be able to do so. For ourselves we rejoice to learn that British brains and capital are now going to do what America has been doing, and whilst we are second to none in our appreciation of the magnificent work which the Rockefeller Foundation has done and is doing in combating ankylostomiasis, it has always seemed to us to be a matter for reproach that it should be left to private enterprise in the United States to clean up British colonies! Let us all then do what we possibly can to support our own institution for the prevention and cure of tropical disease, the London School of Tropical Medicine.

The Unjust Venezuelan Surtax.

IN JUNE, 1881, SENOR GUZMAN BLANCO, the then President of the Republic of Venezuela, issued a decree imposing a surtax of 30 per cent *ad valorem* on all goods entering Venezuela from the British West Indies. This surtax came into force on May 3rd, 1882, with disastrous results to the prosperous transshipment trade which Trinidad had been enjoying. Geographically, the position of Trinidad renders that island peculiarly suitable as an entrepot for European and American goods destined for Venezuela. Such goods were landed at Port-of-Spain, as they still are to a small extent, for despatch by river steamers and small craft to Ciudad Bolivar and other ports of the Orinoco River, the delta of which mighty river Trinidad lies. Trinidad, in fact, is the natural distributing centre for the trade of the Orinoco district of Venezuela. Many reasons have been given for this action of PRESIDENT GUZMAN BLANCO, whose main object was probably to encourage direct trade by countervailing the geographical advantages which Trinidad possesses. Whatever was his motive, and no good purpose will be served by investigating it at this juncture, the surtax has been regarded for the last half century as a grave injustice, being, as it admittedly is, an infringement of the Treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Colombia, which was formally confirmed in 1834 by Great Britain and Venezuela, when that State declared its independence. In spite, however, of constant representations on the part of the British Government, whose attention has frequently been called to the matter by the West India Committee and other bodies, the surtax remains. It will be recalled that on the occasion of the dinner given by the Committee to the British Guiana Colonisation

Deputation on August 29th, 1919, the opportunity was taken of entertaining Dr. José RODRÍGUEZ, the Venezuelan Trade Commissioner, who was at that time visiting London, and that that gentleman promised to look into the matter of the much discussed surtax, and to lay before his Government the views of the people of Trinidad which were ably set out by Mr. EDGAR TRIPP regarding it. Since then, however, no further step towards a settlement appears to have been taken. The adjustment of these differences between Great Britain and Venezuela would be manifestly to the advantage of the Orinoco district, as it would be that of Trinidad, apart altogether from the settlement of the delicate international question raised by the infringement of treaty rights. We trust therefore that the vigorous Imperial policy of the present Government will include the adoption of the necessary steps to secure the removal of this surtax which Lord GRAY, then the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at the time of its imposition, described as "a grave infraction of the Treaty of 1825."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Those members of the West India Committee who have not already done so are requested to forward their subscriptions to the West India Committee for the current year, which became due on January 1st, to the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. 3, at their earliest convenience, or to pay them in to any of the branches of the Colonial Bank, or Royal Bank of Canada. There has been no increase in the *minimum* subscription of individuals, which remains at the pre-war figure of £1 1s (\$5.00), or £10 10s (\$50.00) for life membership. The West India Committee is the only Colonial body of the kind which has not increased its subscription, and it is hoped that members will show their appreciation by liberally supporting the Endowment Funds, the total of which is now £22,775.

TWENTY-SEVENTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£22,743	15	3	
T. B. Hull, Esq.	...	6	0	0
Benjamin H. Segre, Esq.	...	5	5	0
W. H. Richards, Esq.	...	4	3	4
David Baird, Esq.	...	2	2	0
F. L. Berry, Esq.	...	2	2	0
Mrs. Eileen Centeno	...	2	2	0
Lieut. Col. B. J. Inmiss	...	2	2	0
R. V. Ewan Wong, Esq.	...	2	2	0
Thomas Fisher, Esq.	...	1	1	0
Lynch King, Esq.	...	1	1	0
C. V. Newton, Esq.	...	1	1	0
Mrs. H. M. Tredgold	...	1	1	0
J. P. de Verteuil, Esq.	...	1	0	0
Dr. W. Hewley Wharton, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.	...	1	0	0

APPROPOS of the leading article which appeared in the CIRCULAR of October 14th, it is interesting to note that the City of London has now decided to adopt Verdun, while Mauritius is proposing to act as god-mother to several French villages.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"You shake man han', you no shake him heart."

In the Philippines the area under sugar was increased during 1920 by over 100,000 acres. The average yield of sugar per acre is three-quarters of a ton.

We regret to learn that Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, M.A. for many years a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, is lying seriously ill at his residence, "Dunmow," East Sheen.

Mr. J. W. McCONNELL, who has been elected Chairman of the Fine Spinners and Doublers Association, is a member of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, and also of the British Cotton Growing Association.

FUEL-OIL bunkering stations are being constructed in Australia. The principal steamship lines trading with that Dominion will use oil instead of coal as soon as these stations are completed. The present sources of supply of oil will be augmented by importations from Papua.

Our congratulations are extended to his Excellency Sir William Manning, formerly Governor of Jamaica, and now Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Ceylon, upon his marriage to Olga Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Sefton-Jones, of 74, Cadogan-place, S.W., which was solemnised at Colombo on December 15th.

COLONEL H. A. BARCLAY, C.V.O., A.D.C. to the King, who spent last winter in Jamaica is returning to the island by the *Camille* on January 31st. He writes that "it is the only place really fit to live in in winter, and I revel in every moment spent there, and shall be ever grateful to the West India Committee for first advising me to go there."

The full Bench of the Supreme Court of America has ruled, says a Boston report, that unless Jamaica ginger is sold as a beverage it is not to be considered an intoxicating liquor. To the non-judicial mind it is difficult to imagine how ginger could be sold as a beverage, even by our American cousins, in spite of its well-known stimulating effect when applied in the solid form. But what the full Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States has been up against is evidently the ginger beer or ale of our boyhood, to which prohibition has driven the American consumers. We cannot imagine it feasible to reproduce the conditions of Omar Khayyam's Elysium on ginger beer, but, after all, it may be done on the other side, where all things are possible.

NATALITE is the name given in Natal to the motor spirit manufactured there from molasses. These are fermented in the usual manner, and the wash distilled in a continuous still at a strength of 95 to 97 per cent. (66° to 70° O.P.). Half of the spirit thus formed is then converted into ether by an agency of sulphuric acid, and the ether mixed with the other moiety of the alcohol. A product admirably adapted to power purposes in internal combustion engines is thus obtained, the difficulty experienced in starting engines from the cold with alcohol alone being thus overcome. As, however, the mixture still forms a potable spirit to some palates, the question as regards the West Indies arises as to whether the local Excise authorities would consider the de-

naturing with ether sufficient to warn off those tempted to take it internally.

WHILST unstinted praise is due to Mr. W. C. Shankland, Government Director of Co-operative Credit Banks in British Guiana, the transactions of which have risen from \$1,027 in 1915 to nearly \$85,000 last year, and probably over \$150,000 for the current financial year, credit must be given to those who originated the movement in British Guiana as far back as 1908—namely, the late Hon. B. Howell Jones and Mr. Luke M. Hill. Early in 1909 Mr. Hill read a paper before a meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana (of which Mr. Howell Jones was then president) on the results of his inquiries into the working of the Irish Co-operative Societies and Agricultural Banks made by him during a visit to his native land in 1908.

This paper was afterwards reprinted in a handbook on the subject, issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, under Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G. Following on the scheme therein outlined, some Co-operative Agricultural Loan Banks were inaugurated in the East Coast villages in 1909, and their promise of initial success subsequently received the active support of the Colonial Government, and led to the appointment of Mr. Shankland, from the Local Government Board, as official commissioner and inspector of the district banks, and to his credit is certainly due the successful development of the co-operative scheme since that time. In Mr. Shankland's last annual report special reference and acknowledgment are made to the practical aid received from Mr. S. H. Bayley, Superintendent of the Oudermeering Reformatory, Mr. J. McFarlane Corry, J.P., of the West Coast, Demerara, and Dr. K. S. Wise, late Surgeon-General of British Guiana in furtherance of the co-operative movement amongst the villagers and farmers of the colony, and which is highly satisfactory to all concerned.

With a view to co-ordinating important sugar news of the day for busy men who have not the time to wade through all the publications in which it appears, Mr. Truman G. Palmer is editing a "Sugar Bulletin," which will be published weekly at Washington. Information regarding the sugar industry may be classified under two general heads, that having a permanent or reference library value, and equally important news of a passing character. The former is embodied in Mr. Palmer's admirable "loose leaf" service, whereby the subscriber builds up his own volume with leaves supplied to him from time to time. Current sugar news of the evanescent type will now appear in the "Bulletin," and the two services will supplement each other. The annual subscription for this eminently useful publication is \$15 per annum. To show how the news is abbreviated the following reference to an article which appeared in the CIRCULAR may be given:—
"72 Mosaic Cane Disease in Jamaica. Governor of Jamaica declares mosaic disease of sugar to be an infective plant disease within the meaning of the Plant Disease Law.—WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Oct. 28."

COCONUT SOUP.—Grate $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of the dried white of the nut and boil it in white stock or water for 30 minutes, using only a small quantity of stock. Strain the coconut stock, adding salt, pepper and nutmeg. Pour upon the strained stock 3 pints of boiling milk, thickened with a little ground rice. Stir well, and serve with croutons.—Hon. F. H. Walkins, I.S.O.
[The Editor will welcome West Indian recipes for publication in the CIRCULAR.]

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICE.

Business Needs and British Prestige.

In response to an invitation for the expression of their views regarding the question of West Indian steamship communication, the Executive of the West India Committee have submitted the following Memorandum to the Imperial Shipping Committee:

MEMORANDUM ON STEAMER COMMUNICATION.

"The general views of the West India Committee on the subject of West India steamer communication are in accord with those expressed by the West India Shipping Committee in their report dated August 15th, 1919 (Command paper 372).

"The question at the moment is largely one of the provision of facilities to enable passengers to travel direct between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies. Fairly frequent opportunities for the transmission of mails are afforded by the steamers of the Harrison Direct Line, the Royal Netherlands Mail and other shipping companies and also via New York. At the same time it would be a great convenience to business men generally, and especially to bankers, if they could be assured that mails would be despatched at regular intervals, with the certainty of their arriving with regularity on certain dates. In this connection, it may be pointed out that twenty years ago mails were despatched from London on alternate Wednesdays, and delivered regularly in Barbados on the following Monday week, that is to say, in twelve days, whilst now it takes anything from sixteen days to three weeks for letters to reach their destinations.

"If direct passenger steamship communication was necessary before the war, it is, in the Committee's opinion, still more necessary now, in view of the adoption by Great Britain of the policy of Imperial Preference and the impending grant by the West Indian Colonies of reciprocal preferential advantages to the Mother Country, which should tend to increase considerably trade between Great Britain and the British West Indies. The present condition of the American exchange should further tend to divert West Indian trade from America to the Mother Country.

"At present adequate facilities are available for dealing with the cargo offering; but it is very important that British commercial travellers and business men generally should be able to travel to and from the West Indies direct instead of being compelled to put up with the inconvenience, expense, and delay involved by travelling via the United States or Canada. It is true that fortnightly opportunities will be afforded in the New Year by the Royal Netherlands Mail, but the Committee consider it extremely undesirable, from the Imperial standpoint, that British travellers should have to depend on a foreign steamship company for reaching British colonies.

"The Committee appreciate the offer of His Majesty's Government to guarantee a sum of money, calculated at the rate of £90,000 a year, for the maintenance of a provisional passenger steamer

service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies, provided that the colonies of Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad were willing similarly to guarantee a sum at the rate of £35,000 a year, and understand that the reasons why the West Indian colonies concerned failed to agree to contribute were that the arrangements were to be for three months only, and that they did not consider the vessels which it was proposed to use for such service suitable. There is, however, reason to believe that if the Imperial Government were to approach the West Indian colonies with an offer to contribute substantially towards a subsidy for a regular service by suitable ships for a period of years on the understanding that tenders would be invited, the proposal would be favourably entertained.

"Apart altogether from the importance of re-establishing direct steamship communication between this country and the British West Indies for business reasons, the question of prestige cannot be overlooked, and the West India Committee consider that it would be in the highest degree undesirable, from the Imperial standpoint, if the West Indies had to continue to depend on foreign steamship companies and services via the United States for the movement of the bulk of their mails and passengers."

ALGERNON ASPINALL,

Secretary.

The West India Committee,
15, Seething-lane, E. C. 3,
December 17th, 1920.

THE NEW PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS.

Copies of the new Customs Duties Ordinances of British Honduras and Grenada have now been received by the West India Committee. The object of these enactments is to give effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. It will be recalled that in last issue of the Circular attention was drawn to the fact that the Trinidad and Tobago Customs Duties Ordinance (No. 40, 1920) did not give the requisite preference in the duties on Canadian goods. These, under the Agreement, were not to be more than 50 per cent. of those on similar goods coming from foreign countries, but under the Ordinance they were fixed at 60½ per cent. of the duties on foreign goods, the preference thus being 33½ per cent. instead of 50 per cent. It is understood that steps are being taken to correct this remarkable mistake.

Grenada's new British preferential tariff follows that of Trinidad and Tobago very closely, but, as the Windward Islands pledged themselves to give a preference of 33½ per cent. only, it conforms with the agreement. Similarly the British Honduras Customs Tariff (Ordinance No. 33, 1920) appears to be quite in order. By both the preference is extended to goods the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British Empire, the *ad valorem* duties on articles not specifically enumerated nor on the "free list" being 10 per cent. under the British preferential and 15 per cent. under the general tariff. Grenada makes most British foodstuffs free, and subjects foreign grain to a duty of 1s. per

100 lb., and foreign fish also to one of 2s. 1d per 100 lb., except dried, salted, &c., which is 1s. per 100 lb. British Honduras, on the other hand, subjects corn, oats and rice to duties of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* when they are British and 15 per cent. *ad valorem* when foreign, while wheaten flour is free if imported direct from within the British Empire, the foreign produce paying \$1 per 196 lb., the preference in this case exceeding considerably the 1s. per 100 lb. provided for in the Canadian agreement. British machinery is free under both Ordinances, foreign machinery of all kinds paying 5 per cent. *ad valorem* in Grenada, while in British Honduras it all—with the exception of agricultural machinery, which is entirely free—is to pay 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Both tariffs afford a preference of 33 1/3 per cent. to a wide variety of articles which the United Kingdom and Canada can supply, such as bags, boots, cutlery, grain, hardware, saddlery, harness, carriages, confectionery, matches, stationery, oilcloth, linen manufactures and cotton goods, to mention a few only, and it is hoped that steps will be taken to bring to the notice of British shippers the very substantial advantages now offered to them. With these new preferential tariffs and the American Exchange in its present state, the opportunity for the development of trade within the Empire is now unique.

An interesting and important feature of the new tariffs is that there is complete uniformity of classification and arrangement in each—a useful innovation, the adoption of which has been very strongly urged by the West India Committee for some years past. Provided that the certificates of origin required under the tariff regulations are similarly uniform, a very notable step will have been taken towards securing that complete uniformity in all matters pertaining to the British West Indies, which must be the precursor of any closer union.

Pending the receipt of the necessary forms to be used in order to secure the benefits of the preference, British shippers are advised to use those provided for by the regulations under the Customs Tariff of the United Kingdom and prescribed Appendices D and E of the Notice No. 27 A issued by the Board of Customs.

When all the tariffs have been received, the West India Committee hope to be able to supply copies of the certificates of origin to applicants for a nominal charge.

THE congratulations of the CIRCULAR are extended to the under-mentioned whose names appear in the New Year's Honours List. Mr. Bernard Oppenheimer, a life member of the West India Committee, is made a Baronet, in recognition of his work in establishing a diamond-cutting industry for disabled soldiers. Brigadier-General Sir William Manning, formerly Governor in Jamaica, is given the G.C.M.G. Major H. E. S. Cordeaux, Governor of the Bahamas, receives the K.C.M.G. Mr. Pietro James Michelli, the Secretary of the London School of Tropical Medicine, also receives the honour to Knighthood in recognition of his splendid work on behalf of that Institution. A Knighthood is also conferred on Captain F. J. C. Ganzoni, M.P., whose father is a member of the firm of Messrs C. Czarnikow, Ltd., and Mr. Bernard Toole, Deputy Inspector-General of Police in Jamaica, receives the King's Police Medal.

"REVIVAL OF THE WEST INDIES."

Sir Edward Davson read an interesting paper on the "Revival of the West Indies," before a well-attended meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on December 21st at which Sir Charles Lucas, K.C.B., K.O.M.G., presided.

The Mother Country, he said, now realised the need of developing the Empire by encouraging its various parts to produce all they could to the utmost of their resources and for the common good, and he hoped that this system would be considered a permanent part of the Imperial policy. The new reciprocal Trading Agreement between the Dominion of Canada and the West Indies would probably mean a great development of trade between the parties to it. The Canadian market was a near one to the West Indies, and Canada had need of the products which the West Indies produced. It would therefore be apparent that the West Indies stood greatly to benefit by the advantages which they would now obtain both in Canada and in this country.

After dealing briefly with the principal products of the West Indies, the lecturer referred to the great oil industry in Trinidad, which island, he said, was becoming an important factor in considering the oil production of the world. Most of the large oil companies were now represented in the island, prospects of development continued to be favourable, and the production continued to increase.

With regard to steamship and cable communication, Sir Edward said: "The problem of a service between England and the West Indies is a difficult one, since at present, owing to the withdrawal of the Royal Mail service, passengers have to be content with making use of the limited accommodation to be found on cargo steamers or to avail themselves of foreign lines running from the Continent. This, obviously, is an unsatisfactory and undignified position, but this point is fully realised by the Governments concerned, and, in view of the fact that the Home Government has put forward some generous proposals regarding it, one may hope that we shall shortly find a solution which will be satisfactory on all sides."

"Next to steamers in importance comes cable communication, and the experience in the West Indies in the past in this connection has been most disastrous. It is, I think, fully agreed that the West Indies require a new cable line running from Bermuda to Trinidad which will serve as the main line of communication both with Canada and this country, and it is to be hoped that there is now a possibility of the cost of laying this decreasing to such a point as to make it a commercial proposition within the means of those concerned. Wireless telegraphy and telephony are also matters the sphere of whose utility is continually increasing, and careful attention is being given to these, and also to the development of aviation between the islands with the object of taking full advantage of them."

Continuing, Sir Edward commented on the loyal way in which the negro population had worked, not only during the period of past depression when wages were low and they bore the burden of poverty together with their employers, but also during the more recent period when industrial unrest and strife had hampered production throughout the greater part of the world. The West Indian industrial labourer had proved himself, with few exceptions, to be a loyal and law-abiding citizen.

The lecture was well illustrated by lantern slides. In thanking Sir Edward for his address, Sir Charles Lucas spoke warmly of the work done on behalf of the West Indies by the late Sir Neville Lubbock and Sir Henry Davson, and by the West India Committee.

GOLD COAST CACAO.

Our valued contemporary "West Africa," in its issue of December 23rd, contains an interesting letter from Dr. Unwin on the subject of the dangers of casual and careless cacao planting and production in connection with the Gold Coast cacao industry. It would appear that the increasingly large production of cacao in that colony has been brought about at the expense of quality. While Accra cacao, says Dr. Unwin, has been fetching 50s. per cwt., Grenada has been quoted at 100s., and he goes on to say that there is no reason why the Gold Coast cacao should not attain a higher position in the world's market than Grenada cacao.

As to the cause of the inferiority of the Gold Coast cacao, Dr. Unwin says:—

"At present some of it is even picked unripe. More is picked when ripe, but not afterwards fermented. Even after it is fermented, practically all of it is dried in the sun or put in a small shed, which may or may not be dry. Then, too, often it is carried away for sale before it is even fermented. In other cases it is taken away for sale when not properly dry. In yet another case it is taken away when dried and mixed with other lots not so dried. The net result is the production, generally speaking, of the lowest grade put on the world's markets. When it is considered that this crop now represents over three-fifths of the world's production, it is easy to see what immense financial benefit would accrue to the local producers and the merchants and manufacturers who deal with it if a price approaching 100s. could always be obtained."

As to remedial measures:—

"First, only ripe cacao must be picked, and much more instruction must be given to the local grower on this question. Then comes fermentation. As yet, the majority have not installed proper fermenting boxes. It is comparatively easy to make some sort of fermenting box, but to get the best results the best type should be adopted everywhere. In some cases where the individual could not afford to make or pay for proper boxes, several might be induced to join together to get proper appliances. Alternatively the European firms could instal these in various localities, and buy the cacao fresh, before it was fermented.

"Very few of the local growers have proper drying sheds. It often happens that some of the best of the crop ripens before the rains are over, with the result that it is impossible to dry the cacao by the sun's heat. Various makeshift trays and little fires in the houses serve to some extent to dry the cacao. However, the conditions under which drying takes place vary almost from house to house and from village to village. Again, the resulting product varies in quality enormously. There appears to be a wide field for Europeans to instal drying sheds in order to dry properly, under the right conditions of temperature and air moisture, and for sufficient length of time.

"In the Cameroons the Germans have installed drying sheds in all their plantations, with the result that their cacao was of comparatively high quality, and it was all certainly of a very similar quality. It compared favourably with Ceylon and Grenada.

"Although so much stress has been laid on the preparation of the produce, the condition of the plantations, with their 200,000,000 bearing trees, must be considered. Then there are at least other 100,000,000 trees, as yet immature. When it is considered that these stand on at least 1,000,000 acres of land, scattered over several

hundred square miles, the work of the agricultural inspectors is increased out of all proportion. Nevertheless, in the close planting of the trees, often 10 to 15 ft. apart, the root of much disease, both insect and fungal, is to be found. Even diseased pods are allowed to stay on the trees, or, at any rate, on the ground, to serve as further breeding-places for pests. Even in the different varieties which have been planted there is great scope for development. By no means the highest yield per acre has been obtained, although a variety rather typical of the Gold Coast has been evolved. Already some ten or five European agricultural inspectors, as well as locally educated African inspectors, do their best to cope with the disease, close-planting disease, and faulty preparation; their task is never done. There should be at least 1,000 such officers to cope thoroughly with the existing condition.

"There is, first of all, the teaching of the local growers proper methods of planting, then there is the teaching of the plantation up to and after the period of bearing, to see that any incipient disease or pest is cured in its early stages. Misshapen or inferior trees should not be allowed to grow on. The burning of diseased parts or pods is as yet by no means universally practised. Weeds are allowed to grow in the plantations, and many are left until they come into bearing, when the best of the pods are picked.

"Already there have been held several agriculture shows, but many more, and valuable prizes for the best-kept plantation of the different sizes should be granted. Even a prize of £1,000 for the best-kept plantation, equipped with modern methods of fermenting and drying, would be a cheap investment to ensure improvement in the industry. In addition to that, a prize should be offered for the greatest yield per acre, including in that especially areas treated with manure or special means of cultivation.

"There are already several model farms, but their number should be increased at least tenfold, not always on a large scale, but on a small scale. These should be situated in the cacao belt in order to demonstrate to every farmer within a few miles the best methods of growing and preparing. With such centres could be connected under a co-operative system the fermenting boxes and the drying sheds of the European firms or the local growers. There would thus be centres scattered all over the belt, where growing under the best conditions could be studied, and the preparation of produce conducted under the proper conditions to obtain the highest grade."

WEST INDIES AND VENEZUELA.

The following resolution was adopted unanimously at the recent Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire at Toronto:—

"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 to 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 legitimate trade of these colonies and also some simplification of Customs requirements."

The subject of the Venezuelan Surtax is dealt with in a leading article in the present issue.

THE COST OF BANANAS.

By W. FAWCETT, B.Sc.

The effect of the war on prices of commodities is felt, of course, also in the banana industry; but the wonder is that bananas have remained so cheap. Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, the sole importers of bananas from the West Indies and tropical America into Great Britain, have stated that 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 sum it costs now for the same voyage 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 £120,000. The latest quotation for a similar boat is £420,000. Cost of production varies with numerous variable conditions, including the rate of exchange, and it is evident that an appreciable advance must have taken place. During the war imports of bananas dwindled. In 1914 nearly 7,000,000 bunches were landed in England. In 1915 there were less than 6,000,000 from the West Indies, and the diminution continued steadily until 1918, when the total was only 816,938 bunches. For two years during the war Messrs. Elders and Fyffes held an absolute monopoly in Great Britain of the banana trade, as imports from the Canary Islands ceased. During this time of great scarcity, when the banana proved a most valuable addition to other foodstuffs, they not only restricted their own charges, but made strenuous efforts to keep down the price of bananas to the public. They advertised freely to the effect that the maximum retail price should be 2s. 6d. a dozen, and that any higher charge was unjustifiable; and this, although less than one-seventh of normal supplies were arriving, steamers were being lost, and expenses enormously increased. They deserve the credit of "exercising," in the words of Mr. McCurdy, "their monopolistic powers with moderation and restraint."

OBITUARY.

Mr. H. E. Murray.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. H. E. Murray, the well-known sugar-planter and estates proprietor, of British Guiana, which took place at Georgetown on December 28th.

Mr. Murray's birthplace was Antigua, but he spent his boyhood in Grenada, and then adopted sugar as his profession in British Guiana, where he served his novitiate as overseer, returning after a short period in charge of estates in Surinam to take charge of Port Mourant, in Berbice. This estate prospered greatly under his management, so much so that he was offered and accepted the charge of the New Colonial Company's properties in Trinidad, from which he retired a few years ago to assume the position of resident proprietor in British Guiana. Mr. Murray will be remembered not only as a skillful planter, but as a staunch friend, and his loss is one to the whole community of the colony he adopted as his home.

THE GLASGOW ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Thomas Prentice presided over the annual general meeting of the West India Association of Glasgow on November 30th in the absence of Mr. H. Crum Ewing. Mr. Crum Ewing and Mr. Prentice were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, and the retiring Directors, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Andrew Macdonald, and Mr. Robert Thom, were also re-elected, Mr. T. W. Donald and Mr. R. W. Tomlinson continuing to fill the positions of Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively. The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

The report summarises the various subjects which engaged the attention of the Directors during the year ended June 30th, but with regard to sugar control they say:—

"Control by the Royal Commission of distribution and prices of West India sugars continued until the month of December, when an arrangement was come to whereby they were partially freed. In the negotiations with the Royal Commission, the Association, in conjunction with the West India Committee of London, were successful in arriving at an agreement as regards the basis on which prices should be fixed from month to month. It was also understood that these sugars would, as before, continue to be allotted to dealers as part of their ration, but when the first consignments arrived, it was found that the Commission took the view that importers had to find their own buyers. For some time this state of affairs completely paralysed the sale of West India grocery and Muscovado descriptions. After further negotiations, the Commission agreed to allot about half the stock of unsold crystallised West Indian in the country, leaving the balance quite uncontrolled, except that the price must not exceed the Commission's maximum 'reasonable' price as fixed from time to time."

Referring to the violent fluctuation in the prices of sugar, due mainly to the speculation in Cuban sugars, they comment:—

"As showing the margin, it may be of interest to note that in July, 1919, the values of crystallised and Muscovado sugars on the London market, duty paid, was about 65s. 6d. and 59s. 6d. respectively, while by June, 1920, the great assumed scarcity had driven these sugars up to 145s. and 120s. respectively. These high prices have had the natural effect of curtailing consumption, and Cubans, which in May were as high as 23.50 cents, have lately been selling at under 8 cents."

Coming to steamer communication, they point out that the passenger service to British Guiana and the West Indies, except Jamaica, is worse than was the case a year ago. The cable services, Jamaica again excepted, they describe as being in a deplorable condition, and invite the members to communicate to the Secretary instances of excessive delay or mutilation of messages.

Dealing next with the proposed Agricultural College, the Directors state that this institution should prove a great boon to the West Indian colonies. The report concludes with a statement regarding the sugar crops, which, taking the West Indies as a whole, have been very satisfactory, though there was a shortage in St. Kitts, Barbados, and British Guiana.

Alsace's output of potash this year is estimated at 2,040,000 tons.

THE TRADE OF TRINIDAD.

The Blue-book of Trinidad for 1919, now published, shows that the trade of the colony, both as regards exports and imports, is rapidly increasing, the total turnover for the year being £13,473,828, made up of imports to the value of £6,217,234, and exports valued at £7,256,594. This is an increase of £3,213,289 over the 1918 figures. Another noticeable sign of the growing prosperity of the colony is shown in the improved revenue from the Customs, the amount collected being £503,160, an increase of £61,850 on the 1918 receipts. A satisfactory feature of the situation also is the fact that the trade expansion has been a steady one. The average trade of the quinquennial period 1901-2-1905-6 was £4,812,700, made up of £2,509,375 imports and £2,303,325 exports; of the 1906-7-10 period, £6,066,579, made up of £2,991,352 imports and £3,075,227 exports; of the 1911-15 period, £8,478,100, consisting of £4,237,701 imports and £4,240,408 exports. The upward progress, therefore, has been steady, and the above pre-war figures show that the large trade of 1919 has not been merely due to increased values.

An interesting feature in this connection is the direction of the trade. In 1919 the imports from the United Kingdom were of the value of £945,733, the value of the exports £2,675,867. From the United States goods of the value of £2,213,879 were imported, the value of the exports to that country being almost the same—viz., £2,116,194. Canada sent in £1,065,606 worth of goods and received £302,999 worth. These figures show that the direction of the trade in 1919 was much the same as in 1918.

As regards the exports, 60,743,288 lb of cacao were exported, as against 58,638,562 lb in 1919. Its high value—£2,592,636—was due to the phenomenal price of 125s a cwt which ruled for a part of the year. The sugar crop was poor, only realising 37,806 tons, as against a normal of about 50,000 tons. Its value was £975,704, and it was entirely shipped to the United Kingdom. The coconut industry showed no improvement on the previous two years' results. In 1917 the equivalent of the products shipped in nuts was 38,199,626 nuts; in 1918, 37,896,388 nuts; in 1919, 36,291,523 nuts. Of the latter the 1,795,033 lb. of copra shipped represented 5,385,029 nuts. This is a great falling off from the copra figure of 1918, when 5,231,991 lb. were shipped. The total value of the coconuts and coconut products was £357,298. Of this amount £234,521 worth went to the United States, £88,003 to the United Kingdom, and £31,791 worth to Canada.

The report of the Inspector of Mines shows increasing vitality in the oil industry, the export of crude oil amounting to 49,000,000 imperial gallons, as against 45,000,000 gallons in 1918. It is stated that "during the past year there has been a considerable boom in the oil industry, and a number of companies of good financial standing have acquired lands with the view of commencing drilling operations." The bunkering trade is stated to continue to make good progress, while the local and West Indian trade is also increasing.

BET SUGAR MACHINERY.

The question of the production of beet sugar in the United Kingdom will now be settled in a very short period of time, and, with the Excise protection against foreign sugar of 47 per ton and against colonial sugar of £2 6s. 8d per ton, the Kelham factory will start and the Cantley factory resume operations under favourable circumstances.

This being so, British sugar machinery manufacturers would be wise to turn their attention to the manufacture of such machinery associated with a beet factory as hitherto they have not been accustomed to manufacture. These are principally slicing knives, diffusers and washing apparatus, as with the main contents of a beet factory they are already familiar.

Owing to a misconception on the part of officialdom, which was unaware that the main machinery for cane sugar and beet sugar is practically identical, the greater part of the Kelham factory work has been given entirely to a French firm. This will be an advantage in one way, as it will enable the home manufacturers of machinery to prepare for future work in the direction of providing extra beet factories. One of the principal points in which there is difference is that of steam supply. As the exhausted slices are used for cattle food, a beet factory has to depend entirely upon coal or outside fuel for its power, both for motor and evaporation purposes. Again, there are no powerful mill engine to provide exhaust steam for evaporation, and direct steam has to be used for the purpose. The entire use of outside fuel means that steam economy has to be carried out to the minutest detail, while the practically entire use of direct steam modifies considerably the mode of application of heat for evaporation. The diffusion process also means that the original beet juice is diluted with at least 25 per cent. of water, a somewhat higher degree of dilution than that usually employed in cane maceration. It thus comes to pass that many arrangements, unnecessary in a cane sugar factory, have to be employed, such as quintuple instead of quadruple effects, with vapour taken from the first vessel to heat the juice and from the second for use in the vacuum pans, also the use of surface condensers in order that the latent heat of the last vessel vapours may be used for a preliminary heating of the juice.

The construction of diffusers is well-known to cane-sugar makers, for, before the introduction of modern multiple mills, maceration plants were supplied for cane sugar factories, which failed mainly on account of the sugar-cane being a very different proposition to handle in the way of slicing than the beet.

The process of clarification employed in connection with beet manufacture is in the main a carbonatation process, with which our sugar manufacturers are also acquainted. Vacuum pans, crystallisers, and centrifugals, are common to both industries.

The question, however, arises in connection with the possible future of home-grown beet, and to the installation of other factories, and that is, would our sugar machinery makers be able to supply these in point of view of the sure extension of colonial cane sugar?

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

In a previous number of the CIRCULAR, glauconite was mentioned as one of the most important sources of potash in the United States. Another important source is a salt lake in San Bernardino, California. It is estimated to contain some millions of tons of potash. This can be dealt with by evaporation and separation from sodium salts and borax with which it is found. Potash is also derived from a seaweed, "giant kelp," that grows in great abundance on the Pacific coast. A Government experiment has shown this to be possible. But the cost of manufacture is high, and transportation to the Eastern States is a deterring factor.

Coffee plantations in the Dutch East Indies amount to 357,469 acres. Of this total 83½ per cent. are in robusta coffee, 5½ per cent. in arabica coffee, 4½ per cent. in liberia coffee, and the rest in minor varieties. Robusta was introduced into Java in 1900, when the other coffees had been so badly affected with leaf disease that coffee cultivation was in danger of being abandoned. Arabica coffee comes next in importance. It was driven out of the lowlands by disease, but in the higher levels—3,600 ft. and slightly higher—it resists disease. At this elevation it is found even more profitable than rubber, which is planted through it for shade. Excelsa coffee was discovered in Africa in 1905. It is related to liberia coffee, but resists the leaf disease, stands long droughts and heavy rains, and is acceptable in the markets.

The Department of Agriculture, England, has considered it worth while to devote attention to the instruction of students and housewives respecting fruit and vegetable domestic science. A canning school has been started in Gloucestershire. Instruction is given in the preservation of vegetables, canning, drying, and crystallizing fruit, and in making jam, marmalade, and jelly. Instruction is also given in the methods of brining, pickling, and the manufacture of pickles, sauces, chutneys, fruit syrups, and liqueurs. A student may take as short a course as two weeks, by selecting such subjects as will be useful in her own home, or may take a full commercial course. There is also a teacher's course dealing with processes of fermentation and decomposition, absolute and partial sterilization, pasteurization, refrigeration, and kindred subjects.

The immense value of irrigation in dry districts is illustrated in the area where South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales meet. This section was described thirty years ago as "the most wretchedly inferior of all grazing lands, 30 acres of which would not keep a sheep." Since then it has been transformed by irrigation into one of the richest sections of Australia. The irrigation in the different districts is due to the co-operative principle, and the Government is now helping those who have helped themselves, and is constructing irrigation works which will extend the irrigated districts. Ninety-five per cent. of the growers of fruits to be dried belong to the Australian Dried Fruits Association, and market their products through it. The dried fruits include raisins, currants, apricots, peaches, pears, figs, prunes, and muscatels. Wine and brandy are also made.

The Crimea has, unfortunately, been lost for a time at least, to civilization. Its resources are great, and the world is the poorer through its conquest by the Bolsheviks. Wheat is the principal agricultural product, while barley comes next in order. During the years 1916 to 1918 an average of 7,500,000 bushels of wheat and 145 tons of fodder were harvested. The annual export of wheat was 1,900,000 bushels. Every year nearly 58,000,000

pounds of fruits are gathered. The vineyards furnish annually 27,500,000 pounds of wine grapes, and about half that quantity of table grapes. The average tobacco crop is 8,667,000 pounds. Of live stock the Crimea raises sheep only. The products derived from these sheep are 1,800,000 pounds of wool, and 700,000 pounds of white cheese. Of mineral resources, the salt reserves are said to be unlimited. The deposits of iron ore are enormous.

Cinnamon is grown in the West Indies, but the product has not been able to compete with that imported from Ceylon. It may be because it has been grown under somewhat different conditions. In Ceylon it grows where there is an average temperature of 85 degrees, with an annual rainfall of 85 in. to 100 in. The shoots are cut from the tree every second year, four to seven being the usual number. After sweating, the bark is peeled from the shoots, and then softened to remove the outer skin. This outer skin is of the second quality, the middle layer being of the first quality, and the inner and thicker bark being the third quality. The stripped pieces of bark are turned with the hollow side downwards to dry. In drying they take the form of quills, the smaller being fitted into the larger, making what are known as "pipes" of about 3 ft. in length. These are then packed into bales for shipment.

Ramie at one time attracted some attention in the West Indies, and Sir D. Morris did some careful experimental work in Jamaica in the 'eighties. The difficulty always has been in the removal of the outer bark. In China, where labour is exceedingly cheap, decortication is done by hand. The stems are soaked in water, and the bark is then scraped off by the Chinese with their fingers. It is in the decorticated state that the stems are imported. It is a very laborious process, and would be very expensive in other countries than China. The invention of some mechanical means of decortication is essential to the development of a large ramie industry. The problem of degumming seems to have been lately successfully solved. Ramie yarns of good quality are now being produced by a firm in Yorkshire, and by other spinners. The output is almost entirely devoted to the making of gas-mantle fabric. However, until engineers invent a machine for decortication, the use of ramie cannot be developed to any great extent. As a fibre, ramie has great tensile strength, and possesses the special advantage of not rotting when exposed to weather or immersed in water.

Wherever the papaw grows the fruit is an acceptable addition to the dessert. Most people also know that the unripe fruit can be cooked as a vegetable. Eaten in either way, the fruit is said to have a beneficial effect on an enlarged liver or spleen, and is also of service in cases of piles. The ripe fruit is laxative, and useful in dyspepsia. The milky juice of the unripe fruit is medicinal. It is useful in the expulsion of intestinal worms. The mode of administration recommended is as follows: Take of fresh papaw milky juice a table-spoonful, and mix thoroughly with the same quantity of honey. Add gradually three or four table-spoonfuls of boiling water. When sufficiently cool, take the whole at a draught, and two hours afterwards a dose of castor oil. The milky juice is said to cure ringworm or psoriasis by rubbing it in two or three times. The active principle, papaine, has been used as a solvent of diphtheritic false membrane. It has also been employed as a local application in old-standing cases of chronic eczema in the following way:—Twelve grains of papaine and five grains of powdered borax, in two drachms of distilled water, to be painted on the parts twice daily. The leaves wrapped round a piece of meat soon makes it tender. The bruised leaves, applied as a poultice, are recommended for reducing elephantoid growth.

OUR LIBRARY.

THROUGH BRITISH GUIANA TO THE SUMMIT OF RORAIMA. By Mrs. Cecil Clementi, M.B.E. Size 7½ in. by 5 in. 236 pages, 14 Illustrations, and 1 Map. LONDON: T. FISHER UNWIN, LTD. [Copies of this book can be obtained from the West India Committee Rooms, price 12s. 6d. each, or 13s. post-free.]

While Sir Everard im Thurn was the first man to reach the summit of Roraima, which he did in 1839, Mrs. Cecil Clementi will go down to history as the first woman to ascend that mysterious mountain, on which the boundaries of British Guiana, Brazil and Venezuela meet. In the year 1916, in company with her husband, the Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, who had already explored the interior of that colony with Sir Walter Egerton, this enterprising lady made an expedition to the Kaieteur Fall, to the great Savannas of the hinterland, and finally to Roraima. In the volume now under review she gives a straightforward and entertaining account of her travels, which is not without literary merit. Starting from Georgetown, the author does not attempt to conceal her dislike for the "mosquito-ridden coastal swamps," and that she is gifted with imagination is shown by her picturing the "difference which would be wrought" in the "desolate scene" presented by the Poturo goldfields district where the shopkeepers are Chinese "if a million or so of their almond-eyed brethren could be transported" thither. The expedition's first "stop over" of consequence was on the Kaieteur plateau—and here we must be pardoned for lodging a protest against the author's attempt to rename the Kaieteur Fall "Kaietok." Whether there be etymological reasons for this change or not, the world's highest waterfall has been made widely known to Europeans as Kaieteur, and it would be a pity to have to start all over again and to thrust the less euphonious name "Kaietuk" down their throats. With equal justification might we insist on calling "Seething" Lane Scotchman Street; Folkestone "Fulchostane," and so forth. Putting this aside, however, Mrs. Clementi gives a particularly charming pen-picture of the majestic beauty of the Fall before passing on to her long trek to Roraima. She appears to have enjoyed her experiences thoroughly, though the discomforts—not the least of which was the atrocious weather which she seems to have encountered—were apparently many. But no doubt the supreme joy on achieving her purpose and being the first white woman to reach the rocky summit of Guiana's greatest mountain made up for any inconvenience due to the elements. Here is her description of the scene as it appeared after the party had ascended to the topmost plateau by the ledge discovered by Sir Everard im Thurn and his expedition:—

Little meets the eye save rock, which the weather has blackened and worn into many weird shapes—a dragon, a frog, and a couple of umbrellas, all of rock, were conspicuous objects at the spot where we camped for the night; but there is in general a monotonous lack of differentiation in the rock-shapes, making this rugged plateau a maze where one would soon be lost, especially if mist settled down on the mountain. Here and there are stunted trees (*Bonania Roraima*); but all wood on this bleak summit is so sudden with moisture that it is difficult to kindle a respectable fire for cooking purposes, and quite impossible to make such a blaze as would keep out the cold. Water is abundant, clear as crystal, and icy cold. We found no really satisfactory camping-ground: but Schoolmaster took us to the spot where, it would appear, all those who before us had spent the night on the top of Roraima took shelter. It was in the middle of a big amphitheatre of crags,

encircled by what one might almost call waves of stone, about five minutes' walk from the edge of the precipice.

We have no hesitation in commending this book to the notice of our readers, who will, no doubt, derive as much pleasure from its perusal as we have done.

MR. CLAUDE MCKAY, the author of a charming book of verse which has just been published by Grant Richards, entitled "Spring in New Hampshire, and Other Poems," is a Jamaican, having been born in the Clarendon Hills in 1889. Mr. McKay's moods range from grave to gay, but the following wistful little piece, which he calls "Reminiscences," may be taken as typical of the collection:—

"When the day is at its dimmest,
And the air is wild with snow,
And the city's at its grimmest,
In mine eyes there is a glow.
When the day is at its brightest,
And the city is a dream,
And my heart is at its lightest,
In mine eyes there is a gleam.
For I'm thinking, O I'm thinking,
Of an old-worn sugar-mill,
Where the southern sun is sinking—
Gold and crimson—o'er the hill;
And I hear the toilers talking,
As they shoulder pick and hoe,
And I watch their steady walking,
To the quiet plain below.
O! I see the white stream dashing
Gay and reckless through the brake,
O'er the root-entwined rocks washing
Swiftly, madly to the lake.
O! I hear the waters falling,
Flowing, falling, flowing free,
And the sound of voices calling
O'er the billows of the sea."

THE COMMERCIAL SITUATION.

Mr. George F. Huggins' Sound Advice.

Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., took the opportunity of a meeting of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, of which he is president, held on November 25th, to give some eminently sound advice which deserves to be widely disseminated in the West Indies.

He said that it had occurred to him that due appreciation had not been given in Trinidad to the situation in the commercial world at present. It appeared to him that they were on the verge of a very serious situation, and it behooved them to realise it before it was too late. He thought he would be wanting in his duty as President of the Chamber if he did not sound a note of warning. He had seen and still saw reckless expenditure all around them. There was very little thrift and very little recognition of the fact that every product of the island was in a position of being worth its cost of production or less. He had had very alarming telegrams on the cacao situation—telegrams that were enough to scare any operations in the immediate future. He thought the public ought to know that there were dangers ahead not only in Trinidad but all around them in much bigger and more important communities than theirs. He wished to ask before it was too late to look around and put their houses in order so as to meet such a situation when it came. He hoped he had not taken up too much of their time, but he felt it was a duty he had to perform.

THE RED TRIANGLE.

By ROBERT D. PRINGLE.

Mr. R. D. Pringle, who is the Field Secretary for Overseas Work of the Y.M.C.A., was sent by the National Council of that Organisation last November, on the invitation of His Excellency the Governor of Jamaica, to arrange for the inauguration in the West Indies of the Y.M.C.A.'s good work.

The peace-time activities of the Y.M.C.A. in Britain overseas are not known to the same extent as its vast war-work operations. Yet in India alone there are some 260 salaried secretaries at work, and the time seemed to be ripe for the extension of this body to Jamaica and the West Indies.

An influential Advisory Council was speedily formed in Kingston, with the Bishop as its Chairman; a programme for three years' work was presented and adopted, and an appeal for funds to make it effective was issued. The planters immediately rose to the occasion, and, following the prompt and generous lead of the Vere and Amity Hall Estates (which, through their managing director, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, gave £750), pledged themselves to gifts varying from £450 to £10 10s. Some of the merchants of Kingston and other parts also subscribed substantially, so that over £4,000 was quickly pledged. To swell this sum, on the recommendation of H.E. the Governor of the Privy Council, the Legislative Council has promised a grant of £1,000.

First of all, substantial premises have been purchased in Kingston (the old Jamaica Hotel) to form the headquarters of the Y.M.C.A. movement for the island. The price was £1,600, and the premises and grounds are worth very much more. Alterations and additions (now quite completed) will cost £600, and furnishing approximately £1,000. Here, in addition to headquarters offices, the Y.M.C.A. of Kingston will be housed, with its hostel for about twenty men, its reading, billiard and refreshment rooms, its abundant provision for the social, mental and spiritual needs of young men—a veritable home from home. A sum will be set aside to provide the salary of a trained secretary for Kingston, and, similarly, money will be spent in organising means to benefit the young men in country towns. An important and fascinating extension of the work is that contemplated in connection with some of the big sugar estates. On these it is proposed to establish Red Triangle huts (or their equivalent) in charge of a trained worker, for the purpose of supplying such reasonable and frequent recreation alike for mind and soul and body as shall help to make life a less sordid and drab affair.

Some of those who know, cherish the conviction that a service of this sort, with its bright, religious meetings, its kinema shows, its lectures, indoor and outdoor games, reading room and dry canteen, will induce to remain in Jamaica a certain proportion of the more ambitious men who flee its borders because life, to them, lacks interest. The whole round of Y.M.C.A. work will be carried on for the benefit of the men and boys of Jamaica without distinction of caste or creed, save that its management will be in the hands of members of the Christian Church.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 397.)

Martinique's Creole Empress.

Another local celebrity whose memory the good people of Martinique delight to honour is the Empress Josephine. A statue of that light-hearted and extravagant creole from the chisel of Vital Debray, surrounded by stately Royal palms, graces the Savane, an open space several acres in extent to the east of Fort de France.

The Empress wears her coronation robes. Her head is turned slightly to the left so that, whether by design or accident one cannot say, she looks across the bay towards the commune of Trois-Ilets, where she was born. On either side of the pedestal on which she stands are bronze reliefs of no little merit, in one of which Napoleon is shown in the act of placing the Imperial crown on the temples of his wife, while on the front is the inscription—

L'AN MDCCCLVIII.
 NAPOLEON III. REGNANT
 LES HABITANTS DE LA MARTINIQUE
 ONT ELEVE CE MONUMENT
 A L'IMPERATRICE JOSEPHINE
 NEE DANS CE COLONIE.

Marie-Joseph-Rose Tascher de la Pagerie, born on June 25th, 1763, was married *en premières noces* at the early age of 18 to the Vicomte de Beauharnais, son of the Governor of Martinique, who was beheaded during the Terror, a fate which she herself narrowly escaped. While she was still a girl, an old black woman told her that she would "one day become greater than a Queen, and yet outlive her dignity," and this prophecy was fulfilled by her coronation as the wife of the Emperor Napoleon, her subsequent divorce, and her death in retirement at Malmaison.

Were it not for the statue of Josephine and its encircling palms, the Savane, with its rank grass and its border of irregular mango and sand-box trees, would be quite commonplace; but, as it stands, it has an irresistible attraction and charm. The tallest of these palms are not an inch less than a hundred feet high. Unlike the coconut, whose stem is curved, the Royal Palm rises from the ground towards the heavens as straight as an arrow, even the prevailing winds failing to give it any perceptible inclination from the perpendicular. Its summit is crowned by a feathery mass of leaves, from the centre of which emerges the spike of its youngest shoot, while below a dying frond hangs down waving gracefully in the breeze.

At one corner of the Savane stands the Grand Hotel de L'Europe, with the tables of its café bubbling over on to the grass. Here Captain Carmichael's genial countenance and persuasive manner proved an "open sesame," giving us access to a private room, where we once more enjoyed the delights of creole cookery and the red wine of France. Like Guadeloupe, Martinique boasts several gastronomic specialities, such as the appetising vegetable soup called "caladou," a recipe for which was given in an earlier instalment of this article; "Le Blaff," a dish comprising one of three

kinds of local fish cooked with pimento and herbs, which cannot be commended to those suffering from a weak digestion: omelette aux Chadrons, and Manicou à la Martiniquaise. For the benefit of West Indian housewives I am tempted to give the recipes for the two simplest of these dishes:—

Le Blaff is made of one of three local fishes—"coulirou," mackerel, or "balarou." The fish after being thoroughly cleaned, is soaked for about half an hour in a sauce made of crushed pimento, salt, pepper, and garlic. You then heat some water, to which is added salt, myrtle, clove, onions cut into slices, a bunch of parsley, thyme, eschalots, a whole pimento berry, and a clove of garlic. After boiling this sauce until it is thoroughly spicy, you put the fish into it, boil it for a quarter of an hour, and serve it up, squozing over it a lime.

The Omelette aux Chadrons is still more simple. Chadron is the creole name for the sea-urchin, which is found on the shores of Martinique. There are two kinds, white and black, and only the former are fit to eat. The sea urchins are fricasseed and then beaten up with eggs, the rest of the procedure being the same as that followed in making an ordinary omelette.

Absalom's Healing Waters.

Luncheon over, the Captain insisted upon our accompanying him in an automobile to the famous Bains d'Absalon, which are tucked away in the heart of the mountains, "not too far," as West Indians are wont vaguely to say, from the Pitons of Carbet at a distance of about 12 kilometres from Fort de France. Unlike Dominica, the island of Martinique is blessed with an abundance of admirable macadamised highways, and the Baths are reached by a mountain road of comfortable gradient and irreproachable surface, which serves a number of villages in the interior of the island. Turning off to the left at a point a little way beyond Balata one descends a steep road for a short distance to the caretaker's house standing alongside a gully, in which the Etablissement des Bains is situated in a setting of banana trees, balisiers, bamboos and tree ferns.

A few steps down through this exquisite tropical glade take one to the bath house, a simple building divided into cubicles on either side of a central passage, each with its bath below the level of the floor. On the walls are notices warning the bathers that any of them giving voice to any "parole ou chant pouvant être considéré comme un outrage aux bonnes mœurs" will be found, so rigorously is decorum preserved. I am bound to state that the flow of the healing spring was not very generous. It took fully thirty minutes for the baths to fill; but eventually we luxuriated for quite an hour in these thermal waters. They certainly have a most exhilarating effect, resembling in this respect those of Nevis, which Mr Smith declared made him "almost as nimble as a mountebank's tumbler."* But we did not follow the example of that divine by partaking of Madeira wine and exposing ourselves to the Trade wind on emerging from our baths.

Martinique has no fewer than seven thermal springs, but of these three only are used at present to any extent, and, as is the case with the mineral waters in Jamaica and Nevis, no attempt has so

far been made to exploit any of them on a large scale. Perhaps the time may yet come when our friends from Canada and the United States will flock to these islands in their thousands for a winter "cure"; but until suitable hotels with modern sanitary appliances—to take the place of the primitive system of utensils known as "Frenchmen," which I dare not venture to describe—no such development can be expected.

We sailed again at about four o'clock, and, striking right across the entrance to the bay, passed under the lee of the Îlet aux Ramiers (not to be confused with Rodney's Pigeon Island off St. Lucia), formerly one of the principal defences of Fort de France. On its lofty summit the old fortifications and works can still be distinctly seen, and one wondered how, with such a fortress on their flank, any hostile fleet could ever have entered the bay.

The Romantic Diamond Rock.

The sun was already setting when we picked up the famous Diamond Rock, which stands out to sea off the Pointe du Diamant, one of the southern promontories of Martinique. No Englishman could look on this solitary prismatic mass of rock unmoved when he is reminded that during the French war, in 1803, it was garrisoned by Lieutenant John Wilkes Maurice, R.N., and one hundred and twenty men and boys. Commodore Sir Samuel Hood, seeing that the French ships escaped him by running between this rock and the Pointe du Diamant, had his seventy-four, the *Centaur*, close alongside the Diamond, made a hawser fast to the ship and to the top of the rock, which is accessible on the Leeward side, and slung with a traveller three lines 24's and two 18's to the summit, the sailors toiled "like mice hauling a little sausage. Scarcely could we hear the Governor on the top directing them with his trumpet; the *Centaur* lying close under, like a coconut shell to which hawsers are affixed." For nearly eighteen months this gallant little band harassed the French fleet whenever it emerged from the Bay of Fort de France, and defied every effort to dislodge it until June 1st, 1805, when the garrison was compelled to surrender to a French squadron comprising two seventy-fours, a frigate, a corvette, a schooner, and eleven gunboats, on which it inflicted severe losses.

It used to be said that this rock figured on the books of the Admiralty as H.M.S. Diamond Rock; but this was not really the case. One is loth to discredit a popular tradition, but an investigation of the original despatches at the Record Office clearly shows that it was a captured sloop attached to the rock and not the rock itself which was commissioned as H.M.S. *Diamond Rock*. Still, this fact can in no measure detract from the glamour which must for all time surround this historic rock. In the fading light the appearance of the Diamond Rock was very mysterious. From the deck of our ship no trace could be seen of the various gun positions, which have long since been overgrown by bush. But nothing could grow on the sheer precipices, which look now exactly as they did in Maurice's time, if one may judge from Eckstein's painting.

(To be continued.)

* "Natural History of Nevis," by Rev. Mr. Smith, 1745.

* A full account of the defence of Diamond Rock is given in "West Indian Tales of Old." London: Duckworth & Co.

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

VI.—Sir Henry Morgan.

(Continued from page 399.)

At a meeting of the Council on the 31st of July, 1671, "Admiral Morgan gave the Governor and Council relation of his voyage to Penamaw, and the Board do give him many thanks for executing his last commission, and approves very well of his acting therein." Morgan had a private secretary named Charles Barré, who was possibly an old buccaneering friend.

As a result of the conclusion of the Treaty of Madrid on the 8th of July, 1670, Modyford was made a scapegoat, and, though he was ignorant of the terms of the treaty, was sent home a prisoner by Lynch, who had come out in June, 1671, for that purpose, and succeeded him as governor. And Morgan himself followed in April, 1672, a prisoner in the *Welcome* frigate (Captain John Keene).

It is interesting to note that in March, 1672, Major-General Banister, who was Commander of the Forces and a member of the Council, wrote to Lord Arlington of Morgan, "he is a well-deserving person, and one of great courage and conduct, who may, with his Majesty's pleasure, perform good public service at home or be very advantageous to this island if war should again break forth with the Spaniards." Banister requested Lord Arlington's assistance that Morgan might obtain his Majesty's favour in this business. He hoped Arlington would excuse "his freedom of his boldness."

Morgan's friends succeeded in clearing him of disgrace, and in January, 1673-4, he received a commission as Deputy-Governor to the Earl of Carlisle, who was then appointed Governor of Jamaica, though he did not take up the appointment till later. The appointment of Morgan was, however, confirmed in November, when Lord Vaughan was appointed Governor, and he was then knighted.

Lynch, writing from Jamaica in November, 1674, says, "One of the reasons of their [the Spanish galleons] coming is the noise of Adniral Morgan's favour at Court and return to the Indies, which much alarmed the Spaniards, and caused the King to be at vast charge in fortifying the South Sea." The King, in appointing Morgan, expressed in the usual official parlance, "particular confidence in his loyalty, prudence and courage, and long experience of that colony." Prudence is hardly a word one associates with the name of Morgan.

He was directed by Lord Vaughan to keep him company on the way out. However, wishing, Vaughan said, to get there before him, he "wilfully lost" him, made for his old happy hunting ground of Isle la Vache, where his ship, *The Jamaica Merchant*, on which Modyford had gone home a prisoner, was wrecked. Morgan, however, reached Jamaica before Vaughan.

At the Council meeting held in Jamaica on March 7th, 1674-5, immediately after his arrival, the revocation of Modyford's commission being read, it was resolved that Morgan had authority to assume

the government, and Lynch accordingly demitted office; and four days later Lynch attended a Council meeting at which Morgan presided.

On March 15th, Lord Vaughan assumed the government, and Morgan took the oath as lieutenant-governor.

Morgan, Byndloss and Beeston were appointed a committee to examine Lynch's account of the arms and ammunition to be handed over. He was accused of having sold powder to the Spaniards; and Morgan wrote home to say that Lynch intended "the greatest cheat in the world" about a negro prize-ship. On May 4th the Assembly voted that "Sir Henry Morgan for his good services to the country, to have £600 during his lieutenant-governorship, but none of his successors." On this matter Vaughan did not see eye to eye with the Assembly; on the 18th of the same month he wrote home that he was perfectly weary of Morgan, who he thought should be recalled, and the charge of so useless an officer saved, and he recommended Lynch as a Deputy Governor (in case of the death or absence of the Governor). Lynch, however, left for England on the 24th of May, and in September Vaughan wrote home to complain that Morgan, his Lieutenant-Governor, made himself so cheap at the Port [Royal] drinking and gambling in the taverns, that he intended to remove thither himself from Spanish Town for the credit of the island.

But on December 15th instruction was read at the Council for the admission of Morgan into it.

On January 23rd, 1675-6, Morgan brought to the notice of the Council "the unhandsome and misbeseeming words and carriage" expressed by Colonel William Ivey to the Governor in his own house, and Ivey was ordered to appear before the Council.

In May, 1676, Vaughan wrote home, in reply to Sir Joseph Williamson, the recently-appointed Secretary of State, who had urged him to make up his quarrel with Morgan, "What I most resent is, and which I consider as part of my duty to lay before your Honour, that I find Sir Henry, contrary to his duty and trust, endeavours to set up privateering, and has obstructed all my designs and purposes for the reducing of those that do use that curse of life."

Vaughan wished also to remove Byndloss from the Council. He abetted Morgan in his endeavours to persuade British subjects to accept privateering commissions from the King of France, and in his opposition to Vaughan's attempts at suppressing the privateers.

In July, 1676, Vaughan brought charges of privateering against Morgan and Byndloss in the Council, submitting many affidavits in support. Their answers, which were far from convincing, to the charges were recorded, and were ordered to be sent to England.

One Nevil, who wrote home an account of the island to Lord Carlisle, just before he came out, spoke highly of Morgan's popularity, who, he said, mentioned Carlisle's name with honour and good wishes in their healths. He was liked by reason of "his eminent exploits in those parts, together with his generous and undesigning way of conversing with them."

On the 13th of January, 1677-8, when Carlisle's commission as Governor of Jamaica was executed, a commission was issued to Morgan to be a captain of a company of 100 men besides officers.

On April 3rd, 1677-8, at Port Royal, Morgan assumed the government after Vaughan's departure on March 14th, and acted as governor till Carlisle arrived on July 19th, when he was sworn in. In the meantime he had much strengthened Port Royal by two new batteries, the Rupert and the Carlisle; Morgan at all times being considered the technical expert on defence. Soon after Carlisle's arrival, he advised him on "the properest passes to secure both in the Point and Liguanea in case of an attack by land."

In February, 1679-80, Morgan brought an action for libel against Captain Francis Mingham, on account of a petition which Mingham had presented to the Lords of Plantations, and received £2,000 damages. Mingham's ship had been condemned in the Admiralty Court for attempting to defraud the Customs. Morgan complained of the difficulty of getting convictions, and instanced a case where the jury was persuaded that "soap was victuals and one might live upon it for a month."

On appeal, Mingham had to give bond for £2,500 before he was set free to go to England, and the Council protested against the transference of the case to England as leading to the defeat of justice and the discouragement of trade. Morgan offered to compound the case on Mingham's paying the costs, and, in recognition of the injury done, giving a coach and horses for Lady Morgan. This Mingham refused. The King in Council upheld Mingham, and on the advice of the Lords of Trade and Plantations decided that it was fit that appeals should be allowed from the decisions of the Supreme Court of Jamaica. The £300 for which his ship was sold was ordered to be returned to Mingham, and further proceedings by Morgan and Martin, the Receiver-General, who had been party to the original prosecution, were to be quashed; Mingham to be allowed to sue for damages if he thought fit.

On the 20th of May, 1680, the Council sent home a long despatch to the Lords of Trade and Plantations. It was signed by Morgan and eight others. They complained that they were rarely summoned; that under the "new model" of government (the word Council being omitted) the Assembly ignored them; that peace with Spain was desirable for trade's sake; that further coastal protection against pirates was needed; that the "new model" government should be modified.

Morgan was Custos Rotulorum of Port Royal under Carlisle. That he was of liberal disposition seems certain. Carlisle wrote to Sir Leoline Jenkins in April, 1681, "I heartily desire you would move the King to give his part of the prize taken by Captain Heywood to Sir Henry Morgan. You know there is taken from him £600 per annum, payable here, and his company [of 100] so that this gift will hardly recompense the loss of the other this year, and the place he lives in is so chargeable that, with his generous humour, I know he will be a beggar though I also allow him £600 per annum out of what you have left me."

When Carlisle's short and ineffectual term of office expired in May, 1680, Morgan again acted as lieutenant-governor. In July, soon after assuming control, he wrote home complaining that French privateers from Hispaniola and even those belonging to the island drew off white servants and others, and pleaded for small "nimble frigates" to hunt them down. The piraguas of the privateers and pirates, a boat with a single sail, went into creeks where the large King's ships could not follow them.

He captured at Bull Bay a notorious privateer, Everson, writing home with much self-satisfaction, "Such is the encouragement which privateers receive from my favour."

In April, 1681, he wrote home "Privateers in the West Indies can be no less easily exterminated than robbers on the King's highway in England," and he again urged the need of some small frigates. In fourteen days in 1681, four "interloping" ships succeeded in landing cargoes of negroes, "His Majesty's frigate being at sea."

At the meeting of the Assembly in March, 1681, when Morgan pressed them for a perpetual revenue "they inclined to some heats," and he even found them disinclined to vote it for seven years, but at last in November "after seven months holding the Assembly," Morgan succeeded in getting the Revenue Bill passed for seven years. He said that the sitting of the Assembly cost him £1,000: "Governors at such a time are forced to keep open house."

Morgan seems to have been more than ordinarily the object of libel. In May, 1681, the Council wrote home to point out that some evil-disposed persons had caused a forged proclamation against interlopers to be prepared and committed to a scrivener, and divers copies were sent to England, where it appeared in "Smith's Protestant Intelligence, Domestic and Foreign, Number 12, Monday, 7th of March, to Thursday, 10th March, 1681," a single sheet. The author was found to be Rowland Powell, the island secretary, whom Morgan accordingly dismissed from office.

In March, 1681-2, he wrote home with regard to the trial of some pirates, "I abhor bloodshed, and I am greatly dissatisfied that in my short government I have been so often compelled to punish criminals with death"—words which come oddly from him.

In May, 1681, the Lords of Trade and Plantations considered the question of sending Lynch to succeed Morgan. In July his commission was issued. In September a letter was sent to Morgan revoking his commissions as Lieutenant-Governor and Lieutenant-General of Jamaica.

The Lords of Trade and Plantations objected to the tacking of laws to the Revenue laws, a trick which the Assembly had learnt from the mother of parliaments, or that the Revenue law should live or fall with any of the others. The providing for an annual meeting of the Assembly was "an encroachment on the prerogative." The Act declaring laws of England now in force was considered prejudicial to the King, and was disallowed.

(To be continued.)

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 Picturesque Distillery in the Bahamas.

Miss Mosceley writes, under date November 2nd, that the revenue of the Bahamas is still in a flourishing state, the last quarterly returns published showing a total of £57,660, an increase over the September quarter, 1919, of £21,854. Of this amount £17,994 represents an increase in Customs duties alone. Government debentures amounting to over £40,000 have been redeemed this year. The new Public Building, which is to house the Supreme Court and the Magistrates' Court, is about to be commenced. Building operations are going on in every direction in Nassau. A large but picturesque distillery has recently been set up on the harbour front, and other handsome business premises are in course of erection. The tomato crop promises to be a good one, and large shipments have already been made to Jacksonville, a special steamship service with that port having been opened for the purpose. A new wireless station has been installed at Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera, which places the out-islands in telegraphic communication with the capital for the first time. It is hoped that this is only the beginning of a chain of wireless stations connecting the scattered islands of the Bahamas. On Armistice Day a fund was opened for a memorial to Bahamians who fell in the Great War, which it is proposed shall be erected on Rawson Square—the spot from which all of the contingents embarked.

Heavy Rains at Last in British Guiana.

The Hon. R. E. Brassington has tabled a motion to limit the life of the Combined Court from five to three years in view of, *inter alia*, the occasions "on which members shortly after their election have by their actions forfeited the confidence of the majority of electors." In their reply to the Governor's speech at the opening of the Session, the elected members, through Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, the Senior Financial Representative, criticised the omission of any reference to a scheme of irrigation and drainage to save the large crops of rice, which year after year have been ruined by drought or flood.

At a meeting of the Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce on November 26th, at which Mr. C. Farrar presided, the question of a Trade Commissioner to represent the West Indies and British Guiana was discussed. The meeting favoured such an appointment, provided a suitable man with a full knowledge of the colonies could be found. It was also decided to express to the Government the Chamber's opinion that the colony should be represented at the British Empire Exhibition, 1923.

After the long and serious drought, a welcome cable message, dispatched on Christmas Eve, announces that heavy rains have fallen, although lighter in Berbice.

British Honduras: The Governor's Return.

His Excellency the Hon. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., is expected to arrive at Belize on January 7th, on his return from England. The Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E., has resigned his position as Chairman of the Town Board, which he has held since the Board came into existence twelve years ago. This Board, which has somewhat similar duties to the Municipal Councils of the Home Country, has twelve elected members, the votes for whom are counted on the principle of proportional representation. Captain Franco has returned to the colony from his holiday, bringing with him Mr. C. C. Adam, who has come out to join the firm of Messrs. Franco & Ellis.

Sugar to be Decontrolled in Jamaica.

The principal business of the special session of the Legislative Council, which began on October 12th, was the consideration of the Canada-West Indies Trade

Agreement, which was adopted as it stood, practically unanimously. The Jamaica Civil Servants, according to a report of the Direct West India Cable Company, have through their Association forwarded a letter stating that the 25 per cent. increase of salary, granted a few months ago, has proved utterly inadequate to meet the enormously increased cost of living. The report of a special committee absolutely bears out the truth of this claim, and the consensus of opinion is that salaries will be entirely regraded.

The report of the Postmaster for Jamaica for the financial year 1919-20 has been published, and the returns constitute a new record for business in every department. The postage revenue amounted to £63,461, and with a total from all sources for the year of £94,507, the Post Office receipts have more than doubled since 1910.

The Collector-General's report for the financial year ended March 31st, 1920, shows that the total revenue from import and export duties, harbour dues, &c., amounted to £644,100, as compared with £438,688 for 1918-19. Mr. A. J. Pavitt, H.M. Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies, intends to open up offices in the Imperial Association's building. The re-election of Mr. Bryant, O.B.E., as Mayor of Kingston, is announced.

Hon. J. H. W. Park, O.B.E., the retiring Food Controller, has informed the Jamaica Imperial Association that the Government have decided to decontrol sugar, cancelling the Sugar Requisition Order of August 10th, 1920, by which 12 per cent. of the sugar manufactured was retained for local consumption. Unrestricted dealings will thus be allowed in the crop of 1920-21, but the Government state that "such Requisition Order can be reimposed at any time should that appear to be necessary." On November 28th, the Jamaica Civil Service Association held a meeting, at which Colonel Bryan presided, for the purpose of presenting addresses to Mr. Park, who has been appointed Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General in the Straits Settlements, and to Mr. H. A. Josephs, K.C., who becomes Attorney-General of British Guiana.

The President-elect of the United States and Mrs. Harding were able to spend only a few hours in Kingston on November 30th, but in that time Senator Harding gave Mr. Herbert de Lisser, C.M.G., a "twenty minutes' interview, and a "message to the people of Jamaica," in the course of which he said that—"We feel a very kindly interest in Jamaica because of the ties of trade which bring us more or less closely together. The many Americans who visit the island never fail on their return to sing the praises of this wonderful land." This is the second visit Senator Harding has paid to Jamaica, the first having been in 1906.

Trinidad: Rev. and Hon. C. D. Lalla Honoured.

On Saturday evening last a banquet was given at San Fernando by the East Indian Community to the Rev. C. D. Lalla, in celebration of his appointment as a Member of the Legislative Council. It was largely attended by well-known representatives of all races in the Colony. Mr. J. D. Hobson, mayor of San Fernando, presided. The function was in every way a success, and was distinguished for the oratory of the Indian speakers, particularly the honourable gentleman himself, who spoke with moderation and eloquence, which commended itself to every one present, and gave proof of his special fitness for the honour conferred upon him. Other toasts were numerous, and were spoken to with ability, and the guests only separated after midnight, having spent a most pleasant and interesting evening.

The prominent firm of Geo. R. Alston and Company announced that their business is being converted into a limited company, to be known as Alston and Company, Ltd. The object of the conversion is to secure the advantages of incorporation, and to avoid the inconvenience which the death or retirement of any partner may

cause. The capital of the company is £1,000,000, and the directors are L. G. Alston, the Hon. A. H. Wight, and Sydney W. Fitt. The conversion will not affect the general conduct of the business, which, I need hardly add, has a highly honourable and creditable record in Trinidad and elsewhere.

Of the last loan of £1,000,000 raised in the colony, on which interest at 6 per cent. is paid, £600,000 has already been remitted to England for investment at 6½ per cent. It was proposed to remit a further two or three hundred thousand pounds immediately, but, in view of the general disintegration in connection with the world's principal articles of commerce, and of heavy falls in the value of all commodities, which may react with particular force in these Colonies, the Chamber of Commerce has expressed the opinion to the Government that it is undesirable, for the present at any rate, to denude the Colony of any further capital, which might be required locally. It is understood that his Excellency has consented to delay the contemplated remittance, for the time being, at any rate.

Regarding the proposal for the appointment of a Trade Commissioner to represent the West Indies in Canada, the local Chamber of Commerce has followed the lead of the Chambers of Barbados and Demerara in approving of the appointment. The Chamber is of opinion that an ample fund should be provided, so that the services of a really efficient representative may be secured, and that it would be desirable to adopt the suggestion of Lord Milner, that the Commissioner should be attached to the office of the principal British Trade Commissioner in Montreal, so that full advantage could be taken of the organisation already existing there under the capable management of the Chief Commissioner.

The froglopers have again been much in evidence, and have done considerable damage in many cane districts. Otherwise, favoured by exceptional good growing weather, cultivation generally is promising.

Mr. Tripp, writing again on December 6th, says that a meeting of the Legislature was held on Friday last. The Governor presented a minute regarding the Estimates for 1921. The revenue is estimated at £1,824,900, on the assumption that the income and produce tax will be levied next year. The estimated expenditure is £1,807,600. The estimated deficit is £17,300. This deficit will be met from the available balance of surplus revenue, which it is expected will reach £421,800 on December 31st this year, as compared with £206,740 on December 31st, 1919. In accordance with a suggestion from Lord Milner, it is proposed that the transfer be made of the sum of £150,000 of this surplus to an account to be called "reserved surplus," so that the estimated surplus balance on December 31st, 1921, should be £199,100—altogether a very satisfactory financial position. Sir John Chancellor is to be congratulated on having made hay during the last year or two, when the sunshine of prosperity has prevailed in Trinidad.

Tobago's Late Cacao Crop.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, writing under date December 6th, reports favourable weather—9·20 inches of rain for November, or above the average for that month, but there is a shortage on the usual annual rainfall. The deliveries of cacao are disappointing, and very little is expected before January. The drop in prices to \$12·50 is serious, especially in view of the higher wages now being paid and the late crop. The banks and merchants are restricting advances on account of the financial stringency the world over, and the outlook at the moment is far from cheerful—you will notice interesting articles on the subject in the local Press. The only hopeful sign is cheaper sugar, which ought to stimulate the output of chocolates. Work under the £1,000,000 development scheme will soon be commenced, and hence there need be less concern regarding unemployment.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd.

This Company informs us that it is willing to pay at once 110 for any of its £100 6 per cent debentures still outstanding. With the many opportunities for reinvestment open to-day, this offer should prove very attractive to the fortunate possessors of these bonds, who, if they wish to sell, should communicate with the Secretary of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited, 2, St. Helen's-place, London, E.C. 5.

The Demerara Railway Company.

On November 20th, on the motion of the Acting Attorney-General, the Combined Court of British Guiana adopted (with one dissent)—Hon. Nelson Channon a resolution authorising the Crown Agents on behalf of the Government of British Guiana, to enter into an agreement for the purchase of the undertaking of the Demerara Railway Company as a going concern.

The prospectus of the Demerara Railway Company, of which Mr. Charles Cave was the first Chairman, was issued on September 3rd, 1845, and the first section of the Georgetown-Mahaica line was formed by Sir Henry Light, the then Governor, on August 19th, 1847. The line was opened as far as Plaisance, a distance of 5 miles only, in 1848, and it was not until August 31st, 1864, that the first train reached Mahaica. An extension to Mahaicony was completed in 1869, and in 1900 the line reached Rosignol, on the left bank of the Berbice River. The shorter line on the West Coast was opened to traffic in 1899, and was extended to Parika in 1914.]

The Uroz Oilfields and Trinidad.

At the annual meeting of the Uroz Oilfields, Ltd., on December 30th, Mr. Sillem, the Chairman, said that since the shareholders last met their directors had pursued a policy of energy in regard to the developments, not only upon their French, but also upon their Trinidad properties. On the latter they were now engaged in sinking several wells, and one of these had reached such a depth, and in drilling such phenomena were met with that advance of successful results were awaited. It was extremely unfortunate that this well was ruined by a landslide, but the directors looked forward with confidence to the results of their drilling programme. Indeed, they had already been approached with offers to pipe and refine their crude oil.

[The Company has a lease of 300 acres in the Mandersrat Ward, 85 acres known as the "Graman Lease," and a prospecting licence over about 2,000 acres in the Charuma district.]

Angostura Bitters (Dr. J. C. B. Siegert & Sons), Ltd.

The net profit of this Company for year ended September 30th, 1920, was £35,462. After allowing for advertising, legal expenses, trade marks registrations, and London expenses £9,173, and deducting credits being amounting to £439, there remains £26,722. Dividends of £100,000 preference shares for year ended September 30th, 1919 (3 per cent), have been paid, in addition to interim dividend of 6 per cent. on preference shares in respect of year ended September 30th, 1920. After placing to reserve £2,162, there remains, including £285 brought forward, £17,301 to be carried forward. Considerable expansion which has taken place in Company's business necessarily involves employment of a much larger amount of capital, and in these circumstances directors regret they are unable to recommend dividend on ordinary shares for the year.

The Globe Oilfields: Trinidad Interests.

Presiding at the first annual meeting of this Company, on December 30th, Lieut.-Colonel Barrett Leonard, C.B.E., Chairman, said provision had been made for

boring two wells on their property in Trinidad. They confidently expected to win oil in their Otahelie property, having regard especially to the occurrence of a gusher on the Apex areas which adjoined it. In 1909 he was in the Island of Trinidad, not looking for oil, and was riding one day with a friend through the country, when he drew attention to a large pool of dark, thick fluid, which he told him was oil. That was the first oil produced in Trinidad. Nobody paid much attention to it. In those days, of course, there was a good deal of oil being produced in the world, but principally in the United States of America, but he was quite sure that, at that date, the world did not fully recognise the value of petroleum oil. In any case, it was quite certain that Great Britain did not realise how important oil was to the Empire, and it was only in quite recent years that the leaders of British industry had set to work to develop oil within the boundaries of the Empire itself, and very recently, also, that anybody had developed the oil resources of Trinidad, although the existence had been known since 1909, and not only known to exist, but to exist under most favourable circumstances.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyfes, Ltd.—Home arrivals from Jamaica, Avonmouth, December 19th, per s.s. *Patuca*—

Mr. F. Carverhill Mr. F. Gundy Hon. J. H. W. Park
Mr. D. Dunwell Mr. W. E. Massingbam Mr. J. A. Whitebourne
Mr. F. W. Nutt

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, December 23th, per R.M.S. *Motagua*—

Mr. A. Alvarez Col. and Mrs. St. G. Mr. and Mrs. P. G.
Mr. F. E. Appleby Hainery Mr. Lankester
Major G. E. Beilforth Mr & Mrs. H. Hill Mr. and Mrs. A. O.
Mrs. P. Deane Field Mr. A. F. Homewood Lightowler
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Bird Mr. & Mrs. J. J. James Miss D. Harris
Miss Brouday Miss N. L. James Major Oliver
Mr. R. Casablanca Mr. R. J. Jones Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Tanc
Mr. T. Cooper Smith Mr. S. Klug and family
The Hon. Mrs. T. Mr. F. C. Dde Lubilliere Mr. & Mrs. R. Travers
Cooper Smith Mr. T. Treddall

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, December 20th, per s.s. *Bayano*—

Mr. G. L. Aitken Mr. and Mrs. A. F. G. Dr. and Mrs. C. E.
Capt. and Mrs. H. Asa Ellis Pengelley and family
Thomas Miss E. S. Garrett Mr. H. C. Powell
Mrs. J. C. Atkinson Mr. A. W. Gough Mr. G. J. Preaton
Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Capt. and Mrs. G. H. Miss A. Roberts
Broderip Miss G. Saunders
The Rev. P. W. Briggs Mr. and Mrs. H. Hand- Mrs. and Mrs. J. C.
Miss E. J. Burrell forth Shephard
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Caley Miss J. Handforth The Hon. G. N. Ruyth
Major C. E. W. Carleton Mr. J. B. Harris Mr. and Mrs. C. F.
Capt. & Mrs. G. E. Care Miss U. Harvey Strange
Mr. G. L. Clumetson Miss U. Harvey Miss M. E. Strange
The Lady Elizabeth Mr. O. W. Hind Commander and Mrs.
Corbena Mr. W. Kelly H. Swinbank
Mrs. Couper Marshall Mr. F. B. Koppel Miss G. Swinbank
The Hon. Mrs. Daniell Mr. G. B. Koppel Mr. C. I. Thomson
Master J. Daniel Mrs. K. H. Lambert Mr. R. W. Titmas
Mr. F. Devoy Miss M. Lithgow Miss A. M. Townsend
Mrs. C. M. Drewett Mrs. M. Miceozic Mr. A. Watt
Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Dnrrio Miss D. McLoughlin Miss I. I. M. Whitlock
Mr. W. V. Easton Mr. H. W. Mortlock Mr. and Mrs. T. A.
Mrs. F. E. Edwards Mr. W. P. O'Brien Withnell
Thomson

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

Crown Colony Government.

Lieut. Colonel Amery, asked by Mr. Omsby-Gore, on December 23rd, whether the reform of the constitution of Jamaica and several West Indian colonies was now under consideration, stated that the reply was in the negative.

The Steamship Situation.

Mr. Hurd, who asked on December 23rd what steps were now being taken to increase and improve the British steamship service to the West Indies, was informed by Lieut. Colonel Amery that the matter was under consideration, and it was hoped that, with the co-operation of the colonies concerned, it might be possible to make improved arrangements for a British passenger service to the West Indies in the future.

West Indian Trade and the Empire.

Lieut. Colonel Amery, in reply to questions by Mr. Hurd on December 23rd, stated that, in considering the adoption of the recommendations made at the recent conference at Ottawa, the Colonial Governments had at the same time had under their consideration the extension of these preferences to British goods. The Department of Overseas Trade had a representative in the West Indies who was charged with the representation of the commercial interests of the United Kingdom. The Secretary of State had already drawn the attention of the Governments of the West Indian colonies and Bermuda to the question of improving the representation of their commercial interests in Canada.

Royal Netherland West Indian Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, Havre, December 21st, per s.s. *Stuyvesant*—

Mr. O. Frecheville Mr. S. Miller Mrs. L. E. Tanner
Mr. A. Hall Mr. J. W. McC. Span Mr. T. P. Wall
Mr. F. S. Lavarick Lt. W. A. Swyze Mr. C. T. Williams
Mr. T. Tanner

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Div.	PRICE.
4 % Antigua ...	Jan. 3, 1921. 68 70
3 1/2 % Barbados ...	64 67
4 % British Guiana ...	74 77
3 % British Guiana ...	59 61ad
4 % Grenada ...	71 73
4 % Jamaica ...	77 79
3 1/2 % Jamaica ...	54 81 1/2
3 % Jamaica ...	67 60
4 % St. Lucia ...	71 73
4 % Trinidad ...	71 75
3 % Trinidad ...	58 60
10 % The Colonial Bank ...	52 81
8 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary ...	100 110
5 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference ...	95 70
4 1/2 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2 Debentures ...	86 71 1/2
5 % Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5 % Debentures ...	68 73 1/2
6 % Angostura Bitters Part. Preference ...	117 1/2
6 % New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 % Debentures ...	92 97 1/2
7 % Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref. St. Madeline Sugar ...	71-
— Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. ...	48 1/2
— Petroleum Options, Ltd. ...	2 1/2
10 % Trinidad Central Oilfields ...	—
— Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd., 10% ...	3 1/2
12 1/2 % Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (L1) ...	68 1/2
— United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. ...	25-
4 % Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock ...	26 35
7 % Demerara Railway Company 7 % Perp. Pref. ...	87 92
4 % Demerara Railway Company 4 1/2 % Pref. ...	46 51
4 % Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures ...	54 59
— W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. Ordinary ...	—
— W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	—
— W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. " 2nd ...	3 1/4
5 % W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5 % Debentures ...	85 87 1/2

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing.
Trinidad	Dover	<i>Stuyvesant</i>	Jan. 8
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Nevisian</i>	Jan. 11
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camilo</i>	Jan. 11
West Indies	London	<i>Settler</i>	Jan. 12
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Director</i>	Jan. 15
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Changuinola</i>	Jan. 18
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaudiere</i>	Jan. 21
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Musicien</i>	Jan. 28
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaleur</i>	Feb. 4
West Indies	New York	<i>Knova</i>	Feb. 9

The above dates are only approximate.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
Jan. 4th, 1921.

Owing to the Christmas holidays, little or no business has been done in the various markets. During December the fall in wholesale prices continued, though at a less rapid pace than in the previous month. The total depreciation was 17.4 points, or 67 per cent., as compared with 32.4 points, or 11 per cent., in November.

BANK RATE, 7 per cent., as from April 15th.

EXCHANGE on New York, \$3 58 3/4.

SUGAR. The belief so confidently expressed by Lord Askwith that the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply would be brought to an end on December 31st has not been justified. The Commission is, however, no longer buying sugar, and a definite announcement of Government policy cannot be much longer delayed.

Official wholesale prices were reduced on December 27th last to 78s. for castor, 76s. for cubes, and 72s. for granulated, crystals, &c. On the same day the maximum "reasonable" wholesale price for all licensed "free" sugar was fixed at 72s. per cwt.

A moderate business in West India crystallised has passed at 60s. Supplies are now nearly exhausted, and muscovadas have consequently met with some inquiry, sales being effected at 32s.-45s. for really fine.

The commencement of the Cuban crop has been considerably delayed owing to the late rains and delay in the delivery of machinery due to financial difficulties and transportation trouble—indeed, the total number of Centrals "going about" on December 23rd last were 15 only, as compared with 108 on the same date in 1919-20. The Cuban moratorium has been again extended, and confidence is gradually being restored, and the tone of the market in America is somewhat better, though it will require careful handling for some time to come. Latest New York quotations on January 3rd were: January, 470c; March, 480c; May, 490c; and July, 510c.

The area in France under sugar beet is reported by the Ministry of Agriculture to have been 89,660 hectares in 1920, as against 216,200 in 1913-14 and 234,300 in 1903-4. The output of sugar is estimated at 272,760 tons in 1920, as against 786,000 tons in 1913-14 and 794,430 tons in 1903-4.

In Germany Licht looks for a crop of 1,200,000 tons, and in Europe as a whole 3,800,000 tons, as against 2,624,179 tons for 1919-20. His estimate for Europe thus exceeds that of Messrs. Willett & Gray by 160,000 tons.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on December 25th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Tons.
Imports	62,065	50,337	38,232	
Deliveries	61,233	48,393	41,027	
Stock	8,968	8,136	6,192	

CACAO. Owing to the holiday influence, no business during the past fortnight has been done in this market. The nominal value of fine Grenada is 55s. and fine Trinidad 72s. to 80s.

The stocks in London on December 25th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Bags.
Trinidad	29,658	25,583	18,984	
Grenada	21,291	13,908	7,055	
Total of all kinds ...	208,940	117,319	101,281	

RUM. There has been a steady enquiry for export, but the supply is limited; the home trade is still very dull, with prices nominally unchanged. There is much speculation as to whether any relief in the prevailing

high duty can be expected in the next Budget, but it is yet too early to forecast what may happen.

The stocks in London on December 25th were:—

	1920.	1919.	1918.	Pods.
Jamaica	9,348	0,708	3,828	
Demorara	14,987	15,222	10,073	
Total of all kinds ...	34,548	28,864	19,543	

ARROWROOT remains in a very dull state. The nominal quotations are unchanged.

BALATA. Market quiet. Nominal Quotations for West Indian sheet, 4s. 5d. per lb. spot, and 4s. 2 1/2d. c.i.f. forward positions.

COFFEE. There is no change to report in this market, the only business transacted being of a retail character. Good ordinary Jamaica is quoted nominally at 75s. to 80s., and Blue Mountain at 170s. to 190s.

COPRA is steady, but the amount offering is small. The nominal value of West Indian f.m.s. is £40 c.i.f. London or Rotterdam.

COTTON. West Indian Sea Island is still neglected, and the nominal quotations are unchanged. Imports into United Kingdom for 1920, 7,730 bales.

HONEY. There is nothing to add to our last report.

LIME PRODUCTS. There is no change to report, the market being quite inactive.

LOGWOOD is steady at recent rates, but business very restricted.

MAHOGANY. According to Messrs. Churchill & Sims, the total supply of mahogany logs to London during the past year was 13,398 tons, compared with 28,761 tons in 1919, the average for the ten years ended 1914 being 32,600 tons; the decrease as compared with the preceding year is accounted for by the fact that in 1919 the bulk of the importation was for Government account, being an aftermath of the war. The chief source of supply was again British Honduras. Owing to the high bank rate and restriction of credit, the demand for logs is unlikely to develop satisfactorily as yet; but, even if it remains at the present low level, there is, in view of the moderate stocks on hand and in prospect, no reason to anticipate any serious fall in values.

ORANGE OIL. Still no business to report in either Sweet or Bitter.

SPICES. There are sellers of Pimento on the spot at 3 1/2d. (or at 27s. per cwt. c.i.f. terms), but little business passing. Jamaica Ginger is quite neglected.

THE WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Mr. A. Daldermas | Hon. F. A. Granville |
| Mr. E. W. Bowen | Mr. E. P. Houghton-James |
| Mr. G. S. Brown | Mr. L. M. Hobson |
| Mr. James Brown | Mr. L. J. Lee |
| Mr. E. A. Bugle | Mr. R. Poyntz Mackenzie |
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| Mrs. A. G. Farnum | Mr. J. H. Steven |
| Mr. J. M. Flewing | Dr. E. C. A. Wilson |
| Mr. Percy George | Mr. R. V. Ryan Wong |
| Sir G. Aubrey Goodman | Mr. W. H. Yearwood |
| Mr. J. B. Brindley, c/o W.M.M.S., 24, Bishopsgate, E.C. | |
| Mr. Archibald J. Bruns, "Melrose," The Soods, Swindon, Wilts. | |
| Mr. Sam. Browne, Durmat's Hotel, Manchester Square, W. | |
| Mr. H. Bryson, 26, Lewes Crescent, Kemptown, Sussex. | |
| Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W. | |
| Miss F. A. Farny, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W. 2. | |
| Mr. J. T. Grog, The Gros House, Boar's Hill, Oxford. | |
| Mr. Randal I. Harvey, 5, Lower Camden, Chislehurst, Kent. | |
| Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square, W.C. | |
| Mr. T. Orde, Elfrice Lodge, Alnmouth, Northumberland. | |
| Mr. G. S. Roton-Browne, c/o Thomson, Dunbar & Co., 7, Minning Lane, E.C. | |
| Mr. Arthur L. Vaughan, c/o Shelton and Schofield, 29, Martin Lane, E.C. 4. | |
| Mr. Alfred Y. White, c/o The Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C. 3. | |

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXVI,

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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 8s. per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00).

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642



15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C. 3.

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

Jan. 20th, 1921.

WEST INDIAN FREIGHT RATES.

OUR readers will, no doubt, be glad to learn that the question of freight rates has been, and still is, engaging the careful attention of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. It is obvious that the high homeward rates of freight which were paid with little demur while quotations of West Indian produce were soaring can no longer be justified now that the temporary boom has been succeeded by a slump which has brought the market values of some varieties of produce below the pre-war figure. The freight rates on sugar are usually fixed by agreement, and we understand that contracts may now be made at a reduced figure; but our view is that there should be a general reduction of the rates all down the list. This, we venture to assert, is a reasonable proposition in view especially of the fact that the slump in produce coincides with a notable increase in the world's tonnage, leading to a corresponding fall in freights. But for this

the present difficulties of the producer, which we believe and hope to be only temporary, would have been aggravated. As is well known, the West Indian freight rates are controlled by the Association of West India Transatlantic Steamship Lines, of which all the principal shipping companies trading with the West Indies are members, but it has been argued, with some degree of justification, that the effect of the operations of that body has been to stabilise rates which before it came into existence were subject to sudden and violent fluctuations, and that it has never abused its powers by squeezing shippers. It is at any rate an established fact that the British West Indies were throughout the period of the war in a more favourable position in respect of freight rates than many other parts of the world, though charges must necessarily depend upon cargoes offering and the rapidity with which vessels can load and return home. It is, we understand, for this reason that Jamaica has been compelled to pay a higher freight rate than that in respect of the other West Indian islands, the cargo steamers being delayed and put to additional expenses through having to call at several out ports to collect cargo instead of being able to load up at one port. Reference was made to this higher rate for Jamaica by Mr. E. A. DE PASS, Chairman of the Jamaica Standing Committee, at a recent meeting of the West India Committee, and no doubt an endeavour will be made to bring the Jamaica rate into line with the general West Indian one. Meanwhile, it would appear to us that the justification for the extra rate might be obviated if suitable facilities could be provided by the local Government, or private enterprise, for concentrating produce awaiting shipment at one or two ports by means of motor barges to take the place of the coastal steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service and Hamburg-America Line, which formerly performed this function. No doubt, however, this matter will be threshed out at a conference between representatives of the West India Committee and the steamship companies, which is to be held at an early date to consider the question of freight rates generally.

THE EMPETE CABLE SYSTEM.

IN our issue of December 9th last we called attention to the deplorable state of West Indian cable communication. Since then further delays and breakdowns have occurred, and we have received many forceful representations from individuals and business houses regarding the serious inconvenience and loss which they are incurring as a result. Our correspondents complain bitterly not only of the delays (which are particularly damaging to their interests, as well as to those of producers, when market prices are falling, as they have been of late), but also of the mutilation of such messages as do eventually get through, owing, presumably, to faulty transmission through foreign countries and to the difficulty in obtaining repetitions. Let us give a concrete example of such mutilations. On December 22nd we ourselves received a message from Trinidad consisting of twenty-one words. Of these no fewer than six were so hopelessly mutilated as to render the message absolutely incomprehensible and valueless. A repetition was asked for on the following day, but the complete "correction" (if so it can be called, for several words were *again* transmitted incorrectly) was not officially received until January 14th. Meanwhile we had informed the sender that his message had been garbled. He himself repeated it, and in the second message several words correctly given in the earlier one were now wrong! Here is another instance—one of several given to us by a firm of West India merchants. This firm received a cablegram, dated December 1st by the sender, on December 8th. It being unintelligible, a repetition of two words of the text was requested on the following day. The correction of one of these words was not received until December 14th, the delay being thus one of ten days. How can trade possibly be carried on satisfactorily on these lines? It will be readily understood that trouble of this kind is absolutely paralysing to business, and it certainly says much for the patience of the people of the West Indian Colonies that they have not protested even more forcibly than they have done already through their various organisations. Must we wait indefinitely for an efficient cable service via Bermuda, with supplementary wireless, through fear of offending vested interests? Representatives of the British West Indies and Dominion of Canada, in a Declaration appended to the Trade agreement, and dated June 18th, expressed the view that in their opinion the new cables should be laid without delay, and the Dominion Government promised to investigate the matter and to communicate the result of their enquiries to the Governments of the Colonies. But there the matter rests. This declaration was made six whole months ago, but as far as we have been able to ascertain no steps have been taken to act upon it. Is it too much to hope that it may engage the immediate attention of the Dominion authorities, and also of the Colonial Office, who must have on their files ample evidence of the grave loss which is resulting from the dependence of the West Indies, Jamaica excepted, on a decrepit and inefficient cable system?

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Twenty-five New Members Elected.

The West India Committee has started the New Year auspiciously, twenty-five new members having been elected at a meeting of the Executive on January 13th. Their names are given below.

NAMES.	TREASURERS AND SECRETARIES.
Nassau Public Library (Bahamas).	Mr. Frank Holmes, K.C.
Dr. George H. Steven, M.B. Ch.B. (Grenada).	Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E.
Mr. W. E. Mackay (Africa).	Mr. A. Hayward.
Mr. A. G. Burslem (Trinidad).	Mr. Charles F. Harold
Mr. H. V. Lindo (Jamaica).	Mr. W. E. Mandeville.
Mr. J. P. Robertson (St. Vincent).	Mr. L. A. Gomez.
Mr. F. P. Murray (St. Vincent).	Mr. H. B. G. Austin.
Capt. H. G. Watson Taylor (Country).	Miss D. H. Austin.
Major A. S. Bowen (Trinidad).	Mr. L. de Mervado.
Mr. P. M. Todd (St. Kitts).	Mr. A. St. G. Spooner.
Mr. Fred C. S. Bascom (London).	Hon. J. M. Gray, J.P.
Mr. J. A. Kelso (London).	Mr. J. H. Aikman.
His Honour Major H. Peebles, D.S.O. (Tortola).	Hon. J. M. Gray, J.P.
Miss J. Iris Howard (London).	Mr. J. H. Aikman.
Mrs. G. J. Howard (London).	Mr. E. P. Hughton James.
Capt. E. Allan Collymore (London).	Mr. G. P. Dewar.
Mr. E. C. Steinbridge (London).	Sir G. Townsend Fenwick, K.C.M.G.
Mr. Henry Dakyns (London).	Mr. G. B. Austin.
Lady Cameron (London).	Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Trinidad Petroleum Development Co., Ltd. (London).	Mr. G. H. Yearwood.
Mr. F. H. Robertson (London).	Mr. C. A. Campbell.
Messrs. Greig & Greig (London).	Mr. J. W. Pearl.
Messrs. Herbert Green & Co (London).	Dr. Harold Moody.
Mr. S. H. Overton (Country).	Jonas Browne & Son.
Mr. H. Burges Watson (London).	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. Cyril Gurney.
	Mr. A. B. Tucker.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. A. B. Tucker.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. F. J. Morris.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. T. L. M. Orde.
	Mr. H. F. Previté.
	Sir Edward Davson.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Sir Edward Davson.
	Mr. A. W. Rogers.
	Sir Edward Davson.
	Mr. A. W. Rogers.
	Mr. H. O. Howard Tripp
	Trinidad Produce Co., Ltd.
	Mr. Cyril Gurney.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. C. Gurney.
	Mr. A. W. Rogers.
	Mr. E. A. de Pass.

Of the 419 new members elected during the year ended December 31st, 1920, 292 reside in the West Indies, as shown below:—

Great Britain	108	St. Lucia	1
Trinidad	72	Grenada	1
Barbados	71	Bahamas	4
Jamaica	40	Dominica	1
British Guiana	35	Nevis	1
British Honduras	23	St. Vincent	1
Miscellaneous	21	Tobago	1
St. Kitts	12	Anguilla	1
Antigua	8	Montserrat	1

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

“ No fe want of tongue make cow no talk.”

SIR GILBERT CARTER has adopted the surname Gilbert-Carter, by which he will be known in future.

MR. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD, to whose illness reference was made in last CIRCULAR, is, we are glad to hear, progressing favourably.

It was announced on December 9th that at the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, Dr. Hideyo Noguchi had discovered a vaccine against yellow fever.

MR. L. C. G. TAGGART, draughtsman of the Public Works Department, Barbados, has successfully passed the Land Surveyor's Examination held last July in Barbados.

MISS ROSEMARY LUBBOCK, daughter of the late Sir Neville Lubbock and Lady Lubbock, of Ridlands, Limpsfield, was married on January 12th to Mr. Christopher Carlisle.

MR. THOMAS HUMPHREY NAYLOR, son of the late Mr. John Naylor, has been admitted a partner in the firms of Sandbach, Tinne & Co., Liverpool, and Sandbach, Parker & Co., Demerara.

At a meeting held on January 18th, Mr. C. F. Wood and Mr. Cyril Gurney were re-elected chairman and deputy chairman respectively of the Colonial Bank for the ensuing year.

It is generally understood that Mr. Winston Churchill will succeed Lord Milner as Secretary of State for the Colonies, though no official announcement on the subject has as yet been made.

MISS NOEL OLIVIER, youngest daughter of Sir Sydney and Lady Olivier, of Limpsfield, Surrey, was married on December 21st at St. Martin's-in-the-Field, to Mr. William Arthur Richards, of Llabelly.

A REGULAR fortnightly service between Trinidad and New York has been inaugurated by the Caribbean Steamship Company, of New York, for whom Messrs. G. F. Huggins & Co., Ltd., are acting as agents in Trinidad.

THE cultivation of the beet for sugar purposes is being taken in hand in Western Australia, seed having been imported for the purpose. Experimental farms have been started over a wide expanse of country, and prizes are being offered for the best cultivation.

LORD GLENCONNER, who died on November 21st, left unsettled property of the gross value of £819,479. He bequeathed his shares and stock in Charles Tennant, Son & Co., Ltd., and in Ten-

nant's Estates, Ltd., free of all duties, on trust for his sons in equal shares.

MR. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, who had intended returning to St. Lucia by the s.s. *Songster*, has been detained in London owing to the illness of his wife. Mrs. Brooks successfully underwent a serious operation on January 14th, but is now progressing as well as can be expected.

CAPTAIN G. HUDSON LYALL, M.B.E., son of the late Hon. A. J. Pile, C.M.G., for many years Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, has been admitted to partnership in the firm of Samuel Dobree & Sons, as from January 1st. This firm now has a branch in Halifax, N.S., under the management of Major C. P. Philpott.

MRS. HERBERT BINDLEY and her daughter exhibited some charming West Indian flower studies at the Royal Horticultural Society's show on January 11th. They were made whilst she was at Codrington College, Barbados, when Canon Herbert Bindley, D.D., was the Principal, and attracted much attention, receiving the R.H.S. Banksian Silver Medal.

A MEMBER of the Executive of the West India Committee, and Chairman of a Trinidad oil company, who will not permit us to disclose his identity, recently paid a short visit to British Guiana, and whilst in the colony was much impressed with the need for improved sanitation. He accordingly generously offered to the Government Medical Officer, Dr. E. P. Minett, the sum of £1,000 to be spent on experiments in connection with the water supply and sanitation.

COLONEL JAMES ALEXANDER FRANCIS HUMBERSTON STEWART-MACKENZIE, one of the New Year barons, has taken the title of Baron Seaforth of Brahan. By assuming this title the new peer is practically reviving a peerage which was formerly held by one of his ancestors, Francis Mackenzie Humberston, or Francis Humberston Mackenzie, the 21st hereditary chief of the clan Mackenzie, who was created Lord Seaforth and Baron Mackenzie of Kintail in 1797, and was afterwards, for the first six years of the last century, Governor of Barbados. The title, however, became extinct on the death of the first holder in 1815, his four sons having predeceased him.

CORN DUMPLINGS.— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. butter beaten together, add 1 tablespoonful beaten spice, 2 tablespoonfuls grated pumpkins, 5 beaten eggs, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cornflour. Wrap 2 full spoonfuls at a time in a square of chilled plantain leaf, folding it up carefully so as to prevent the water getting in. Put some boiling water in a pot and then some clean trash or straw (so as to prevent the water reaching the dumplings), place the dumplings on this, steam about 2 or 3 hours, or put the mixture all together in a covered mould and steam from 2 to 3 hours.—MISS SKINNER.

TRINIDAD ANTI-WASTE EXAMPLE.**£1,000,000 Raised at cost of £149.**

Some further statistics relating to the Trinidad and Tobago £1,000,000 loan raised under Ordinance No. 15 of 1920, to meet the cost of railways, roads, and other public services, are now given in a memorandum issued by the Hon. Denis Slyne, C.B.E., Receiver-General. The success which attended the issue was so striking that no apology is needed for again dealing with this matter in some detail.

It will be recalled that the prospectus of the loan was issued on May 8th last inviting applications up to July 31st, before which date, however, the million pounds had already been applied for. In view of the terms of the prospectus the list had to be kept open until July 31st, by which date the total applications had reached £1,506,320. Altogether 587 applications were received, of which 414 were for amounts not exceeding £2,000. It was decided to give full allotment on those applications, and on those exceeding £2,000 full allotment in respect of that amount with a *pro rata* allotment on the balance, which worked out at .47286.

A statement showing the source of the applications according to colonies having been published in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of September 2nd last, need not be reproduced here. There was some criticism from subscribers in this colony because preference was not given to local applicants, but many lost sight of the fact that, the Debentures being transferable by delivery, outsiders could not be prevented from making applications through local connections. The following were the Debentures issued:—

755 Debentures at £ 10	£ 7,550
515 " " 20	10,300
431 " " 50	21,550
2,426 " " 100	242,600
1,436 " " 500	718,000
	<u>£1,000,000</u>

The expenses were as under:—

Advertisements locally and in 5 other West Indian Colonies	£48 14 8
Stationery and books supplied by the Printing Office and cost of Lithographing Debentures	63 8 9
Paper for Debentures	29 17 9
Contingencies	7 17 7
	<u>£149 18 9</u>

The over-subscription of the loan would by itself be a matter of congratulation; but Mr. Slyne is to be further complimented on having secured this splendid result at a cost of £149 18s. 9d. only, or of 3.6d. per £100.

On August 14th £542,222 was remitted to the Crown Agents by sight drafts for temporary investment in Treasury Bills at a discount of 6½ per cent. per annum. The drafts were purchased at a discount of £1,456 0s. 4d. It will thus be seen that a remarkably good bargain was made.

TRINIDAD AND THE INCOME TAX.**How the Local Revenue Benefits**

It will be recalled that the West India Committee made representations to the Royal Commission on the Income Tax as to the injustice arising out of the double payment of tax—in the United States and in the Dominions. Following a recommendation by the Commission, the Finance Act, 1920, provided for relief from such double payment, the arrangement being that where the Dominion tax did not exceed one-half of the appropriate rate in the United Kingdom relief would be given in respect of the Dominion rate, and that otherwise the rate of relief would be one-half of the United Kingdom tax.

Hitherto the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has given relief to residents and companies in the United Kingdom drawing income from the Colony by exempting them from the local tax. Now, however, they propose to take advantage of the concession given by the United Kingdom by taxing them. The taxpayers concerned will not suffer as they will be granted a corresponding measure of relief off their United Kingdom income tax; on the other hand, the Colony will benefit to an amount estimated by the Hon. Denis Slyne, Receiver-General, to the extent of £70,000 per annum.

This modification has been provided for by the Trinidad and Tobago Tax Incomes Ordinance, 1920, Section 5, the Ordinance which was ably piloted through the Legislature by Mr. Slyne, and passed on December 10th last. The local income tax rates remain unchanged, as follows:—

(a) On every £1 of income up to £1,000	0 3
(b) On every additional £1 beyond £1,000	0 6
(c) On every additional £1 beyond £2,000	1 0
(d) On every additional £1 beyond £5,000	2 0
(e) On every additional £1 beyond £8,000	1 0
(f) On every additional £1 beyond £12,000	5 0
(g) On every additional £1 beyond £20,000 upwards	6 0

MEMBERS of the West India Committee are reminded that subscriptions for the current year became due on January 1st.

Mrs. J. ALDRIC PEREZ, M.B.E., an indefatigable worker in the cause of charity, has published in pamphlet form a review of the work of the Trinidad Home Industries Association, from 1901 to 1920, under the title, "Looking back." In a foreword she reminds us that the first Self-Help Society in the West Indies was started in Jamaica by Lady Musgrave, while Lady Molarez was responsible for the initiation of the movement in Trinidad, which received a stimulus in 1904 when Mrs. Hugh Clifford became president. The success achieved may be gauged by the revenue, which increased from \$4,877 in 1905 to \$39,033 for fifteen months in 1919-20.

THE SUGAR SITUATION.

A Reasoned American Forecast.

Messrs. Hayden, Stone & Co., of New York and Boston, in their "Weekly Market Letter," dated December 24th, write: "In all the uncertainty which surrounds the immediate future of the sugar industry a few facts stand out clearly. It may be helpful at this time to elaborate some of these determinable factors. For one thing, the decline in raw sugar—a decline which has proceeded to much more drastic lengths than was generally considered probable—has carried the price down below the cost of production. It is very doubtful if more than a very few Cuban mills could produce their 1921 sugar crop at a selling price of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound and avoid a loss. Therefore, were recent prices to prevail during the coming crop season it would mean a year of loss to the great majority of Cuban producers. The same statement is broadly true of Porto Rico, of Louisiana, and the various American beet companies. It is, of course, possible that sugar, an agricultural crop, during this period of cataclysmic commodity price readjustment will have to be produced for a season on a non-profitable or positively unprofitable basis. The mere fact that any commodity has declined below its cost of production does not prove that the price will instantly or automatically recover to a cost price level. It is a fundamental axiom of political economy that goods cannot be long created at less than the cost of production. But there is no rule of thumb by which the exact length of time during which goods may be produced at a loss can be determined.

"The sugar equilibrium of the world has been profoundly disturbed and the restoration of equilibrium is a perplexing economic problem. The Cuban sugar industry never suffered from a more costly experience than the spectacular advance in raw sugar prices to a height of 23 cents per pound. When raw sugar got above 15 cents per pound it got into the danger zone in the sense that the continuance of such prices opened the flood gates to an avalanche of sugar into the United States from every corner of the sugar producing world. This natural tendency was powerfully aided and abetted by the positive action of the refiners in going after heavy tonnages of oriental sugars. It was these sugars which finally overloaded the market and created a wide open break in sugar prices that has cost every factor in the sugar industry with one exception the loss of some hundreds of millions of dollars. The one exception to which we just referred is the Cuban sugar companies. They have been in the unique position all through the past few months of demoralisation of having no inventory losses to adjust. Thanks to the fact of an unusually early closing season because of drought, 90 per cent. of the Cuban crop was produced and sold before the price slump was well developed. The other 10 per cent. of unsold Cuban sugars could have been marketed except for the greed of speculators who were holding for higher prices. Broadly speaking, 50 per cent. of the Cuban crop

is produced by companies controlled by American capital, while 50 per cent. is produced by Cuban controlled properties. The American companies practically without exception cleaned up their 1920 crop and were free of sugar when the August price decline started. This is, perhaps, the most encouraging feature of the present sugar situation from the standpoint of the Cuban companies. The American owned Cuban companies have no 1920 inventory losses to absorb. They enter the 1921 crop year with clean hands and, generally speaking, with a year of record earnings behind them. There is also the possibility that the price readjustment will be completed in time to permit them to get the benefit of stabilisation before the 1921 crop year is over.

"At present the chief sufferers from the sugar situation in the United States are the refiners and the beet companies. The 1920 beet crop promises to run between 925,000 and 950,000 tons, a 40 per cent. increase over 1919. In fact, this increase in beets nearly offsets the drought shortage in Cuba. The beet companies have sold less than 15 per cent. of this year's crop, and will, apparently, carry over into 1921 700,000 to 800,000 tons of unsold sugar. Other unsold sugars, including the remaining portion of the Cuban crop, are sufficient to bring the carryover of sugar in American markets into 1921 to a total of 1,250,000 tons, which is about three months' consumption. This big bulk of sugar is bound to act as a price depressant until largely absorbed. Happily there are solid grounds for the hope that Europe may demand several hundred thousand tons of raw or refined sugar during the first quarter of next year. Such buying is logical to expect if England and France are to continue to consume sugar, because the United States is to-day the lowest priced market in the world.

"There is, of course, every incentive for the Cuban producers to start this year as late as possible. On December 20th, 1919, 90 centrals were grinding. On the same date this year only 11 were crushing cane. Last year at this time receipts of new crop sugars were 33,464 tons for the week, this year 7,646 tons. Furthermore, financial conditions in Cuba are so severe that Cuban properties will find difficulty in borrowing, and some of the weaker producers may not be able to start until unusually late. Some authorities estimate the 1921 Cuban crop at not over 3,000,000 tons, compared with 3,748,177 tons this year, and 3,971,776 tons in 1919. Anything like a 750,000 ton drop in Cuban output would have a profound effect upon sugar prices sometime during 1921. Our purpose in thus outlining the present sugar situation is to try to show that it is altogether too early yet to assume that the Cuban sugar companies face a hopeless outlook in 1921. The American market will be overloaded with sugars for some months, but if Cuban production drops 500,000 to 750,000 tons, and the decline falls on the Cuban owned properties, then the American capital in Cuba may fare satisfactorily next year. Furthermore, the 1920-21 losses of American beet are likely to be severe enough, so that it will be some years before we again have a 950,000 ton beet crop in America."

JAMAICA'S FISHERIES.

Plea for their development.

An interesting experiment in the direction of fishing which was started in connection with the Jamaica Penitentiary in 1919 has had to be abandoned as it was not possible to carry on operations with prisoners outside the harbour, and a popular and very justifiable objection was raised against the use of the Seine within the harbour limits on account of the unavoidable destruction of immature fish. It was hoped that the high price of imported salt fish might induce fishermen to operate on a large scale in outside waters where the catches are large. A few trials were made with good results, but the cured fish did not command a ready sale, the public, rightly or wrongly, preferring the imported article.

Mr. B. Toole, the Director of Prisons, is, however, still convinced that with proper management there is a great possibility in deep sea fishing, especially as the demand for fish is always keen and the cost of imported salt fish, even at pre-war prices, leaves a good margin of profit for the local article, once it has been properly cured and put upon the market. In his annual report, he points out that the supply of fresh fish at present available is well up to the average. A start has been made along the Yallahs coast between Kingston and Morant Bay to increase the supply, and the catches are being sent down to Kingston by motor van daily. The party interested in the scheme states that it is intended to extend the business to the curing of fish on a large scale later on. The main difficulty is in getting capable fishermen who would be willing to fish continually and thus ensure a constant supply. The complaint at present is that when a large catch is taken the men abstain from fishing while the proceeds of it last, and only return to work when resources become exhausted. This, no doubt, is an exaggeration, but it is a fact that no properly organised attempt has yet been made to reap the rich harvest of the sea, which is within our immediate reach, and which is ever inviting gatherers.

Jamaica's fishing interests cannot be intelligently understood without a comparison between imports and the state of local production. The value of the fish imported in 1918 (the latest figures available), including cured fish, was £249,014. When it is borne in mind that a coast line of nearly 400 miles is accessible at almost all points for fishing boats and canoes—to say nothing of the possibilities of deep-sea fishing already referred to—that every parish has a sea-front, that the outlay required for boats and tackle is trifling, that the fish is good and plentiful *all the year round*, it becomes evident that we are neglectful of our particular advantages in regard to local fisheries. Unfortunately, no estimate even of the approximate value of the fish caught locally is available, but keeping it within convincing limits it can hardly exceed £40,000 a year, if even so much. It is, therefore, evident that our fishing industry requires stimulation in some form or other.

A COLONIAL SHIPPING COMPANY.

To Fly the Bermuda Flag.

(BY AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

It may be remembered that in 1913 it was suggested in these columns that the West Indian colonies might have a joint flag for use on ceremonial occasions and popular festivals, and also with the object of welding the group still more closely together by bonds of sentiment. The proposal was subsequently submitted to the Governments of the various colonies, and met with the cordial approval of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, and the Windward Islands. The two mainland colonies, on the other hand, did not favour the suggestion, and Mr. Harcourt, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, decided that there must be a "much more general agreement" before the matter could be carried further. The war then supervened, and since 1914 the proposal has been more or less in abeyance.

The writer is reminded of this question of a joint flag for the West Indies by the decision of Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co. to place the vessels at present engaged in the Bermuda and West Indian trades from North America—including, presumably, those of the Quebec Steamship Co. and the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Co.—under another colonial flag. Their object is to foster the trade of Bermuda and the West Indian colonies, and to give them a more direct interest in their shipping services. Besides, it has seemed anomalous that the vessels should be flying the flag of a Dominion (as they are at present) at whose ports they do not even touch.

Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co. have consequently presented a petition to the Bermuda Legislature for the incorporation of a shipping company to take over the vessels above referred to, which will, if the arrangements are carried out as contemplated, fly the Bermuda flag. It is also proposed to carry out in connection with the company important developments at Tucker's Town in the direction of providing additional facilities and of encouraging tourist travel. Bermuda is to be congratulated upon these developments; but one would, of course, have preferred to see the vessels of Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co. sailing under the West Indian flag, as they perhaps might have done had it been brought into existence as suggested in these columns in 1913.

The moment would seem to be opportune for reopening the question of adopting a joint flag for the British West Indies.

We regret to announce that Professor W. L. Watts, the geologist of the Kern River Oilfields of California, Ltd., in Trinidad, died recently during his return journey to the island. Although of American nationality, the late Mr. Watts was of Scottish birth, having settled in the United States in early life, where he engaged in professional work with considerable distinction and success. A man of scrupulous conscience in his professional duties, and of original and pleasing personality, his loss will be severely felt by his business associates.

WEST INDIAN FRUIT FOODS.

Plea for their increased consumption.

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, C.B.E., vice-president of the International Association of Tropical Agriculture, read an interesting paper on tropical fruit foods before the members of the Royal Society of Tropical Hygiene on November 20th. In the course of his address he said:—

The banana and plantain both belong to the genus *Musa* (sub-genus *Eumusa*), which provides numerous varieties. Of these *M. sapientum* and its subspecies *paradisica* were traced from their original habitat in the Indo-Malayan region to their distribution in all parts of the tropics of the two hemispheres. According to Sir Harry Johnston, the subspecies or plantain—characterised chiefly by its larger size and the small proportion of sugar contained in its fruit pulp—reached the African negro from some of its earliest cultivators, the ancient Egyptians; in this way the plantain spread to most of the inhabited regions of tropical Africa. The banana, or saccharine form of *M. sapientum*, was introduced at a much more recent date, and is often confused in India and Europe with the plantain. The latter has long formed the main food of the forest native in many parts of Africa; the warlike Ashanti, for instance, either cooked it with palm oil, supplemented by a few wild herbs, or dried it for storage. In the dried state the plantain is white and brittle, easily ground up and made into balls, which are called "fufu." Both banana and plantain are also much used in tropical parts of America and the West Indies, sometimes even taking the place of cereal grains as common articles of diet. An analysis of banana-flour has shown it to be rich in carbohydrates and mineral matter and poor in protein as compared with wheat, approximating to rice-flour in nutritive value, but apparently having greater advantage owing to its higher digestibility; it is stated to be more suitable for the support of the laborious negro. It has been claimed, as a result of recent investigations, that the banana is deficient in protein and water-soluble vitamins, and the suggestion has been made that a more complete food could be obtained by its admixture with milk in proper proportions. Experience has proved that the effect of cooking both banana and plantain is to produce food far more valuable and digestible than that afforded by the fruits in an uncooked state. From the economic point of view, Mr. Dudgeon regarded these fruits as of considerable importance, the banana being one of the most productive plants in the world, yielding well over a hundredfold as much food as wheat and nearly fiftyfold as much as potatoes when planted over areas of the same size. It has earned the approbation of Sir James Crichton Browne as a substantial addition to our food supply by importation to England. In the tropics, more particularly of recent years, cultivation of maize, millet, cassava, and yam have supplemented the use of the plantain and banana as native foods.

In the discussion which followed, both the president (Professor W. J. R. Simpson) and Dr. D. E. Anderson strongly advocated the more extensive importation of tropical fruits, including the less known varieties—e.g., mango and guava—for home consumption from the West Indies, Mauritius, Seychelles, and elsewhere. Dr. Andrew Balfour described the very palatable form of the preserved crystallised banana, known as the banana fig, as deserving wider recognition by reason of its suitability for export from East Africa. The banana as sold in England was commonly eaten in an unripe and therefore indigestible state. He referred to the successful use made of banana-flour in place of wheat flour in the preparation of bread during the war, and praised the high nutritive value of the Avocado pear on account of its available fat. Major E. Black, R.A.M.C., spoke highly of the papaw fruit and the potency of its digestive juices, well known as the ferment papain, in aiding the assimilation of excess protein. He claimed, as the result of his experience of its value in the tropics, that the introduction of the use of the papaw at home would prevent much intestinal disorder in adults, and also maldevelopment of children, due to the harmful effect of amino-bodies and other waste products of an excessive proteid diet.

FILARIASIS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Sanitary Conditions Condemned.

It was announced in last issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR that the London School of Tropical Medicine had decided to send out an expedition to British Guiana in the spring to investigate filaria and to adopt measures for the prevention and cure of that terrible disease. In this connection a paper which was read by Dr. F. G. Rose on "Filariasis in British Guiana," before the newly-formed section of Tropical Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, on November 30th last, is of particular interest.

Dr. Rose, whose lecture was based on the result of five years' work in our South American colony, stated that the percentage incidence of filaria, he found, was 19.5 for males, 23.8 for females. Elephantiasis incidence was 5.3. Putting together all factors, he estimated that at least 40 per cent. of the population had been at some time infected with the parasite. In Georgetown Public Hospital 5 per cent. of the patients suffered from elephantiasis, and 20 per cent. showed the clinical manifestations of filariasis; of the school children 25 per cent. revealed filaria in the blood. The infantile death-rate was over 200 per 1,000, and the proportion of stillbirths was very high. Not usually a fatal disease, filariasis did not figure largely in death returns, but it showed itself in recurrent attacks of lymphangitis and lymphadenitis, and in symptoms resulting from the absorption of toxic products from the bowel, as well as in the crippling results of elephantiasis affecting the limbs, scrotum, and breasts; the accompanying sepsis might lead directly to a fatal termination. In the absence of a necropsy the impression might be formed that the case was one of pernicious malaria. The speaker believed filariasis to be a factor in the production of the large number of stillbirths. Certainly it was responsible for large financial loss owing to the amount of sickness.

In the author's investigations, *Culex fatigans* and *Stegomyia fasciata* were the most frequent potential carriers in the colony. The sanitary conditions were bad, and among the general populace the use of mosquito-nets was practically unknown. Of the mosquitoes examined only 7.4 per cent. were found to be infested with filariasis, so that a vigorous preventive campaign seemed to promise well.

Sir Patrick Manson and Dr. R. T. Leiper took part in the interesting discussion which followed, the former remarking that if 40 per cent. of the population of British Guiana were or had been affected by filariasis, it was relevant to ask why the sanitary authorities of British Guiana had not done something to prevent this definitely preventable disease.

Mr. J. H. BLAKESLEY sailed in the s.s. *Patuca* on January 17th to Jamaica to make arrangements for laying out the site in St. Thomas on which the Government Central Sugar Factory is to be erected. Other passengers by the same steamer were Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, Sir William Christie, C.B.E.; and Sir Anthony Coll, Chief Justice of Jamaica.

THE MANURING OF RICE

In Cochin-China the soils are of two varieties. One contains humus and occupies the rich alluvial plains of the west, as well as the bottoms of the valleys of the streams and rivers flowing from the eastern regions. These yield heavily. The other description of soil is that occupying the slopes of the valleys. They are of a sandy clay nature, poor in fertilising elements, and lacking in humus. They are worked as rice fields by retaining the water by means of terraces. It is stated that:—

"In the rice fields of the first type natural phosphate (phosphoric acid in a tricalcic state, associated with carbonate of lime) possesses two distinct actions, both conducing to the same useful effect. The first is the action of carbonate of lime which, in promoting nitrification, renders the nitrogen in the organic matter assimilable, the second, that of phosphate of lime which, owing to carbonic acid dissolved in the soil, water enters slowly into solution. The phosphoric acid then combines in an insoluble state with the iron and aluminium in the soil; it can then be attacked by alkaline carbonates, and especially by carbonate of ammonia, which is formed by contact of carbonate of lime with nitrogenous organic matter.

"Parallel with these two reactions another may occur, due to the solvent action of free organic acids which exist in soils containing a strong proportion of humus."

And as to those of the second:—

"What happens in the soils of the second type lacking organic matter and whose reserves in fertilising elements are slight?

"The action of carbonate of lime, brought by the phosphate, would have a somewhat harmful effect in provoking too active nitrification, which would tend to diminish the already-too-slight reserve of nitrogen.

"As in the rich rice-lands, tricalcium phosphate will be subjected to the action of the dissolved carbonic acid, and phosphate of iron and aluminium would be formed; but there the reactions would stop, for nitrogenous organic matter is wanting and cannot produce carbonate of ammonia.

"The phosphoric acid remains then in the state of phosphate of iron and aluminium which the plant can scarcely use. This explains the inefficiency of natural phosphates, employed alone in sandy soils and those not containing humus. In these soils, to obtain a useful effect with this manure, it would be necessary first to render the phosphoric acid soluble. This would be effected to a certain extent by making composts of organic matter and phosphates.

"The following economic formula is recommended: Mix peat and natural phosphate in the proportion of 1,000 kg. of peat to 20 kg. of phosphate. The heap, exposed to the air for one year, should be turned over from time to time. The solubility of the phosphoric acid would be increased by adding to the mixture 5 to 10 kg. of sulphate of potash. This addition of potassic salt would give a complete manure.

"This compost could be used in quantities varying from 15 to 30 tons per hectare. It is well to use only finely ground phosphates, as the fertilising action of a phosphate depends on its fineness."

THE BOLL-WEEVIL IN ST. KITTS.

One of the most serious pests to which the cotton plant is subject is the pink boll-weevil, and we regret to say that this has made its appearance in St. Kitts. According to Mr. Shelford, who writes on the 10th ult., it would appear that the infection has been due to a Brazilian ship which called at St. Kitts in June last, and which had on board a cargo of Brazilian cotton. It is presumed that when the hatches were opened for the purpose of taking in more cargo, moths of the weevil flew on shore and settled in the cotton fields near by, and the direction of the spread of the pest supports this theory.

The presence of the weevil was discovered on November 15th, and the Administrator at once cabled to Sir Francis Watts, who arrived the following week, accompanied by Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. By this time the pest had become widely distributed around the Island.

A meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on December 3rd, and Mr. Ballou, who attended it, recommended that the following measures should be adopted for its extinction:—

1. The destruction of all old cotton material by carefully burning the fields by the end of January, 1921.
2. The proclamation of the month of February a close season for the Island.
3. The fixing of the earliest planting date as March 1st.
4. The completion of the ginning of the cotton on hand, and the cleansing of the gineries by the 31st March.
5. The crushing, or otherwise destroying, of all infected seed; and
6. The obtaining seed for planting from non-infected areas, such seed to be heated to 150 degrees F. before use, preferably by hot air.

These recommendations were adopted, and the necessary legislation to give them effect asked for at a subsequent meeting of the Society on December 6th. Mr. Shelford states that the advent of the pest, coupled with the very low prices now being offered for Sea Island cotton, is naturally giving the cotton planters of the island much anxiety. The presence of the weevil has also been discovered in Montserrat, and is attributed to the same cause as the St. Kitts' infection.

CAPTAIN F. C. MESSUM, the newly-appointed Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club, has paid several visits to the West Indies, and to this circumstance is due the intimate knowledge of those colonies and their people that he showed in his speech on the occasion of the club's recent Christmas dinner, which promises to become an annual function. His remarks were lightened by many touches of subtle humour, and one may be certain that *duce Messum et auspice Messum* the club will continue to prosper. Many interesting fixtures are in contemplation, and no member will grudge the moderate increase in its subscription rate which has become necessary.

THE THOMAS PETREE PROCESS.

A New System of Filter Presses.

The filter press department of a cane sugar factory has always been not only a source of considerable expense, but also of loss from inefficient working, and one of the most useful advances in recent years in sugar making is the Thomas-Petree process, which has now been adopted in the Government factories in Australia. In this process the megass, as it passes through the mills, supplies the filtering medium for the "mud" from the clarifiers, and the mill rolls the necessary power for expression. Another feature of the process is the employment of continuous clarification, two cylindrical clarifiers with acute conical bottoms, after the manner of the Deming subsidiers, being used, the one for the juice from the first mill unit, and the other the juice from the rest of the mill plant.

In working the process the juices are limed and pass through super-heaters to the subsidiary vessels. From each of these the "mud" flows in a continuous stream to the mills, where it is distributed over the megass in a similar manner to maceration water, the juice being expressed from the "mud" at the same time as the juice from the megass.

It is claimed, and the published results justify the claim, that no prejudicial influence on the mill extraction occurs, and not only is the costly filter press abolished, but also a great saving in labour is effected by the continuous clarification.

The idea of utilising the mill units as filter presses is not new, having been advanced over twenty years ago, when it failed on account of the then nature of the mill plants. The increase in the number of units constituting a modern mill plant has, however, made the process feasible. The Thomas-Petree process possesses the great charm of simplicity, and as this is evidently associated with efficiency, a great advance in raw sugar manufacture has been made by its introduction.

THE Statutory Meeting of the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company was held at Bridgetown on December 31st. Particulars of this concern, which has a capital of £750,000, will be found under the heading of West Indian Mail Notes on page 33 of the present issue.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. H. Cameron Menzies, which occurred at sea on October 22nd last. For many years Mr. Menzies was an estate's manager in British Guiana, latterly at Plantation Windsor Forest, but went out to the East in 1911 and took over the management of the estates of the Bukit Sembawang Rubber Company, Ltd., which had then just been floated. The estates were in their infancy, the greater portion being unplanted, and it is due to his efforts that the company is now in its present flourishing condition. Mr. Menzies' health broke down about the middle of August last, and as the doctors at Singapore could do nothing for him, he left for England on September 27th by the s.s. *Mentor*, but died at sea on October 22, the cause of his death being an incurable throat complaint.

SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

How it was distributed in 1915-20.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is indebted to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply for the table published below, which shows how their sugar was distributed in the four years 1915-1920.

For	1915. Tons	1918. Tons	1919. Tons	1920. Tons
Domestic use, Catering etc.	1,194,000	579,238	790,881	576,980
War Office & Air Ministry	44,000	82,066	23,215	3,004
Admiralty	12,000	8,092	—	6,460
Navv and Army Canteen Board	—	4,580	2,474	1,160
Wholesale Jam Manufacturers	130,000	216,828	200,552	51,916
Condensed Milk	20,000	21,368	24,964	17,720
Drug Manufacture	6,834	3,417	7,490	—
Confectionery	151,632	41,750	166,198	—
Pastries	60,172	15,013	65,952	—
Biscuits	22,368	5,592	21,517	—
Candied Peel	4,612	1,153	5,055	108,292
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	68,459	33,640
Syrup Manufacture	39,257	74,496	68,056	59,020
Brewing	73,209	22,019	50,855	51,116
Sales without vouchers, losses, etc.	—	1,068	34,129	42,800
	1,818,488	1,109,905	1,585,004	952,408

NOTES.

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

1918. These figures cover the period 31st December, 1917-28th December, 1918.

1919. These figures cover the period 30th December, 1918-27th December, 1919, and include 19,526 tons the allotment of which was delayed until 1920.

Domestic Ration	35 weeks at 12 oz } 15 " " 8 " } 2 " " 6 " }	Average 106 1/2 ozs.
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1920. These figures cover the period 29th December, 1919-25th December, 1920, and exclude 19,526 tons the allotment of which was delayed from 1919.

Domestic Ration	13 weeks at 12 oz } 25 " " 8 " } 9 " " 6 " }	Average 8.51 ozs.	Yellow and Brown Sugar free during 15 weeks.
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Privately imported sugar, sold during 1919 and 1920 for manufacturing purposes other than Syrup and Invert making, is not included.

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following transfers and promotions affecting the British West Indies were made by the Secretary of State during December:

- Mr. G. O'D. WALTON (Attorney-General, British Honduras), Chief Justice, Grenada
- Mr. L. C. LEVY (Clerk of the Courts, Jamaica), Attorney-General, St. Vincent
- Mr. W. J. DOUGLASS (Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana), Stipendiary Magistrate, Trinidad.

WHARF QUESTION IN TRINIDAD.

The West India Committee, acting at the request of the principal petroleum companies operating in Trinidad, has addressed the following letter to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Sir,—My Committee have been approached by certain of the companies connected with the Trinidad petroleum industry with a request to call your attention to the inconvenience and delay which is resulting from the congestion on the wharf at Port of Spain.

2. It has been pointed out to us that so great is the disorder and congestion at the present time that goods and materials for which the oil companies have pressing need have been left in lighters afloat, there being no room for them on the wharf. Similarly, parcels of asphalt sent from Brighton to be shipped at Port of Spain have to remain in lighters pending the arrival of the steamers, owing to lack of space on the wharf. This use of the lighters for storage prevents their being devoted to their normal purposes, among which is the removal of material by water to the oil companies' bases at Point-à-Pierre, Point Fortin and Claxton's Bay. The steamers unload their cargoes into the lighters without regard to destination and ownership, and the goods consequently become almost inextricably mixed up.

3. The oil companies suggest that the congestion on the wharf is mainly due to the fact that the railway has insufficient rolling stock to enable it to remove the accumulated material, whilst the disorder on the wharf, which would interfere with the operations of the railway, even if it had the rolling stock, they attribute largely to the fact that the whole of the unloading has to be conducted by one 5-ton crane, worked by hand power, such hand power being supplied by the various consignees, who take charge of the crane whenever they can do so. They unload their material on to the wharf, and generally, owing to lack of space, are compelled to put it on the top of a previous consignment belonging to someone else, and when they have finished with the crane another consignee takes it, the process being then repeated.

4. My Committee have learnt with satisfaction that His Excellency the Governor is considering the question of increasing the existing wharf accommodation, but I am to express the hope that pending the completion of arrangements in this connection immediate steps may be taken to relieve the situation by the provision of additional rolling stock for the railway and crane capacity on the wharf. It has been suggested that one or two electrically-driven cranes could be obtained without delay, since there must be many to spare in this country from munition factories which have closed down, while there is ample electric current available in Port of Spain.

5. These facilities would, in the opinion of my Committee, go far towards relieving the existing situation, and I am to express the hope that Lord Milner may see his way to recommend their adoption to His Excellency the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago.—I have, etc., ALGERNON ASPINALL.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade returns for December have now been published, and the details as regards the trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1920 thus afforded.

The total amount of sugar imported into the United Kingdom was 1,365,594 tons, as against 1,604,956 tons in 1919. Of the former amount, the quantity imported from Europe was 3,571 tons of "refined" and 15,408 tons of "unrefined," these quantities consisting entirely of beet sugars. The cane imports consisted of 113,306 tons of "refined," of which 100,149 tons came from the United States and 5,014 tons from Java; and 1,233,310 tons of "unrefined," of which 333,889 tons came from Java, 556,111 tons from Cuba, 142,893 tons from Mauritius, and 124,009 tons from the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras. The amount liberated from the refineries was 755,140 tons, and the total actual consumption 1,105,489 tons.

The stocks on hand on December 31st amounted to 386,665 tons, consisting of 35,850 tons of foreign refined, 28,450 tons of home refined, and 322,365 tons of unrefined. This compares with the stocks on hand on December 31st, 1919, of 302,700 tons, consisting of 67,900 tons of foreign refined, 28,100 tons of home refined, and 206,700 tons of unrefined.

The amount of rum imported for the year was 3,848,551 proof gallons, of which 3,132,206 gallons were entered for home consumption, as against 9,266,242 gallons and 3,170,977 gallons respectively for the previous year. The stocks on hand on December 31st were 11,612,000 gallons, as against 11,963,000 gallons on the corresponding date of 1919.

2,085,640 cwts. of cacao were imported during the year, of which 1,013,072 cwts. were for home consumption. The former quantity included 144,272 cwts. from Ecuador, 11,882 cwts. from Brazil, 1,487,807 cwts. from British West Africa, 28,000 cwts. from Ceylon, and 244,470 cwts. from the British West Indian Islands. In 1919, 2,201,993 cwts. were imported, of which 1,013,073 cwts. were for home consumption. The stocks on hand on December 31st amounted to 1,030,000 cwts., as against 718,000 cwts. at the corresponding date last year. The exports of cacao for the year amounted to 874,737 cwts., as against 558,928 cwts. in 1919, and 135,000 cwts. in 1913. 236,558 cwts. were sent to Holland, 40,024 cwts. to Belgium, and 116,897 cwts. to the United States. The exports to the non-specified countries were 479,136 cwts., as against 157,923 cwts. in 1919.

The imports of coffee amounted to 746,701 cwts., as against 1,066,046 cwts. in 1919. The amounts entered for home consumption were 315,475 cwts. and 306,412 cwts. respectively. The stocks on hand on December 31st were 657,000 cwts., as against 724,000 cwts. at the corresponding date in 1919. The imports in 1920 included 195,061 cwts. from Central America, 143,221 cwts. from Brazil, 65,000 cwts. from British India, and 65 cwts. from the British West India Islands.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Paper yarn manufactured in Japan is used there for making bags and packing cloth, this material resembling linen rather than cotton.

In the Philippines the area under sugar was increased during 1920 by over 100,000 acres. The average yield of sugar per acre was three-quarters of a ton.

Fuel-oil bunkering stations are being constructed in Australia. The principal steamship lines trading with that Dominion will use oil instead of coal as soon as these stations are completed. The present sources of supply of oil will be augmented by importations from Papua.

The high price of camphor for some years led to the establishment of a plantation of 650 acres in Burma. This plantation is now yielding camphor in paying quantities. A distilling plant is in operation, and a refining plant is in the course of erection.

Kapok (silk cotton) is at present in great demand. Prices are high, owing to speculation, and the urgent demands from Europe. Kapok is supplied almost entirely from the Dutch East Indies. England has entered the market, Australia is buying, and Holland is importing heavily.

The Philippines at present produce only *one-twelfth* as much sugar as Cuba, although these islands have three times the area and a much richer soil. It is said that with the installation of adequate modern sugar machinery the production of sugar in the Philippines could be multiplied by fifty.

It is reported that a British mission is to visit the cotton districts of Brazil to study the soil, the general conditions for planting, and the means of transportation. It will recommend the formation of British companies for the purpose of stimulating the development of the cotton industry in those districts.

Lord Milner said very truly at the Corona Club that we should feel grateful to entomologists. Their life work is concerned with the study of the most minute creatures. The benefits to be derived from their work are absolutely immeasurable, both in respect of human health and the increase of the produce of the soil.

The tomato industry in the Bahamas has a promising future, if transport can be assured to the United States and Canada. The crop can be successfully marketed during the winter months, when fresh vegetables command high prices. During last winter season, owing to want of transport, one quarter of the crop was not picked. About 150,000

crates were shipped to the United States, each crate containing six four-quart baskets.

The great firm of chemical manufacturers, Brunner, Mond & Co., passed a resolution at a recent general meeting authorising the directors to distribute the sum of £100,000 for the furtherance of scientific education and research to such universities or other scientific institutions in the United Kingdom as they may select. The chairman said that this grant is not a memorial, but a business investment.

A disease among bees, called the Isle of Wight disease, has lately reappeared. It has the effect of making the bees unable to fly, so that they crawl round the hive, and at last die. The disease is caused through organisms of exceptionally small dimensions infesting the breathing tubes that supply the wings with air. The tubes become clogged, there is an insufficiency of air in the wings, and paralysis sets in.

The fragrant Tonka beans are exported almost entirely from Trinidad. They are used for scenting tobacco and snuff, and making sachet powders. An extract from it also forms an ingredient in some scents. The odour, like new-mown hay, is due to a principle called coumarine. The trees (*Dipterix odorata*) producing the beans grow in Venezuela and Guiana. They are high trees, 60 to 80 ft. high. The beans are sent to Trinidad, where they are cured and then exported. The curing process consists in soaking the beans for a few days in rum, after which they are spread out to dry. The completion of the curing is shown by innumerable small crystals appearing on the surface. In 1919 the export amounted to 171,560 lbs., valued at \$167,221.

The weights and values of the principal exports of spice from the West Indies in 1919 were as follows:—Pimento (allspice), 117,184 cwt., valued at £184,564, from Jamaica; the price rose from 5s. in 1914 to 31s. 6d. in 1919. Ginger, from Jamaica, 18,300 cwts., valued at £64,968; the price rose from 31s. 6d. in 1914 to 71s. in 1919. Nutmegs, from Grenada, 15,354 cwts., valued at £54,281. Mace, from Grenada, 2,193 cwts., valued at £14,218. Other spices exported were kola nuts and cinnamon. The total exports of citrus fruits and their products in 1919 was £861,930, towards which Dominica and Jamaica contributed shipments valued at £198,650 and £119,894 respectively. From Montserrat the raw lime juice, and from Trinidad the concentrated juice formed the bulk of exports, which were valued at £18,407 and £6,195 respectively. Arrowroot is the second industry in St. Vincent, 2,250,000 lbs., valued at £42,222, being exported last year. The export of bitters from Trinidad was £15,062, or £10,000 less than in the previous year. Chicle is an important feature of the trade of British Honduras, the value of the export being £106,544.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 12.)

"A Safe Haven for Ships."

Our destination was now Barbados, St. Lucia having been eliminated from the itinerary of the *Guiana* because the cargo for that island had missed the ship at New York in consequence of the blizzard. This was naturally a great disappointment, for one had looked forward to seeing again the picturesque harbour of Castries, and to revisiting the celebrated Morne Fortuné, over which the Duke of Kent hoisted the English colours in 1794, besides meeting many old friends.

The harbour of Castries, modestly described by the colony's motto as "*Statio haud malefida curinis*," enjoys a well-merited prestige through being the only port in the Lesser Antilles where a steamer can lie comfortably alongside a wharf. After the advent of steam, the advantages which it offered as a coaling station proved the undoing of St. Lucia from the agricultural point of view, labour which would otherwise have been available for agriculture being diverted to the more immediately lucrative bunkering industry. This state of affairs was accentuated by the decision of the Government to make Castries a naval coaling station, and the expenditure of upwards of a million pounds on elaborate fortifications and barracks for troops in the late 'nineties. The barracks were, however, never used for the purpose for which they were erected, for with the adoption of Lord Fisher's "blue water" policy the scheme was abandoned, and in 1905 the military garrisons of the British West Indies were withdrawn.

Agriculture in the meantime had been almost completely neglected. The Royal Commission of 1897 called attention to the fact that not one-fourth of the total area of St. Lucia was beneficially occupied, and according to latest estimates one-third of the island is under forest and another third under bush and grass. For many years agriculture received little encouragement from the local legislature, which was largely controlled by the coaling interest.

It is true that the island has four central sugar factories—those of Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, Dennery, and Vieux Fort—but they have never proved a conspicuous success, though they profited by the high prices prevailing for sugar as a result of the war, and the total exports of sugar from St. Lucia have not yet reached 5,000 tons per annum, which must be regarded as a negligible figure, when one considers that one factory alone in Cuba produces 90,000 to 100,000 tons of sugar in a single crop! These St. Lucia factories were once regarded as the best equipped usines in the West Indies, and as a proof of their endeavour to keep abreast of the times it may be mentioned that it was at Cul-de-Sac that experiments were conducted at the instance of the late Mr. Quintin Hogg with the application of the diffusion process in substitution for milling in the manufacture of cane sugar.

In recent years much has been done by the local

Agricultural Department under the guidance of the late Mr. J. C. Moore, and his successor, Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, towards developing agricultural industries in the island, and the results of this work will no doubt manifest themselves in a few years' time, when the new areas under cacao and lime cultivation come into bearing. The local Government has at Choiseul, on the leeward coast, an agricultural establishment known as Réunion, where a well-equipped experimental station and nurseries are maintained, and another at Castries, where a botanic station now occupies what was once a reeking swamp at the head of the harbour. The Department, like those in the neighbouring islands, sells plants at purely nominal figures to proprietors, both large and small, who gladly avail themselves of this opportunity of planting up their estates at a reasonable cost. In the year 1902 a lime industry was established with every promise of success, and a Government lime juice factory now purchases the fruit from the smaller growers, whom it also furnishes with information concerning the manufacture of lime products.

Meanwhile, the local coaling industry continues to prosper, in spite of the competition of Barbados, where a considerable bunkering trade has been built up since 1902, and of St. Thomas and Colon, whose modern mechanical appliances for coaling ships expeditiously put ports where coal is still carried by women on their heads at a great disadvantage.

Mongoose versus Fer-de-Lance.

It was a matter for great regret that one had not an opportunity of seeing something of the constructive work which is carried out by the Agricultural Department, and also by the local Government, which has lately been taking up the question of road development, recognising as it does that, with the arrival of the motor-car, good roads are absolutely essential for the prosperity of an agricultural community.

St. Lucia enjoys the unenviable reputation of being the adopted home of the dread fer-de-lance snake. It is said that this venomous reptile was introduced by the French from Martinique with the object of driving the English out of the island; but however that may be, its activities and numbers have been greatly exaggerated, and it is no longer dreaded, having been almost stamped out by the ubiquitous mongoose, which has proved more than a match for it. It has been recorded that an interesting encounter between a mongoose and a fer-de-lance snake was once held on the lawn of the Military Hospital on the Morne. Mr. Chadwick, the then Chief of Police, matched a lively fer-de-lance snake against two mongooses. As soon as the snake was liberated from a glass jar, the first mongoose fled precipitately, and was never seen again. His companion, however, faced his formidable opponent as it glided over the grass, and a terrific struggle then took place, lasting for several minutes. The issue was never in doubt. The mongoose proved the winner hands down, and wound up by actually swallowing several inches of his opponent, head first. As a reward he was

set free, and for some days he had the honour of living at Government House, in the basement arches of Government House, but the wild life proving more attractive to him, he eventually escaped and went off in search of more snakes, which appealed to him more than his vice-regal surroundings.

Rolling Down to Bridgetown.

On the passage from Martinique to Barbados we were, for the first time, "up against" the north-east trade wind. All night we rolled and lurched about in a confused sea, and it was a profound relief when we found ourselves under the lee of Barbados and dropped anchor in the sheltered roadstead of Carlisle Bay.

A Barbadian on his way back to his "tight little island" from Panama was heard to say, as he shook his friend by the shoulders, "Wek up, mahn, wek up!" and, pointing to Barbados, "De wurld."

This remark was very characteristic, for the Barbadian is second to none, not even to a Chinaman, in his love and pride of home. To him there is nothing else like Barbados on earth, and one cannot help admiring this trait in his character, which makes him so intensely loyal to the land of his birth. And what is this microcosm to which he is so devoted? It is a tiny little island scarcely larger than the Isle of Wight, rising in terraces all densely cultivated with sugar cane. It has a population of nearly 1,200 to the square mile, making it the most densely populated place for its size in the real world with the single exception of China. Its highest mountain, Mount Hillaby, is only 1,105 feet above the level of the sea, though it is said to have been a little higher before an eminent geologist removed some inches from its summit for experimental purposes! And except in the volcanic Scotland district to the north-east, the island has no scenery to be compared with that of its neighbours, and it has no attractive towns.

"Queen Victoria's Pumps."

Nevertheless, Barbados offers very many compensating amenities, not the least of which is its delightful climate, attributable to the fact that it is swept by sea breezes coming in direct from the Atlantic, and to the complete absence from its shores of anopheles mosquito, and its consequent freedom from malaria, of which that insect is the carrier. One would have thought that the island would have been infected from the neighbouring colonies, and that the anopheles would have been brought to its ports by visiting sloops and other vessels; but it remains a remarkable, as it is an indisputable, fact, that this variety of mosquito simply does not exist in Barbados. Another advantage which the island enjoys is its excellent water supply, derived from subterranean springs rising in deep-lying caves in the limestone rock, which is made available all over the island, and even in the smallest villages, free of charge, by stand-pipes, popularly known as "Queen Victoria's pumps," after the gracious sovereign during whose reign this admirable system was established.

(To be continued.)

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VI. Sir Henry Morgan.

(Continued from page 14.)

Sir Thomas Lynch arrived as governor in May, 1682, when he received much opposition at the hands of Morgan (his senior Councillor), Byndloss (Morgan's brother-in-law), Captain Morgan (his kinsman), Elletson and of Cradock (otherwise unknown to fame).

At the meeting of the Council held on the 12th of October, 1683, the trouble between the Governor and Sir Henry came to a head. There were present at the meeting the Governor (Sir Thomas Lynch), Sir Henry Morgan, Sir Francis Watson, Sir Charles Modyford, Colonel John Coops, Colonel Thomas Freeman, Colonel Thomas Ballard, Colonel Thomas Fuller, Colonel Hender Molesworth, and John White.

The Minutes of the Council ran as follows:—

"The General acquainted Sir Henry Morgan that he and the Council, having considered the late disorders, passions and miscarriages at Port Royal, were of opinion they happened chiefly by his means, in countenancing ill people that they were concerned therein, to disturb the peace; and that he had on all occasions showed dislike and uneasiness under his Government, and encouraged Elletson that formerly gave trouble to the Council and Government; countenanced Cradock, Will. Archbold, &c., that ridiculed and acted him; that Scarlet and his brother Archbold opposed the King's interests, and made parties against the Revenue Bill out of despite to his Excellency, and that five or six particular little people under his umbrage out-faced and affronted the Government so that the Assembly thought it necessary to make an Address to the General and Council to look out, and defend the Government and place; and the General likewise told him of all that was sworn which proved he bound over as rioters Captain Penhallow, &c., that were sober, and endeavoured to keep the peace, and not Captain Morgan, &c., that seemed to be aggressors; and at the same time to them and to Captain Churchill before that declared it was a design to kill him; swearing that as they would not kill the King, because the Duke was not there, so they would not kill Morgan because Churchill was not there; and occasioning a distinction of Whigs and Tories his cursing the Assembly and frequent reflections in his debauches on the General to the extreme hazard of the Government and disturbance of the people, especially at the point. The General likewise declared to the Council Sir Henry had told him of a malicious design some people had to fall on Captain Morgan and murder him, to prevent his being Major in Bach's place; and Sir Fr. Watson declared, he had said some such thing to him; but nothing like it being now owned or made appear it was with other extravagances objected to Sir Henry.

To all which Sir Henry only replied, he hoped he should not be charged with others faults; he had often chid them, and never intended to offend the General, so left it to the General; and withdrawing."

On the Governor putting the question whether it was consistent with the King's service and the peace and safety of the island that Morgan should be continued in any employment, the members of the Council were of opinion that he should be put out of all commands, except Sir Francis Watson and Col. Ballard, who thought that he should be continued in the Council and put out of all other commands. It was accordingly ordered that "Sir Henry Morgan be removed from all his Offices and Commands and suspended the Council."

A further Minute appears:—

"The General repeating divers extravagant expressions

of Sir Henry Morgan's in his wine, among the rest how he cursed the Assembly, Sir Francis Watson and Colonel Ballard said it was not so; on which the Council ordered Major Bache to be sent for, that said Mrs. Wollen told him so; she being sent for, called in, and sworn, declared, that Sir Henry Morgan, going by her door one night with some others whom she did not know, she heard Sir Henry Morgan swear, 'God damn the Assembly.'

Captain C. Morgan was by the Council dismissed from the Captaincy of the Fort at Port Royal, and Byndloss was turned out of the Council.

Morgan was evidently anxious to succeed Lynch as governor. Lynch, as a counterstroke, got a dormant commission as lieutenant-governor for Colonel Hender Molesworth.

With Morgan's dismissal from the Council and all commands on the 12th of October, 1683, his official life came to an end, although five years later he was readmitted to the Council. Elletson was dismissed from his practice as a lawyer. Morgan, Byndloss and Elletson sent home a petition to the King by Captain C. Morgan, but Lynch was upheld at home on petition.

In the King's Bench in the Easter term in 1685, Morgan prosecuted, through John Greene, his attorney, Thomas Malthus, the publisher of a translation of Esquemelin's account of the buccaneers, for libel. In his affidavit he stated that he had "against evil deeds, piracies and robberies the greatest abhorrence and distrust," and for the "kind of men called buccaneers" he "always had and still has hatred." He sought damages to the extent of £10,000.

Lytelton, writing in May, 1697, to Lord Hatton, says:—

"I beg yr pardon and shall now give you ye account I then intended about Ringrose his relation of Sharp's voyage into ye South Sea, wch is called ye 2nd part of ye History of ye Buccaneers. About ye year 1680 ther came out a history of ye Buccaneers, printed in Flanders, in Spanish, pretended to be a translation from Dutch writ by one Esquemeling, a Dutch buccaneer, wch Crooke a bookseller got translated into English and printed, in wch Sir Henry Morgan was represented as a very barbarous pirate. Sir Harry brought his action agt. Crooke, proved all he did was by virtue of a commission of ye Governor of Jamaica and ye King's authority, and recovered 300l. or 400l. damage from Crooke, about yt some I am sure Crooke himself told me. After wch, His History of ye Buccaneers was looked upon as fabulous and sold for noe more than wast paper. But Sir Harry Morgan being return'd to Jamaica, and Sharp and his comrades their voyage into ye South Sea making a great noise, and Sharp's journal being printed and selling very well, Crooke agrees with Ringrose, who had been a buccaneer with Sharp, for a relation he had of ye exploits done in ye South Sea by Sharp and other pyrats, and to make some recompense to Sir Henry Morgan, he was mentioned very honorably, and Ringrose his booke stiled ye 2nd part of ye History of ye Buccaneers, and is generally sold wth ye first, they being both printed in 4to.

"The first part of ye History of ye Buccaneers was put forth in French with some variations and additions, pretended to have writ in Dutch by one Oxemelin."

Stevens, in his "Bibliotheca Americana" (1861), quotes the following from the "London Gazette" of June 8th, 1685:—

"Westminster, June 1. There have been lately Printed and Published two Books, one by Will Crooke, the other by Thos. Malthus, both Intituled THE HISTORY OF THE BUCANIERS: both which Books contained many False, Scandalous and Malitious Reflections on the Life and Actions of Sir Henry Morgan of Jamaica Kt. The said Sir Henry Morgan hath by Judgment had in the King's Bench Court, recovered against the said Libel £200 Damages. And on the humble Solicitation and Request of William

Crook, hath been pleased to withdraw his Action against the said Crook, and accept of his Submission and Acknowledgement in Print."

The damages which Morgan received from Malthus amounted to £210, and twenty shillings costs.

The edition of the work was that which had the following title:—

"The History of the Bucaniers; being an Impartial Relation of all Battels, Seiges and other most Eminent Assaults committed for several years upon the Coasts of the West Indies by the Pirates of Jamaica and Tortugu, Both English and other nations. More especially the Unparallel'd achievements of Sir H. M. Made English from the Dutch Copy: written by J. Esquemeling one of the Bucaniers; very much corrected from the Errors of the Original by the Relations of Some English Gentlemen that then resided in those parts. . . . London. Printed for Tho. Malthus at the Sun in the Poultry, 1684."

It contains a poem addressed to the Honourable Sir Henry Morgan, which closes as follows:—

Say but they're English Redcoats, fire a gun,
One makes their foes to tremble, th' other run;
Let the great Morgan, our fam'd Buccanier,
In his late Enterprize, make this appear,
Who with a handful of brave Englishmen,
Frighted the whole Amerion of Spain,
And when he was upon the Indian shore,
Had he from England's King deriv'd his Power,
Charles had been Crown'd the Indies Emperour,
Tho' the Poles brag of their last year's Campaign,
And th' French King boast of what he's done to Spain,
Great Morgan's Fame shall last as long as there
Is heat of Drum, or any Sound to War. A. B.

(To be continued.)

"MAGGOT" NUT CHOCOLATES.

A Sweet to be avoided.

The prosecution and conviction of a confectioner at West London for exposing for sale chocolates unfit for human consumption has caused no little concern in the trade. Fifty-one boxes of chocolates were seized and their contents were found to have been attacked by a caterpillar known to scientists as "ephestia elutella."

The chocolates were covered with clusters of the eggs of the moths, and the insects' web was spread over the sweetmeats. Sixty-four pounds of sweetmeats were taken to the court and were condemned by the magistrate after inspection.

This maggot is not, it is understood, found on plain chocolates and sweetmeats, and its appearance in this case was probably due to the use of nuts. During the period of high prices of sugar and cacao, nuts, dates, etc., were very largely used as make-weights in chocolate goods, and, to quote the *Confectionery Journal*, "no manufacturer or retailer can guarantee that any nut goods are entirely free from animal life; but certainly where they are seen the sales should be at once stopped."

This prosecution will, it is hoped, prompt the public in future to buy pure chocolates in preference to those which, while outwardly resembling the real thing, are found on biting them to consist of nuts thinly veneered with chocolate.

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.

Flying Boat for Bahamas' Governor.

His Excellency Major Sir H. E. S. Cordeaux arrived in the colony on December 7th, and was welcomed on landing by Hon. H. E. W. Grant. After being sworn in at the Council Chamber on the following morning, and taken the oaths of allegiance and office, His Excellency addressed those present, thanking them for the cordiality of the welcome to him and Mrs. Cordeaux.

A wireless station has been installed at Governor's Harbour, thus giving Eleuthera communication with Nassau and the outer world. The Speaker, the Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, has returned from Bermuda, where he was invited to be present for the visit of the Prince of Wales and for the celebrations of the Parliament's tercentenary. According to the *Nassau Guardian*, the Governor contemplates acquiring a flying boat for the purpose of visiting the out-islands.

With the arrival of the P. & O. s.s. *Miami* and the opening of the Hotel Victoria, the Bahamas "season"—the first since 1916-17—is in full swing.

The corner-stone of the new Public Building, for the erection of which in Public Square, Nassau, £25,000 has been voted by the House of Assembly, was laid by the Governor on December 27th. An exchange of complimentary telegrams took place between the Colonial Government and that of the Dominion on the occasion of the arrival at Nassau on Christmas Eve of the *Canadian Sailor*, the first steamship of the new service under the Trade Agreement.

Barbados Shipping & Trading Company.

The elections for the House of Assembly, which took place on November 29th, have resulted in the return of all the old members seeking re-election, except in the parish of St. John, where Mr. Elliott Sealy, owing to ill-health, did not stand, and Mr. George Yearwood was defeated. The successful candidates here were Mr. Douglas Pile and Dr. Briggs Clarke.

The end of November saw an important mercantile reconstruction, six of the largest firms in the island combining to form the Barbados Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., which has been registered with an authorised capital of £750,000. The combination consists of the following companies: Manning & Co., Ltd., Wilkinson & Haynes & Co., Ltd., S. P. Musson & Co., R. & G. Challenor, Da Costa & Co., and Gardiner, Austin & Co. The last four named all have been converted or are in process of conversion into private limited liability companies. All the firms will continue to carry on their individual businesses, subject to the controlling interest of the Shipping & Trading Co., whose directorate will be composed of the partners in the subsidiary companies. The Advocate states that the minimum amount to be subscribed before the new company can start operations is £100,000 in £1 shares, and

that this amount has already been forthcoming from the merchants.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society held on November 26th, the Hon. Sir F. J. Clarke presiding, a letter was read from the Administrator of St. Lucia relative to a complaint that what were described as Barbados Fancy Molasses were being shipped to Canada from that island. The letter pointed out that the firm, whose action was questioned, had business premises in Barbados as well as in St. Lucia, and it was agreed that nothing further could be done until the Society had heard from the Canadian Trade Commissioner, to whom the matter had been referred.

The end of November was characterized by favourable weather, rain falling on every day for a fortnight. The planting of the crop to be reaped in 1922 is now general, and many acres had already been planted before December.

Mr. J. J. Law, in a letter dated December 16th, describing the voyage of the s.s. *Intaba*, which encountered heavy gales off the Bay of Biscay, says: We had a dressing down for five days. We must have had five gales of wind, and it seemed that each one was worse than the last, and at times we just hove to for a time on account of the horses on board. Still, it might have been worse, and the officers and crew nursed that deeply laden ship splendidly. It took over eight days to pass the Azores, which we did on the Saturday week at about 6 p.m. We had very good food, well cooked and plenty of it. The officers and stewards were courtesy itself, and as for Mrs. Williams, the stewardess, she is the best I have ever sailed with; she worked through all that bad weather till she was fairly done up, and would not give in. There are in every ship's company a certain lot who grouse at everything, but I do not think that in this case there were many. To the West India Committee, as well as to Messrs. T. & J. Harrison, we all owe a debt of gratitude for the way they worked for us to get us back.

British Guiana—Georgetown Elections.

At a meeting of the Combined Court on December 7th, the expenditure of a further sum of \$15,000 on developing the Rupununi cattle track was authorised. Major King, acting Inspector-General of Police, has submitted to the Government recommendations for additional police, 43 in Georgetown and 13 in country districts.

In the municipal elections for the Georgetown Town Council, Mr. A. A. Thorne, F.R., was returned for No. 4 Ward, defeating the present Mayor, Hon. E. G. Woolford, K.C. Hon. N. Cannon successfully contested No. 5 Ward. The *Argosy* reports the appointment of Mr. A. H. Hill to act as Senior Immigration Agent of the colony.

An important change in the directorate of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co. is announced by the *Argosy*, Mr. A. J. McConnell, the managing director, having expressed his intention of retiring, and offering Mr. S. Cameron, head of the Liverpool house, an option to acquire his and his family's interests, an offer which, it is believed, is likely to be accepted. It is probable that at least two of the new directors will be local men, representing

the local shareholders, but there will be no change in either the policy of the firm or in its capital.

The Combined Court, on December 7th, on the motion of Hon. E. G. Woolford, K.C., voted an annuity of £50 to Mr. J. Rodway, in recognition of his fifty years' literary and scientific work for the Colony. Mr. A. Bechy Thompson, the hydraulic engineer, who has recently concluded a visit to British Guiana, has called the attention of the Government to the present extravagant use and serious waste of water which is taking place, the consumption in Georgetown being between 80 and 90 gallons per head, whereas 35 to 40 gallons suffice the population of industrial towns in Europe.

Mr. N. McLeod Balden, one of the attorneys, and manager of Messrs. S. Davson & Co., was on December 11th the recipient of an address and various gifts from the staff on the occasion of his resignation from the firm and departure from the Colony.

A motion was passed in the Court of Policy on December 14th by which penny postage is resumed to places within the Empire, the 2 cent war tax stamp being abolished.

Work for British Honduras Chicleros.

A writer in the *Clarion* of December 16th, commenting on the present critical situation of the chicler industry, which comes next to mahogany in the colony's export trade, strongly urges the provision of alternative work for the *chicleros*.

Grenada Prohibits Barbados Canes.

Owing to the existence there of the Mosaic Disease, the importation of Barbadian sugar canes from Barbados has been prohibited by proclamation. From the report on the criminal statistics for 1919, it appears that the high-water mark of prædial larceny in the island was reached the previous year with 320 convictions. In 1919 there were 212.

Jamaica—Another Fire in Kingston.

A deputation from the Jamaica Imperial Association, of which Mr. Percy Lindo acted as Chairman, waited upon the Governor on December 17th to discuss the proposed increased railway rates for canes. The Governor, whilst admitting the serious effect the revised rates might have on cultivation, attributed the necessity for the increase to the high price of coal, but eventually promised to defer putting the new rates into operation until the end of the present crop.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on December 16th a report was read from a special committee appointed to investigate the condition of the sisal industry. Members of the committee visited the cultivations of Dr. Meikle and Mr. Anderson, near May Pen, and those at Lititz, and testified to the wonderful change brought about by the industry to lands that would otherwise have lain useless and unproductive. They noted the appearance of a disease among some of the hemp plants at Lititz, but think that energetic measures taken to combat it should succeed in stamping it out.

Damage estimated at £8,000 was done by the destruction by fire of the United Fruit Company's

materials store at the western end of Kingston on December 16th.

The sum of £12,000 has been earmarked for the provision of dwelling houses for Government officials, and the Hill Gardens property of Mr. S. J. Streadwick has been purchased by the Government as a first measure. In view of the extraordinary rise in house rents and the lack of any accommodation the Government's action became absolutely necessary.

The proposal to appoint a Commission to enquire into the affairs and government of the Island generally has not met with approval, and various members appointed to serve have excused themselves. It is believed that the idea will now be abandoned and a further effort to secure a Royal Commission made at the next meeting of the Legislative Council. Mr. J. W. Slack and Mr. W. C. Buie, representing T. Geddes Grant, Ltd., of Trinidad, have arrived in Kingston, where they intend to open a branch of their firm. Mr. G. H. Deerr has been appointed Director of Education. Mr. C. G. H. Davis, who succeeds the Hon. L. J. Bertram as Auditor-General, has arrived from British Guiana. Mr. E. S. Murray has been appointed to the Inspectorship of Income Tax. A surveyor is now in the Island looking into the proposals for railway extensions, a number of which it is hoped to carry out in the near future. Bishop Dunn, of British Honduras, passed through the Island on his return voyage to Belize.

Canning Conchs in Caicos.

A new industry may be opened up in the near future, that of canning conchs, according to a report of the Direct West India Cable Co. This was started some few years ago by the Caicos Development Company, of Chalk Sound, but owing to the high price of cans, etc., and the difficulty in getting the product on the market, it was abandoned. If handled properly, this should turn out a very good business proposition. Thousands of the dried conchs are shipped monthly to Hayti, where a good market is found. Samples of the dried article have been sent home to a house in England, which has asked for another and larger sample.

St. Lucia Factories Change Hands.

Negotiations for the sale of the Roseau sugar factory were completed on December 6th, and the property handed over to the representatives of Mr. Hull's Syndicate, who already own the Cul de Sac factory. A petition, praying for Representative Government in place of the Crown Colony regime, has been prepared in the island for presentation to the King.

St. Vincent Bolts Door against Weevil.

The Budget for 1921, which was passed at a meeting of the Council on November 27th, estimates a revenue of £54,722 for the year, or practically the same figure as the revised estimate for the present year. The expenditure anticipated is £53,120, which exceeds the revised estimate for 1920 by about £4,000. Active steps are being taken to guard against the introduction into the island of the pink bollworm, a highly destructive pest

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"PUSS know him four o'clock."

MR. G. P. OSMOND completed his 21st year as chief clerk to the West India Committee on Saturday, February 19th.

MR. J. S. RISLEY, C.B., who has been legal adviser to the Colonial Office since 1911, has been appointed a King's Counsel.

MR. T. V. BEST, Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, has left the colony on leave of absence, and is at present staying at Florence, where he has joined his wife.

THE exports of cacao from Singapore to the United States and the Philippines during 1919 amounted to 3,797,709 lbs., as compared with 125,763 lbs. in 1918.

MR. WILLOUGHBY BULLOCK, the newly appointed Attorney-General of the Bahamas, sailed in the ss. *Cedric* for New York on the 23rd inst., and will proceed direct to Nassau.

THE total amount of alcohol imported into Canada for industrial purposes during the eight months ending November 30th last, was 923,034 gals., 679,956 gals. of which came from the United States, and 243,070 gals. from other countries, not including the United Kingdom.

PARISIAN milliners, according to the *New York Herald*, have found a way of utilising the common, or bathroom, sponge as a trimming for ladies' hats, and our contemporary adds that this species of adornment is at present exceedingly fashionable, though it may not, perhaps, be equally serviceable in all weathers.

THE Western Union Company having won their action against the United States Government, which it will be recalled forbade them to land their cable from Barbados at Miami, the Pernambuco-Barbados-America connection will now no doubt be completed. This will give Barbados an alternative route for messages when all other systems are interrupted.

THE non-self-governing colonies and protectorates are being represented at the Imperial Customs Conference, which was opened in London on Monday last, by Mr. T. F. Burrowes, C.B.E., late Controller of Customs in Nigeria. Mr. Burrowes will be remembered in British Guiana, where he was born, and where he served for seven years in the Treasury Department.

IN the course of the hearing of a case at the Notts Assizes, in which the landlord of a public-house was the defendant, it transpired that beer had been adulterated with a mixture of saccharin, burnt sugar, and water. This is a further instance of the evil influence of the coal-tar drug on the British

constitution. This might be for the good of the publican, but certainly not *pro bono publico*.

THE Bureau of Statistics of Canada have published a report on the working of the chocolate and cacao factories in that country. From this it appears that there are ten factories in the Dominion with a total capital of \$5,201,523. In 1919, 11,924,847 lbs. of cacao, 4,008,195 lbs. of cacao butter, and 1,695 coconuts were used by them, while their output was 22,312,363 lbs. of chocolate and 1,683,162 lbs. of cocoa.

THE style of the firm of Stone, Leycraft & Co., Ltd., importers, exporters and commission merchants of Buenos Aires and London, has been changed to Messrs. Ewen, Kent & Co., Ltd., and the company's connection with Messrs. Stone, Leycraft, of London, and Messrs. Frame, Leycraft & Co., of New York, has been severed. The directors of the London company are Mr. Stephen Ewen and Mr. Bernard B. Kent.

MR. D. ELLIOTT ALVES, president of the British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., and Mrs. Alves, left England in the *Cedric* on February 23rd for New York, en route to the West Indies. They hope to reach Trinidad by the s.s. *Maraval*, and, after staying a short time in the island, Mr. Alves will proceed to British Guiana to see the Governor, and thence to Venezuela, where he will be the guest of the President, and Costa Rica, returning to England in May.

THE CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. R. S. Cunliffe, the Trinidad delegate of the Chilean Nitrate Committee, for a valuable collection of pamphlets published by that organisation, showing the advantages of nitrate as a fertiliser for the various crops grown in the West Indies, including cotton, citrus fruits, coconuts, sugar-cane, yams, etc. These pamphlets can be obtained free of charge from Mr. Cunliffe, whose address is 68, South Quay, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

A MEMBER of the West India Committee writes: "I find I am one of those terrible people who don't pay their subscriptions. A little footnote in the CIRCULAR just received, which I was reading calmly on the sofa, made me jump up and take to pen and paper. I now enclose a cheque, and hope that my oversight will not be remembered against me." The paragraph in question referred to the fact that subscriptions became due on January 1st last, and it is hoped that others in arrears who may read this will immediately follow the example of our correspondent!

ORANGE MARMALADE.—To 2 lbs. of bitter oranges, 4 lbs. sugar, add 8 pints of water, slightly grate off the rind of the oranges, take out the fruit part and cut the rind into chips, and put them to soak in water for some hours, then put the juice; put sugar and water into a saucepan and stir until the sugar is melted, add the chips and boil 1½ hours.—
MRS. J. THOMAS.

which has made its appearance in the Leeward Islands. The weather at the end of November and beginning of December was more favourable for cotton picking, but the yield is said to be disappointing, and from a large area, says the *St. Vincent Times*, the amount picked is less than at the corresponding period of 1919. Ginning operations have been started by the factories, the year's crop being estimated at 1,500 bales. The Government ginnery was offering, at the end of November, 8 cents per lb. for seed cotton.

Oil Companies' Progress in Trinidad.

We have all been glad to welcome back Mr. Gordon Gordon, looking very fit after his six months' holiday on his native heath, says Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on December 16th. At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce he was appointed Life Honorary Vice-President, in small recognition of his very long and equally valuable services to that body.

The dispute between the Chamber of Commerce and the Government with regard to Chacachacare being turned into a Lepet Asylum continues. At a recent meeting of the Legislative Council, the first vote of funds for the purpose of acquiring the island was taken, five of the unofficials voting in favour and four against, whereas on the former occasion only one unofficial was in opposition. Meanwhile the Chamber has passed the following further resolution:—

"That this Chamber again protests most strongly against the Island of Chacachacare being utilised as a Lepet Settlement, and urges the Government to investigate exhaustively the possibility of securing the island of Patos instead, or failing the suitability of this island, to endeavour to secure one of the islands of the Grenadines, and in the meantime, to suspend all action in the matter pending the reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

A public petition supporting the protest of the Chamber is now being prepared, and will doubtless be most influentially signed; and a telegram has been sent through His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State requesting his Lordship to suspend a decision in the matter pending the result of this petition. It is announced that a very considerable number of tourist ships from the United States will be visiting this colony in the course of the next three months. One of the leading men connected with the steamers, who was recently here, expressed his horror at the proposed location of the Lepet Settlement, and expressed the opinion that nothing we can do would be so likely to deter tourists from visiting the colony in the future.

As is well known, Trinidad is dependent almost altogether for its beef supply upon Venezuela, several hundred oxen being received here monthly from the opposite coast. This trade is in the hands of a small ring, who have lately advanced the price from 12 cents to 24 cents per lb. retail. After carefully looking into the matter and making inquiries as to the cost of animals landed here, the Food Committee put its foot down with the ruling that no more than 20 cents per lb. should be charged or paid for beef in the open market. The ring attempted to bluff, and stopped supplies for

two days, during which Port of Spain was meatless, and will probably be better for the healthy change of diet. At the expiration of that time, the cattle holders, seeing that the Government was in earnest, and perhaps in view of the existing stock eating its own head off, gave way, and Trinidad is once more obtaining its beef supply at a rate which elsewhere in the world, at any rate, would be considered very reasonable.

The Steamship Conference Line have refused to admit into their body the steamers of the new service initiated by Messrs. Hugo Persson & Co., Landskrona, Sweden, which proposed to open up direct communication between the West Indies and Scandinavian ports, a route which has hitherto been altogether neglected. Had it been proposed to add another Line to the existing numbers trading between here and the other European ports there might have been some justification for the action of the Conference, but seeing that in this case they merely stop the development of trade in a new direction, there does not appear to be any justification for the arbitrary step taken.

The Board of Agriculture have adopted the report of the Committee on Cacao-claying, which recommended that 2 per cent. of clay to dry cacao be the maximum permissible under the Food and Drugs Act.

Writing under date December 14th, Mr. Tripp says: I have lately been visiting the leading oil concerns where, thanks to the courtesy of the managers, etc., I have had the opportunity of seeing and appreciating the great work accomplished in the development of Trinidad's latest and, perhaps, most important industry. It is wonderful to see how, in the course of a few years, high woods and bush have been converted into thriving settlements with every modern convenience. Specially remarkable are the establishments of the Trinidad Leaseholds, the United British, and the Trinidad Centrals, where one finds, in addition to all the modern appliances and plant for the successful working of the enterprises, every comfort in the way of housing, etc., not only for the manager, but for all the staff, with special provision for the labourers engaged. Good wages are paid and general satisfaction results. Comfortable club houses, with tennis courts, are provided for the principal employees, wherein the amenities of civilised life are present in what otherwise might prove a somewhat cheerless existence. New plant and machinery is pouring into the country to fill the long required wants of the oilfields, and a corresponding increase in production may safely be predicted.

The "Apex" Company, on whose property the recent disastrous fire occurred, is rapidly rising from its ashes, and judging from the anxiety evinced to buy its shares, the conflagration seems rather to have proved in the nature of a good, if rather expensive, advertisement. A little local company, called the Trinidad Freeholds, has proved very successful. It is working under agreement with the Leaseholds, who do the drilling under contract, and take the product at a fixed price—an excellent arrangement for both parties.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Angostura Bitters, Ltd.

Presiding at the annual meeting of this company on December 31st, Mr. William Goldie said that the net profit for the year was £26,728, as compared with £2,603 for the previous year. After payment of the Preference dividend and arrears and transfer of £2,162 to reserve, the balance of £17,301 would be carried forward. The unprecedented results attained were to some extent due to the fact that owing to restrictions during the war they were unable to supply the normal demands of customers in many parts of the world. Last year these customers replenished their stocks. It was hoped shortly to reopen trade with the Continental markets. Practically the whole of the Ordinary and about 21 per cent. of the Preference shares were held in Trinidad. In view of the harshness and unfairness of British taxation, the Trinidad shareholders recently requested the Board to remove the headquarters of the company to Trinidad, and a scheme with that object, would be submitted to a special meeting of shareholders. The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was seconded by Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., and carried unanimously.

Trinidad Esmeralda, Ltd.

The shares of this company will shortly be introduced into the market. Mr. Leonard Homan, presiding at the annual meeting of the London and Rhodesian Mining and Land Co., Ltd., on December 29th, said that they held a direct interest in the Esmeralda Company, the Oran Syndicate holding 31 per cent. of the issued capital. He believed that it was about to become a producer of oil. The forecasts of Mr. Falconer had been borne out almost to the letter as to the depths at which oil would be found. The latest news was that at 805 ft. in the No. 1 well good oil was struck, and the capacity was now being tested. At the date of the Algerian Oilfields Company's annual general meeting he stated that that company then held 23,000 shares in the Trinidad Esmeralda Co., out of an issued capital of £55,000. Since the date of that meeting they had taken up a further 20,000 shares at a premium, and he expected that premium to be justified several times over in the near future. The effect of this purchase was that the Algerian Oilfields Co. now held 52 per cent. of the issued capital of the Trinidad Esmeralda Co. Those best able to judge believed that in the El Rosario Lease the Trinidad Esmeralda Co. had a further valuable property. Shareholders should closely study the latest news from Trinidad and Algeria, which would be published as soon as they got it.

British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd.

At the first ordinary general meeting of this company at Montreal, in December last, the president (Mr. D. Elliott Alves), in a written address, which was read by the secretary, stated that what were believed to be very valuable properties were held by the Company in Trinidad, but the immense areas at present controlled by it in Venezuela must be considered for the time being of prime importance. Although it was within a year since the company had commenced operations in Trinidad, remarkable progress had been made. Arrangements were completed to conduct extensive drilling operations in this colony. Two rigs had been erected and two additional rigs had been landed at Port of Spain, while a further consignment of three rigs were being assembled in England for transport.

The first well being drilled on the Santa Lucia estate, and known as No. 1 Well, Santa Lucia, had already reached a depth of 925 ft. The first well being drilled on the San Jose estates, and known as No. 1 Well, San Jose had already reached a depth of 192 ft. Mr. B. F. N. Macrorie, F.G.S., M.Inst.Pet.Tech., the well-known geologist, specially

detailed by the company for the original investigations in Trinidad, had strongly advised the acquisition of these areas, and had selected the sites where drilling was now being carried out.

Since the company acquired by purchase the rights held by Sir William Ingram in the Oropuche Lagoon, and the Central Range Districts, differences had arisen in connection with the terms of the Government contract relating to the drainage of the lagoon, which was held to be part of the original contract. As soon as these differences had been adjusted, it was intended that extensive drilling operations should be conducted in both these areas.

A central base for stores had been established at San Fernando, for the reception of all material for distribution to the various drilling sites, and an ample supply of casing was already in Trinidad for all pressing requirements. In addition, orders had been placed for over 60,000 ft. of casing, from which deliveries were now being made, so that the necessary supply of casing was assured.

It should be mentioned that the whole of the drilling plant and rigs for Trinidad had been manufactured in England. The staff on these fields were well housed and accommodated, and comprised, under able management, a competent staff of drillers, engineers, storeroomkeepers, and clerks.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

An official statement announces that, subject to final audit, the net profit for the year ended June 30th, 1920, after writing off depreciation on buildings, refineries, wells, pipelines, tanks, and other plant, amounts to £206,097. Allow- ing £7,500 for Corporation Profits Tax, and adding the balance of £62,030 brought forward from the previous year, the total amount standing at the credit of the Profit and Loss Account is £260,627.

At the annual general meeting, to be held on Wednesday, January 26th, 1921, the directors will recommend the pay- ment of a dividend of 12½ per cent., less income tax, and the placing of £80,000 to reserve, leaving £182,627 to be carried forward.

The report for the year ended June 30th, 1920, states that profit, after providing for depreciation and charging administration and general expenditure, was £206,097, less provision for corporation profits tax £7,500, leaving £198,597, plus £62,030 brought in, making £260,627. The directors recommend transferring £80,000 to reserve (rais- ing it to £200,000), dividend of 12½ per cent., less tax at 6s., and additional remuneration to directors £6,557, carry- ing forward £182,627. The capital remains £1,500,000, of which 1,049,250 shares have been issued and are fully paid. On June 30th the area controlled was 63,893 acres under Government lease, 2,615 acres of freehold land, 1,921 acres of freehold oil rights, 541 acres of freehold surface rights. The capital expenditure totalled £203,818, main items being well-sinking and additions to plant and build- ings. Production totalled 177,709 tons, an increase of 6,423 tons over previous year. At June 30th, 55 wells were pro- ducing. Aggregate footage drilled on all fields was 22,011 feet, approximately same as previous year. Crude oil treated totalled 141,126 tons, compared with 119,411 tons previous year. Extensive additions to the refining plant are in course of erection. A well was sunk on Santa Cecilia area, but had to be abandoned before reaching oil sand owing to caving. Preparations are being made for sinking a second well. At Pipero the drilling of the first well was suspended at a depth of 360 feet on account of lack of water due to abnormal drought. Sinking is being resumed. The Company has acquired an interest in North Venezuelan Petroleum Company, formed by Central Mining and Investment Corporation, in association with D'Arcy Exploration Company, to exploit a large oil concession in the State of Falcon, Venezuela. Capital of the company is £300,000, in £1 shares, all issued and fully paid. It is hoped that drilling operations will shortly be commenced.

WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.

Mr A. Balderamos
Mr A. R. Bell
Mr E. W. Bowen
Mr G. S. Browne
Mr James Brown
Mr E. A. Hogle
Mr W. J. Cauty
Mr J. E. Corbin
Mr W. W. Craib
Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque F.I.C.
Hon. A. G. Davis
Mrs. A. G. Farnum
Mr. T. Fisher
Mr. J. M. Fleming
Mr. Percy George
Sir G. Aubrey Goodman
Dr. C. J. Gomez
Hon. E. A. Granum
Rev. J. H. Brindley, c/o W.M.M.S. 24, Bishopsgate E.C.
Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, "Melrose," The Sands Swindon, Wilts.
Mr. Sam Browne, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square W
Mr. R. Bryson, 26, Lewes Crescent, Kempston, Sussex.
Mr. G. J. Christian, The West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
Mr. A. Somers Cocks, 61, Queensborough Terrace, W.2
Miss F. A. Forsyth, 71, Queensborough Terrace, W.2
Mr. Archibald Gordon, c/o John Leckie & Co., Ltd., 84, Fore Street, E.C.
Mr. J. T. Greg, The Grey House, Boar's Hill Oxford
Mr. Ranald J. Harrey, 5 Lower Camden, Chislehurst, Kent
Mr. J. C. Macintyre, 24, Gordon Street, Gordon Square W.C.
Mr. G. S. Seton-Browne, c/o Thomson Haukey & Co., 7, Mincing Lane, E.C.
Mr. M. Howard Smith, Durrant's Hotel, Manchester Square, W.
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 Latex Estates, Ltd., 10, Lloyd Avenue, E.C.3.

Mr. E. P. Haughton-James
Mr. L. M. Hobson
Mr. J. P. Kirkness
Mr. L. J. Lee
Mr. R. Poyntz Mackenzie
Mr. C. H. McClean
Mr. T. Elton Miller
Mr. James Miller
Mr. G. O'Reilly
Mr. H. Seedorf
Dr. F. G. Rose
Mr. W. B. Sainuel
Mr. J. B. Slived
Mrs. Wigley
Dr. E. C. A. Wilson
Mr. R. V. Ewan Wong
Mr. W. H. Yearwood

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.—Sailings to Trinidad from Dover, per s.s. *Stuyvesant*, January 8th:—

Mr & Mrs R. Allen	Mr E. Cranwall	Mrs A. Nind
Major G. H. L. Roarce	Mr & Mrs R. P. C. Harford	Mr & Mrs. T. L. M. Orde and Daughter
Miss J. L. Bovell	Mr & Mrs. V. C. Illing and Son	Mr J. P. Phillips
Mr G. R. Burgess	Mr J. McWilliam	Mr A. L. Popert
Miss A. Clough	Mr E. P. McL. Walcott	Mr R. S. Schuel
Mr & Mrs G. Croll	Mr J. Meuzies	Mrs M. Stafford
Mr C. W. Darnall	Mr W. J. Messervy	Mr. C. B. Stocker
Major G. Disney	Mr A. Mitchell	Mr. C. H. C. Storey
Mr P. St. J. Dixon		Mrs. A. M. Wright
Mr D. K. Fraser		

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.—Sailings to West Indies from London, per s.s. *Settler*, January 14th.

Mr. & Mrs. Fisher	Mr Shand	Mrs. Wilkinson
Mr. Forbes	Mr Walcott	Mr & Mrs Pelhau
Hon. W. & Mrs. Peter	Miss Walcott	Young
Miss Savage		

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Trinidad	Dover	Jan Van Nassau	Jan. 22
West Indies	Glasgow	Comedian	.. .. 22
St. Lucia, T'ndad and D'ara	St. Nazaire	Macoris	.. .. 24
Jamaica	Avonmouth	Bayano	.. .. 25
West India	Liverpool	Musician	.. .. 29
Jamaica	Avonmouth	Coronado	Feb. 1
West Indies	London	Songeler	.. .. 2
Trinidad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	.. .. 5
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	Feb 4
West Indies	New York	Korona	.. .. 9
Jamaica	New York	Ulua	.. .. 12
Winter Cruise	New York	New York	.. .. 12
West Indies	Halifax	Caraquet	.. .. 15
Jamaica	New York	Tolosa	.. .. 19

The above dates are only approximate.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, per R.M.S. *Coronado*, January 3rd

Mr G. Acar	Miss E. W. Ferdinando	Col. F. W. Mussender
Mr F. Acar	Mrs S. G. Gorely	Mr V. Neish
Mr John Bell	Mrs S. Hammond	Miss C. R. Pickering
Major & Mrs C. W. Rowle	Miss G. N. Lyon Hall	Mr T. Pincock
The Misses Bowle (2)	Miss G. Lovatt	Mr T. Robertson
Miss D. M. Bittle	Dr & Mrs. D. MacNish	Mr. H. A. Robinson
Mr. W. A. Child	Mrs. J. G. Malabre	Mr. K. W. R. Sanderson
Major J. F. Church	Mr H. Mackay	Mrs. A. M. Sanderson
Major and Mrs. D. M. Corbett and family	Mr. H. MacAndrew	Mr. J. Tocher
Mrs. and Miss D Costa	Mr F. W. Morse	Miss H. I. Tuer

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti- gua To Oct. 31	Bar- bados To Nov. 30	British Guiana To Nov. 25	British Hondur- as To Nov. 30	Domi- nica To Oct. 31	Grenada To Sept. 30	Jamaica To June 30	Mont serrat	St Lucia To Nov. 15	St Kitts Nevis To Nov. 30	St Vincent To Nov. 30	Trinidad To Oct. 31
Arrowroot	lbs.										2,705,043	41,871
Asphalt	tons											4,992
Balata	lbs.		880,295	533,900	1,370	4,354,927						56,988
Beans	bchs										138,150	61,851,836
Bitters	galls.										328,029	
Cacao	lbs.		23,241	1,043	510,048	8,879,136	4,439,588		821,520			
Cassava Starch	lbs.											
Cassava Nuts	No.		2,501,164	5,495,568	597,158	41,850	13,650,058		271,061			19,275,374
Coffee	lbs.		406,378		1,344		2,991,744					72,951
Copra	lbs.		33,240	58,001			581,084		19,040			1,586,310
Cotton, M. Galante	lbs.											
Cotton, Sea Island	lbs.	46,116	106,014			374,978				686,742	475,650	
Cotton Seed	lbs.					964,422				445,520	91,376	
Diamonds	carats		20,55									8
Dyewoods	tons											
Ginger	lbs.						1,082,704					
Gold	ozs.			8,683								
Ground Nuts	bchs & bks									14	10,782	16,214
Honey	lbs.						675,022		31,142			2,757
Lime Juice (raw)	galls.	6,960			231,686	700	12,061		15,351			
.. (concd.)		400			86,872	18,010			764			
.. oil												
Lime (citrate of)	lbs.		58,308		494,000				1,101			3,487
Loawood	tons			1,340								
Lumber	feet		250,615									
Mahogany				7,957,946								
Maujak	tons											165
M. Masses	galls	190,500	6,991,500	100		14,046			198,306	105,900	177,452	492,808
Orange	No.	4,725										627,120
Essential Oils	lbs.					55,818						
Pe. ro. um	galls.											25,892,762
Pimento	lbs.			18,109,976			4,797,184					
Rice	lbs.			18,861								16,685
Ku. her	lbs.											46,285
Rum	galls.		28,341	1,415,556	323							
Shin. des	No.			2,448,750								
Su. or	tons	12,562	34,703	67,745					4,027	10,621		46,936
Timber	cub. ft			64,946								46,309

No figures yet supplied.

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—
"Carib. London"



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

Jan. 18th, 1921.

BANK RATE 7 per cent. as from April 15th, 1920.

EXCHANGE on New York, \$3.75—\$3.78.

SUGAR. The fortnight under review has witnessed an improved tone in the market for "free" sugar in the United Kingdom, West Indian crystallised having realised 62/- to 66/- according to quality, and Muscovados having been in demand at 36/- to 48/-. Now that these soft Island sugars have regained a good deal of their original prominence, planters should give constant attention to their condition and appearance, and above all make every effort to overcome the great fault which has militated so strongly against their use, namely, their unfortunate liability to steadily lose weight after landing. With the lower control prices now prevailing (caster 78/-, cubes 76/-, granulated, crystals, etc., 72/-), a considerable increase in consumption may be confidently anticipated. The lower world's prices should also stimulate the sweet tooth of the East. Last year, owing to the high prices and reduced ration per head of the population, consumption fell to 1,105,939 tons, against the pre-war average of about 2,000,000 tons.

The American market has been steady, with a large business in old and new crop Cubas at 4½c. c. & f. Cuban receipts are still much below those at the corresponding date of last year, 29 centrals only being at work on January 6th, as against more than 110 at the same date last year. This is attributed to the continuance of the moratorium and to the low prices, which offer plantation companies no inducement to speed up their output. Major-General Enoch H. Crowder has left for the island on behalf of the United States Government to study the present financial situation and to make recommendations for its improvement. Meanwhile, Mr. Himely roughly estimates the coming crop at 4,051,000 tons, as compared with Willett & Gray's figure of 4,000,000. The latter firm now places the world's crop for 1920-21 at 17,326,272 tons (cane 12,692,900 tons, and beet 4,633,372 tons), as against 15,222,684 tons actual for 1919-20, and 15,854,131 tons for 1918-19, the increase this crop over 1919-20 being placed at 2,103,588 tons.

The Canadian situation is apparently straightening itself out, the Acadia Company having been once more bidding for raw sugar. British producers do not, however, appear to be willing to compete with St. Domingoes, Perus, and other foreign sugars which are offering at prices lower than those which they are willing to accept.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on January 8th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Imports	14	468	1,625 Tons.
Deliveries	1,023	1,315	1,736 "
Stock	7,395	7,259	6,061 "

CACAO. Only a small business passing. Good plantation Trinidad is quoted at 70s., and fine Grenada at 54s. Since March last—when the highest level was reached—prices have declined at least 70s. to 80s., and no improvement can yet be expected. The Continent is very depressed, and business made difficult owing to adverse exchanges.

The stocks in London on January 8th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	28,857	24,740	15,514 Bags
Grenada	20,402	13,922	6,807 "
Total of all kinds	200,865	109,260	90,993 "

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad Cacao during November were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
To all Countries	566,184
Shipped previously	61,866,636
Total from January 1st	62,432,820
To same date 1919	57,737,543
" " 1918	55,578,312
" " 1917	68,229,372
" " 1916	52,875,425
" " 1915	45,869,358
" " 1914	61,638,496
" " 1913	46,431,247
" " 1912	40,472,755
" " 1911	43,496,702

RUM. Quiet, without change. Some small sales of Jamaica, 1919 distillation, reported at 10s. 6d. per liquid gallon.

The stocks in London on January 8th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	9,185	6,456	3,747 Puns.
Demerara	14,984	14,129	10,401 "
Total of all kinds	34,223	28,069	19,201 "

ARROWROOT is still very quiet, and the nominal quotations are unchanged.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is easier and slow of sale. Forward is quoted at 1s. 2d. c.i.f., and spot 4s. 3½d. to 4s. 1d. nominal.

COFFEE. Spot is steady, at a decline on the previous quotations, but very little business passing. Special qualities have met with a fair demand, but it is difficult to dispose of common descriptions even at the present low rates. "Futures" show a further decline. Export business is still severely hampered owing to exchange difficulties. The nominal quotation of good ordinary Jamaica is 65s., but Blue Mountain retains full value.

COPRA is barely steady. West Indian f.o.b. is quoted at £36 10s. c.i.f. London.

COTTON. There is nothing to report in Sea Island, and the nominal quotations are unchanged. Imports in the two weeks ending January 13th, 7 bales.

HONEY. There is no improvement in the demand; the nominal value of Jamaica for dark to pale is 50s. to 75s. It is reported that very cheap offers have been made to Germany of Cuban from U.S.A.

LIME PRODUCTS. Hand-pressed. Some business has at last resulted at slightly lower rates than last indicated. **Distilled** continues neglected. **Lime Juice Raw.** Little more enquiry, but no sale reported.

LOGWOOD is dull and difficult of sale.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet. Spot has sold down to 11s. per lb., but there is still no demand for **Bitter.**

RUBBER is quiet, and prices have a tendency to weaken. Plantation standard crepe spot 1½, smoked ribbed sheet spot 1s., and fine hard Para spot 1s. 0½d. Exports from Trinidad to November 30th, 16,567 lbs.

SPICES. Pimento is dull and unchanged at 3½d. Until Central Europe can afford to buy or speculators can be induced to assist little improvement can be expected. The light arrivals of Jamaica **Ginger** in London during 1920 kept prices from declining, but there has been only a small demand for this article during the past six months. The last nominal quotations given—165s. to 210s.—will probably have to be reduced before buyers can be expected to show active interest.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 West India Committee Rooms

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642



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

Telegrams:
CARIB. LONDON

Feb 3rd, 1921.

A Bad Ad. for Trinidad.

IT will be a shock to all lovers of the "Isle of the Humming Bird" to learn that it is proposed to establish a Leper Settlement on Chacachacare, the largest of the three islands which stand in the narrow straits between the north-west extremity of Trinidad and the Venezuelan Main, forming the historic and exquisitely beautiful "Bocas del Dragone," or Dragon's Mouths, through one of which channels all vessels approaching Port of Spain from the north enter the Gulf of Paria. We are not surprised to learn that this project is meeting with strong opposition in the island, which has culminated in the dispatch of an influentially signed Petition, protesting against it, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Petitioners lay stress on the profoundly unpleasant impression which the minds of visitors to the island would receive when they learned that the largest and most beautiful of these sentinel islands was a modern Molokai; but they do not base their objections solely on sentimental grounds. They also show that Chacachacare

is the only remaining island health resort within easy reach of Port of Spain which is not already fully occupied. During the last few years, owing to the rapid growth of the wealth and population of Trinidad, all the available building sites on the islands between Port of Spain and Monos, including the latter, have been taken up, and already the demand for the seaside residences upon them is so great that it is very difficult to engage one of them without giving notice some weeks or even months beforehand. Owing to the absence of fast or suitable steamship communication, Chacachacare has not hitherto been used to any great extent as a health resort; but its rapid development in this connection is foreshadowed. The Petitioners are, we are glad to note, fully in accord with the decision of the Committee which was appointed in Trinidad to report on the subject as to the importance of securing the removal of the Leper Settlement from its present site at Cocorite, where it is perilously near Port of Spain; but they rightly point out that inasmuch as that institution has been on the present site for over seventy years, its transfer cannot be regarded as being so immediately pressing as to render impossible a more searching investigation than the problem of its relocation has yet received. We venture to urge, therefore, that the whole question may be fully reconsidered before the amenities of an island, to which future generations of Trinidadians would otherwise resort for health and recuperation, are destroyed, and an advertisement of the fact that the terrible disease of leprosy is present in the colony is brought so prominently before the notice of all comers to Trinidad as it would be if the lepers were housed on one of the islands of the Bocas. In moving the adoption of the Committee's report in favour of the Chacachacare site, SURGEON-GENERAL THE HON. DR. K. S. WIRE acknowledged that he was still in very great sympathy with those who objected to it, that he appreciated their point of view, and that, although he could not see any way out of it, it was deplorable to his mind that it was necessary to take the island over for the purpose of a Leper Settlement. This statement alone, to our mind, would justify further enquiries being made before a step were taken which would be irreparable, for once Chacachacare became a Leper Asylum, it could never be properly restored for the use of the general community. It should be noted that the Petitioners do not devote themselves solely to destructive criticism. They realise that the settlement must be moved from Cocorite, and sug-

gest that a suitable site would be Patos, or Goose Island, or, alternatively, one of the Grenadines—that long chain of sparsely inhabited islands between St. Vincent and Grenada. The objection to the Grenadines, apart from their belonging to another colony, is their distance from Port of Spain. The feelings of the unfortunate lepers, for whom we have the fullest sympathy, must also be considered, and there is a good deal to be said for the argument that their segregation on one of the Grenadines would deprive them of the privileges which they now enjoy of being visited by their relatives. On the other hand, this objection would equally apply to the establishment of a central Leper Asylum for the whole of the West Indies, which has been proposed from time to time, for a site which would be convenient for Barbados, for example, could obviously not be equally advantageous to St. Kitts. Another point, too, which has to be remembered is that if it were known that lepers were to be confined at a spot far from their homes, where their relatives could not easily visit them, there might be a tendency to concealment and to persons infected with the terrible malady of leprosy failing to report themselves to the authorities, which would be simply disastrous. In the circumstances, Patos would appear to be a more convenient site for the Trinidad settlement, unless the larger scheme of a central Asylum, which would, for the reasons we have just given, involve an elaborate system of steamer communication to enable the patients to keep in touch with their families, is envisaged. It is claimed that the time occupied by a steamer in reaching Patos from Port of Spain is only about forty-five minutes more than that taken to reach Chacachacare, and even if this might be some disadvantage from an administrative point of view, it would, against that, have the distinct advantage of securing complete segregation for the unfortunate inmates. There remains the difficulty of the water supply to be overcome; but that would not appear to be insuperable, for drier spots than Patos have been dealt with successfully in this respect. Finally, the selection of Patos would obviate the need for evacuating the four hundred or more people at present living on Chacachacare, which could only be effected at a considerable expense. The Petition of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce is a forceful document which must not be disregarded. It has obviously been compiled in no spirit of mere opposition to the authorities, and it is to be hoped that it will receive from the Colonial Office the consideration which it deserves. The West India Committee, whose assistance was invoked by the Chamber by cablegram, have already represented to the Under-Secretary for the Colonies the case of the Petitioners, which they fully endorse, and have added the suggestion that further consideration of the matter might be deferred until the meeting of the forthcoming Medical Conference to be held in the West Indies, when the possibility of the establishment of a central Leper Asylum for the whole of the West Indies might be discussed and the advice of the representatives of the London School of Tropical Medicine, who will be present, taken as to the best means of controlling the disease and segregating the sufferers.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Turks and Caicos' Welcome Gift.

Every guinea contributed towards the Endowment Fund brings the West India Committee nearer to the consummation of the proposals for housing it in more convenient premises. With rents still ruling in the City (where the offices must be) at £1 and £1 5s. *per square foot*, it has not yet been possible to secure suitable accommodation, but with continued support to Our Fund and a more reasonable attitude of London landlords in prospect, a move to better "Rooms," as the offices of the West India Committee have been called in three centuries, should be possible this year or next. The latest list of contributions given below contains a gratifying number of names, including yet another West Indian Government, that of Turks and Caicos Islands, to whose people through the Hon. G. Whitfield Smith, the Commissioner, a cordial letter of thanks has been sent.

TWENTY-EIGHTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged...	22,775	17	7
Blair, Campbell & McLean, Ltd. ...	25	0	0
The Government of Turks and Caicos Islands ...	10	10	0
L. Grafton Simpson, Esq., A.M.I.Mech.E. ...	10	0	0
L. Guggenheim, Esq. ...	5	5	0
The Uroz Oilfields, Ltd. ...	5	5	0
J. W. Arbuckle, Esq. ...	5	0	0
John Dodds, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Joseph Rippon, Esq., O.B.E. ...	5	0	0
L. W. Clarke, Esq. ...	3	2	6
Sir Frederic Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D. ...	2	2	0
H. G. Watson-Taylor, Esq. ...	2	2	0
James Scott, Esq. ...	2	2	0
Lady Cameron ...	2	0	0
Peter Abel, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Bagot ...	1	1	0
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C. G. Deane, Esq., M.B., Ch.B. ...	1	1	0
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Miss J. Iris Howard ...	1	1	0
Wm. Alfred Jones, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Robt. Morrison, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Maurice A. Ockendon, Esq. ...	1	1	0
W. Manning Phillips, Esq. ...	1	1	0
A. Seton-Milne, Esq. ...	1	1	0
E. C. Stenbridge, Esq. (2nd donation) ...	1	1	0
A. B. Tucker, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Dr. A. E. Wynter, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ...	1	1	0
R. J. Broburg, Esq. ...	1	0	10
A. T. Skeate, Esq. ...	1	0	10
C. C. Bynoe, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Gerald Smith, Esq. ...	10	0	
Mrs. M. J. Spooner ...	10	0	

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"QUATITE buy trouble, hundred pound cant pay for it."

* * *

THE Canadian Parliament will reassemble on February 14th.

* * *

MR. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD has, we regret to state, not been quite so well lately.

* * *

MR. ALAN L. DAVSON was the reader of a paper on oil in Palestine, by Captain Mangin, at the Institution of Petroleum Technologists recently.

* * *

MR. CAIRNS, who recently made a sensational offer of sugar to the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, has had the bailiffs in and his furniture seized.

* * *

AN oil fuel station is to be established at Punta Piedra, near Antilla, Cuba, by a company already operating at Havana, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Manzanillo, and Nuevitas.

* * *

HIS HONOUR C. J. GRIFFIN, K.C., Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, has been appointed a Commissioner for the purpose of preparing a new and revised edition of the Statutes of the Presidency.

* * *

MR. A. W. FARQUHARSON, President of the Jamaica Imperial Association, has, we are glad to learn, returned to the island greatly improved in health after an absence of several months in America and Canada.

* * *

MR. W. W. CRAIR estimates that 3,600,000 tons of sugar-cane are grown and used in India every year solely for chewing. The quantity of cane chewed in India is thus approximately equivalent to the entire West Indian crop.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT in Trinidad enquiring for the names of shippers of certain goods writes that his reason is in view of the new British preferential tariff and increased duty on American goods he must now buy in the United Kingdom instead of the United States.

* * *

THE firm of Theo. Vasmer & Co., established in 1877, and recently carried on by Mr. Geo. C. Vasmer, having gone into liquidation, a private limited company, entitled Vasmer's, Ltd., has been started, with Mr. A. Vasmer and Mr. T. A. Noyes as directors.

* * *

"OF Jamaica Supreme Lady" is the inscription on a new shilling orange postage stamp which is embellished with a representation of a statue of Queen Victoria. The two shilling blue and brown issue similarly shows the Rodney memorial, and the three shilling violet and orange the statue of Sir Charles Metcalfe.

THE reference to the new Grenada Preferential Tariff published in the CIRCULAR of January 6th requires modification, various kinds of foodstuffs being subjected to specific duties. Thus on bread, biscuits and cake (unsweetened), for example, the preferential duty is 1/8 per 100 lbs., the general rate being 2/6 per 100 lbs.

* * *

THE Department of Overseas Trade announce that Mr. G. T. Milne, O.B.E., His Majesty's Trade Commissioner stationed at Headquarters, will be leaving early this month, in the s.s. *Songster*, for Trinidad, where he will act temporarily as His Majesty's Trade Commissioner in the West Indies during the absence of Mr. A. J. Pavitt from his post.

* * *

FROM a letter published elsewhere in this issue it will be noted that it is claimed that Natalite, the alcohol fuel, to which the CIRCULAR referred recently, is denatured by a pyridine and Simonson's oil, which renders it unpotable. Natalite can, it seems, be made with alcohol of 60° O.P., as against 66° otherwise required. This is an advantage from the still point of view.

* * *

DR. JOSIAH OLDFIELD, the well-known humanitarian and fruitarian, who has lately been on a visit to Jamaica, states that his observations there confirm his views that food and fertility go hand in hand. Where the staple foods are "yams, sweet potatoes, cassava, Indian corn, sugar, milk, coconuts, bananas and oranges, with some salt fish, the birth rate is high and the fertility irrepressible."

* * *

REFERRING to the leading article in last CIRCULAR on the subject of the effete cable system, a firm of merchants gives a further instance of mutilation of a cablegram. Repetition of a word in a message received on January 13th was asked for, and was repeated incorrectly no fewer than three times. One suspects that these vain repetitions must have been pure guess work on the part of one of the company concerned.

* * *

THE beet sugar factory at Kelham, Notts, in which the Government is a shareholder, is expected to take off its first crop in October next. The trial yield of beets over the whole estate averaged 12 tons 7 cwt. per acre. The cost of cultivation, reaping and loading was £29 3s. 4d. per acre, and the average amount of sugar per acre was 2 tons 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs. Taking the sugar extraction at 84 per cent., the yield of sugar per acre would be 2 tons. The cost of the beets was £2 7s. per ton.

CASSAVA CONKIES. Beat $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. butter together, add 5 eggs, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a wineglass of rose water, $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoonful of beaten spice, and lastly $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cassava flour. Wrap a large spoonful at a thyme in chilled plantain leaves, and steam them (be careful not to let the water get into the leaves) or steam in a pudding mould, and serve with sweet sauce. If steamed in a mould, they will take 2 or 3 hours to cook. —MRS. E. T. COX.

CANE SUGAR IN INDIA.

Its Possibilities and Limitations.

BY W. W. CRAIB.

Mr. W. W. Craib, consulting sugar-cane expert, has had wide experience of sugar production in various parts of the world, and notably in British Guiana and Cuba, where he spent many years. He recently visited India as a member of the Commission appointed by the Indian Government to investigate and report upon the possibilities of the development of sugar manufacture in that country on modern lines. His views expressed in the following article, which is specially contributed to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, must therefore carry great weight.

Conditions under which sugar-cane is grown in India vary so greatly that it will be convenient to divide its study into two separate parts, one dealing with Southern or tropical India, the other with Upper India, or the sub-tropical zone. It will be advisable to examine first the circumstances under which cane is grown in Upper India, as it comprises four-fifths of the total area in cane for the whole of India, and thus holds a predominant position in the economics of the sugar industry.

Included in Upper India are the Provinces of Rebar and Orissa, the United Provinces, Punjab and the North-West Province. To the casual enquirer it will seem remarkable that sugar-cane should be grown so much more extensively in the sub-tropics where climatic conditions are less favourable to its growth than in the tropics. The reason, however, is obvious. The making of gur or jaggery is an old-established industry of at least 1,000 years' standing, and by looking at the map it will be seen how completely protected Upper India was from outside competition before the advent of roads and railways. Even in these days the cost of freight on sugar to interior markets is a substantial protection to the local product, which is also otherwise favoured by caste prejudice and also by a genuine liking for the natural and aromatic flavour of the home-made gur by the majority of the inhabitants.

Although the area under cane in Upper India usually averages about 2½ million acres, it only represents 3 per cent. of the total cultivated area, and is in size, therefore, rather an insignificant crop; nor does it occupy any fixed place in the general rotation of crops. This is proved by the annual fluctuations in the area under cane, due to the cultivator's preference for the time being to some other crop which he thinks will pay him better. Notwithstanding this, cane-growing has a speculative attraction for the ryot, or small proprietor, for when the seasons are favourable and the price of gur high, it is one of the most profitable crops he can grow. The risk of failure or semi-failure of the cane crop is not so serious as to deter the ryot from indulging his gambling propensities, since, in case of total failure, he simply ploughs up the land and sows the next seasonal crop; if a partial failure is the result, he feeds the cane to his cattle and puts the ground under another crop as soon as possible.

It must be remembered that the area planted in cane by a ryot is only a small portion of his holding, and that his first consideration must be food

crops. Apart from the sugar the cane contains, it has a value as fodder, and this is evident from the fact that people are willing to cut the cane and carry it to the mill in return for half of the tops. An obstacle to the extension of cane-growing by the small cultivator is the expensive cultivation required and the length of time it occupies the land. He invariably works on borrowed money, and, as his credit is limited, he cannot put all his means into a crop which necessitates a large initial outlay and a long wait before getting any return.

The average yield of cane from land in Upper India is approximately ten tons per acre, which by the present primitive methods of extracting sugar gives about one ton of gur, or, if made into sugar by a modern factory, would probably produce .8 of a ton of commercial white sugar. Those who are interested in the many different varieties of cane grown will no doubt be interested to learn that there are varieties resistant to attacks of wild animals, such as pigs and jackals, that some are even untempting to man, whilst others are proof against fungus diseases and all manner of insect pests, and can withstand drought, water-logging, and frost. The varieties to which all those virtues are attributed are probably natural selections which have acquired immunity from disease through structural changes in the plant. These changes have produced a hardy cane capable of growing under most adverse conditions, but at the expense of its sugar content and good milling qualities.

FACTORY PRODUCTION STAGNANT.

The canes in Upper India are of a very inferior type, with a fibre content varying from 16 per cent. to 29 per cent., and a juice full of impurities when extracted by high-pressure crushing and maceration. The stagnation of the factory industry in these Provinces is undoubtedly due to the poor quality of the cane grown and to its being widely scattered in small plots, which makes its transportation to a Central Mill a matter of great difficulty, and it has yet to be shown how a factory of economic size can be sure of obtaining a full and constant supply of cane to keep the machinery running regularly, without which no industry can prosper. Hopes of overcoming this admitted defect in the existing state of affairs would seem to rely on getting increased yields by improved methods of cultivation and by the introduction of better varieties of cane, which would enable the factories to buy on a more liberal scale; but, owing to the land tenure system and the large number of small holdings, this must be a very slow proceeding. It would certainly be useless to substitute better varieties of cane without adding manure and doing deeper tillage, but the question which must arise is, how the impoverished cultivator without the means to buy manure, with debilitated cattle and antiquated implements, is going to improve his cultivation. The number of Government farms and demonstrating plots devoted to cane might be increased with a view to showing the way to the ryots, but the success of these, judging from results of past efforts in the same direction, are problematic. I do not overlook the work done on some of the existing farms or stations which report fairly high yields from exotic canes, but do not attach much import-

ance to this, as it is well known that results obtained from garden plots under expert supervision are never reproduced on a field scale over large areas; neither do I consider the chemical analyses made at these small stations a reliable guide as to the sucrose in the cane. Laboratory tests are always higher than those of a factory when cane is treated in bulk; canes taken from the same stool will vary in richness, and as at harvest-time all the canes are reaped, the immature with the ripe, the general average is lowered. I am confirmed in the opinion that the climate of Northern India is not favourable to the production of a heavy yielding cane combined with high sucrose contents by the experience of other sub-tropical countries where every scientific aid has been invoked to solve this problem without success.

In Louisiana, Tucuman, in Argentina and Natal, where a much superior class of grain is grown than in Upper India, and where a greater tonnage is obtained, the yield by up-to-date milling plants in modern factories is barely 8 per cent. sugar on weight of cane. Even if it is conceded that the Indian cane has a higher sucrose content than that of the countries mentioned above, the tonnage per acre is only half as much, and the probabilities are that if the cane yield is increased by the introduction of new varieties, the sucrose in the cane will diminish. It will be seen that there are many difficulties in the way of the establishment of a factory sugar industry in Upper India, and I personally would hesitate to recommend the Government to embark on such a dubious enterprise.

COMING MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Lord Milner has suggested to the various local governments the desirability of the holding of a medical conference in the West Indies, to be attended by the principal medical officers of the various colonies, and also by representatives of the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine.

Among the subjects which such a conference would probably consider would be the diseases generally prevalent in the West Indies, such as filariasis, hookworm, malaria, tuberculosis, venereal disease, leprosy, and pellagra, and the question of infant mortality.

British Guiana has been suggested as a suitable venue in view, no doubt, of the fact that the expedition of the London School will shortly be commencing its work in that colony. It is hoped that representatives of all the West Indian colonies, without exception, will consent to participate in the deliberations of the medical conference, which should prove a further important factor towards drawing the various units more closely together, besides paving the way for bringing about still better health conditions. It will be recalled that similar conferences to deal with agricultural, quarantine, steamship, and customs matters have already been successfully held, and that the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce advocated the continuance of the holding of such meetings of experts regarding various questions of common interest from time to time.

CUBA'S ECONOMIC POSITION.

Her Sugar Companies "Spotty."

Mr. H. A. Chisholm, the Canadian Trade Commissioner in Cuba, concludes a valuable report on the economic situation in that island with a forecast regarding the future.

Cuba, he writes, is now able to produce so much sugar that her present difficult situation must be only a temporary if painful phase of world deflation. As pointed out previously in this article, the world's present sugar production is some two million tons below pre-war production, while the demand for sugar, especially in North America, where Cuba markets the most of her crop, has increased. The recent high sugar prices have enabled the sugar industry in Cuba to put more of the rich island soil under cane and to construct many of the most modern and efficient sugar mills in the world, producing a very high-class grade of sugar. If sugar goes no higher than its present price in Cuba of around 4 cents, Cuba's proceeds from the forthcoming crop of 3,700,000 tons (estimate) will be some 330 million dollars United States currency. Even at 3 cents, the normal pre-war price, the crop would be worth some 250 million dollars. Cuba has enjoyed for many years a visible favourable balance of trade, in that her yearly exports have exceeded in value her imports. In 1919, for example, the value of her exports was \$571,536,191, and of her imports \$354,890,090, leaving a favourable balance of trade of \$216,646,109—a tremendous sum for a small country of less than three million people.

High-priced sugar, however, not only caused the loss of Cuba's financial self-control, but it produced such increases in the cost of living and the cost of production that the efficiency of sugar production in the island was threatened with serious impairment. The capital cost of mill construction and machinery instalment was enormously increased, and on that inflated capital expenditure interest must now continue to be paid out on infinitely smaller profits. At the same time, new sugar lands were costing a great deal more to put under cane owing to the absurdly high wages that the most illiterate labourers were able to secure. Some sugar companies wisely took such expenditures out of current profit and thus reduced their capital charges. Such companies are to-day financially sound, and will be able to make money with sugar at any price. Other concerns were intent only on declaring fat dividends, and borrowed large sums for equipment expenditures. These companies will now have to produce low-priced sugar with the millstones of large capital indebtedness hanging over them, and with very little in reserve. The general level of Cuban sugar-producing concerns is consequently rather "spotty," and the near future will probably find some of them in serious financial troubles.

In conclusion, the present painful situation in which Cuba finds itself will probably be immensely relieved by the marketing of this winter's sugar crop. But not until the moratorium has been finally removed will the weak spots of Cuban finance

and industry really be laid bare. Cuba has experienced more inflation than almost any other country in the world. As a natural corollary, the process of deflation will be the more distressing to the victims.

THE HOUSE-FLY PERIL.

A Barbados Paper's Enterprise.

The peril to human health resulting from the carriage of infection by the common house-fly could not be exaggerated, some of the worst maladies known, such as typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera, diarrhoea, and ophthalmia being due to this cause. It cannot be too widely known that the filthy house-fly feeds on excreta and transfers the germs of these diseases to the household food, which thus becomes infected.

This subject has been frequently dealt with in the CIRCULAR, which now learns with satisfaction that an organised campaign having for its object the destruction of flies is being carried out in Barbados, where in some parts, at any rate, they are peculiarly prevalent.

FLY CAMPAIGN.



THE DANGER EXPLAINED.

Material aid in this connection is being given by our enterprising contemporary *The Weekly Illustrated Paper*, which, in its issue of December 11th, gives prominence to the pictorial object-lesson reproduced on this page. One would like to see every newspaper in the West Indies similarly calling attention to the fly menace.

It may be repeated that the pre-eminent means of keeping down the fly is by sanitation, the proper treatment of stable manure, the destruction of refuse, the use of water in household sanitation, and, where water is impossible, the use of dark, dry earth privies.

EVERY subscription reminder costs money and worry. Will, therefore, members of the West India Committee who have not done so already kindly pay their subscription at any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada, or forward it direct.

OUR PETROLEUM RESOURCES.

Empire's Favourite Oilfield - Trinidad.

In a paper which he read at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, on January 25th, on the Petroleum Resources of the British Empire, Mr. George Howell stated that the present supply of petroleum from British sources did not exceed 3 per cent. of the world's production, and that it was our duty, therefore, to test, explore and find the precious liquid.

Referring specifically to the West Indies, he said that those islands were interesting from the point of oil-production. Trinidad was, however, the favourite, but its area was not extensive, being only 1,754 square miles. The first well to test the oil possibilities of the island was put down in 1902, and in 1903 and 1904 four other wells were drilled, with Mr. Randolph Rust as pioneer. In 1903 the Government secured the services of Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, then of the Geological Survey of Scotland, and later appointed Sir John Cadman mining engineer. These two British repre-

sentatives did great service in making Trinidad what it is to-day. In 1904 the Guayaguayare Mayaro section was geographically mapped; this was the foundation of Trinidad's steady shot to commercial prosperity.

Rock structures could be divided into (1) the Northern Range; (2) the Central Range; and (3) the Southern Range. With the exception of certain metamorphosed rock of doubtful age and isolated Cretaceous patches, Tertiary rocks predominated; the thickness of the strata went up to 6,000, and in places 6,500 feet; and the rocks had three main horizons, namely the La Brea sands (Pitch Lake deposits), the Rio Blanco oil sands and

Galeota petroliferous group (3,600 to 4,000 feet further down), this latter lying near to the base of the Tertiary beds. The famous Stollmeyer well, drilled in June, 1912, had an initial flow of over 2,400 barrels per day, and, after two years flowing, gave at the rate of 120 barrels. Another well (No. 42) gave an initial flow of 24,000 barrels per day for several days, but the well was set on fire by the act of some careless workman striking a match in the danger zone. Some countries clapped men in prison who even had matches on their person when in the oil zone.

The oils varied in gravity from 0.975 to 0.810, giving from 4 per cent. petrol up to as high as 40 per cent. The heavier oils were from the first horizons, and the lighter oils from the lowest horizon. Many people believed that the oils were only from an asphaltic-base, but this was not so. A consignment of 100 tons of oil was shipped to this country and gave 44 per cent. petrol. To indicate

some of the valuable assistance rendered by the Government in times gone by, Mr. Alexander Duckham told the story that a certain company in Trinidad applied to be allowed to put down tankage for loading steamers. The Government agreed that it was necessary that permission should be given, and as Sir John Cadman was on the island at the time they consulted him. They told him they thought no tank should have a capacity greater than 5 tons. While agreeing with them, Sir John said he thought they had forgotten the 0's, and he proceeded to add on three 0's after the 5.

MODIFIED ACTIVITY IN BARBADOS.

Working costs were not heavy, but road-making was sometimes a big item—as much as £1,000 a mile. The actual boring should not exceed £5,000, and wells had been bored at a cost of £1,000, plus, of course, machinery, etc. No records of production were kept up to 1907. From 1908 to 1914, nearly 2,000,000 barrels were produced from 174 wells. The production for 1919 could be taken as 2,780,000 barrels; so there was a very great improvement in our own colony. In drilling through soft Tertiary clays and sands, the usually soft and caving ground and the velocity of flowing sands had to be considered, especially when gas was in much evidence. The Colombia mud volcano occasionally became very active. It had been known to shoot up tons of plastic clay, with fragments of rock and shale, hurling them up hundreds of feet into the air. These actions were so violent in 1911 that an island made its appearance off Erin, and the fire of the erupting cone burnt for over fifteen hours. Modified activity had been displayed in Barbados, where wells, when brought in, were worth between 25 to 100 barrels a day.

In connection with the claim made recently by Lieut.-Colonel Barrett Lennard, at the annual meeting of the Globe Oilfields, that the first oil was produced in Trinidad in 1909, and Mr. Howell's statement that the first well was put down in 1902, it may be noted that the Secretary of the West India Committee, in a paper read before the members of the Royal Colonial Institute at Bristol, on January 17th, stated that oil was first struck in Trinidad as far back as 1864 by a company called the Trinidad Petroleum Co., promoted by Mr. H. B. Sheridan, M.P., and the eleventh Earl of Dundonald. Oil was struck at La Brea, but competition with the new oilfields in the United States proved too formidable, and this and other causes forced the company into liquidation. Two years later a civil engineer named Derwent started boring at Aripere. He, too, struck oil, but failed to make a financial success of the venture.

No further steps were taken towards winning oil until about twenty years ago, when Mr. Randolph Rust, a local resident (now Mayor of Port-of-Spain), imported modern oil boring machinery and successfully struck oil at Aripere in 1901. Other prospectors then came on the scene, and in 1910, following the successful flotation of the Trinidad Oilfields, quite a number of companies were floated to exploit local oilfields, and Trinidad enjoyed such a boom as no West Indian colony had experienced,

at any rate for many a long day. On April 27th in the following year Sir George Le Hunte, the then Governor, opened the valve at the end of the pipeline on Brighton Pier, thus inaugurating the new industry which is now being developed at a rapid rate.

The lecturer, continuing, said that the industry, which was hampered during the period of acute shortage of tonnage by delays in the delivery of material, was not progressing very rapidly on sound economic lines, and with many new wells being drilled, it was certain that the production of oil, which in 1919 amounted to 64,436,632 gallons, would undergo material expansion. All the principal British petroleum companies had now acquired, or were acquiring, an interest in the Trinidad oilfields, which circumstance alone should be sufficient to indicate the importance which is attached to this new source of production of one of the most essential requisites of the age.

OBITUARY.

Sir Gerald Aubrey Goodman, K.C.

We regret to state that Sir Gerald Aubrey Goodman, K.C., died at Bath on Thursday, January 20th.

Born in Barbados in 1862, Sir Gerald Goodman was the son of Mr. Flavius Augustus Goodman. He was educated at the Lodge School and Harrison College, in the island of his birth, and also at University College, London. In 1885, he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple, of which Inn he was First Common Law scholar. Returning to Barbados, he practised at the local Bar for some years, and in 1896 he was appointed Solicitor-General after acting in that capacity in the three preceding years. In 1907 he was made Attorney-General of Barbados, a position which he filled until 1913, when he was appointed Chief Judicial Commissioner in the Federated Malay States, receiving the honour of knighthood last year. Unfortunately he contracted a painful tropical complaint, and for some months he had been under treatment in England when the end came, and he consequently never took up the appointment of Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements, to which he had been gazetted. Whilst in Barbados, Sir Gerald Aubrey Goodman was a Member of the House of Assembly, the Board of Education, and many other bodies, and he was, until his death a Member of the West India Committee. He was married in 1885 to a daughter of Mr. E. J. Cobbett, R.B.A., who pre-deceased him by a few weeks. The funeral took place at the Abbey Cemetery, Bath, on January 25th, and was attended by Sir Arthur Young, late Governor of the Straits Settlements, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, of Barbados, and many others.

During last year 419 new members were elected to the West India Committee. The corresponding figures for the previous seventeen years are given below.

1903	279	1909	155	1915	120
1904	342	1910	157	1916	109
1905	138	1911	126	1917	152
1906	150	1912	146	1918	222
1907	141	1913	122	1919	242
1908	180	1914	31	1920	419

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The banana borer need not be feared as a pest if proper precautions are taken. A report made by the Government Entomologist in Jamaica, according to the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*, states that the control of the pest would depend, in the absence of natural checks, on careful regard to (1) high cultivation, (2) clean culture, (3) crop rotation, and (4) trapping.

An analysis of a batch of cacao-shell powder, used as a constituent of horse-feed, showed 1.09 per cent. theobromine and 9.36 per cent. fatty substances. Poisoning of the horses eating the food is ascribed to the high percentage of theobromine by F. Rothéa in the "*Bulletin des Sciences Pharmaceutiques*." It would appear from this that untreated cacao shells are unfit food for animals.

Mr. T. H. P. Heriot's book on "The Manufacture of Sugar" is warmly commended by the "*Agricultural News*" as being of value to those actually engaged in sugar making, as well as to students in sugar schools. Mr. Heriot is lecturer on sugar technology at the Technical College, Glasgow, and is spoken of as being likely to be helpful in the research work to be carried out by the Sugar Research Association.

A correspondent writes with reference to the note in last CIRCULAR on the subject of Tonka beans that there are immense areas in Northern Brazil where the beans can be gathered in large quantities. The beans are shelled, soaked in rum or high wines, and then allowed to dry slowly, without exposure to sun or artificial heat. There is a good demand for them in the cities of Brazil, and also for the essential oil extracted from them. Little attention has been paid to the export trade.

In these times of intense commercial competition it is necessary to submit the commonest agricultural operations to scientific research. The Cornell University Experiment Station has published a study by E. W. Benjamin for the purpose of determining the results that may be obtained by selecting the breeding stock of the domestic fow, and the eggs for hatching, in order to change the size, shape, and colour of the eggs produced by the offspring.

When the Sugar Research Committee gets to work, the subject of manures will doubtless come in for a share of attention. An article by Prof. Shall in *Science* is important; it points out that agriculturists have been content with applying nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium as a complete fertiliser. They should work now solely from the standpoint of limiting factors, including not only these three, but sulphur, calcium, magnesium, and any other factors that limit crop production.

British Honduras is the chief source of supply of mahogany to London. According to Messrs. Churchill & Sim's "Annual Market Report for 1920," 10,594 tons arrived from British Honduras out of a total of 19,308 tons. But of this total, 4,744 tons were African mahogany, not true mahogany (*Swietenia*). Timber merchants prefer squared logs, for which prices for Honduras mahogany average 15d. to 20d. per superficial foot, whereas for round logs only 10d. to 15d. is given.

Cedar during the first half of the year from Trinidad and Honduras found ready buyers at full rates, but later some inferior kind was put on the market, and the stock remains unsold. Lignum Vitæ, from Jamaica, St. Domingo, Cuba, &c., was received in small quantity, and there was a satisfactory demand for sizeable wood of good quality. Scarcely any cocus wood or boxwood was sent over; fresh importations of well-grown, sizeable wood would be sure to create competition and sell at satisfactory rates. No fresh shipments of lance-wood spars can be recommended, as there is a considerable stock on hand.

Douglas fir trees in British Columbia produce sugar when they get plenty of exposure to sun and abundance of soil moisture. The trees under these favourable conditions gather more carbohydrates than normally, and the leaves become water-gorged. This water contains a sugar created by the reconversion of starch into sugar. The warm, dry atmosphere evaporates the water, and the sugar remains to form drops of water deposited at the leaf tips. Analysis of the sugar shows that it contains a large percentage of an extremely rare variety of sugar.

Research continues to be made in Accessory Food Factors, commonly known as Vitamines. Its practical value is shown by the work done lately in Vienna by two English lady doctors in cases of deficiency diseases. The Medical Research Council states that a disease in which the bones of adults undergo softening and distortion was cured in many cases by different fats—cod-liver oil, butter, rape oil, olive oil, and margarine. Nursing mothers of infants who had failed to thrive were given butter or cod-liver oil and antiscorbutics. As a rule the infants made instant improvement, which was maintained.

Experiments are being carried out in the West Indies as to the best means of destroying rats. Dr. Dewar, in the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*, gives the following advice: "Cut up or split the underground roots of rose apple. Fill a kerosene tin a quarter full with the pieces, and half fill the tin with water. Boil until the water gets a rich red colour. Put a quart or two of corn into a crocus bag; tie it up, leaving room for the corn to swell. Put the bag into the tin. Add more cut rose apple roots, and add water so as to cover all. Boil for an hour or two. Place the boiled corn in rat runs. If the rats eat all, give them more in three or four days.

WEST INDIES' SOUND POSITION.

Colonial Bank Manager's Views.

Mr. Charles H. Hewett, Joint General Manager of the Colonial Bank, has returned to London from the West Indies, where he recently spent three months inspecting branches. To a representative of the CIRCULAR, shortly after his arrival, he stated that, though the slump in prices was causing some anxiety, he regarded the economic position of the West Indies as sound. Like other parts of the world, those colonies were over-stocked, and the

FREEDOM'S EMBLEM



A PATRIOTIC EMBLEM.

Americans as well as Englishmen will be surprised to learn that this patriotic emblem is reproduced from one of the Exercise Books used in the Schools in Jamaica, which is a British Colony.

importers were complaining that they only received delivery of goods ordered months before at high prices when the slump came, and the commodities were no longer required. This was specially the case with regard to Canadian flour.

Asked for his views regarding the proposal to establish a West Indian currency, he said that he did not believe that a separate coinage for the West Indies was necessary or practical, nor that it would involve a profit of £80,000 a year, as had been suggested, inasmuch as the requirements in respect of silver were less than they were some years ago

(Concluded in next column.)

JAMAICA'S SCHOOL BOOKS.

Chance for a British Firm.

Englishmen are getting so accustomed to receiving letters from the United States with the stamps obliterated by a post-mark instructing them to join the American Navy, that they will probably learn with complaisance that exercise-books embellished "Good Old Glory" are being freely used in Jamaica schools by the rising generation. Three specimens of these books have reached the West India Committee. One is reproduced on this page. Another is adorned with a shield bearing the Stars and Stripes, the word "America" in bold block type, and is surmounted by Old Glory and the American Eagle; while the third shows the American National Emblem in red and blue.

It must not be imagined for one moment that the flooding of Jamaica with these books is due to propaganda on the part of the United States. The cause seems rather to lie in the difficulty which the Kingston stores experienced in securing a British exercise-book during and immediately after the war. Be that as it may, it is remarkable that such books should have been offered for sale, and still more remarkable that they should have been purchased by the benignant Jamaica schoolmasters, who, one would have thought, would have supplied their impressionable young pupils with plain paper rather than with books bearing a foreign flag.

With the price of paper falling, it is to be hoped that some British manufacturer may be induced to provide at a reasonable price an "All British" exercise-book which can be substituted for the American article. Can one picture the American schoolmasters in the Philippine Islands or Hawaii handing out exercise-books decorated with the Union Jack to their children?

An able letter from the pen of Sir Edward Davson appears in the *Times* of January 31st. on the subjects of Federation and the Constitution of the West Indian Colonies. It follows an article on these topics which was published in the same newspaper on January 29th.

It now appears that the Press was perfectly correct in describing the reptile presented by the Jamaica Boy Scouts to the London Zoo last year as a crocodile. Professor E. Boulenger, Curator of reptiles in that institution, to whom the CIRCULAR referred the point, writes under date January 19th: "The specimen in question was a true crocodile, *Crocodylus Americanus*, which inhabits Florida, the West Indies, Central America, and Northern South America. The American alligator is confined to the S.E. United States."

(Continued from the preceding column.)

owing to the increasing use of paper notes. Moreover, silver would have to be melted down when the colonies were over-supplied. He did not regard the use of English and American currency denominations for purpose of calculation as inconvenient: the people were accustomed to it, and it had never presented any difficulties.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 31.)

The appearance of Barbados from the sea has often been described. Its outstanding feature is the brilliant green of the cane fields, provided that the seasons have been favourable and the island has not suffered from drought. Bridgetown, the capital, straggles along the curving sea-front among casuarina and palm trees, from out of which stand prominently the domes of the Barbados Mutual Building, which accommodates the very hospitable Bridgetown Club, and the towers of the Public Buildings and St. Michael's Cathedral. Away to the right is Needham's Point, with its lighthouse, while to the left is Pelican Island, now used as a quarantine station—and woe betide you if you venture to tell anyone in a Barbadian's presence that Barbados is understood to be a small dependency of Pelican Island!

Carlisle Bay seemed more full of shipping than it used to be twenty years ago, and the tapering masts of a number of four-masted schooners gave it quite an old time look. These vessels make Barbados their rendezvous, where they wait for orders and for the chance of picking up a cargo for America, from whose ports they come. The inevitable diving boys—some black, some copper-coloured, and others almost white—commenced their activities even before we had dropped anchor, and several immense lighters, propelled by long sweeps, came alongside to relieve the *Gianna* of that part of her cargo destined for Barbados. It is claimed that cargo can be handled more expeditiously by lighterage at this port than it could be if steamers were berthed alongside a wharf, inasmuch as the lighters can be loaded and unloaded, as the case may be, on both sides of a ship at once, while a wharf can only serve one side at a time.

The shipping companies book you to Barbados, but they do not guarantee to put you ashore when you get there. The passengers, as a rule, have to look after that part of the business themselves, and commit their bodies and belongings to the tender mercies of the excited and gesticulating boatmen, who use every wile to induce you to patronise their respective craft, which are named after celebrities of the day, and also (as one noticed with some surprise, as there is the whole British Empire to draw upon for inspiration) after American States.

This delinquency on the part of the shipowners in respect of landing facilities did not, however, cause me any anxiety, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson having placed a launch at my disposal, which enabled me to reach the landing steps in comfort.

Like several other small harbours in the West Indies, that of Bridgetown is called the "Carenage," because it was in it that the sailing ships in the old days were careened, or laid on their sides, to enable their seams to be caulked; but no ship could be careened at Bridgetown to-day, so closely is the harbour packed with shipping. Schooners and sloops which carry cargo and hardy passengers (who have to sleep in odious, and odorous, little kennels

fastened to the deck and called "dog hatches") to and from the neighbouring islands, and the famous Speightstown Schooners, which ply between the capital and the second town of the island, lie so close together that the bowsprit of one vessel overlaps the poop of the next. Rowing boats, launches and lighters help to make up the scrum, and evidence of the need for increased harbour accommodation forces itself upon one's notice on every side.

See Bridgetown and then . . .

Many passing travellers do not go ashore at Bridgetown. They say that having seen it once, they do not want to see it again. To me, however, it is, and always will be, a genuine delight to set foot on Barbados. There is something so homely about the place and its people, and its climate is so exhilarating.

Of Bridgetown one might say with Alphonse Karr, "*Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose.*" The fortunes of Barbados may rise or fall, but its capital is always the same shabby, dusty, and mean town, infested with beggars, and almost destitute of sidewalks. One cannot help thinking that Père Labat, the famous Dominican missionary and historian of the West Indies, who visited Bridgetown in the year 1700, must have had his tongue in his cheek when he described it as "handsome, with straight, wide, clean and well laid out streets." "The houses," he wrote, "are all well built in the style of those of England, with many glazed windows. The whole place has an air of neatness, gentility and opulence, which one does not find in the other islands, and which it would be difficult to find elsewhere." It is impossible to believe that Bridgetown could ever have justified this glowing description, though it must be remembered that it has had its fair share of those terrible fires which used to spread so rapidly among the wooden buildings in these parts before efficient fire brigades were established. But however that may be one can say fearlessly and without danger of incurring the wrath of its inhabitants, that Bridgetown is no credit to Barbados, and that it certainly does not reflect the growing prosperity of the island.

Most of the houses are mean two-storied buildings, with frail balconies overlooking the streets. Some, and notably those in the side streets, which you must visit if you would study life and character, are quite picturesque, but one would imagine that nearly all leave much to be desired from a sanitary point of view. During the busy time of the day the streets are densely crowded, and the stores and hucksters do a roaring trade. The latter, mostly women attired in scrupulously white dresses, very full in the skirt, which during working hours has a reef taken in it at the waist, appear to thrive, though their stock in trade may only consist of a few yams, plantains, and sweets that are carried in flat trays on their heads. At night these women will stand in rows at the corners of the streets, shoulder to shoulder, each with one foot on a box so that she can conveniently support on her knee her tray, which is illuminated by a candle or a paraffin lamp. In the narrow streets mule and donkey carts, and remarkable contrivances called "spiders," consisting of two large wheels, between

which hogsheads or barrels of syrup are slung, rub their wheels against the automobiles and buggies of the well-to-do, and the bustle and confusion reaches its height at mid-day.

My headquarters were to be the Marine Hotel, about two miles out of town along the coast road to the east. It is reached by Bay Street. This street has undergone little change. The dust and glare were still conspicuous, and so, too, were the prehistoric tramcars still drawn by wretched-looking mules, though the steel rails for a long promised electric service were lying alongside the road in places.

The empty shell of a substantial building constructed of coral rock, and destined some day to become a theatre, was pointed out as something new, but it stood roofless, deserted and forlorn, the company responsible for its erection having come to the end of its resources. Sir Robert Schomburgk records that a handsome theatre was opened in what is now Coleridge Street in 1812; but it was completely destroyed during the hurricane of 1831. The need for a proper theatre is great, for there is much amateur theatrical talent in the island whose dramatic gifts deserve a better setting than a "fit-up" stage in the Volunteer Drill Hall. Apart from this, a suitable theatre would, no doubt, attract more touring companies to Barbados and add to the entertainment of its people during the long tropical nights.

The commencement of a real improvement was noticed in the Bay Street Esplanade, a short terrace between the road and the sea planted with tall palm trees, with a band-stand in the centre. It was hoped that this esplanade might gradually be extended; but that was not to be, and one learnt with astonishment that a considerable slice of this rare seaside walk had already been granted by the local authorities to an oil company, whose offices and warehouse adjoined it. Indeed, the work of spoliation had already begun, part of the esplanade being already boarded off, thus postponing indefinitely the day when Barbados can have a driveway round its south-east coast to correspond with the famous Malecon at Havana.

Bay Street is still bordered by small villa residences, the continuity of which is only broken by the Garrison Savannah, the headquarters of the white troops until they were withdrawn in 1905, with its orderly arrangement of red barracks surrounding a large expanse of grass. Overlooking this is the old Guard Room with a picturesque minaret heavily decorated with the Royal Arms. This Guard Room is now devoted to the use of the Savannah Club, a country club second to none for the good-fellowship which prevails among its members, while the Savannah has become the local race-course. In the evening, when the setting sun glows upon them, the contrast between the red walls of the buildings and the deep blue of the sky is quite fascinating in its beauty.

At the Marine Hotel we received a cordial welcome from its host, Mr. Pomeroy, one of the most English of all Americans, who, no doubt owing to his having wintered in Barbados for fully a quarter of a century, appears to be gifted with perpetual youth. It is true that he has given up his coach

drives to the "Haunted Wood," the "Cannibals' River," and other spots whose history and traditions were built up by his own fertile imagination; but that was due to the arrival of the motor-car rather than his inability to handle the ribbons. It was also a pleasure to meet again several of the delegates selected to attend the second triennial Conference of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, the proceedings of which had been opened on the preceding day, among them being Mr. H. F. Previté, of the West India Committee, Mr. Stanley Woods, of British Honduras, the Hon. J. Elliott Sprott and Mr. J. M. Gray, of St. Vincent, and that triumvirate of veterans from Trinidad, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Mr. Adam Smith and Mr. Edgar Tripp. Mr. Smith, alas, is now no more, having succumbed to the effects of a chill in a colder clime, and one cannot help thinking that if he had remained in the less treacherous climate of the West Indies he might have been spared for many years of useful work. In Barbados these veterans put the younger men to shame by their energy and activity. Every morning they were up with the lark, or its Barbadian equivalent, and before seven of the clock were disporting themselves in the sea at the bathing place known as Villa Franca.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIAN FREIGHT RATES.

General Reduction Foreshadowed.

A Conference between a Sub-Committee of the West India Committee and representatives of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and Messrs. Thos. & Jas. Harrison was held at the West India Committee Rooms on January 24th, when a discussion regarding freight rates took place. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Keefe represented the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and Mr. Francis A. Baddeley and Mr. Stark the Harrison Line, while the West India Committee was represented by Mr. E. A. de Pass, who presided, Sir Edward Davson, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. H. J. Freeman, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G.

The various items in the schedule of rates were discussed, and it is understood that a general reduction is contemplated. The sugar rate will be subject to private agreement, that on cocoa will be reduced from 160/- to 180/-, and similar reductions will be made throughout the list. The representatives of the Shipping Companies pointed out the difficulties of their position due to the export trade having fallen off to almost vanishing point owing to the West Indies being over-stocked with goods of all kinds at the moment, coupled with the great increase in wages, etc., and the representatives of the Committee similarly called attention to the serious decline in the prices of almost all kinds of West Indian produce, pointing out that unless freights were reduced materially, shipments would fall off very seriously.

Special reference was made by Mr. de Pass to the differentiation in the rates against Jamaica, and it was stated that the reasons were those set out in a leading article in last CIRCULAR.

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's Governor ill.

Owing to the illness of the Governor, Sir Edward Merewether, Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, the Colonial Secretary, was appointed Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands by proclamation dated December 20th.

Bahamas' Steamship Question.

The *Nassau Guardian*, which, since January, has appeared daily, instead of bi-weekly as heretofore, believes that the unfortunate delay in the transfer to the British flag of the steamers *Berkeley* and *Brandon* which the Nassau Hotel and Steamship Company were purchasing from the Old Dominion Line, will probably necessitate the cancellation of the steamship contract as far as this season is concerned. The company, however, intends to commence the erection of the hotel, Fort Montagu, towards the end of February, and the building should be complete before the end of the year. It is announced that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's *Quilpie*, well known of late years on the Trans-Atlantic route, will carry passengers between New York and Nassau.

The Newly Elected M.P.'s in Barbados

The *Barbados Advocate* of December 24th reports that the weather for the fortnight was cool but dry, and showers would be welcome. The cane crops were fairly healthy but as was to be expected from the drought, the fields were thin and somewhat low.

The Houses of Parliament met for the 1920-1 Session on November 30th. The constitution of the new House of Assembly is as follows:—Mr. H. B. G. Austin and Mr. C. W. Haynes, City of Bridgetown; Mr. R. G. Cave and Mr. G. C. Williams, St. Michael; Sir Frederick James Clarke, K.C.M.G., and Mr. G. S. Evelyn, Christ Church; Mr. E. B. Skeete, St. Philip; Dr. N. L. Boxill and Mr. S. S. Robinson, St. George; Dr. W. B. Clarke, St. John; Mr. C. B. Austin, St. James; Messrs. S. C. Thorne and C. H. Wright, St. Thomas; Hon. C. P. Clarke, K.C., LL.B. (*Attorney General*) and Mr. J. D. Chandler, St. Peter; Mr. H. W. Reece, K.C. (*Solicitor General*) and Dr. W. B. H. Massiah, St. Lucy; Mr. H. G. Yearwood, St. Joseph; and Mr. E. I. Baeza and Mr. E. L. Skeete, St. Andrew.

After the re-election of Sir Frederick Clarke as Speaker of the House of Assembly, an office which he has held for over twenty-two years, the Governor delivered his inaugural speech to the House, in which he referred to the memorable visit of the Prince of Wales. Dealing with the difficulties under which the whole world was labouring as the aftermath of the war, he doubted whether any portion of the Empire had suffered less than Barbados. His Excellency strongly recommended the building up of the Government's reserve fund, and foreshadowed the re-introduction of the Income-Tax Bill, which was still on the Order Paper of the House of Assembly when last Session expired. The report of Mr. I. Paton Auld, Engineer of British Guiana Sea Defences, who had been asked to make recommendations for improved harbour facilities, had been received.

Mr. A. K. F. Duncan dies in British Guiana.

Mr. A. K. F. Duncan, Governing Director of Messrs. Smith Bros. & Co., Ltd., died at the Public

Hospital, on December 20th, at the age of seventy-one. Mr. Duncan was an old colonist, having first gone out to British Guiana forty-five years ago as a clerk to Messrs. Playfairs, Ltd. He joined Smith Bros. & Co. thirty-eight years ago. In 1901, he was President of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, whose members, at a meeting on December 23rd last, passed a resolution of high appreciation of his services. Another death to be recorded is that of Mr. E. Beach, Manager of Plantation Providence, which took place on December 18th.

The Directors of La Bonne Mère, Ltd., have recommended a dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year. The Chamber of Commerce have, with one dissentient, approved the proposal to appoint a West Indian Trade Commissioner in Canada. A mild form of influenza has made its appearance in the Colony, most of the sufferers being domestic servants and children. The *Sallee* left the river on December 20th with a number of East Indians to be repatriated.

Grenada and Representative Government.

Our contemporary, the *West Indian*, publishes the full text of the Petition which has been sent to the King, praying for Representative Government on the grounds that "the absolute disfranchisement of this Colony and consequent deprivation of its people of any voice in fixing the sources or incidence of taxation, the amount of the annual Budget or its allocation, in making the laws of the Colony, or in the general administration, always constituted a legitimate grievance which has grown more serious with the increasing intelligence and general progress of its people." The petitioners accordingly submit that the time has arrived when "that disfranchisement of the inhabitants of this Colony should be reconsidered, Crown Colony rule abrogated because it is invidious and unjust, and due recognition paid to the legitimate right, capacity and aspiration of" the petitioners "to be admitted to a share in the control and government of their country."

They go on to point to the material prosperity of the Colony, which is largely to be attributed to the industry and thrift of the inhabitants; to the high posts held by Grenadians in the Island itself and in neighbouring Colonies; and to Grenada's patriotic record during the war, and the untarnished reputation of its inhabitants as law-abiding subjects of the Empire. They ask, therefore, for a resumption of the representative institutions enjoyed in the Colony up to 1875. The Petition is widely signed, and the covering letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking for it to be forwarded, is subscribed by Hon. W. S. Commissiong, K.C., C.M.G., Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Mr. M. E. H. Martin, and Mr. T. Albert Marryshow.

It is felt in Carriacou that another doctor should be appointed to supplement the efforts of the overworked medical officer who has to look after the health of the 10,000 inhabitants of Carriacou, Petit Martinique, and the three island-wards of St. Vincent.

Bedward's Drolleries in Jamaica.

A serious fire took place at Port Maria on January 5th. Starting in the dry goods store of Messrs. Josephs, and spreading rapidly to the neighbouring premises, it destroyed a great part of the business section of the town, and caused damage estimated at £25,000, only part of which is covered by insurance. On December 23rd, the store of Messrs. Loper & Co., wholesale dry goods merchants at the corner of Port Royal Street and Peters Lane, Kingston, was completely gutted by a fire, the origin of which was unknown.

The village of August Town, in the Parish of St. Andrew, was, during the last few weeks of the old year, the centre of remarkable scenes, pilgrimages being made from surrounding districts to do honour to Bedward, the self-styled "Lord and Master" and "Earl" of August Town. His mission, which seems to have been attended by all the fervour usually found at revivalist gatherings, with the addition of language not usually heard at such revivals, culminated in the "prophet's" proclamation of the end of the world, and his own "ascension" in company with a select few of his followers. The dates for these momentous events were fixed, but to the disappointment of the faithful, had to be postponed. The *Gleaner* heads an entertaining article devoted to Bedward's coming sky-journey with the following "inspired" utterance:—

"Plant dem foot like a tree,
Mek dem stan in the village yah,
And 'noint dem Lard with the kerosene oil of
Salvation,
And light dem wid de match of affliction."

Bedward, as a fanatic and visionary, is no newcomer to the stage, and it is extraordinary that in this Twentieth Century, scores of people should be deluded by vapourings such as those attributed to him. After the "prophet's" repeated failures to fly, his followers numbering over 6,000, many of whom, believing the judgment-day to be at hand, had parted with all their possessions, melted away to their own homes. The only results of this phase of Bedwardism (besides a large sale for white garments) have been the pauperisation and demoralisation of its devotees, and it is to be hoped that the last of the cult has now been seen.

A largely attended carnival ball, which was followed by a midnight supper, was given on New Year's Eve, to mark the complete re-opening of Myrtle Bank Hotel after extensive improvements and enlargement to the designs of Mr. T. M. Seargent, the American architect responsible for this and the Titchfield Hotels.

The Hon. F. M. Kerr-Jarrett has resigned his seat in the Legislative Council, owing to the prolonged sessions and to the fact that the principal session is held when the sugar planter is busiest. Mr. A. G. Nash has declined the honour of becoming a Privy Councillor, and Mr. T. L. Roxburgh, C.M.G., M.L.C. for St. Ann has been appointed by the Governor, succeeding Mr. J. H. Park, O.B.E. Brigadier-General Moulton Barrett, C.M.G., has resigned his appointment as a Privy Councillor, being succeeded by the Hon. R. Johnstone, C.M.G.

The Jamaica Imperial Association has passed resolutions strongly protesting against the imposition of a super-tax upon property owners whose properties exceed in value £15,000, on the grounds that such a measure is unnecessary, and has the character of class legislation. The Governor has invited the elected Members of the Legislative Council to discuss with him the Annual Estimates of expenditure for the year. Such meetings would be purely "advisory" on the lines of those of the Barbados Executive Committee and would not hamper the freedom of action in the Legislative Council of those members who attended.

Mr. A. W. Farquharson, President of the Jamaica Imperial Association, and "ablest of living Jamaicans," as the *Jamaica Times* calls him, returned to the Island on December 28th, after an absence in New York, and has deservedly received a very cordial welcome.

St. Lucia's Sugar Shortage.

A shortage of sugar was apparent in the Island just before Christmas, causing some merchants to order from Barbados. *The Voice*, however, believes there is ample sugar held in Castries.

Mr. Lobb returns to St. Vincent.

His Honour R. Popham Lobb, C.M.G., returned to the Colony on December 16th, after an absence on leave of nine months, relieving His Honour Chief Justice Thomas of the duties of acting Administrator.

"Anniversaries" in Tobago.

The weather has been abnormally dry (writes Mr. Robert S. Reid, under date December 23rd) and the light showers were soon dried up by the Trade Winds and bright sunshine. At last the cacao crop is ripening and there will be a good picking from mid December onwards. The rainfall has been so erratic this year that the crop prospects are very uncertain. Planters, as a rule, are hopeful, and would need to be, as present prices will hardly make ends meet on an average crop. No one grudges increased wages and comforts for labourers, but plantation owners will have problems to face, if markets do not improve shortly, while pay days this week will be cheerful because of bonuses and Christmas gifts. Concerts and dances are in full swing amongst the people, the church schools being headquarters for these events. "Anniversaries," or "breaking up for holiday" concerts, were frequent last week. Planters, or "settlers" as we like to call ourselves, are also maintaining the good old name of Christmas with dances and evening parties. Tennis courts are also more lively. The "King's Bay Tennis Club" is the latest addition and helps to promote social intercourse with the settlers in this district.

In a later letter dated December 31st, Mr. Reid complains of the delay in receiving home mails, in spite of the arrival of several steamers from the Old Country. In the last few days there have been welcome refreshing showers. December has been far too dry and this makes planters rather anxious about the dry season cacao crop. In the Windward District, large pickings of cacao are reported in January and February, but the prospects thereafter are uncertain and depend almost entirely on the January rainfall. The year now closing will be almost a record in low rainfall and almost 25 per cent. under the average. The moist valleys will not suffer much, but the flats stand a poor chance of yielding anything like last year's crop. Last sales in Trinidad at \$11 to \$12 per fanega will not cover working expenses except in favoured plantations. The outlook is far from cheerful, but those who can, will no doubt maintain their cultivation in the hope of benefiting when prices take an upward turn. The "Windward Agricultural Show" takes place in Roxburgh on January 12th, conflicting unfortunately with the Criminal Sessions at Scarborough, and many of us will be deprived of the pleasure of the "show," which is naturally an exciting event in this little community.

The Trinidad Preferential Tariff.

It is understood that steps are to be taken to bring the Trinidad Preferential Tariff into accord with Article 5 of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. Meanwhile, the Legislative Council has unanimously voted the sum of £250 to the Hon. H. B. Walcott, C.M.G., Collector of Customs, in recognition of his valuable services at the Ottawa Conference. Mr. Tripp writes under date, December 21st, "Money votes are not supposed to emanate from the unofficial side of the House, but it is an open secret that

on this occasion the suggestion came from the un-officials, and it is equally certain that the vote met with very general approval."

A Gazette Extraordinary has been published containing the official record of the visit of the Prince of Wales to the island. The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce endorsed the representations made by the British Guiana Chamber to the Canadian Government, urging them to take steps to relieve the Canadian sugar refiners in the serious financial embarrassment.

Mrs. Perez has again been on the war-path of good works and has secured what was, perhaps, her greatest triumph in a "Revuesical Medley" entitled "Saucy Stunts," in aid of the poor at Christmas time. This unique entertainment was given at our new theatre, The Empire, a beautiful building with seats for 1,500 people, every one of which was booked beforehand, whilst some hundreds were unable to obtain admission. Anything similar to this rush to witness a performance in Trinidad has not been seen, and no greater compliment could have been paid to the energetic and talented lady under whose arrangement and production the entertainment was given. A medal of praise must be added for the able assistance given to Mrs. Perez by Mrs. Denis Slyne and others.

The series of merry songs and dances delighted the audience and appeared to me to be of equal excellence to anything of the kind that I saw in London during my visit last year. The permanent stage of the theatre not yet having been completed, the performance had to be given on a temporary erection about 5 feet in width, with only a curtain for a background, a fact which makes the excellence of the show more noticeable.

Cotton Development in Turks and Caicos.

At a meeting of the Legislative Board on November 26th, His Honour G. Whitfield Smith, the President, in presenting the Estimates for 1921, said that the outlook was extremely hopeful and the credit balance at the end of 1920 would again be the largest in the annals of the Dependency. There was a steady demand for their salt at prices which still disclosed a fair margin of profit. The rapid development which was taking place in the direction of a cotton industry was most encouraging. The efforts of the West India Development Company at Haulover, Middle Caicos, and of Mr. H. B. Stevens, at Parrot Cay, were responsible for the cultivation of over 600 acres in this product, to which might be added another 100 acres in the hands of small growers in various parts of the Caicos Islands. It was reasonable to anticipate an output of at least 300 bales of cotton and 1,300 bags of cotton seed as the crop of 1921. These were remarkable results for an industry that four years ago was non-existent.

R. M. CONNELL, assistant Trade Commissioner for the United States at Rio de Janeiro, reports that the Associato dos Agricultores de Cacão, founded in 1918, in Bahia, has organised in the capital of Bahia, Sao Salvador, the Sindicato Cultivadores de Cacão (Syndicate of Cacao Cultivators) for the purpose of fostering the development of that industry, perfecting its products, promoting the acquisition of all material and necessary machinery for the culture of the fields, and protecting the interests of its associates. A co-operative society of limited responsibility, known as the Credito Rural de Cacão, with its headquarters in the city of Sao Salvador, was also constituted in general assembly on August 2nd, 1919.

VITAMINES IN GREEN FODDER

Cause of Nutritive Value of "Cane."

The *International Review of the Science and Practice of Agriculture* for January contains an interesting abstract of an article in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* on the important subject of vitamins in plants used as food. This subject is of the utmost importance in dietary, and it may supply the explanation why the nutritive value of raw cane sugars is greater than that of refined sugar, natural constituents being present in raw cane sugars which are of the vitamine class. The abstract runs as follows:—

"The authors have studied the presence in certain green plants of fat-soluble and water-soluble vitamins by means of feeding tests on rats. In order to test for each of these vitamins, the product under study was fed in a ration rich in the other kind of vitamine. The following vegetable foods were tested: Leaves and stalks of spinach; whole inside leaves of cabbage; whole young plants of alfalfa, clover and timothy grass, after drying in the air at 50-60°, then finely ground.

"The results obtained indicate that 10 per cent. of spinach furnished a little less than the required amount of water-soluble vitamine, while the rats obtained abundance (for normal development) of fat-soluble vitamine; 145 per cent. of cabbage leaf appears to be equivalent to about 10 per cent. of spinach in respect of water-soluble vitamine. Preliminary experiments with the other plants indicate that the content in water-soluble vitamine of clover and timothy grass is similar to that of cabbage, while alfalfa is a little richer. The content of fat-soluble vitamine appears to be very high.

"According to the few data at present available, green vegetables supply an important addition to human diet, because the staple foods (cereals, potatoes, sugar, meat, fats, etc.) furnish too limited a quantity of either of these vitamins to satisfy wholly the requirements of an adequate diet."

Another abstract on the same subject from the same periodical contains the following as to the food value of the coconut:—

It has been proved that: (1) The globulin of the coconut produces normal growth when used as the sole source of protein in an otherwise complete diet.

(2) Commercial coconut cake furnishes the necessary amount of protein for almost normal growth.

(3) This cake contains sufficient water-soluble vitamins and also some fat-soluble vitamine, but the rate of growth is increased by adding butter fat to the ration.

The total cotton imported into England in 1920 was 1,877,561,500 lbs., as against 1,958,286,700 lbs. in 1919. Of this, the British West Indies sent in 2,598,000 lbs. in 1920, as against 2,011,400 lbs. in 1919.

MR. FREDERICK SEALY CARRINGTON, of Washta, Iowa, an amateur astronomer, who is credited with having been one of the discoverers of the new star in the constellation of Aquila, is the sixth surviving son of the late William Worrell Carrington, M.D., of Welshman's Hall, Barbados.

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VI.—Sir Henry Morgan.

(Continued from page 32.)

The paragraphs complained of were the following :

"This person having served his time at the Barbadoes, after he got his liberty transported himself to Jamaica, where he found two vessels of Sparks that were going to seek their fortunes, which he thought a very good opportunity for himself to do the same. Thereupon he got into the society, and in a short time learnt the trade so exactly that after he had made three or four voyages with some profit and success he agreed with some of his comrades with a joint stock to buy a ship, and such was the esteem which the rest had of him that they agreed to submit to him as their Captain. With this ship he set forth from Jamaica with an intention to cruise upon the coasts of Campeache, in which voyage he had the good fortune to take several prizes with which he returned triumphant to his first port. At his return he met with an old gamester whose name was Mansfeildt, of whom mention has already been made, who was at the same time setting out a considerable fleet with a design to land upon the continent and make booty of all that came in his way. The Mansfeildt, seeing C. M. return with so many prizes, judged him to be what he was, a person of courage and conduct, and therefore chose him for his Vice Admiral. And thus having fitted out fifteen ships, great and small, they set sail from Jamaica with five hundred men, part Walloons part French. The first place where they landed was the Island of St. Katherine's, in twelve degrees and a half of northern latitude, near the continent of Costa Rica. There in a short time they forced the garrison to surrender and to deliver into their hands all the other forts belonging to it."

"All which they demolished but only one where they put a garrison of their own and all the slaves they had taken from the Spaniards for it was not reasonable that they should keep slaves who were now slaves themselves."

"Captain Morgan finding that his predecessor Mansfeildt was dead, used all his endeavours imaginable to preserve the Island of St. Katherine's by reason of the convenience of its situation to infest the Spaniards."

"Captain Morgan had not been above two months in the south parts of the island before he had got together a fleet of twelve sail and about seven hundred men, part English part French. Being thus reinforced, they called a council—for it's good to do nothing rashly what enterprise to undertake. The bolder sort were for assaulting the City of Havana itself under the shelter of the night, but that proposal being rejected as an attempt of too great difficulty, they concluded to pour all their force upon Puerto del Principe, whose inhabitants were looked upon to be very rich as driving a ready-money trade with Havana, and for that the town had never yet experienced the courtesies of the pirates being at a distance from the sea. This being therefore resolved upon, they started to the coasts which were nearest to it and came to an anchor in the Bay of Puerto de Santa Maria, where it fell out unluckily for their design that a Spanish prisoner swam ashore in the night time and gave intelligence to the town of their approach, which caused the Spaniards immediately to hide their wealth and carry away their movable goods. The Governor also armed all the people of the town, both freemen and slaves, cut down the trees and laid several ambuscades in their way. But Captain Morgan finding the ordinary passage to the town impassable, took another way of cutting his passage through a wood, and by that means escaping the ambuscades got safe to the plain that lies before the town called la Savana or the Sheet."

"The Governor, seeing his new guests come, sent a party of horse to welcome them into the country, thinking to overrun them immediately, but the pirates maintained their order so exactly and made such a dexterous use of their firearms that the poor Spaniards dropped from their horses like rotten pears, with their Governor for one, which made the rest turn tail, thinking to fly to the woods for refuge; but ere they could reach their sanctuaries they were most of them cut off with very little loss to their adversaries, who now entered the town, where the inhabitants defended themselves like the true race of the Goths and Vandals for a time; but hearing the dreadful menaces of the foe, who

threatened to fire the town and chop their wives and children as small as herbs to the pot, they presently surrendered at discretion."

"The pirates came to an anchor about a league from the castle, which the Spaniards perceiving began to fire briskly at them with the biggest of their guns. Next morning they landed and marched through a wood resolving to attack the castle on that side, but the difficulties they met with in their march, as also the Spaniards constant firing from the castle, made them much to fear the success of that enterprise, for on that side of necessity they must make the assault. However they resolved rather to hazard all than to give it over."

Apparently Morgan objected to the recital of his exploits which had not specific sanction from the Governor of Jamaica, for there does not seem anything very libellous in the above quoted paragraphs. He swallowed Esquemelin's reference to "Captain Henry Morgan, who may not undeservedly be called the second L'Ollonais, as not being unlike or inferior to him either in achievements against the Spaniards or in robberies of many innocent people."

Morgan, in 1686, tried to get Elletson, so Molesworth wrote home, elected for a remote part of the island, "in order to disturb the Assembly's proceedings," and in that year Elletson was elected for St. George, Charles Morgan's old seat.

In October of that year Morgan's name appears in the list of the Council as submitted by the Duke of Albemarle; but the King ordered that the suspension from the Council of Morgan and Byndloss should continue.

The Duke, who doubtless sympathised with the cause of Modyford and Morgan which his father had espoused, pleaded again in November that they should be included; and in April, 1687, he was authorised to send Morgan to England, if he wished, to plead their cause. In December, 1687, he wrote home, "The whole Council have asked me to recommend the re-admission of Sir Harry Morgan to the Council, which I earnestly do." On April 27th, 1688, the King in Council ordered that the suspension of Sir Henry Morgan and Col. Ivey be taken off, and in July, 1688, Morgan was reinstated.

In 1687, from an affidavit by Colonel Samuel Barry with reference to an "interloping" ship, Sir Henry Morgan was then living in his house close by Port Maria, and that, on the visit of the ship in question (the *Hawk*) the Captain feasted with Morgan on fat guinea goat. He there had better chances of conferring with his old buccannering friends than on the more inhabited south side.

Two months later Morgan died, it is to be feared a drunkard's death, it having been undoubtedly hastened by his hard living. He was prematurely an old man at fifty-three. Sloane, private physician to the governor, the Duke of Albemarle, who attended him, described his patient as being "lean, sallow-coloured, his eyes a little yellowish, and belly a little jutting out or prominent . . . much given to drinking and sitting up late." Morgan seems to have consulted many physicians, including Dr. Rose, who attended him in consultation with Sloane, and had, amongst others, "a Black, who gave him clysters, and plaistered him all over with clay and water, and by it augmented his cough . . . but he languished and, his cough augmenting, died soon after."

He was buried on the Palisades near Port Royal, on the 28th of August, 1688. There is now no sign of the actual spot.

(To be continued.)

LETTERS TO EDITOR.

Non-Potable Fuel Alcohol.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—We desire to call your attention to a paragraph on page 3 of your issue of January 6th, with reference to the production of "Natalite." The paragraph in question is likely to cause a good deal of misapprehension in the West Indies as to the practicality of the fuel, as you refer to the fuel as a mixture which is sold in a potable condition. In your paragraph you have omitted all reference to denaturants, which we use, and which have proved to be absolutely effective. The denaturants are one half of pyridine and one half per cent. of Simouson's oil.

Although "Natalite" has been in general use in South Africa for about four years, where, as you know, there is a large native population, we do not know of any single case of the mixture having been drunk.

I shall be obliged if you will make the necessary correction in your next issue.

Yours faithfully,

THE ALCOHOL FUEL CORPORATION, LIMITED,
C. A. H. FAIRBANK,

Secretary.

The Food Value of Bananas.

To the Editor of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Banana is a noble food plant, but it is strange that Mr. Dudgeon, whose Address is quoted in your last issue, should give currency to the myth (an old familiar one) that it produces more than a hundred times as much food to the acre as wheat, and more than forty times as much as the potato.

Bananas, in good cultivation, may be taken to yield 300 branches per acre in a year, when they are not blown down. Eliminate the stalks, the rinds and the water and you may get about 6,000 lbs. of dried banana figs, on a good yield. Wheat, on the same standard of cultivation, will yield you 2,000 lbs of grain; in high cultivation more. Irish potatoes in England will yield from 6 to 12 tons (say 20,000 lbs) to the acre. Sweet potatoes in the West Indies will yield three to four times as much. Indian corn yields much more food to the acre than either wheat or banana. Let us exercise a little moderation in our enthusiasm for tropical agriculture!

The food value of wheat corn is, of course, greater than that of dried bananas. As you know, the "laborious negro" of the West Indies cooks his banana green, upon the starch he has turned into sugar, and makes good its deficiency of protein with salt fish and red peas. That makes a complete diet.

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY OLIVIER.

(Continued from the next column.)

or post-war conditions, and only now did there appear to be a turn for the better. As regards the current financial year, he had every reason to believe that the results would surpass those of the previous year. Practically none of the new capital raised in 1919 had yet become revenue-earning, nor would it do so until they reached the stage when they could deal with a substantial increase in production. To day the company was responsible for approximately two-thirds of the total production of oil in the island, and believing, as he did, that Trinidad would become an increasingly important factor in the Empire's oil production, he had the greatest confidence in the future of the company.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

West Indian Produce Assn. Ltd.

The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent., less income tax, for the year ended December 31st, 1920.

Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.

The *Financier* gives the following table comparing the results of the operations of this company for four years as under:—

	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20
Production (tons) ...	56,213	154,654	171,288	178,110*
Net Profit ...	£44,047†	£184,316	£187,379	£205,467
Dividend ...	Nil	10%	12%	12%
Reserve ...	Nil	£70,000	£51,000	£61,400
Depreciation ...	—	£63,445	£51,010	—
Carry forward ...	£22,496	£62,365	£62,030	£42,813

* According to monthly returns

† Before deducting £20,551 previous debit balance.

Presiding at the general meeting on January 26th, Mr. T. J. Milner said that the Forest Reserve, as hitherto, was responsible for the major portion of the company's output. At the commencement of the financial year the producing wells on this field totalled 36, and by its close a further 10 wells had reached the producing stage. During the last few months drilling operations had been extended to the eastern portion of the field, and the results so far obtained had confirmed the board in the opinion they entertained as to the probable productivity of this section. Their expectations that this eastern portion of their Forest Reserve property would be found capable of yielding important quantities of oil were also strengthened by the success which had attended the drilling operations of neighbouring companies. Production records of the Barrackpore field indicated a slightly smaller output than last year's, but recent returns were more favourable. Work preparatory to opening up the company's two new fields—Santa Cecilia and Piparo—commenced in the late autumn of 1919, and drilling started in the early months of 1920. The first well on the Piparo field, at a shallow depth, gave indications of the pressure of a high-grade light oil, which, on testing, was found to contain 35 per cent. of petrol. They had on hand the necessary pipe line material to link up this area with their shipping port, a distance of approximately 12 miles, and the construction of this line would be undertaken as soon as the prospects of production warranted it. The quantity of crude oil delivered for treatment during last year to the topping plants at La Carrière and Barrackpore was 141,126 tons, or an increase of 21,715 tons over the previous 12 months' figures. In anticipation of handling larger quantities of oil in the future, additional storage for crude oil, fuel, and distillates was being provided at the shipping port. Even with production on the present scale they had been hampered on occasions through lack of sufficient tankage.

The company's revenue during the past year had increased appreciably, and this in spite of the fact that the bulk of their oil fuel was sold to the Admiralty under contract at the same price as before. An agreement with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., for the marketing of the company's distillates was completed early in 1920, and the shipment of the first cargo was made in April. Since their contract with the Admiralty was entered into, costs had increased to such an extent, and circumstances had so changed in other directions, that it could not now be regarded as suitable to present conditions. They had therefore proposed to the Admiralty a modification of the contract which they considered would prove mutually advantageous. During almost the whole period of the company's operations, they had been handicapped by war

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, per R.M.S. *Patuca*, January 17th.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. J. H. Blakesley | Mr. H. F. A. Digby | Mr. L. M. Lopez |
| Mrs. M. E. Blundell | Miss M. E. English | Mr. F. N. Miles |
| Col. G. P. Bouvier | Mr. L. Franklin | The Misses Milliner (2) |
| Miss N. R. Cairn | Mr. J. U. Gibbody | Mr. H. W. T. Nash |
| Mr. T. Carver | Mr. Cresswell Green | Mr. T. H. C. Oliphant |
| Sir William Christie | Mr. W. W. F. Gouda | Dr. H. Ramsden |
| K.C.R. | Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Harrop | Mr. & Mrs. W. Rhodes |
| Sir Anthony Coll | Mr. A. E. Hawkins | Mrs. M. Thomson |
| Mrs. G. Craig & Son | Mr. A. Henderson | Mr. & Miss. G. Tutin |
| Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Crump | Mr. W. R. Heywood | Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Wimpenny |
| Mr. A. B. Crump | Miss F. Holl | Miss K. C. Wimpenny |
| Miss D. Crumo | Miss E. Jobling | |
| Mr. T. Culverwell | Earl Kitchener of Kharطوم | |
| Mr. L. Culverwell | | |

Sailings to Jamaica from Liverpool, per R.M.S. *Changuinola*, January 25th

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miss M. Bellis | Mr. A. Greer | Miss I. Richards |
| Mr. W. J. Bellis | Mr. W. H. Grindon | Mr. E. H. Stansfield |
| Miss M. A. Bridges | Mr. R. E. Hassell | Mr. & Mrs. P. Vejarano |
| Miss R. A. Bryant | Miss A. M. Howard | Miss A. Walder |
| Mr. T. W. Carr | Miss H. Lindo | Miss Annie Waider |
| Miss H. M. Crommelin | Miss D. Lindo | Mr. P. J. Woolton |
| Brown | Master C. Lindo | Isaacson |
| Mr. G. Crosland | Miss Macleary | Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Williams |
| Mrs. D. Crosland | Mr. & Mrs. L. Mercenier | Mr. W. Whyte |
| Sheldon | Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Newsom | |
| Mr. A. H. Croxton | Mr. F. B. Powell | |
| Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Davis | | |
| Mr. A. Davis | | |

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, per R.M.S. *Camito*, January 31st

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Major & Mrs. D. D. Alexander | Mr. C. V. Espeut | Miss M. W. Relf |
| Col. H. A. Barclay, C.V.O. A.D.C. | Sir John & L. dy Frost | Miss F. G. Schwabe |
| Miss M. Barclay | Mr. H. Fulton | Mr. & Miss J. A. Scott |
| Mrs. A. Bentley | Mr. A. Goldie | Mr. D. K. A. Sharp |
| Miss J. Bentley | Mr. R. Goldie | Miss R. Sheppard |
| Master J. D. Bentley | Miss Grimshaw | Mr. J. H. Shiver |
| Master T. P. Bentley | Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Haslam | Major W. E. Stobart |
| Mr. W. H. Bott | Miss S. W. Huxley | Mrs. E. Stobart |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Brown | Mr. & Mrs. G. Dudley James | Mr. A. H. Stockley |
| Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Brown | Mr. P. H. James | Miss Stockley |
| Master T. Brown | Mrs. L. Lucie Smith | Mr. & Miss R. Stuart |
| Lt. Col. G. F. Bunton, C.B. | Miss E. M. Lucie Smith | Toid |
| Mr. R. Buxton | Mr. & Mrs. P. M. Mackay | Mr. & Mrs. A. Taylor |
| Mr. R. Buxton | Miss K. E. McEvoy | Mr. Howard Todd |
| Callingham-Woods | Lt. Col. & Mrs. A. H. May | Major & Mrs. W. E. Walker |
| Miss Jessie C. May | Mrs. D. Monckton | Mr. H. J. Ward |
| M. G. Cholerton | Mr. A. A. Nathan | Capt. D. S. Waterlow, J.P. |
| Mr. H. Cromie | Mr. James Peet | Mr. Jas. Weddell |
| Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Dawes | Mr. & Mrs. A. Porter | Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Willocks |
| Rev. C. E. D. de Labriere | Mr. H. J. Prosser | Master K. G. W. Willocks |
| Miss M. K. Ericsson | Mr. J. Rayson | Mrs. K. Wood |
| | Miss L. M. Relf | |

Home Arrivals from Jamaica, per R.M.S. *Boyana*, Avonmouth, January 23rd

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. G. J. Austin | Miss A. Hutchinson | Hoube, G. Smyth |
| Mr. E. A. Dubson | Mr. P. H. Lightfoot | Mr. & Mrs. A. S. Turner |
| Master R. Dubson | Major J. R. McCrendle | Mr. E. W. Wright |
| | Mr. L. N. Montefiore | |

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, per s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, Havre, January 14th

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. S. H. Davies | Mr. James N. Drakes | Mr. George Wigham |
| | Mr. J. Mulchy | Mr. Adolphus Warner |

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.—Home arrivals from West Indies, per s.s. *Speaker*, London, January 26th

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Major Fradgely | Mr. & Mrs. Harrison | Miss Linton |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------|

Home Arrivals from West Indies, per s.s. *Intaba*, London, January 26th

- FROM BARBADOS.
- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. R. Batson | Miss M. Hartley | Mr. J. Sowray |
| Mr. & Mrs. W. Belgrave | Mrs. E. Harrel | Mrs. L. S. Sowray |
| Miss C. Belgrave | Mrs. & Miss Lang | Mr. J. E. Sowray |
| Mr. J. Concanen | Mr. R. Peters | Miss G. Koden |
| Mr. M. Eusche | Miss D. Radcliff | Mr. N. Taylor |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. Henderson | Mr. H. Rose | Mr. J. Thorne |
| Mr. D. Henderson | | |

- FROM DEMERARA
- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. N. M. Baldeu | Mr. R. R. Goncalves | Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Morris |
| Dr. A. Bissenber | Mr. C. A. Hicks | Lady Kaiuar |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Bennett | Mr. & Mrs. J. A. King | Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Randelcholl & Family |
| Miss F. M. Bennett | Miss E. King | Mr. & Mrs. H. K. Sissett |
| Mr. W. M. C. Brodie | Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Leech | Miss Sarran |
| Mr. R. O. Campbell | Mrs. E. McMillan | Mr. W. E. Wesser |
| Mrs. E. Dodds & Family | Mr. W. R. Moffatt | Miss M. Walker |
| Major A. H. Gungell | Mr. J. Mullin | Mr. E. H. Woodward |
| | Mrs. M. E. Nicholls | |

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. F. de Gale | From GRENADA. | Sir Thomas Haycraft. |
| Mrs. Bell | From TRINIDAD. | Mr. & Mrs. G. J. Kitcat |
| Master A. Bell | Master P. Falconer | Mr. S. Mouton |
| Mr. A. Burgess | Miss Grant | Mrs. E. E. Taylor and family |
| Mr. J. K. Dornan | Mr. K. Jackson | |
| Mr. H. Dornan | Miss I. Kaye | |

CANADA'S SUGAR AND CACAO.

The amount of sugar under 16 Dutch Standard imported into Canada in the seven months ended October 31st, 1920, was 508,117,000 lbs., of the estimated value of \$53,470,806. Of this, 95,966,921 lbs. came either from or through the United States, 10,523,000 lbs. from British Guiana, 10,356,269 lbs. from Barbados, 25,644,268 lbs. from Jamaica, 21,185 lbs. from Trinidad, and 1,660,735 lbs. from the other British West Indian colonies. Cuba supplied 267,772,874 lbs., Fiji 4,920,233 lbs., Peru 16,381,365 lbs., San Domingo 56,271,165 lbs., and other countries 85,600,500 lbs. In addition to the above, 5,343,306 lbs. of sugar above 16 D.S. were imported.

The total quantity of cacao imported for the seven months was 55,283 cwt., of the value of \$1,073,186. Of this, the imports from the British West Indies consisted of 250 cwt. from Barbados, 1,566 cwt. from Jamaica, and 14,590 cwt. from Trinidad. Of the rest, the bulk came from the United States, which supplied 28,000 cwt.

As regards citrus fruits, the value of limes imported was \$1,327. Oranges were supplied almost entirely by the United States, their value from that country being \$3,712,428 out of the total of \$3,728,962. The small sum of \$4,858 represented the Jamaica supply, with \$492 worth from the British West India Islands. There was no importation of oil from Trinidad.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Div.		Prices, Feb. 1, 1921.
4%	Antigua	66 68ad
4%	Barbados	64 67
4%	British Guiana	74 77
4%	British Guiana	59 61
4%	Grenada	71 73
4%	Jamaica	76 78
4%	Jamaica	59 62
4%	Jamaica	37 60
4%	St. Lucia	69 71
4%	Trinidad	75 77
4%	Trinidad	58 60
10%	The Colonial Bank	52 64
4%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	97 102
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	63 68
4%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4% Debentures	66 71
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	68 74
6%	Anguata Bitters Part Preference	7 11
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	105 110
7%	Consolidated Rubber and Malaya Estates Pref. St. Madeleine Sugar	6 -
-	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd.	11 12
-	Petroleum Options Ltd. III	54 66
-	Trinidad Central Oilfields	1 6
10%	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd., 10%	38
-	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (£1)	3 6
12 1/2%	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (£1)	5 6
-	United British Oilfield of Trinidad Ltd.	23 6
4%	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	25 35
7%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Pref.	95 100
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	50 55
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	5 80
-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary	3 4
-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd., 6% Cum. Int. Pref.	3 4
-	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd., 2nd	3 4
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 5% Debentures	45 67

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegrams—
"Carib London"



15 SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3

Feb. 1st, 1921

BANK RATE, 7 per cent, as from April 15th, 1920

EXCHANGE on New York \$3 60-83 84.

SUGAR. A revised schedule of prices was issued by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply on January 24th, the only change being in respect of castor sugar, the price of which is reduced to 76/-. Loaf sugar remains at 76/-. and granulated at 72/-. The maximum price for "free" sugars, including West Indian grocery sugars, is also 72/-.

A quiet tone has prevailed in the markets during the fortnight, with a tendency of prices to sag. Traders are still buying from hand to mouth; but crystallised has been moving steadily at 62/- to 65/-, according to quality, and sales of muscovado have been effected at from 39/- to 50/-. With regard to the future, the general opinion seems to be that bottom has now been reached, and that some recovery may be expected.

Willetts and Gray estimate the world's crop, in tons of 2,240 lbs., as compared with the two preceding campaigns, as under:—

	1920-1921	1919-1920	1913-1914
Cane	12,692,900	11,919,717	9,821,413
Beet	4,639,772	3,272,937	8,845,986
	17,332,672	15,222,684	18,667,399

Conditions in Cuba are still unsettled, and the financial position in that Republic remains obscure. Czarnikow reports sales of Cuban sugar to the Far East in competition with Javas. Guma-Mejer now estimate the coming Cuban crop at 3,993,142 tons only, against Himely's 4,051,000 tons, and Willetts and Gray's 4,000,000 tons.

New York duty paid quotations for Cuban 96's on January 13th was 5.52c., as against 4.04c., on the corresponding date last year. It is of interest to note that the highest quotation for the sugar at N.Y., duty paid, in 1920, was 23.57, and the lowest 4.66c.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on January 22nd were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Imports	968	1,513	2,475 Tons.
Deliveries	3,030	2,326	3,215
Stock	6,342	7,323	5,422

CACAO. The spot market is still very slow. Good plantation Trinidad is now quoted nominally at 65/- to 70/-, and fine Grenada at 54/-. There has been a rather better enquiry from America, and France has also been buying in small quantities, after being out of the market for a very long time.

The consumption of the United States during 1920 was 1,936,000 bags (128,482 tons), against 2,570,000 bags (169,327 tons) in 1919; a decrease of nearly 25 per cent.

The stocks in London on January 22nd were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	29,172	22,838	19,457 Bags
Grenada	19,598	10,920	10,930
Total of all kinds	200,698	102,746	105,974

RUM. The proof market is rather dull. There has been more enquiry for Jamaica, which is quoted at 9/- for 1920's. In Liverpool, Demeraras have sold at 6/6 (liquid), as against 8/5 six months ago.

The stocks in London on January 22nd were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	9,020	6,356	3,520 Punks
Demerara	14,495	13,749	10,346
Total of all kinds	33,688	27,483	18,863

ARROWROOT. A few low quality have been sold at easier prices, but there is no improvement to report.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is much lower in the absence of business. There are sellers on the spot at 4/2 on 1/- c.i.f. terms.

BANANAS. The maximum retail price for Bananas in this country has been fixed by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., at 13d. each.

COFFEE. The market for common grades is still extremely slow, with prices just about steady. A few parcels of fine have been disposed of at full rates, but the demand is very restricted.

COPRA is still dull. West Indian C.M.S. 223 10s c.i.f. London.

COTTON. The market generally has been quiet, and quotations in most directions show a decline. West Indian Sea Island continues neglected with the nominal prices reduced 200 points. Medium is now quoted at 30d., and fine at 45d. Imports in the four weeks ending January 27th 459 bales.

HONEY. At last auction this article was absolutely neglected. No demand privately is reported.

LIME PRODUCTS. Hand-pressed is in fair demand, with small sales up to 16/- per lb., but Distilled continues neglected. Lime Juice: Raw. Some sales are reported of good Jamaica at 2/6.

LOGWOOD. No business doing.

ORANGE OIL. Small sales of Sweet have been made at 12/6 per lb., but there is no demand for Bitter.

PETROLEUM. The price of Pennsylvania Crude, the best wether of the American market, has been reduced to 85.00 per barrel. The highest price reached was 86.10 per barrel in March, 1920. The suggestion of the Committee appointed to report on the price of oil in the United Kingdom that the question of control might be referred to the economic section of the League of Nations, has caused a good deal of hilarity, seeing that America now commands three-quarters of the world's output of oil.

RUBBER. During the past fortnight the market has been quiet and prices have fallen back about a penny per lb. Spot quotations for crepe and sheet 1/0 3/4d. and 10d., respectively.

SPICES. There have been some small sales of **Pimento** on the spot at 33d., but nothing reported doing in **Nutmegs** or **Mace**. Small sales of Jamaica **Ginger** have been made at 145/- to 180/-.

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Trinidad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	Feb 5
Jamaica	Avonmouth	Bayano	8
West Indies	London	Songster	12
R'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Asian	12
Jamaica	Avonmouth	Coronado	14
Trinidad	Dover	Crynsen	19
St Lucia T'dad & Demerara	St Nazaire	La Navarre	20
West Indies	Liverpool	Specialist	29
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	18
Jamaica	New Orleans	Metapan	19
Jamaica	New York	Tolosa	19
Jamaica	New York	Carrillo	22
Jamaica	New York	Calumares	26
Jamaica	New Orleans	Abangarez	26
Jamaica	New York	Tivives	Mar 1
West Indies	Halifax	Camquet	4
Winter Cruise	New York	New York	12
Winter Cruise	New York	Megantie	23

The above dates are only approximate.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXVI.

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No. 584.

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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. (\$50.10).

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON



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

Feb 17th, 1921.

Plant Quarantine in Japan.

IN recent years some measure of uniformity has been successfully brought about in relation to quarantine in the West Indies with the object of preventing the spread of human disease. We venture to suggest that the principle of uniformity might similarly be extended to the regulations for obviating infection by pests, and damage by insects from outside sources, to those plants on which the West Indian islands depend for their prosperity. Up to now each case of possible plant infection through the importation of plants, etc., has been dealt with in the various British West Indian colonies as it arises, there being no general system of prevention, though in most colonies the Government have powers to prohibit importation when it becomes necessary. In Japan the matter is approached from a different standpoint. Instead of all plants being regarded as free from infection until shown to be otherwise, they are looked upon as infected until they are proved to be free from infection, and are invariably subjected to a most rigorous scrutiny before admission to the territories of the Japanese Empire, no matter from what source

they may come. The Department dealing with this question in Japan is the Central Experiment Station of Japan, a bureau established by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in 1914. It consists of a central station with five large and thirteen small sub-stations distributed over Japan and its adjacent islands. At the main station, and at the five larger sub-stations, a rigorous inspection of all incoming and outgoing plant materials which may arrive by post, in passengers' luggage, or in any other way, is conducted. Citrus fruits and potatoes, which are viewed with particular suspicion, are also closely inspected with a view to ascertaining if dangerous insects and bacteria are present. The thirteen small stations are devoted to the inspection of packages containing mail matter. The staff of the Department consists of a Director and four plant inspectors, senior officials, whose duty it is to superintend the inspection and investigation of plant pests and diseases. They have twenty-four assistant plant inspectors, who are junior officials, attached to the main station and the most important of the sub-stations, besides acting as inspectors at the remaining sub-stations, and these in turn have twenty-five assistants. We mention these figures to show the comprehensive nature of the scheme and the thoroughness with which the work of inspection is carried out. Mr. P. J. WESTER, in an article published in our contemporary *The Philippine Agricultural Review* describes the system of plant quarantine in force in Japan as "perfect," and its success in protecting local agriculture from exotic disease as remarkable. The regulations under which the work is carried out are rigorous. Plants and plant materials can only be introduced or shipped at specified ports and places designated by the Minister of Agriculture. Consignees and consignors have to give due notice to the Department when, where, and how the plant materials are to arrive or to be despatched, with full particulars regarding their life history and record, including the names of the senders and recipients as the case may be. The inspectors are also empowered to inspect ships suspected of containing plant materials, and the thought occurs at once that if this practice had been followed in St. Kitts and Montserrat recently, the infection of the local cotton by boll-weevil would not have taken place. They also have absolute powers to pass plant materials as inspected and satisfactory, to send them to the fumigating station for treatment prior to admission, or to order them to be destroyed. Penalties ranging from 300 to 1,000 yen (£31 to £104)—large sums for Japan—

are inflicted for violation of the regulations, which are very far-reaching in their scope. It will be gathered from the above outline of the Japan Plant Quarantine procedure that the organisation in that country is characteristically thorough, and we venture to suggest that it would repay the West Indian Governments if they were to secure a fuller report on the Japanese methods with the view to considering the desirability of their adoption in the British West Indies.

The Indian Sugar Industry.

THE interesting article, published in our last issue, regarding the possibilities and limitations of the Cane Sugar Industry in India, from the pen of MR. W. W. CRAIB, a member of the Commission which recently visited that country to report on the subject, confirms the view expressed by the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR as to the difficulties in the way of securing the expansion of the production of sugar in India on a scale commensurate with the size and importance of that vast country. In a leading article in our issue of October 2nd, 1919, we stated that "When the economic conditions of the country as regards agriculture in general, and sugar cultivation in particular, are considered, it will be realised that the question of the development of the Indian sugar industry is by no means so easy as it would appear to be at first sight." We added that to bring such development about the "ryot would have to be educated in modern methods of agriculture, in the systematisation essential to the satisfactory working of a central sugar factory, and freed from the hands of the usurer. Again, the cane-growing would have to be concentrated in areas from which the canes could be readily transported to the factory, and, further, the population educated up to the consumption of factory sugar in the place of the more toothsome products of the older processes." These are difficulties which MR. CRAIB thoroughly recognises. Meanwhile, that gradual extension of the industry is going on is seen in the increase in the crop, which has now reached 8,000,000 tons as against the pre-war figures of 2,290,000 tons, while at the same time the yearly imports of sugar have fallen from 800,000 tons to 300,000 tons. A good deal is also being done by native proprietors and capitalists in the direction of the installation of small plants to meet local requirements on more economic lines than of old, and of the erection of factories to provide white sugar to take the place of the imported product. The subject of improved canes is also being taken in hand by the Agricultural Departments. The appointment of MR. NOEL DEERR to an important scientific position in connection with the research work which is already being conducted in connection with the industry also points to progress. India, it may confidently be expected, will soon be in a position not only to do without imported sugar, but also to meet the wants of her people in a scientific and economic way, when circumstances permit. It is, however, extremely improbable that India will ever be a competitor as regards sugar in the world's market, although she is contributing to the world's supply by liberating for other purposes

the sugars which she has been in the habit of importing, particularly from Java and Mauritius. In this connection it may be noted that one of the secondary causes which brought about the present comparatively low price of sugar was the reduced importations into India.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Membership Now 2,230.

At a meeting of the Executive on February 8rd, Mr. R. Rutherford presiding, eleven candidates, whose names are given below, were admitted to membership of the West India Committee:—

NAMES	PROFESSORS AND SECONDARIES
Mr. Joseph Gonzalez (Trinidad)	Mr. H. A. de Freitas
Mr. M. T. Horner (Montserrat)	Mr. Charles Nettino
Mr. Norman D. Simpson (Barbados)	Hon. Fred Driver
Mr. W. H. Silver (Jamaica)	Mr. K. P. Pencheon
Mr. W. H. Murad (London)	Mr. D. Grafton Simpson
Messrs. J. F. Thompson & Sons, Ltd. (Jamaica)	Mr. A. C. Thomas
Mr. Samuel H. Davies (Country)	Mr. E. C. McLeod
Major W. H. I. Capon, M.B.E. (Trinidad)	Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. A. McW. Connolly (Cuba)	Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
Mr. James McG. Fraser (Cuba)	Mr. E. A. de Pass
Mr. F. E. Kezar (Cuba)	Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
	Mr. E. A. de Pass
	Mr. R. Rutherford
	Mr. H. J. Freeman
	Mr. J. E. A. Crawford
	Mr. R. Rutherford
	Mr. D. R. Mackenzie
	Hon. A. Fraser
	Mr. D. R. Mackenzie
	Hon. A. Fraser
	Mr. D. R. Mackenzie
	Hon. A. Fraser

MEDICAL RESEARCH.

It is understood that Professor R. P. Leiper, D.Sc., M.D., Director of Helminthology, will head the expedition of the London School of Tropical Medicine which is to leave for British Guiana in the spring. Dr. Leiper is an eminent English scientist who has made a close study of diseases conveyed by worms, and it is certain that no better appointment could have been made. It is to be hoped that the members of the expedition will not confine their attention to British Guiana only, but they will be afforded an opportunity of investigating the health conditions in the West Indian islands also. In considering the possibility of an extension of the original plans, the Council will necessarily be influenced by the support received from the islands, whose Governments would be well advised to extend an invitation to the London School to permit their expedition to pay them a visit.

MESSRS. THOS. & JAS. HARRISON have informed the West India Committee that they have decided to berth their passenger steamer *Ingoma* for the West Indies and back in May. This vessel has accommodation for a larger number of passengers than that provided for in the *Intaba*. This will be good news to intending visitors to the Mother Country this summer.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHAT man no know is good fe know."

THE old Admiralty yacht *Fire Queen* is now being used as a lighthouse tender for the Bahama islands.

The Newfoundland Government have appointed Captain H. H. Batson to be their Trade Commissioner in Barbados.

MISS AUDREY JEFFERS, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Jeffers, of Trinidad, has been granted the diploma of the National Health Society of England.

A WITNESS before the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands recently explained that she could speak "Common English," but not "Grammar English" nor "Badian English."

MR. C. P. SOLOMON, of the Charterhouse, who has gained a Senior Scholarship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, is a son of Mr. M. C. Solomon, Chief Clerk of the Jamaica Medical Service.

OUT of a total of 2,626 deaths in Trinidad in the quarter ended September 30th last, 970 were of children under the age of 5 years, and 636, or nearly one-quarter, were of infants under 1 year of age.

MR. C. E. W. JERNINGHAM, known to readers of *Truth* and *Vanity Fair* as "Marmaduke," who died on February 7th, was a younger brother of the late Sir Hubert Jerningham, Governor of Trinidad from 1897 to 1900.

MR. J. A. KELSO, B.A., of the Bahamas, a student of Livingstone College, London, was among the delegates who attended the Student Missionary Conference held at Glasgow from January 4th to January 10th.

MR. H. MOWBRAY PERRY, the newly-appointed Chief Construction Engineer of the Jamaica Government Railways, and Mr. C. R. Howarth, his Assistant, leave for Jamaica on February 22nd, per s.s. *Montagua*.

MR. ALFRED LYNCH has been appointed chief of the shipping department of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Trinidad office, which is under the superintendence of Lieut. Colonel Hooley, O.B.E., who has succeeded Mr. D. S. Webster.

MR. ARCHIBALD J. BROOKS, Agricultural Superintendent of St. Lucia, and Mrs. Brooks, who, we are glad to state, has made a rapid recovery from her recent illness, return to the West Indies in the s.s. *Speaker*, sailing from London on February 25th.

THE tour of the West Indies which H.M.S. *Calcutta* is now making, will be the last one under her present command. Rear-Admiral Sir Allan Everett and Captain P. L. Noble will be sailing for England in the spring, on the return of the *Calcutta* to Bermuda.

AN enterprising Covent Garden firm is boasting Cuban grape-fruit. It is to be regretted that circumstances connected with shipping do not permit them to popularise Jamaica grape-fruit, which, whatever they may say to the contrary, is every bit as good as, if not better than, the Cuban variety.

THE Union of South Africa has announced that, owing to the termination of the Sugar Convention, all sugar manufactured in Belgium and Holland will be subject to a surtax on importation, unless accompanied by a certificate, signed by the proper authority, to the effect that no bounty has been given thereon in the country of production or of manufacture.

MR. LEON COLVIN, who was for five years manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, in Jamaica, and has lately been attached to the Head Office, left for Barbados on February 18th to assume the position of manager of the Barbados branch. Mr. Colvin should be well known in Barbados, for he frequently visited the island whilst he was with the British Guiana Bank in Demerara.

CAPTAIN J. D. D. STEWART, who has been appointed in command of H.M.S. *Cambrian* on the North American—West Indies station in succession to Captain G. A. Wells, is a Canadian officer who, as a Commander, commissioned H.M.S. *Rainbow*, the first vessel to be put into service for the Canadian Navy. In the war he was Commander of the *Magnificent* and of the *Royal Arthur*, and in August, 1917, took charge of the convoy base at Methil, being promoted to Captain in the following June. Since the Armistice he has commanded the depot-ship *Diligence* in the Nore Flotilla.

IT will not be generally known that the s.s. *Intaba*, of the Harrison Line, which recently made a round voyage to the West Indies and back, visited those islands during the war, when she was commanded, as now, by Captain J. W. Watling. She was the first merchant ship to be taken over by the Admiralty after the outbreak of hostilities, her house flag having been hauled down on August 4th, to be replaced by the white ensign. From Devonport she was ordered to Bermuda as a fleet store ship, and she then called at various West Indian islands to pick up cargoes of sugar and Government stores. In 1916 she became a mystery ship—one of those seemingly innocent merchant vessels with a heavy armament—with a Naval Commander on board, and with four twelve-pounders and one four-inch gun, besides a supply of depth charges. She sailed to the Murman coast of Russia, where she accounted for an enemy submarine after a brilliant fight. Though under fire for two hours, she seemed to have a charmed life, a torpedo actually passing under her. For his services during the war Captain Watling received the O.B.E.

ORANGE BITTERS.—Fill a bottle with orange rinds, thickly peeled, pour on them some good rum to cover them. In 4 days strain and bottle for use. MR. H. GRAHAM YEARWOOD.

STORY OF THE SEEDLING CANE.

By S. H. DAVIES.

Fortunately, the men who saved Barbados from certain poverty and possible ruin in the "eighties" are still alive and active in their several professions, and their names are known and honoured throughout the West Indies. The story opens in 1888, when sugar prices were approaching zero, and the Bourbon cane, the mainstay of the island, was rapidly being destroyed by a parasitic fungus, rejoicing in the name of *Colletotrichum falcatum*, most properly described as belonging to the family of the "Melanconiaceæ"! This densely-peopled colony was then at the lowest ebb of its fortunes. Years before, in 1859, the Hon. J. W. Parris had established the existence of seedlings of the cane, but his work had either been discredited or forgotten, and when John R. Bovell (descendant of a long line of planters, whose remote ancestor sailed from Devonshire to "Little England" in 1643) announced in 1888 that he had succeeded in growing cane from its seed, all the pundits of the day rounded on him, and one at least called him "a harp struck with lightning" (in other words: a blasted lyre!). It was necessary to preserve and to photograph the seedlings at every stage of growth to convince the pundits of their error.

Bovell was then Superintendent of the Government Industrial School for boys at Dodds, a sugar estate ten miles from Bridgetown, in a fine open situation, 270 ft. above sea level. The school continues to flourish; the boys work on the estate and have an admirable training in handicrafts (far superior, in the writer's opinion, to the bookish education of the ordinary elementary school).

At the time Bovell was busy testing canes from Jamaica and every available source. He owed much to the observation of Pilgrim, a field assistant, that many fine grasses were growing on the outskirts of the cane plots at Dodds. This led to the cutting and testing of sixty of the finest self-sown grasses; they were planted in one-twelfth-of-an-acre plots at Dodds, where all subsequent experimental field work on seedlings has been carried out. Bovell was fortunate in securing the co-operation of J. R. Harrison, geologist and agricultural chemist, who analysed all the canes for the first two years, until in 1890 he was offered an appointment in Demerara (where he has since done such admirable work), and Bovell carried on single-handed until J. P. d'Albuquerque arrived in the colony in 1892 as Island Chemist.

Attention was early concentrated on 24 true seedlings named after the local estates, or after planters. Thus, *Burke* proved an early favourite; adopted, indeed, by some planters before it had been fully tested. On the disappearance of the Bourbon, many planters adopted *White Transparent*, probably a sport of the East Indian *Ribbon Cane*—a striped leaf variety—and this survived until recent times, one or two conservative planters having only just abandoned it for the more profitable seedlings!

To give some idea of the merits of *Burke*, we may refer to the 1892 report, where we shall find that,

of the 24 seedlings, the two best varieties gave the following yields, compared with the Old Bourbon, all being grown under identical conditions:—

Yearwood.	9,134 lbs.	pure sugar contents per acre.
Burke.	8,814	
Bourbon.	7,095	

Already, on the first lap of the long race that Bovell and his colleagues have now run for a generation, a decided advantage was scored, and, for every 100 lbs. of sugar extracted from the Bourbon, 125 lbs. was yielded by the *Burke* seedling.

The work was done at first gratuitously, and it was only after the lapse of years that the island voted £100 a year (!) towards the cost of these fundamentally important experiments. At a later date, John R. Bovell became the first Director of Agriculture.

As the work developed, first one seedling and then another became first favourite in the island—one proved well adapted to the black soil, another to the red soil districts. Any Barbadian reading this story will recall their names or numbers, such as B.6450, which long held its own, but is now superseded (or ought to be superseded) by such new varieties as Ba.6032 or B.II.10(12) (which may be translated: Barbados hybrid seedling of 1910. Exp. 12).

The comparative merits of these canes is clearly set out in Table XIX. of the report for the seasons 1918-20, from which you can cull these remarkable figures:—

1. An average of 59 experiments spread over seven seasons.

Variety	Canes per acre	Pure Sugar contents per acre	Increase over White Transparent
White Transparent	21.32 tons	6,308 lbs.	—
B 6450	30.25	8,113	28.6%
BH 10 12	31.15	10,175	61.3%

All grown in the same field

2. An average of 85 experiments spread over six seasons

White Transparent	23.52 tons	5,820 lbs.	—
B 6450	30.13	7,791	33.9%
Ba 6032	34.88	8,683	49.2%

This variety is specially prized because it is the most resistant to draught.

3. An average of 25 experiments spread over six seasons

White Transparent	21.85 tons	5,347 lbs.	—
B 6450	28.56	7,381	38%
Ba 11,569	31.35	8,226	53.8%

So that there are now reliable, well-tested strains of seedling canes, tried out on the large scale on many estates, at the disposal of every planter, giving 150-160 lbs. of sugar where the Bourbon gave 100 lbs.

When it was found that cuttings could be despatched in damp charcoal to any part of the world, the whole sugar-cane world profited by the experiences of Barbados, and the island became the Mecca of the sugar planter, East and West. And, after years of poverty, Barbados has been rejoicing in extraordinary prosperity, due not only to the huge prices of war years, but also to the patient, systematic, and strictly scientific work of Bovell and his colleagues.

Is their work at an end? By no means! The Director of Agriculture and Island Professor of Chemistry and Agricultural Science continue their laborious investigations. Each season 30,000 seeds are sown. (The seedlings prove very susceptible to sun and wind in their early stages.) Five thousand of these are potted out, and from these 3,000 are selected to plant in the field. The best plants are cut and crushed, the juice analysed and the sweetest selected. One half of each stool is planted in an experimental plot at Pear Tree Field (on Waterford estate) in April or May, and is irrigated for the first month or two. The following December cuttings are taken to Dodds for the field experiments. Along these lines there seems no reason to doubt that seedlings may yet be found giving a greater yield of sugar than any yet achieved, with a richer and purer juice content; offering, too, a greater resistance to the prevailing pests—the root borer and brown hardback.

John R. Bovell is now concentrating his attention on the selection of strong, healthy stools of any given seedling, for planting, followed by a further selection from their progeny, with a view of establishing stronger and more resistant types. This work promises to be of immense value to the colony. Let all honour be paid to the pioneers, not by lip-homage, nor by erecting monuments at their death, but rather by assuring them, and their responsible assistants, a proper, and indeed a *generous* competence during their lifetime. The patient student of nature and the modest man of science is so often forgotten, while the fortunes built on his labours go to fill the coffers of the man whose sole merit may have been the appreciation and utilisation of his results.

Throughout the West Indies the salaries that have been paid in the past to scientific men, whether botanists, agricultural chemists, mycologists, or entomologists, have been scandalously inadequate. As a consequence, able men, trained in the West Indies, may be found on the scientific staffs of all tropical countries. Barbados, the pioneer colony in exploiting the seedling cane (to its enormous benefit) may well pay her due meed of recognition to its discoverer and his associates.

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following appointments affecting the British West Indies were made by the Secretary of State during January:—

Mr. Willoughby Bullock, Attorney General, Bahamas.

Mr. R. S. Shuel, Sub-Inspector, Constabulary, Trinidad.

Lieut. T. P. Phillips, M.C., Sub-Inspector, Constabulary, Trinidad.

Lieut. E. P. McL. Walcott, Sub-Inspector, Constabulary, Trinidad.

Mr. F. N. Miles, Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamaica.

Mr. G. Lloyd, Sgt.-Major of Police, Grenada.

THE INDEX and Title Page of Volume XXXV. of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR are now ready, and will be sent to members wishing to have them, on application to the Editor.

ST. VINCENT'S NEW TARIFF.

Another Arithmetical Error.

In a leading article in the CIRCULAR of December 23rd last, attention was called to a curious mistake in the new Customs Duty Ordinance of Trinidad and Tobago (No. 14 of 1920), passed to give effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. It was pointed out that under the new tariff the duties on goods, the produce or manufacture of Canada, entering Trinidad were 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of those on similar goods from foreign countries instead of 50 per cent. as provided for under the Agreement. The attention of the Government of Trinidad was called to the matter, and as stated in last CIRCULAR, it is understood that steps are to be taken to bring the tariff into conformity with the provisions of the Trade Agreement.

It would now appear that a similar mistake has been made by the Government of St. Vincent. The Customs Duty Ordinance of that island (No. 29 of 1920) assented to on December 31st last, copies of which have just reached this country, makes the duties on Canadian goods 75 per cent. of those on similar goods from foreign countries, instead of 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. as provided under the Agreement. Thus the *ad valorem* duties are 10 per cent. on British goods and 13 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on foreign goods. It is certainly very remarkable that this mistake should not have been noticed during the debate on the Bill.

The relevant part of Article 5 of the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement, which deals with the preference to be given to the various West Indian Colonies, runs as follows:—

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.,

of the duties imposed on similar goods when imported from any foreign country.

Flour, spirits and wine are subject to specific preferences provided for under Articles 6 and 7.

THE new steamer service between Halifax, the Bahamas, Jamaica and British Honduras provided for under the Canada—West Indies Trade Agreement was formally inaugurated on January 25th, when the s.s. *Canadian Fisher*, of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd., sailed from Halifax. She carried a number of Canadian officials and had on board as Medical Officer, Dr. W. Grieve Nichol, who is well known in the islands to windward of the Caribbean. The *Canadian Fisher* was followed two weeks later by the *Canadian Forester*.

MEMBERS of the West India Committee are reminded that subscriptions for the current year became due on January 1st.

COCOA IN HOLLAND.

The Circular is indebted to the "Tea and Coffee Trade Journal" for the following extracts from a review of the Dutch cacao trade, prepared by the Netherlands Commercial Department.

The art of making chocolate from cacao nibs was introduced into Holland as far back as 1670 by Dr. Bontekoe, physician-in-ordinary to the Great Elector, whose book on chocolate, tea and coffee recommended the use of these healthy and, in the case of cacao, nourishing products. The process of manufacture consisted almost exclusively in the roasting of the cacao nibs, which were ground while still hot, forming a syrupy mass. This was allowed to run into moulds and shaped into tablets or cakes. The chocolate thus manufactured was bitter in flavour, and, since it contained a large proportion of fatty matters, was somewhat difficult of digestion, especially for delicate stomachs. Nevertheless, the products of this manufacture met with success, and were long in great request both in Holland and abroad, where they were known by the name of Zeeland chocolate.

In 1818 there were twenty-seven chocolate factories in the Netherlands. Most of these so-called factories were in reality no more than cocoa mills working in the manner described above. It was but a slow development that marked the manufacture of chocolate, and of the great variety of articles which, while known under different names, are all made of cocoa powder, sugar and spices. The cocoa industry received a fresh impetus when the problem of the separation of the fatty matters contained in the cocoa—a problem that had long busied the experts—was at last solved. It was a Netherlander, C. J. van Houten, of Weesp, the founder of the still-existing factory, who, after much experiment and research, succeeded, in 1828, in obtaining a cocoa free from this excess of fat, which rendered it so indigestible, yet retaining all its nutritive value and providing a most agreeable beverage. Thereupon, side by side with the chocolate industry, was developed the cocoa industry, consisting in the preparation of a pure cocoa powder with no addition whatever, the aroma of which received its full flavour when the powder was dissolved in boiling water or milk by a simple process of stirring.

HOW THE FAT IS REMOVED.

The process of removing the fat by mechanical means has been greatly improved since its invention, as a result of the general progress in technical science, and is now employed in all the Netherlands factories. Briefly, the process consists of the following: The cacao nibs, after being roasted and peeled, are kept at a temperature of 70 deg. to 80 deg. Cent., and subjected to hydraulic pressure. This pressure makes the nibs lose a part of their fat (the cocoa butter), which, before the treatment, amounts to about 50 per cent. After treatment the product still contains 29 to 32 per cent. of cocoa butter and 71 to 68 per cent. of other substances (starch, albumen, water, sugar, cellulose, cinders, cocoa pigment and theobromin), and at the same time possesses the quality of being easily soluble in water. At present the factories

produce cocoa alone, chocolate alone, or both of these articles. Those coming under the last category are in the majority.

The number of these factories has increased by degrees. There are now about forty, employing 3,700 workmen in all. The factories are situated as follows: Ten at Amsterdam, two at Alkmaar, two at Breda, one at Bussum, one at Deventer, three at The Hague, two at Haarlem, one at Helmond, one at Hilversum, one at Koog-on-Zaan, one at Nymwegen, six at Rotterdam, one at Sloten, two at Weesp, one at Westzaan, three at Wormerveer, and two at Zaandijk. In addition to these forty, there are some twenty which make products of sugar and chocolate, but these buy the cocoa used in the manufacture of their specialities from the other Netherlands factories, where it has already undergone a short preparation.

Side by side with this industry the Netherlands conduct a not unimportant trade in raw cacao, and also in powdered cocoa, and in chocolate in all its forms. In consequence of the development of the cocoa industry, a considerable increase has occurred during the nineteenth century in the quantities of raw cacao imported. The principal markets hitherto supplying the Netherlands with cacao have been Hamburg, London, Liverpool, Paris, Havre, Bordeaux, and Lisbon, but to a great extent it now comes straight from the countries of production (Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, Netherlands Guiana, or Surinam, Trinidad, the other West Indies, and the Netherlands East Indies. The cacao produced by the island of Java always arrives direct through the port of Amsterdam, where it is sold by auction. The other cacao, too, is imported mainly through the port of Amsterdam, which receives more than double the cacao import recorded for the port of Rotterdam. Only a part of the production of the Netherlands cocoa factories is consumed in the country itself. A large quantity of powdered cocoa and of chocolate in every form is exported abroad.

LOWER DOCK CHARGES.

The Port of London Authority has made, as from February 7th, a reduction of 25 in the percentage addition of May 10th, 1920, to Tariff, Dock and Warehouse Dues, Rates and Charges. The percentage additions are now:—

Dock and warehouse rates, charges and rent on goods:—

125 per cent. instead of 150 per cent. as at present.

Dock dues and other charges (except rent) on vessels and lighters:—

125 per cent. instead of 150 per cent. as at present.

Dock dues on vessels in Class I:—

122½ per cent. instead of 147½ per cent. as at present.

Rent on vessels and lighters:—

110 per cent. instead of 135 per cent. as at present.

The reductions are not retrospective.

The Trinidad Legislature has passed an Ordinance (No. 57, 1920) to raise by an additional tax on agricultural produce during the year 1921 a moiety of the Colony's contribution of £50,000 towards the cost of establishing a Tropical Agricultural College for the British West Indies.

LABOUR IN SAN THOMÉ.

Mr. Urich on Local Conditions.

It will be recalled that Mr. F. W. Urich, the Government Entomologist of Trinidad and Tobago, visited the Portuguese island of San Thomé last year to report on the conditions of the local cacao industry. To a representative of the CIRCULAR, shortly after his return, he stated that the Trinidad planter had nothing to learn from his San Thomian confrère, but that it was rather the other way about.

At a meeting of the Trinidad Board of Agriculture, held at Port of Spain on January 20th, Mr. W. G. Freeman presiding, Mr. Urich gave a further account of the cacao industry of San Thomé.

The climate of San Thomé was, he said, very much like that of Trinidad, the dry season lasting from May to September, with an Indian summer in January. Cacao had been planted in the Portuguese island since 1870 from sea level right up to 2,000 feet. The trees were all covered with moss, and those at the higher altitudes were gradually being abandoned for coffee and cinchona. On the original plantations cacao was planted in any fashion. There was no regulated distance for planting. Holes were made about 3 feet deep and 3 feet square, and five or six plants allowed to grow up, so that sometimes one saw three, four, five or six trees growing in one place as if they were clumps. For a few years past the planters had changed that method. Some years ago, the original shade trees were all cut down because the planters read in some book that the cacao did better without shade and ran a far less risk of disease. As regards disease, thrips had spread to a most alarming extent; in fact he had never seen so many in his life. As if by way of encouraging thrips, the planters introduced all the food plants that thrips liked besides cacao. To give an extent of the damage done, one estate he was on produced 44,224 bags of 132 lbs. in 1917-18, while in 1919 the crop was only 15,132 bags.

The plantations were all divided up among a few companies. Coconuts grew well on the sea-shore, but they were not popular. They were planted near the cacao and served as a wind break. With regard to agricultural methods, there were none. The fork was unknown; so too was the trenching spade. Rats and monkeys troubled the cacao very much.

In spite of the dry weather on the leeward side of San Thomé, other vegetation than cacao grew, as there were numerous springs that came down from the hills and supplied water with which irrigation could be carried out in many places. Bananas grew luxuriantly and oil palms were everywhere. Labourers were recruited from Africa, Angola, Mozambique and Congo, and they were treated very well indeed. There was a Protector to see after them just as in Trinidad, and several laws were enforced—all to the advantage of the labourer. He did not think they could be better off. They worked eight hours a day, and the mid-day meal was sent to them in the field ready cooked. Every morning at 5 o'clock instead of a bell being rung, every labourer was supplied with a cup of black coffee in which there was a good shot of rum, and none of them ever missed it. At the end of their indenture the labourers did not want to return to Angola, but they were bound to under the law, and they could come back again as free men. The majority of the drivers were recruited in that way. He also passed through Principé, which was under

the same administration; just as Tobago was in respect to Trinidad. It was a cacao growing island and conditions were similar to San Thomé, save that the soil was far worse, being stiff clay. Mr. Urich concluded by exhibiting samples of unprepared cacao from San Thomé which had kept without mildew since November last.

AGRICULTURE IN MAURITIUS.

Modern Manufacturing Methods.

Of the total sugar crop of Mauritius last year, amounting to 235,400 tons, 94.45 per cent. consisted of "vesou," or first sugars, the remainder comprising 1 per cent. good quality second sugars, and 4 per cent. of low. The increase in the proportion of high quality sugars is attributed to improved manufacture. In 1911 the proportion was only 73.8 per cent. of the whole; in 1915 it reached 82.6 per cent., and in 1918 94.5 per cent. This increase in the production of high grade white sugar is attributed in the Report of the Department of Agriculture of Mauritius to the introduction of Weston's Centrifugal, and to the great extension of the use of Malaxeurs (crystallisers). The amount of sucrose in the cane for the 1919 crop was 13.16 per cent., and as 10.56 per cent. of commercial sugar was extracted, of which 9.92 per cent. was white sugar, the percentage of sucrose extracted from the cane was about 80 per cent.

It is mentioned in the report that the high price of sugar which obtained led to the planting of a considerable additional area under cane by East Indian cultivators. The effect of this was to be seen in the increased shortage of labour felt in all quarters, and by a very marked increase in the rates of wages paid.

There was no diminution in the pests and diseases of sugar. The campaign against the sugarcane pest known as the brown hard-back or *Phytalus Smithi* is being carried on in Mauritius with great activity; 80,969,504 beetles were captured, as against 71,119,278 for the season 1918-19, and the reduction in the number of captures recorded is considered to be due to the diminution in the incidence of the pest, as the result of the various repressive measures which have been adopted. The principal factor in this reduction is stated to be due to the parasite *Tiphia parallela*, and the operations of this insect, coupled with the collection of the beetles, is expected to result in a complete control of the pest.

The production of alcohol from the waste molasses formed a not unimportant subsidiary industry, 1,529,315 litres being produced. At present the bulk of the molasses produced is used as a fertiliser; but a Commission was sitting to deal with the question of the production of alcohol from it for industrial purposes.

As regards the minor industries, the cultivation of vanilla was being revived, and the experiments with the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco were being followed up by manufacturing trials on a commercial scale. The results are stated to have been in the highest degree satisfactory. Attention has also been given to the cultivation of limes.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.**WEST INDIAN CABLE QUESTION.****Lord Milner and his Successor.**

The resignation of Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., as Secretary of State for the Colonies, became effective on February 14th, when he handed over the seals.

Lord Milner's term of office will be remembered in the West Indies as having coincided with the adoption of the policy of Imperial Preference in the United Kingdom, the holding of the Conference of delegates from all the West Indian Colonies at Ottawa which resulted in the signing of a comprehensive Trade Agreement between them and Canada, the definite launching of a scheme for the establishment of a Tropical Agricultural College in the West Indies, and his successful appeal for the London School of Tropical Medicine, which resulted in the collection of £117,000, of which £50,000 is to be set aside for research. The West India Committee have special cause to be grateful to Lord Milner, not only for the sympathetic interest which he showed in their work on behalf of the West Indies, but also for commending the appeal for contributions to their Endowment Fund to the various West Indian Governments, which resulted in substantial contributions being received from the Bahamas, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Lord Milner, who has been honoured by the King with a knighthood of the Order of the Garter, is succeeded by the Right Honourable Winston Spencer Churchill, P.C., M.P., to whom the King handed the seals of office on February 14th. It will be recalled that Mr. Churchill was Under Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1906 to 1908, and he will, no doubt, find full scope for his energy and driving power in a year which will be marked by the holding of the Imperial Conference in London.

It will be gratefully remembered that Mr. Churchill was, as he still is, a member of the Cabinet which pledged itself to the policy of Imperial Preference, and his earlier remarks on the subject before his conversion may therefore sink into oblivion. The West Indies will indeed be glad to welcome so live a successor to Lord Milner as Mr. Winston Churchill.

THE s.s. *Wandilla*, 13,620 tons, which has just been acquired by Furness, Withy & Co., for their New York—West Indies and/or Bermuda trade, is a sister ship of the *Fort Victoria*, which recently went down the islands on a pleasure cruise. If arrangements can be completed in time, she will be registered in the name of the Bermuda and West Indies Steamship Co., Ltd., and will fly the Bermuda flag. She has accommodation for 230 first-, 120 second- and 70 third-class passengers. Her itinerary will depend upon the requirements of the trade.

Government's Policy Defined.

The Government policy with regard to the question of West Indian telegraphic communication is now clearly defined. Wireless for commercial purposes in the West Indies has been definitely rejected on account of atmospheric and also on strategic grounds, and it is realised that the solution of the question rests in the laying of a new cable to connect Bermuda with Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, or at least to connect one of those three colonies with Bermuda, as has been so warmly advocated by the West India Committee. The Government favours the suggestion that the new cable should be laid as soon as practicable, without waiting for the termination of the existing contract, and are taking steps to ascertain whether a British company could be formed to provide this link, and if so, on what terms. They regard it as essential that the company should maintain telegraphic communication also with the units of the Windward and Leeward Islands now connected by cable. They agree that negotiations might be commenced at once on the basis that a cable should be laid as soon as practicable, but suggest that any subsidies to a new company should not be payable until the expiration of the subsidies due to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, or except in so far as any subsidies might lapse. They recognise that in the Bahamas and British Honduras the improvement of telegraphic communication is an issue of immediate importance, but consider that communication between those colonies and Jamaica can be carried out by the Colonial Governments without serious difficulty.

The full text of Lord Milner's important despatch to the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago announcing the above decisions will be published for information and record in the next CIRCULAR.

C.P.R. & B.W.I.

In a paper read at Bristol recently, the lecturer expressed the hope that corporations like the Canadian Pacific Railway Company might be disposed to erect hotels in West Indies, and take a share in West Indian tourist development.

In this connection it is of interest to note that a delegation representing the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is visiting the British West Indian islands with a view to considering whether that powerful corporation can interest itself in the development of those colonies. Its members include Colonel T. S. Dennis, the Company's Chief Commissioner of Colonisation and Development at Montreal, Mr. Arthur Harris and Mr. W. Marlowe. Some years ago a representative of the C.P.R. visited Jamaica on a similar mission. That it would be an immense advantage to the West Indies to have so influential a corporation as the Canadian Pacific Railway interested in the development of their industries, communications and tourist traffic goes without saying, and it is much to be hoped that the delegation will be favourably impressed with the opportunities for development offered.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Incidence Arbitrary and Inequitable.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at Birmingham on February 4th that the Excess Profits Duty was to be abolished as from December 31st last in the case of "new businesses," and after seven annual payments, dating from the first accountancy period, in that of all other businesses.

This important decision is, of course, primarily of interest to residents in the United Kingdom, but inasmuch as excess profits are being taxed in British Guiana and Grenada, and the desirability of the imposition of an "E.P.D." in other parts of the West Indies has been canvassed, it may be of interest to quote the Chancellor's statement:—

The excess profits duty, said Mr Chamberlain, was open to great objection. It was to a large extent arbitrary in its incidence. It was not altogether equitable between one taxpayer or one business and another. It tended, especially at high rates, to encourage extravagance in industry and to discourage enterprise, and the only justification for it was to be found in the crucial need for money and in the fact that at a time when most people were suffering loss of income certain people through the same cause (the war) were earning abnormal profits. The continuation of these conditions would justify the continuation of the tax, but conditions had changed. Instead of having more trade than we could meet we had less employment than we needed.

There was one other consideration in regard to that tax. It was based upon excessive profits made over the profit earned by a business of any pre-war years. The farther we get away from those base years, the less equitable that standard became. It hit with peculiar hardness all the new businesses created in many cases by men who had come back from the war. It favoured the old-established business with a high pre-war rate of profit against a new business troubling into existence and just beginning to pay its way.

Taking all those considerations together (he continued), and looking at the conditions of trade at the present time, I see nothing which could justify a renewal of the tax unless it was absolute financial necessity. My colleagues and I have been examining as carefully as we can the prospects of the coming year, and we have come to the conclusion that we can afford not to renew the Excess Profits Duty. We shall not extend it beyond the present law.

My general proposal is that all businesses, except those begun since the commencement of the war, should pay for a period of seven years beginning in the first accounting period in which they fell within the scope of the tax.

In the case of businesses commenced since the outbreak of the war, I propose the duty should not run beyond December 31st last.

I see the way not only to abolish Excess Profits Duty but also not to impose any new tax in lieu of it, or to add any new taxes for the coming financial year. There may be new duties imposed in respect of dumped goods or depreciated exchanges. But I do not want to be misunderstood. What I say is that we shall not propose any new taxes on businesses or any addition to the existing taxes like income-tax or the existing customs duties in making good the loss of revenue due to not extending the Excess Profit Duties during the year.

It is generally believed that the sudden with-

drawal of the E.P.D. was due to the realisation of the Government that owing to the slump in trade they might be faced with so many claims for repayment of the tax that its revenue producing power would be seriously impaired.

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS.

The Board of Trade Returns for January show that the quantity of "refined" sugar imported for the month was 175 tons, as against 41,445 tons for January last year. The imports of "unrefined" for the same periods were 76,838 tons and 52,066 tons respectively. These figures show how rapidly the sugars industry of the United Kingdom is becoming that of the home refiners.

Of the January imports 16,437 tons came from Java, 21,549 tons from Mauritius, 12,016 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana, 8,653 tons from Peru, and 9,087 tons from Brazil. No imports were recorded from Cuba.

The total amount of sugar liberated for home consumption was 90,989 tons. Of this quantity 75,902 tons consisted of home refined. The stock of sugar on hand on the 31st of January was 372,050 tons, as against 288,150 tons at the same date in 1920.

The importation of rum during the month was 532,424 proof gallons; 253,342 gallons were freed for home consumption. The corresponding figures for January, 1920, were 523,000 gallons and 397,671 gallons. 11,799,000 proof gallons were on hand on 31st of January, as against 11,897,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Cacao was imported during the month to the extent of 148,811 cwts., which compare with 179,883 cwts. in January last year. They include 127,765 cwts. from British West Africa, 2,543 cwts. from Ceylon and 9,033 cwts. from British West India Islands. The exports were 30,346 cwts., a considerable falling off from the 122,158 cwts. export last year. The quantity liberated for home consumption was 84,449 cwts., as against 115,248 cwts. for the same period last year. The stock on hand on the 31st January was 1,061,000 cwts., as against 764,000 cwts. on the 31st of January, 1920.

The imports of coffee were 56,861 cwts. Of this, 26,302 cwts. came from Central America, 11,084 cwts. from Colombia and 942 cwts. from the British West India Islands. 26,408 cwts. were liberated for home consumption. The corresponding figures for last year were 80,062 cwts. and 20,643 cwts. respectively. 65,800 cwts. were on hand on the 31st of January, as against 733,000 cwts. at the same date last year.

In addition to the January figures the Return supplies the quantities of articles produced in the United Kingdom which paid excise duty during last year. It is there seen that 864 tons of home-grown beet sugar were produced (coming from Cantley), and West Indian tobacco growers will be interested to see that 17,253 lbs. of tobacco paid excise duty. It is a matter for regret, however, to see that the manufacture of saccharin, that pernicious substitute for sugar, is rapidly extending, 2,671,083 ozs. having been produced, as against 891,723 ozs. in 1919.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Cotton of long staple is reported to be growing in large areas in Brazil and Peru, and to be rotting, as it does not pay to collect it.

The forest policy of the Government of Trinidad consists in the reservation of certain areas for (1) the protection of the water supply, the preservation of favourable climatic influences, and the maintenance of suitable breeding places for the bird and insect friends of agriculture; (2) the production of timber and other forest products necessary for the welfare of the community.

It is proposed to introduce systematic management of the forests by the Conservator. Provision will be made for the replacement of trees that are removed. The forests will gradually be improved by forming them of useful trees. At present only 5 to 10 per cent. of the trees are of any use. The forest reserves should preferably be situated on inferior soils.

The shell of cacao beans is easily separated when the beans are roasted for manufacture, and has been used for many years as an ingredient of cattle food. Given to cows in this way, it has been shown to increase both the quantity and the quality of milk. The shell contains about 1.3 per cent. of theobromine which acts as an appetiser when mixed in small quantities in compound feeding cakes. If a couple of pounds of cacao-shell unmixed is given at a single meal to cattle or horses, the result is disastrous, as was pointed out in last CIRCULAR.

Those who are working on scientific lines in dairies in the West Indies would do well to consult a Bulletin issued by the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, the title of which is: A comparative study of some methods for determining the percentage of fat in skim-milk. The accuracy of the Babcock test for determining the percentage of fat in skim-milk has been questioned for some years. This Bulletin describes experiments, which show what modifications should be made in the Babcock test.

Lactose (milk-sugar) is manufactured from whey—a by-product of cheese-making. It is used for making invalid and infant foods. There is only one factory for making lactose in the British Isles, so that there is a very considerable waste of whey. The supplies of lactose were imported from America, New Zealand, Holland, Italy, Germany, and Austria at high prices. During the war, the National Waste Products Company, in association with the Ministry of Agriculture, were about to erect a factory, but the Armistice stopped work. It is reported that the Department of Agriculture will now put up a factory.

Artificial silk has been manufactured for some time, and now it is reported from South Africa that a process has been discovered by which artificial wool can be produced from cotton waste. The

basis of the artificial wool is cellulose acetate. The material is claimed to be an even better insulator against heat and cold than ordinary wool. It is said to wear well, and that it can be successfully dyed any desired colour. It is inferior to natural wool in that it is inelastic and is liable to break. But, naturally, it should be much cheaper, and on that account will appeal to many who like cloth resembling homespun.

The effect of fungous diseases in reducing crop production is great beyond calculation. The *Gardeners' Chronicle* states that a Canadian scientist has estimated the loss caused by rust in wheat in the prairie region of Canada in 1917 at 100,000,000 bushels, representing a value of between £25,000,000 and £50,000,000. For the same year the loss in the five chief cereals in the United States exceeded 400,000,000 bushels. The effect of this waste on the provisioning of the world may be easily imagined.

The Imperial Bureau of Mycology is now established at No. 17-19, Kew Green, with Dr. E. J. Butler as its first director. It aims at doing for the diseases and blights of plants caused by fungi what the Imperial Bureau of Entomology at S. Kensington has so successfully done in regard to injurious insects. It will be a central agency for the accumulation and distribution of information and for the identification of specimens sent in from all parts of the Empire. It is proposed to issue, as soon as funds permit, a periodical journal through which those interested in mycological work in regard to agriculture will be kept informed of progress elsewhere.

A report has been published on Cold-storage Research in Great Britain. The effect of freezing on beef is so to alter the muscle substance as to cause the meat, on thawing, to exude a fluid rich in nutritive material, and coloured with hæmoglobin. The new experiments prove that, provided certain precautions are taken, beef can be frozen so as to preserve completely the physical and chemical qualities of the fresh meat. It remains to be seen, however, whether it is feasible as a commercial process. It was found that when beef is immersed in brine cooled to -20°C ., the composition of which has been carefully regulated, the beef retains its natural bright colour and does not drip on thawing.

Malaria is still a blight on the West Indies in spite of all that science has done in elucidating the nature of the disease and the remedial measures necessary to keep it under control. Medical men are ready and anxious to assist, but public opinion does not seem to have sufficient dynamic force to enable the local Governments to incur the expenditure. A valuable report on malaria has been published lately in Trinidad, and it is to be hoped that action will be taken throughout the West Indies to carry out the general recommendations made. An additional recommendation may perhaps be allowed, that is, to plant tropical species of eucalyptus on low-lying wet lands in order to dry them.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 49.)

After breakfast we were swept back to Bridgetown in a swift motor-car to attend the meeting of the Chambers of Commerce. This time we went round the other side of the Savannah, with its well-preserved roadside monuments to the officers and men of the Royal York Rangers who lost their lives in the campaigns of 1809 and 1810 against Martinique and Guadeloupe, and to fourteen men of the 36th Regiment and a woman who were killed in the hurricane of 1831. *En route* we caught a glimpse of Belleville, the capital's most pleasant suburb. This residential quarter, which was laid out about twenty years ago at the instance of Mr. Sam Manning, one of the most prosperous, and, at the same time, public-spirited of the merchants of Barbados—and these two qualities do not always go together in the West Indies—is a model of what can be done to make conditions of residence in the tropics agreeable for those whose means do not permit them to live in the palatial "great houses" affected by the wealthy planters and merchants. Off a main thoroughfare, fringed with tall cabbage palms, runs at right angles a number of smaller avenues similarly adorned, each with its quota of neat little detached bungalows surrounded by verandahs or "galleries," which enable the fortunate residents to enjoy to the full the health-giving north-east trade winds. Then, nearing Bridgetown, we passed the ugly swamp of the Constitution River—so-called—which, one thought, might have been reclaimed many years ago. But unfortunately the beautification of the capital is not a matter which interests the majority of its citizens, and one learnt with astonishment that a certain merchant had found it as difficult as drawing an eye-tooth to get permission to plant some trees to camouflage the swamp which obtruded itself upon him when he looked out of his office window.

The second triennial conference of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce was held in the Public Buildings, a substantial edifice, abutting on Trafalgar Square, constructed of coral rock in the Italian Renaissance style, with a smattering of Gothic, as exemplified by the arches of its arcades. It comprises two distinct blocks facing one another, that on the west side accommodating various Government Departments, and that on the east being devoted to the Legislative Council and House of Assembly with their various offices on the first floor and the Post Office underneath.

Through the courtesy of the Speaker, Sir Frederick Clarke—who, by the way, has filled that position for no fewer than twenty-two years with consummate tact and ability—and the Honourable the Members, the delegates were privileged to meet in the House of Assembly itself. The "House" consists of a large and rather bare-looking room with an imposing chair for the Speaker and a horse-shoe table within a railed-off pen at the end nearest the door, round which the Members of the lower House of Barbados' ancient and august Parliament sit to discuss affairs of State. Here for a week we

were permitted to occupy the seats of the mighty and to rise from the places of the Member for St. Michael's, St. Lucy, St. Andrew, St. John, etc., as the case might be, and air our views regarding commercial affairs concerning the West Indies as a whole.

The Conference had been formally opened on the preceding day by His Excellency Colonel (now Sir) Charles O'Brien, Governor of the Colony, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of prominent officials and residents, before whom Sir Edward Davson, the President, delivered an impressive address. Thereafter, however, the attendance was deplorably bad, there never being more than five or six members of the general public present to listen to the debates which so closely concerned their affairs. This apparent lack of interest was probably attributable to the crop having begun (and while the crop is being reaped in Barbados there is little time to think of anything else), and to the fact that the merchants were only just beginning to recover from a surfeit of gaieties, including a visit from an American Fleet, the Intercolonial Cricket Tournament, in which the island won a signal victory, and a Race Meeting.

A Commercial Parliament.

The Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce owes its origin to Mr. (now Sir) Edward Davson, the well-known British Guiana estates' proprietor, who about four years ago conceived the idea of giving business men from every part of the British West Indies the opportunity of meeting together, and of exchanging views on matters of common interest, as West Indian agriculturists had been doing in the series of Agricultural Conferences originated by Sir Daniel Morris in 1899. It is an open secret that Sir Edward Davson devoted not only much energy, but also money towards bringing about these meetings of the Chambers of Commerce, and it is not too much to say that but for his unflagging zeal and generosity the Conferences could not have been held. The first Conference of the Chambers was held at Port of Spain in 1918. The second was that which we were now attending. On this occasion every West Indian colony would have been represented but for the absence of the Jamaica delegates, whose non-appearance gave rise to considerable anxiety, since it was understood that they had started for Barbados a fortnight or so before, and fears were expressed that they might have been "sunk without a trace." No news of their whereabouts could be ascertained by cable, for Barbados was, and had been for several weeks, completely cut off from telegraphic communication with the outside world.

It was subsequently learned that the Jamaica absentees had failed in their efforts to reach Barbados direct or via Colon, and, that as they did not fancy the idea of travelling by way of New York in mid-winter—with influenza, as they were given to believe, raging in that city—they abandoned their expedition altogether, much to the regret of the other delegates. Their absence served, however, to emphasise two points which were constantly under discussion—those of telegraphic and steam-

ship accommodation, which must be regarded as the two most important factors welding the scattered West Indian colonies into a cohesive whole. In both respects the West Indies were now far worse off than they had been twenty years ago. As regards cable communication, it is true that the message rate between the Mother Country and the West Indies has been reduced from 4/4 and 7/- to 2/6 per word, but how can this profit a man when he cannot send a cablegram whenever he wants because the cables are constantly interrupted, and when such messages as do "get through" are generally so hopelessly mutilated as to be quite unintelligible? West Indians must certainly be very long-suffering folk, and it is difficult to believe that any other community would have suffered themselves to be telegraphically isolated as that of the West Indies was during the winter of 1919-20, without raising such a rumpus as would have compelled the authorities to act. It must be admitted that the contracting cable company was labouring under disadvantages through its repair ship having itself to be repaired, and this vessel, the *Henry Holmes*, had already been held up in the Government dock at Trinidad for no fewer than ten months, affording incidentally a glaring example of the evils of State trading; but their cables, which were laid as far back as 1871, must by now be worn out. Cables do not last for ever, and the persistent mutilation of messages leads on to the conclusion that the methods of transmission and of receiving messages used must also be of an obsolete type. The delegates expressed in no measured terms their disgust and dissatisfaction at the continuance of the existing state of affairs, and were unanimous in supporting the view so frequently expressed by the West India Committee, that the solution of the West Indian telegraphic problem rested in the laying of a cable from Bermuda to Barbados, and in linking up the islands and British Guiana by cables and also wireless where atmospheric conditions permit.

With regard to steamship communication, the West Indies were also far worse off than they were before the war. In 1900 the comfortable passenger steamers which left Southampton on every alternate Wednesday reached Barbados, with the regularity of the Scotch Express, at daybreak on the following Monday week. There they were met by the three intercolonial steamers for the Windward Islands and Trinidad, the Leeward Islands, and Demerara, whilst the Atlantic steamers brought Barbados within three days of Jamaica. That now seemed too good to be true. There was now no longer any regular transatlantic steamer service to link up with an intercolonial service, and intending visitors to the Old Country were at their wit's end in endeavouring to secure a share of the limited accommodation provided by the steamers of the Scruttons Direct Line, which has since passed under the house flag of Messrs. Thos. & Jas. Harrison. On the question of steamship communication the delegates were at first inclined to be less unanimous; but a stirring appeal made by Mr. Moir Mackenzie, a breezy ex-Lieutenant of the R.N.V.R., who beat the patriotic drum and gave an exposition

of what the Mother Country had done in the war, how her fleet had safeguarded the islands, and how her mercantile marine had kept them from famine, brought them into line, and a resolution was passed *nemine contradicente*, urging the Government to call for tenders for a transatlantic passenger and mail steamer service within a year's time.

On this occasion visitors from outside *quorum pars parva fuit* were permitted to participate in the deliberations of the Conference. This was somewhat resented by one of the local delegates; but none would probably deny that the speeches of Mr. Frank Keefer, the Canadian Minister for External Affairs, and a practised orator, helped to raise the tone of the discussions and to broaden the views of the speakers generally. One thing was noticeable. There were no silent members. All had their say on every subject raised, with the result that the matters on the agenda were most thoroughly discussed before a vote was taken, the President showing much patience when delegates justified their presence by descanting on the economic and vital statistics of the colonies which they represented.

(To be continued.)

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VI.—Sir Henry Morgan.

(Continued from page 54.)

The *Assistance*, which brought the Duke of Albemarle out as governor, and was destined to carry home his dead body, was in Port Royal harbour at the time, and the following entry occurs in the Captain's journal, which is preserved in the Record Office, London:—

"August 1688, Saturday 25th. This day about eleven hours moone Sir Harry Morgan died. On the 26th was brought over from Passage fort to the King's House at Port Royall, from thence to the Church, and after a sermon was carried to the Palesadoes and there buried. All the forts fired an equal number of guns. Wee fired two and twenty, and after wee and the Drake hul fired, all the merchantmen fired."

Morgan's will, dated the 17 of June, 1688, is in the Record Office at Spanish Town. He made his widow executrix, and Colonel Thomas Ballard, Colonel Henry Archbold, Thomas Byndloss, and Roger Elletson trustees of his will. The bulk of his property he left to his widow for life, and after her death in succession to Charles Byndloss, Polnytz Byndloss, Henry Archbold, sons of Anne Maria Byndloss; the sons of Catherine Maria Byndloss; the sons of Mary Elizabeth Byndloss, on condition, in each case, that the successor took the name of Morgan.

Properties of his mentioned in his will were Penkame in St. George, Arthur's Land in St. Mary, and Dankes in Clarendon. In 1678, Captain Charles Morgan took up 1,500 acres of land in St. Mary, bordering westerly on the Rio Cohre. The estate of Llanushumny lies between this position and Port Maria, where Morgan, as we have seen, at one time resided. This seems to be another link between Sir Henry Morgan and the Tredegar family. He is said to have resided for some time at Morgan's

Valley in Clarendon, which probably in those days was joined to Dankes. The river Ryndloss, named after his brother-in-law, runs hard by. He bequeathed numerous mourning rings, among others, to the Duke and Duchess of Albemarle, the former only surviving him a few weeks. He left to Colonel Thomas Ballard his "greene saddle," and to Roger Elletson "the choise of any one of my horses, my blew saddle and furniture thereunto belonging with one case of pistols tipped with silver," and to his two godsons, Henry Archbold and Richard Elletson, each a silver-hilted sword and mourning ring; and one hundred pounds to the parish of St. Mary.

Charles Byndloss, son of Robert Byndloss, succeeded to the bulk of the property on the death of Lady Morgan without issue in 1695-6, and took, in accordance with his uncle's will, the name of Morgan. As Charles Morgan Byndloss he represented St. Mary in the Assembly in 1704, and St. George in 1705. One of his sons, Henry Morgan-Byndloss, was Attorney-General in 1754-5.

Colonel Thomas Ballard was one of Venables's Army, and was for many years member of the Council till he was removed by Inchiquin. Colonel Henry Archbold was the son of Colonel Henry Archbold, who also came out in Venables's Army. He married—as we have seen—on November 30th, 1671, Joanna Wilhelmina, sister of Lady Morgan. Roger Elletson was member of the Assembly for St. George and St. Thomas-in-the-Valc, and Speaker in 1688, and Chief Justice in 1689.

That Morgan was an extremely brave man there can be no doubt, that he was a skilful leader is beyond dispute, and that he was no pirate is also evident. What he is known to have done at sea he did under commission from the Governor of Jamaica at a time when it was held that there was "no pceace beyond the line" with the Spaniards, which condition of affairs ended only with the treaty of Madrid.

The charges of great cruelty rest chiefly in the writings of Esquemelin, against whose English publisher he succeeded in a libel action. Morgan was not so black as he has been painted, even if he did at times suffer to be performed dastardly deeds, of which the greatest was the sending of nuns and monks with scaling ladders—an unjustifiable act in any age. It may have been that he was powerless to prevent it. There seems no doubt that, on one occasion, at all events, he treated his confreres meanly in the matter of the division of spoil, and he was evidently at times a great drunkard. But that he gained the good opinion of men such as Lynch and Banister stands to his credit.

Charles Edward Long, the grandson of the historian, in articles in the "Gentlemen's Magazine" for February and March, 1882, whitewashed Morgan. It is evident that Long availed himself to a great extent of the information given to him by Roby. Long concludes his article by stating, "I have shown Sir Henry Morgan to have been neither by connection, conduct, or acquirement the low-born, handit-like, and illiterate desperado that discontented followers, discomfited enemies, and childish story-books would have him, but a fit associate in the annals of transatlantic adventure with

the Raleighs, the Drakes, the Cliffords, and the Shirleys of earlier renown." But some of his argument rests on the absolutely fallacious supposition that Sir Hans Sloane's description of the drunken "Sir H. M." refers to Sir Hender Mollesworth, and not to Morgan.

The novel, "The Buccaneers, Sir Henry Morgan," by the author of "Rattlin, the Recker" (the Hon. Edward Greville Howard), is based on the facts of the life of Morgan known to that author.

Charles Leslie, in "A New and Exact Account of Jamaica" (1740), says: "I have seen here a curious picture of Sir Henry, done at his own desire. He is drawn at length, and there appears something so awful and majestic in his countenance, that I'm persuaded none can look upon it without a kind of veneration. As he was only at first a servant to a planter in Barbadoes, and tho' that state of life be the meanest and most disgraceful, which a white man can be in, yet he never disowned the fact—yea, so far to the contrary, that the chain and pot-hooks are painted by his own order in the picture I spoke of just now. These are instruments which are used to punish slaves and servants when they commit a fault; and such an instance of a truly great soul, which, amidst almost a regal pomp, was not unmindful of its pristine state, is rarely to be found—at least, I'm sure it was never before or since known in this island."

Roby, writing to Long in 1831 with reference to the tradition that the portrait still existed in Jamaica, said: "I had requested an intelligent person, Mr. Richard Hill, to inquire about Morgan's portrait, &c., and he sent me a note, which I unfortunately lost, telling me that he had heard one existed at Lawrencefield, near Spanish Town, and he promised to look to it. I also inquired of Mr. (Speaker) Dallas, who knew the place, but learned from him that there was no portrait, only an old lamp and an old table, on which, and by the light of which, as tradition said, the famous bucanier counted his pieces-of-eight. I quote from Mr. Hill's letter of 17th March last: 'I have made all inquiry after Sir Henry Morgan, and have been assured that no portrait existed at Lawrencefield.'"

There is no proof that the swashbuckler-like person portrayed in the early edition of Esquemelin's book represents Morgan, but the print is usually accepted as authentic. The less ferocious likeness, drawn by Fournier, and engraved by Bonneau, in the fourth edition, published by Midwinter in 1741, is probably only a fancy picture.

With the Peace of Ryswick in 1697, the buccaniers almost ceased to exist. Some entered the military service of their respective countries, others returned to their homes, others again became planters in the colonies; the remainder who kept to their old calling became pirates pure and simple.

THE West India Committee can no more be kept going without subscriptions than an engine without fuel. Will each member therefore ask himself, "Have I paid my subscription?" and, if the reply is in the negative, kindly forward the amount due or pay it in to any branch of the Colonial Bank or Royal Bank of Canada?

SUGAR IN SANTO DOMINGO.

A 200,000 ton Crop in sight.

BY AN ANGLO-DOMINICAN.

The Dominican Republic will soon have to be reckoned with as a factor in the world's sugar situation. Production in Santo Domingo is going ahead rapidly, the local estimates placing the 1920-21 crop at 208,000 tons as against 175,000 tons for 1919-20 and 153,000 tons for 1918-19. The possibilities of the Republic as a producer of sugar are tremendous, for the soil, although it is perhaps not so rich as the best in Cuba, and suffers from a deficient rainfall in some districts, is, on the whole, very productive, and when taken in from forest, the canes grown in it will ratoon for twenty years without replanting. The two drawbacks are the want of reliable labour, and political uncertainty. The Dominican is most unreliable, and much prefers to live on his little farm among the woods. Many labourers from the neighbouring Republic of Haiti go to Santo Domingo, but a large proportion of them are of very poor physique, and they are much less reliable than the Dominicans. The bulk of the cane-cutting around the Macoris district, the principal sugar-producing neighbourhood, is done by British negroes from the nearer islands, who come for the crop and return when it is finished, carrying very fair sums of money with them. As might be expected, we do not by any means get the best; but their physique is in marked contrast to that of the others.

With regard to the political uncertainty, it is feared that the United States Government contemplate the early withdrawal of the forces who at present police the Republic. If this is done and the country returns to its former state of corrupt government and frequent revolutions, there will be no safety for either life or property, and the progress of the whole country will be much retarded. Even now, the fact that the Military Government is depending largely on the local National Guard for the protection of the country districts, the armed bands of bandits called "gavilleros" have resumed their activities, and there are many cases of robbery of outlying stores. These "gavilleros" went so far as to appear recently on the two centrals lying furthest out in the Macoris district and demanded money under threat of using arms. When finished they mount their horses at once and return to the mountains, in whose wooded fastnesses they are most difficult to get at. They are much more circumspect when they have the fear of a force of U.S. Marines before their eyes. They care nothing for the National Guards, and treat them with contempt. A mixed commission of U.S. officials and Dominicans is to be appointed immediately to go over the laws and to reform them where required. A land court of Americans is at present sitting for the purpose of disentangling the question of the ownership of land titles, at present in a very mixed state. In any case it is generally hoped that they will delay the evacuation until the country is in a much better state to govern itself. Of course, the politicians and the Press want an immediate evacuation whilst there is a full treasury.

WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

Barbados' Crop Prospects.

The continued dry weather is having a very serious effect on cultivation, and the outlook for the crop is very gloomy. The estates generally are unlikely to turn out half the sugar they did last year.

Spongers in the Bahamas.

The *Nassau Guardian* has recently been publishing an interesting series of tales dealing with the sponge industry of a quarter of a century ago, with the title "Toilers of the Mud." The "sponger" of to-day is not the drilled and seasoned subject that he was then, education and ambition having developed a commercial labourer to whom the traditions and instincts of the calling mean nothing. Nowadays the sponge fleet often has difficulty in getting to sea, the brokers only securing crews by the most liberal advances in cash. Mr. T. P. Stokoe, the manager of Berry Islands, Ltd., has returned from his holiday in England.

The Colonial Hotel, owned by the Florida East Coast Hotel Co., was opened on January 15th, for the first time since 1916. Its re-opening marks the revival of Nassau as a winter resort.

British Guiana's Bauxite Industry.

There was a large attendance from all parts of the Colony at the funeral of the late Mr. H. E. Murray, which took place at Le Repentir Cemetery on December 29th, after a choral service conducted by Archbishop Parry, at Christ Church. The mourners were Mr. Arthur Murray, Mr. W. W. Brassington, Mr. F. Seaford, and Mr. Justice Berkeley.

The New Amsterdam Town Council have, says *The Argosy*, offered to reinstate Mr. J. A. Van Sertima, the Town Clerk, on his payment of the expenses of the dereliction of duty for which he was suspended. Mr. J. A. Abhensetts has been returned to the Court of Policy as member for the county of Berbice, the seat being rendered vacant by the absence of Mr. J. P. Santos. Mr. M. Nascimento and Mr. A. A. Thorne have been elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Georgetown, respectively.

At the fourth ordinary general meeting of the New Plantation La Bonne Mère, Ltd., held on December 23rd, Hon. F. Dias presiding, a final dividend of 10 per cent. for 1919 was recommended, making a total dividend of 15 per cent. for that year. Mr. R. H. Carr, a Vice-President of the Northern Aluminium Co., of Toronto, who has arrived in the Colony to be the local representative of the company in respect of the bauxite industry and Sproston's, Ltd., in an interview with an *Argosy* reporter, hoped it was clearly understood that the policy of the company was to develop bauxite mining on thoroughly British lines and through British people. Mr. A. E. Bratt, of Pho. Leonora, has been appointed Planting Attorney of Pin. Marionville, Wakenaam. There was a disastrous fire at Messrs. Gamett & Co.'s Depot in the Rupununi District on January 6th, in which some 100,000 lbs. of balata were believed to have been destroyed.

Mr. Paul Crossall, writing on January 7th, states that H.M.S. *Calcutta* left on that date for Barbados, after a good time spent on shore during the previous week by the officers and men, a week filled up with excursion trips, cricket, football, tennis, boxing matches, etc., and all speak in high terms of the Demerara "swizzle," and the hospitality of the colonists. The death is recorded of Thomas Flood, a well-known East Indian sportsman, who, seventy years

ago, was a penniless foundling in the Georgetown Orphan Asylum, and died the richest butcher in the city.

Anti-waste Move in Grenada.

The term of office of His Excellency Sir G. B. Haddon-Smith as Governor of the Windward Islands has been extended for two years. Mr. H. de Minvielle, J.P., has been provisionally appointed to be an unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Elliot Guy, of Carriacou, has obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts of the University of Durham.

Speaking on the financial estimates of the Colony in the Legislative Council on December 22nd, Mr. D. S. De Freitas strongly urged upon the Government the need for increased economy, and said the unofficial members were unanimous in condemning the Export Tax, the incidence of which fell in equal proportions on the big estate owner and the small peasant, and he thought an income tax would be infinitely preferable. He moved that the suggested increases in salaries should be for one year only and not permanent, but the motion was lost. Mr. F. H. Copland was opposed to any increases.

General regret is felt in the Island at the departure of Sir Thomas Hayercraft, the Chief Justice, to take up his new appointment in Palestine.

Mr. H. W. A. Phillip has been notified of his obtaining the degree of LL. B. as the result of his success in the last London University Law examinations, in which he was the only successful candidate from overseas. By a sad coincidence he heard at about the same time of the death, on December 6th, of his younger brother, Mr. A. R. L. Phillip, from pneumonia. The latter, who gave promise of an equally fine academic career, had only arrived in London to commence his studies at King's College, where he was the Grenada scholar, a few days before contracting his fatal illness. Both brothers were educated at Codrington College.

Honduras and the Agricultural College.

The Hon. G. E. Graham, writing from British Honduras on December 31st, said that he was much interested in the Agricultural College proposal and he thought that the Colony later on would support it, when inter-colonial steamship communication was established. Business locally was rather depressed, as it was in the rest of the world. Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., was expected to pay a visit to Belize during January.

The Governor, who received a very cordial welcome on returning to the Colony on January 2nd, was met by Col. Max Smith, Hon. C. Melhado, C.M.G., Hon. S. Cuthbert, and Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E., the last of whom read an address of welcome. The guard of honour was formed by a detachment of the West India Regiment. His Excellency has appointed Mr. E. M. Tibbitt to be his private secretary.

Addressing the Legislative Council on January 17th, on his activities for the Colony during his stay in England, the Hon. Eyre Hutson said that he had indicated to the Colonial Economic Development Committee, of which Lord Milner was President, three possible directions for the investment of British capital in the Colony:—(1) In relation to its forest and mineral wealth, extending any investigation to the Province of Peten in Guatemala, the aim being to obtain reliable information as to the probable commercial value of a railway from the coast into Guatemala; (2) in following up any results of the forth-

coming geological and forest surveys, particularly in the search for mineral oil and precious metals; (3) in the manufacture of sugar and syrup.

Mr. Peter Leaves St. Lucia's Council.

An Order in Council has been issued under the Sugar (Local Consumption) Ordinance, 1920, by which sugar in the following quantities will be retained for sale in the Island; from the Roseau factory, 213 tons; the Vieux-Port factory, 96 tons; Dennery factory, 78 tons; and the Cul-de-Sac factory, 163 tons. The prices fixed for the sale of sugar locally are £31 per ton wholesale, and 4d. per lb. retail. Licences must now be taken out by owners of bicycles, a fee of two shillings and sixpence being payable in each case.

After twenty-eight years service in the Legislative Council, Mr. William Peter has resigned his appointment as an unofficial member. Mr. Peter, who has been resident in the Colony from early boyhood, and a member of the Executive Council since 1912, has always taken the closest interest in everything affecting St. Lucia's welfare, and in 1908 he was one of the unofficial members who, on the introduction of the Property Tax, resigned their seats in support of the public feeling that the tax was unnecessary.

The Estimates for 1921, which have been passed in the Legislative Council, allow for an expenditure of £97,531, which is £4,000 more than that of last year, and exceeds the revenue by £400. The above figure includes a grant of £475 to the Tropical Agricultural College, which is being established in Trinidad, and provides £300 for a motor bus service between Dennery and the Capital.

Mr. Nairn dies at Kingstown, St. Vincent.

With the death of Mr. T. R. Nairn at Kingstown on December 11th, the Colony has lost one of its best known and most respected citizens. Of Scots family, he came to St. Vincent in 1881 to join the firm of D. K. Porter & Co., of which he afterwards became a partner. When this firm sold its estates and closed down, Mr. Nairn struck out on his own, his latest undertaking being to establish and carry on the business of Messrs. Leacock & Co., wholesale and retail merchants. He was a familiar figure in the Kingstown Club.

News has been received from Barbados of the death there, on December 10th, of Mr. P. F. Huggins, Chairman of the St. Vincent Agricultural and Commercial Society, owner of Bellewood estate, and an old and much respected resident in the Colony, where for many years he had been a magistrate.

Tobago's Successful Agricultural Show.

Under date January 13th, Mr. Robert S. Reid writes that the fine cool breezes still continue, allowing good progress with cacao pickings, but drying up the young fruit. It is safe to say that the crop will be over by the end of February, and that there will be little cacao to be picked for months thereafter. The trees would do their work, but the lack of rain shrivels up the flowers and fruit. There is now a fresh flush of flowers which may hold if we get moderate rains this month. The country is already assuming its dry season appearance, especially in the Leeward. The sugar canes have specially suffered and a planter informed me to-day that Tobago would be lucky to reap a half crop for 1921. Unfortunately the world would never miss the whole of it, as the plantings are reduced to 200-250 tons these days.

At Roxburgh to-day, an Agricultural Show is being

held, and the Government kindly voted \$250 towards prizes and expenses. That and local subscriptions ought to make the show a financial success. The people seemed keen about entries and take a very active interest.

At the January Sessions, on 11th inst., three criminal cases were disposed of under Chief Justice Sir C. V. Lucie Smith. Last steamer brought over, besides the Chief Justice, our new Solicitor-General, whose quiet and methodical handling of the cases was commented upon. Colonel May also arrived and to the delight of Tobagonians, permitted thirty of the Police Band to come over under Bandmaster Wallace. The band played at the Botanic Gardens yesterday afternoon and later in the evening near Fort House. To-day they play at Roxburgh.

Trade Depression in Trinidad.

Owing to the extreme dejection of the cacao market and to the heavy fall in the value of flour, large stocks of which, purchased at former high values, have recently arrived, the mercantile position for the moment, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp, on January 7th, is in a very unsatisfactory condition. Severe losses have been sustained in certain directions, but principally by those who are well able to bear them, and the good credit of the Colony is likely to be maintained.

The report of the Select Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on the Harbour Scheme has been printed and circulated amongst the members and will be duly considered at a meeting of the Chamber to be held shortly, after which it is sincerely to be hoped that there will be no further delay in adopting the measures so urgently needed to relieve the present congestion at our wharves. In accordance with old established custom, the Consuls waited on H.E. the Governor on New Year's morning to offer him the best wishes for the New Year, and were very courteously received.

[It may be mentioned that Mr. Edgar Tripp is Dean of the local Consular body.—ED.]

The National City Bank of New York, a branch of which was established last year, has decided to close business in the Colony, owing to the very proper decision of the Government not to allow them any greater privileges than are extended to the British banks in New York. It would have been manifestly unfair that whilst the agency of the Colonial Bank in New York is not allowed to accept deposits, this privilege should have been extended to a New York bank in Trinidad. All the same it is regrettable that an institution through which considerable capital might have been attracted to the Colony should be withdrawing from it.

Meanwhile, banking facilities will be further extended by the opening in February of a branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who have erected a new building in a prominent position, whilst the Royal Bank of Canada is about to open a second branch in the centre of the city.

The return immigrant ship *Hughli* carried 1,081 repatriated Indians, at a cost of £28 per head. The next ship is expected about May.

The Christmas races of the Trinidad Turf Club were held on the 31st December and the 1st January, and were attended by the largest crowd ever seen on such occasions. Special interest attached to these races by reason of the fact that ten English thoroughbreds had recently been imported. Two excellent days' sport was the result. The weather was fine and the attendance included H.E. the Governor and Lady Chancellor, and Admiral Sir Luis Gomez,

K.C.V.O., and several of the officers of the Chilean war ships now in the harbour en route from England to Chili. Another very welcome guest of the Turf Club, arrived from New York just in time to be present on the second day, was Mr. MacGregor Frame. It is unnecessary to say how pleased his many friends were to meet this popular representative of so many interests here.

The irritating noise of the Klaxon horn will soon cease to disturb the thoroughfares of Port of Spain, the Inspector-General having issued traffic regulations, under which only bulb horns will be allowed on motor vehicles within the limits of the municipality.

A lady mycologist, Miss C. M. Wakefield, has recently been working with the Department of Agriculture. Miss Wakefield, who is on the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, acted for a short time as mycologist of Barbados. Brigadier-General J. A. Bell-Smythe, C.B., C.M.G., was married on January 15th to Miss Dorothy Hope Smith. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Chancellor were present at the wedding, which took place at St. Patrick's Church, Newtown.

At the annual general meeting of the Agricultural Society on January 13th, Mr. W. B. S. Barnardo was elected President for the ensuing year, Mr. H. Warner, the retiring President, being elected Vice-President of the Society. The cinema, which has been installed in the Cocorite Leper Asylum, was opened on January 11th before a large gathering which included the Mayor of Port of Spain, Dr. K. S. Wise (the Surgeon-General) and Miss Denis Slyné. The introduction of the "movies," which will greatly help to brighten the lives of the unfortunate inmates, is the result of an appeal started over a year ago by Madame Alma Simpson, the American soprano, who was at that time singing in the island.

B.W.I. Regt. Honoured in Jamaica.

A strong northerly blow was experienced from Port Antonio to Montego Bay on January 16th and 17th, fully nine boats and lighters, as the *Gleaner* believes, having been lost by the United Fruit Company between Buff Bay, Rio Nuevo and Montego Bay. The effects on the banana fields have been severe in a few districts, but only a limited quantity of fruit can be affected.

The final resting places of the flags presented to various battalions of the British West Indies Regiment have been approved as follows:—2nd Bn.—Parish Church, Montego Bay; 3rd Bn.—The Cathedral, Spanish Town; 4th Bn.—Parish Church, Port Antonio; 5th Bn.—St. George's Church, Kingston; 7th Bn.—Parish Church, St. Ann's Bay; 9th Bn.—Parish Church, Sav-la-Mar; 10th Bn.—Parish Church, Port Maria; 11th Bn.—Parish Church, Kingston. It will be recalled that the colours of the remaining battalions have been sent to the Governor of Trinidad for distribution amongst the other West Indian Colonies, from which men joined the Regiment.

The Social Purity League has decided not to co-operate with the doctors being sent to Jamaica by Mr. Crowe, of Toronto, on the ground that their methods are different to those of the National Council for the Prevention of Venereal Disease. The first public sitting of the Commission appointed by the Governor to enquire into the housing of the poor was held on January 18th. The members include the Hon. A. G. Nash (chairman), Hon. Major E. T. Dixon, Hon. Rev. A. Barclay, Rev. F. L. King, Rev. Gordon Somers, Dr. L. Gifford, Mr. E. A. G. Campbell, Miss Annie Wheatie, and Mr. P. G. Duff (Secretary).

OUR LIBRARY.

ADVENTURES IN WARS OF THE REPUBLIC AND CONSULATE. By A. Moreau de Jonnés. Translated from the edition of 1898 by Brigadier-General A. J. Abdy, C.B., C.B.E. London: John Murray; 18/- net; pp. 800+xiv.; 8½ in. x 5¼ in.

M. Moreau de Jonnés had an eventful career. Shortly after his arrival in Paris, in 1791, from Rennes, where he was educated, he was, owing to his height and black moustache, which made him look older than he was, "pounced upon" for service with the National Guard, and soon found himself with bayonet fixed, in the ranks of a picket of 800 men detailed to guard Louis XVI. at the Tuileries. Gifted with an adventurous spirit, he subsequently saw active service in the Morbihan, Finistère, and at Toulon, where he had many exciting experiences during the siege of 1793. In the following year he participated in the sea fight between Villaret-Joyeuse and Howe on what we call "the Glorious First of June," and we can safely assert that no more stirring account of that battle than that given by this eye-witness has ever been written. His pages glow with tales of the heroism of his countrymen, who, though defeated, derived satisfaction from the knowledge that the food convoy awaited from America escaped the English. Many intimate episodes which have hitherto escaped the historian are related, such as that of some young volunteers who had borne themselves as heroes in the mizzen-top during the fight, but when called down the mast, which was riddled with shot, could not face the descent from such a height, and had to be helped down by top-men who were sent aloft to assist them—"a comic scene in the midst of our mourning."

After the operations of Quiberon Bay the Fates took de Jonnés to the West Indies, where he had some remarkable adventures in St. Vincent during the "Brigands' War," as an ally, of course, of the Caribs; and in Trinidad, where he experienced an earthquake, as well as in Martinique, where he was brought into close contact with Victor Hugues, the Commissary of the Convention, and the prime mover in the operations against the English Colonies in the Caribbean. After taking part in two expeditions against Ireland, de Jonnés returned to the West Indies again in 1801, landing on this occasion on Santo Domingo, where no fewer than 20,000 soldiers and 1,500 officers, including the Commander-in-Chief and 41 Generals, besides 6,000 to 7,000 followers, succumbed to Yellow Fever, a hideous disaster which compelled Général Rochambeau to evacuate the island. Yellow Fever again faced him when, as a lieutenant of Artillery, he attended the Fêtes at Fort-de-France, when Martinique was restored to France after the Peace of Amiens. At St. Pierre he occupied the rooms of Père Labat, whose memory was still revered. After a short sojourn in France he returned on a Privateer to Martinique. War had now broken out again, and in 1804 de Jonnés made his attempt to reduce Maurice's plucky little English garrison ensconced upon the Diamond Rock, as described in "West Indian Tales of old," an expedition which nearly ended

in complete disaster. His view was that the fortifying of the rock was pure bluff, but he generously admits that "the works as carried out formed a masterpiece," and that Hood showed "great skill and rare activity." The final chapter of this most entertaining book deals with the memorable attack on Roseau, Dominica, in June, 1805, the period of which is still spoken of in the island as La Grange, after the French General who conducted it. Incidentally de Jonnés, who was there at the time, declares that it was the English who, "in firing over the tops of the houses," set the town alight, the wads made of old tar-rope, and still burning, setting a light to the shingle or dry reed roofs—a statement of great interest in view of the controversy as to whether the French or the English burned Roseau.

As befits a Member of the Institut, Moreau de Jonnés writes in good literary style, which loses nothing by its translation, so admirably performed by General Abdy. He died at the advanced age of ninety-two on the eve of the declaration of war in 1870, and twelve years after the publication of the first edition of his Adventures.

Copies of "Adventures in Wars" can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 18/- net, or post free 18/9 each.

LETTERS TO EDITOR.

A Domestic Matter.

SIR,—In your issue of 23rd December, there is a letter signed "Caribbean," on the subject of the West Indies adopting their own currency.

Your correspondent does not recommend this (and neither do I), but suggests that the seigniorage made on such coinage as is now allocated to the West Indies, by the Home Government, would be very useful to these Islands.

In this suggestion I am heartily with him, but, in place of the purposes he mentions, to which this profit might be applied (all-excellent in themselves), I venture to name as the primary use to which it should be put, the payment of salaries and allowances, now paid by the West Indian Islands, of Governors and Administrators sent out by the Colonial Office, in short, the pay of its nominees, its clerks, and hangers-on with some influence, who in many cases, would never be chosen by the Colonies themselves—either for their fitness for the position, or for their knowledge, or experience as administrators—but who are nominated to such appointments, without reference to West Indian opinion, and, not infrequently, with absolutely no regard to island needs.

Perhaps "Caribbean" will agree that, in fairness, this exercise of patronage should not be paid for by us.

WEST INDIAN.

Molascuit for the Still.

SIR,—Molascuit meal is now well known as a cattle fodder, and will be in large request if it can be offered at an attractive price. The present rate of freight is, however, a serious deterrent to its general use. The consumption season is naturally in the winter months, and therefore it is important to manufacture a product that could be used in quantity for other purposes all the year round. With this object in view the

writer is of opinion that a product can be made that will be of service to our distillers in the form of compressed solid Molasses. The procedure of manufacture would be to concentrate molasses to 86 Brix, care being taken not to caramelize the sugars and to mix same hot with a minimum of dried megass meal as obtained for the manufacture of meal Molasses. By laboratory experiment I have found that 12 per cent. of such dried meal will absorb 88 per cent. of the concentrated molasses and the mixture can be compressed without loss of molasses into a space of one-third less than sugar. This should be an important point on the rate of freight. Alcohol will be greatly required for industrial purposes. Solid Molasses should therefore attract the attention of sugar growers as well as our distillers. I hope the time is not far distant when some enterprising planter will make an experimental shipment, and I invite the Imperial Department of Agriculture to assist in this investigation.

I know many chemists see objection to this scheme, especially on the point that the alcohol could be made on the spot and shipped; but at the moment great difficulties would have to be got over in shipping liquids. At any rate this procedure would overcome that difficulty and might prove of considerable service as a means of using some vacuum pan molasses profitably, and especially on estates unequipped with distilleries.

GEORGE HUGHES.

An Old Time Superstition.

SIR,—In the November issue of the Committee's CIRCULAR, under the caption, "Some notes of interest," mention is made of a contribution to the *Ladies Field*, from the pen of Miss G. L. Hamilton, on the subject of "Obeah" in the West Indies.

I have not had the pleasure of reading Miss Hamilton's story, but desire to add a brief experience on the subject from the early recollections of my boyhood days passed on my father's sugar plantation, "Welchman's Hall," in the island of Barbados, some fifty years back. Superstition at that time was rampant among the darkeys, and; I presume it is not smouldering to-day, for some of them still cling to their inherited notions regarding witchcraft and obeah. The writer knows personally of many instances of negroes who had quarrelled with each other, when the one has deliberately set about (to use their own expression) "to work obeah" for the other. An explanation of how this obeah "was worked" by the blacks is interesting. They take the tooth or bone of some dead animal, a parrot feather, an old coffin handle, an old screw, a piece of cloth and some negro hair and a little soil, and placing this motley selection into a sealed bottle, they then place it secretly at night time at the door of the neighbour with whom they are at outs. This bottled rubbish is intended, as they sincerely believe, to bring down evil, misfortune and Satan's wrath upon the family at whose door it has been placed. This obeah scare seems to have extraordinary influence on the blacks. For instance, I must relate a story which positively occurred, to my personal knowledge and observation, which is no joke. My father, Dr. John W. Carrington, was at that time the owner of Welchman's Hall plantation, and in his orchard he had some valuable nutmeg and cocoa trees, and it seems the negroes were in the habit of helping themselves to the product of these trees, without any regard to the requirements of the eighth commandment. Now father being a doctor of medicine and an old graduate of

Edinburgh, prescribed an excellent preventative by conceiving the idea of suspending in the trees bottles of this so-called obeah mixture or concoction made according to the negroes' own formula; and, it so happened, that at this very time the skeleton of a man was found on the plantation. Father being the coroner cornered the skull and placed it in a conspicuous point in one of the trees. It is a genuine fact that either the obeah bottles or the skull of the unfortunate man proved to be of far superior protection against any further depredation than a regiment of the King's troops. I recall another incident. When I was a small boy I remember well how some of us boys persuaded "old Tip," a servant, to enter what was regarded as a "haunted barn." Invading the darkness of that dismal structure he received a blow on the back of his head that sent him running out screaming at the top of his voice. Thinking he was pursued by spooks he continued the mad race until he dropped from exhaustion. Investigation afterwards (not conducted by "old Tip") proved he had stepped on the front edge of a steel buggy tyre, causing the rear end to fly up and strike him viciously from behind. And, to this day, if "old Tip" was still in the flesh, you'd have a hard time convincing that man that he wasn't whacked with felonious intent by some ill-tempered denizen of the land beyond the grave.

Very cordially,

E. W. CARRINGTON.

4657, Mississippi Street,
San Diego, California, U.S.A.,
January 19th, 1921.

[Mr. Carrington will be glad to learn that the ridiculous "Obeah" cult is now far less common in the West Indies than it used to be.—Ed.]

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Trinidad Esmeralda.

This Company, which was formed in January last year to acquire the Esmeralda Estate in the Ward of Montserrat, is reported to have struck oil in paying quantities in its first well at the shallow depth of 803 feet. The oil is said to be of high grade. The Company has recently acquired oil rights over a further 492 acres situate in the Ward of Savana Grande.

Cocoa Planters' Association of Trinidad.

At the fifth annual meeting, held at Port of Spain on January 5th, Hon. R. S. A. Warner, K.C., presiding, a report was presented which showed that 39,189 bags of cacao of 165 lbs. each were disposed of in 1920, as against 39,971 in 1919, 25,227 in 1918, and 36,757 in 1917. The working expenses amounted to 5 3-5c. per fanega (110 lbs.), the final return to members being \$23.91.50 a fanega on the year's working.

Rupununi Development Co., Ltd.

The Hon. A. P. Sherlock, presiding over the first annual meeting of this company at Georgetown, Demerara, on December 30th, said that their liquid assets were \$89,000, and their liabilities were estimated at practically the same sum. The report states that unexpected difficulties in transporting cattle over the Rupununi trail had been encountered. Out of some 900 head of cattle which had left the Savannahs for the coast in March-May, only 359 reached the Upper Berbice Savannahs, and the greater portion of the balance broke back before reaching the Essequibo crossing at Kurupukarri. The remainder were lost in the bush or bogged in bad places on the trail before reaching the Savannahs at Warauama. So further work was stopped pending the completion of new corrals, but would recommence in January. Two thousand head of cattle were now assembled on the trail, waiting to come down.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in S.S. *Bayana*, February 8th

Mr & Mrs Arango	Mr H. E. Godfrey	Miss K. H. Nicholson
Miss Arango	Mr J. Grinuly	Mr N. Penberton
Mr H. H. Armstrong	Mr G. Grant	Billing, M.P.
Dr C. A. Calder	Mr C. E. Harvey	Mr J. Poatton
Mr D. Carverhill	Mr & Mrs H. F. Henderson	Mr A. E. Prince
Mrs V. E. Coke	Miss R. M. Henderson	Miss J. Restrepo
Master W. E. Coke	Mr & Mrs F. O. Hutchinson	Miss H. Sainsbury
Mr T. H. A. Crisp	Mr W. Keenan	Mr T. A. B. Sherriff
Comdr. P. T. Dean, V.C. M.P.	Mr F. C. Landells	Rev. C. J. Snowden
Mr & Mrs J. L. Downes	Mr F. D. Mann	Mr & Mrs H. J. Starkey
Mr W. Everard	Mr K. Miller	Miss R. D. Tennison
Mrs J. R. Ferguson	Mr H. Mullins	Mr A. Tadmor
The Misses Ferguson	Mr F. Myers	Lt. Col. H. E. Walsh
Miss J. D. Forrester	Mr F. F. Nicholson	Miss M. Watt

Home Arrivals from Jamaica, in S.S. *Coronado*, Avonmouth, February 8th

Mr & Mrs H. D. Ackerley	Miss J. K. French	Miss A. M. Roberts
Mr C. L. Aitken	Mr P. J. Gauge	Mr & Mrs R. Southgate and Son
Mrs E. St. John Branch	Mr J. H. Harris	Miss A. A. M. Templar
Mr Arthur Branch	Mr J. H. Harris	Mr J. W. L. French
Mr W. Hurbidge	Rev. F. S. Harrison	Miss H. Scott Walker
Hon. Mr. O. V. Darnell and Son	Mr & Mrs R. H. Miller	Mr G. O'Donnell
Mr & Mrs L. A. S. Dawes and Family	Mrs. Wilmet Mitchell	Walton
	Mr F. W. Morse	Mr A. Watt
	Mr F. Ogden	Major K. H. Willis, C.D.
	Miss E. Ogden	
	Mr & Mrs W. T. Price	

Home Arrivals from Jamaica, in S.S. *Zent*, Avonmouth, February 14th.

Mr. M. Richardson Mr. S. Richardson

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.—Home arrivals from West Indies, in S.R. *Counsellor*, London, February 5th

FROM DEMERARA		
Dr. Bell	Mr. Brown	Mr. Marr
Mr. Brandon	Mr. Clarke	
FROM DOMINICA		
Mr. Brown		
FROM TRINIDAD		
	Mr. Marriott	

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in S.S. *Santille*, London, February 14th

Miss D. Roxill	From BARRADOS	Miss N. Shakerley
Dr. D. Boxill	Mr E. Hyan	
	Mr. H. Howley	
	From DEMERARA	
	Mrs. L. M. Coates and two children	Mr. E. Jones
		Mr. Orford
	From TRINIDAD	
Lieut. G. Flower		Miss E. Smith

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.—Home arrivals from Trinidad, in S.S. *Crynsseu*, Plymouth, February 2nd

Mr T. E. Beaumont	Mr L. Huggins	Mr Macnally
Mr P. Eldred	Mr E. H. Leugston	Mr & Mrs. R. Randall
Miss M. Ellecker	Mr C. Lorman	Stevens
Sister Superior, Marie	Lady Mary Lorman	Mr L. C. Huggins
St. Sacrament Elderker		

Home Arrivals from Trinidad, in S.S. *Orange Nassau*, Plymouth, February 13th

Mr. H. C. Bowen	Mr. W. S. Kaye	Mr. J. Perkins
Mrs. A. Channings	Mr. S. Legge	Mrs. J. Perkins
Mr. W. H. Fordman	Mr. A. Minders	Mr. F. I. Townsend
Mrs. E. Fordman	Mr. F. Parsons	Mr. J. Whiteside
Mr & Mrs. A. Higgins	Mrs. A. C. Pedrique	Mrs. M. A. Whiteside
	The Misses Pedrique (2)	

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Bristol	Motagan ...	... Feb. 22
West Indies	Glasgow	Counsellor	... " 22
West Indies	London	Speaker	... " 23
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Philadelphian	... " 26
Jamaica	Bristol	Patuca	... " 28
Trinidad	Dover	Orange Nassau	... Mar 5
West Indies	Liverpool	Dramatist	... " 8
West Indies	London	Specialist	... " 9

(Continued on next page)

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates in 1920, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Antigua To Dec 31	Barbados To Dec 31	British Guiana To Dec 23	British Honduras To Dec 31	Dominica To Nov 30	Grenada To Sept 30	Jamaica To June 30	Montserrat	St. Lucia To Dec 31	St. Kitts Nevis To Dec 31	St. Vincent To Dec 15	Trinidad To Nov 30
Arrowroot
Asphalt
Balata
Bananas	918,175	...	...	...	4,354,927	...	...	...	2,746,889	89,931
Bitters	564,827	1,375	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,778
Cacao	23,241	1,043	5,024	8,879,133	4,439,568	...	1,004,192	...	142,860	62,417,520
Cassava Starch	372,837	...
Corn-nuts	20,893,104
Coffee	2,607,998	6,156,088	638,084	41,850	13,630,058	...	301,272	...	...	29,101
Codra	407,012	...	1,728	...	2,991,744	...	...	...	...	1,947,030
Colton, M. Galante	301,240	58,001	...	...	581,084	...	19,040	...	...	...
Colton, Sea Island
Cotton Seed	46,116	149,280	...	...	...	374,976	...	...	666,742	...	475,650	...
Diamonds	964,432	...	...	606,180	...	81,326	...
Dye-woods	21,368	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ginger	1,032,704	...	...	...	...	...
Gold	9,075	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ground Nuts
Honey	1,170	...	...	675,922	...	61,086	17	11,000	16,214
Lime Juice (raw)	246,993	700	12,063	...	27,436	...	...	4,557
... (conctd)	6,560	420	...	...	134,116	18,010	...	...	1,188	...	...	...
... oil
Lime (citrate of)	63,382	...	554,176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Logwood	1,473	...	...	19,313	...	1,134	...	...	3,887
Lumber	292,289	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mahogany	8,979,193	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manjak
Molasses	604,000	5712,900	100	...	14,046	...	384,989	...	189,366	190,400	181,790	165
Oranges	4,225	...	...	...	...	...	79,547	...	...	...	...	560,656
Essential Oils	850,270
Petroleum	71,689	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,938,416
Pimento	4,797,784	...	...	...	...	...
Rice	18,110,388	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rubb. r	18,861	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,885
Rum	...	30,310	1,544,758	...	...	...	239,027	...	...	...	4	50,326
Shin'es	2,586,750	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sugar	12,682	34,737	77,634	...	...	...	30,667	...	4,027	10,005	...	40,974
Timber	87,981	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,968

No figures yet supplied

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—
Carib. London



15, SPETHING LANE,
LONDON, E C 3
Feb. 15th, 1921

BANK RATE, 7 per cent. as from April 15th, 1920.

EXCHANGE on New York. \$3.88½-\$3.90

SUGAR. The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, gone to the last, have re-entered the market and purchased 100,000 tons of Cuban sugar, with the object of averaging. They bought Cuban because it was cheaper at the date of purchase than any British sugar offering. The CIRCULAR has authority for stating that the Commission will not be making any more large purchases of sugar; so the end would at last appear to be in sight. It is believed that the price paid for the Cubas was round about 4c. f.o.b. They have arranged freight, Cuba to U.K., at 30/- March loading, this favourable quotation being due to the large quantity of sugar to be carried.

A Financial Sugar Commission of seven, representing producers, bankers, and public interests, has been set up in Cuba by Presidential Decree to control all sales and shipments for the present crop. The State Department at Washington has approved, but has issued a warning that any attempt to fix prices at a high level would be regarded unfavourably. A Bill has been introduced in the Cuban Congress which aims at helping the local banks over the stile and freeing solvent agencies from the moratorium.

Production in Cuba is still backward, and on January 22nd the number of centrals going about was 130, as compared with 160 at the same date last year. There are many complaints of the shortage of cane-cutters, and the yield of sugar is generally low, averaging 8½ to 9 per cent. only of the weight of cane. Crop receipts to the same date: 160,800 tons, as against 561,778 on January 22nd, 1920.

Control quotations in the U.K. are unchanged, and West Indian Crystallised has changed hands at 68/- to 6¼/6, and muscovados at 40/- to 50/-. Latest New York quotations, Feb., 4.95c.; March, 4.98c.; May, 5.20c.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on February 5th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Imports	2,636	5,390	3,493 Tons.
Deliveries	4,727	2,979	4,436
Stock	6,313	10,547	5,219

CACAO is still very quiet, with practically no export enquiry. Fine Grenada is quoted at 53/- and fine Trinidad at 65/- to 70/-.

Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that the shipments of Trinidad cacao during December were as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	275,852
Shipped previously	62,432,820
Total from 1st January	62,708,672
To same date 1919	60,743,283
" " 1918	58,639,572
" " 1917	70,144,898
" " 1916	51,884,450
" " 1915	51,061,450
" " 1914	63,117,876
" " 1913	48,116,377
" " 1912	41,625,625
" " 1911	46,790,353

The stocks in London on February 5th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	27,563	21,941	19,789 Bags
Grenada	17,771	13,601	11,014
Total of all kinds	196,299	102,420	124,800

RUM is slow, particularly for spot. Fine 1921 Jamaica to arrive is quoted at 8/-, landed terms, and Demerara—new runs, ordinary quality—1¼/7 proof.

The exports from Trinidad during 1920 were 54,870 gals. as against 162,830 gals. and 145,038 gals. for 1919 and 1918 respectively.

The stocks in London on February 5th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	9,038	6,532	2,391 Pms
Demerara	14,359	13,757	10,806
Total of all kinds	33,397	27,771	19,197

ARROWROOT. Scarcely any business reported. Prices are nominal.

BALATA. The market is very inactive, and values are nominal. West Indian sheet, forward shipment 3¼/0 c.i.f. spot 1/.

COFFEE.—Fine home trade sorts remain steady, but lower qualities show an easier tendency, and are in poor demand. Owing to the entire absence of export orders, ordinary Jamaica is practically unsaleable, and quoted nominally at 60/- to 65/-. Blue Mountain is worth 145/- to 185/- according to quality. Imports of West Indian into United Kingdom for 1920, 6,512 cwt.

COCONUTS. 21,974,201 nuts were exported from Trinidad during 1920, as compared with 30,900,124 nuts and 22,210,385 nuts for the two previous years.

COPRA is steady. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £32 10s c.i.f. London. Trinidad exports for 1920, 2,231,570 lbs.

COTTON has been in moderate demand, mainly for export. West Indian Sea Island quotations are generally reduced a further 200 points, medium being quoted at 27d. and fine at 40d. Imports in the six weeks ending February 10th, 468 bales.

HONEY. At last auction the 1,738 packages offered were all retired, buyers continuing to pursue a policy of aloofness. Importers are willing to accept any reasonable bids, but until Continental exchanges recover and Central Europe can afford to buy, little improvement in the demand is anticipated. Jamaica is quoted nominally at 15/- to 75/- per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed is dearer with sales up to 17/- per lb., but Distilled continues neglected. No sales are reported in Raw Lime Juice.

LOGWOOD is very dull, and quoted nominally at £12 per ton.

ORANGE OIL. There have been further small sales of Sweet at 12/6 per lb., but Bitter is not wanted.

PETROLEUM. Mr. Edgar Tripp reports that 2,019,131 gals. of oil were shipped from Trinidad during December, making the total for the year 32,526,521 gals. The figures for the two previous years were 16,017,819 gals. and 41,132,847 gals. respectively.

RUBBER. Towards the close of last week a good deal of business was done, smoked sheet being in special demand. Prices improved a penny per lb., crepe closing at 1¼/3 spot, and sheet at 1¼/3d. spot.

SPICES. Nutmegs are quiet. West Indian 80's are quoted at 10d., 110's at 7d., and wormy at 5d. Fair to good pale Mace is quoted at 1/- to 1/8, and red at 10d. Pimento. There have been sellers at 3s per lb. on the spot, but very few buyers, and business is quite insignificant. There is no enquiry on c.i.f. terms.

WEST INDIA STEAMER SAILINGS.

(Continued from the preceding page.)

Jamaica	New Orleans	Atenas	Mar 5
Jamaica	New York	Santa Marta	" 7
Jamaica	New York	Pastores	" 8
Bmas, Jaca & B H'das	Halifax	Canadian Forester	" 17
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	" 18
St Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St Nazaire	Macoris	" 22
Winter Cruise	New York	Megantie	" 23
West Indies	New York	Korona	" 26
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	" Apl 1

The above dates are only approximate.

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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 18s., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00).

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CAIRN, LONDON.



15, SERPENTINE LANE,
LONDON, E. C. 4

March 3rd, 1921

West Indian Communications.

IN the present CIRCULAR we publish two documents of far reaching importance which mark another milestone on the road towards improved means of communication for the British West Indies, namely, LORD MILNER'S despatch on the telegraphic question, and his successor, MR. CHURCHILL'S cablegram to the various West Indian Governments on the subject of the transatlantic steamer service. With regard to the telegraphic question, the British Government's policy is, as we stated in our last issue, now clearly defined. The Imperial Telegraphic Communication Committee having decided that wireless is unsuitable for commercial purposes in the West Indies, the Government has now definitely arrived at the conclusion that the solution of the West Indian telegraphic problem lies in the establishment of all-British cable communication via Bermuda, as advocated by THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for fully twenty

years, and they are now ascertaining whether any British firm can be found to carry out this scheme on the strength of a promise that when the present contract with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company expires in 1924, or when any of the subsidies lapse, the new cable shall be subsidised. If the recommendations of the Committee in this connection had been carried out even ten years ago, the cable would probably have been paid for by now; but it is no good repining or looking back, and it is now devoutly to be hoped that some British Company will be formed, or found, to carry out the work of laying the new cables without delay. Though the cost of manufacturing and laying cables is so much heavier than it was before the war—and we understand that the increase is as much as 250 per cent.—the West Indian merchants and planters, who have suffered so much financially through interruptions and mutilation of their messages, which have played such havoc with their business, and also the various Governments, would, we may be certain, be willing to pledge themselves to patronise the new route. This, and the promise of a subsidy, which, for a really efficient and reliable service, might reasonably be expected to be higher than that now paid, to take effect shortly after the inauguration of the new service, should go some way towards making the proposals new definitely submitted by the British Government a sound business proposition for any capitalists willing to entertain it. Some relief will now be afforded to Barbados in time of stress by the Western Union Telegraph Company having established its right to land its Barbados-America cable at Miami, which will give the British island an alternative route when other means of communication are interrupted, but it is hoped that this will not obscure the paramount importance of the laying of all-British cables, and it is, therefore, earnestly to be hoped that the Imperial Government will be successful in its endeavours to interest some British Company in the matter. If they should fail, no one could blame the West Indies if they were to invite foreign enterprise to step into the breach. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to learn that the Western Union Telegraph Company has established its right to land its Barbados-America cable at Miami, which will give Barbados communication with the outside world when other systems are interrupted.

The position of the Government with regard to transatlantic steamer communication between this country and the West Indies is also made clear. As will be noted, the Government proposes to in-

vite tenders for a transatlantic steamship service at an early date, provided the British West Indian colonies approve. The service proposed is a fortnightly or three weekly one between a port in England and Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, or any two of these colonies, by 12-knot steamers (this, it may be noted, ruling out the *Quillota* class of steamers, which the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce properly regarded as quite unsuitable for the route), with a capacity for carrying from 60 to 120 first-class passengers. The period of the contract is to be not less than two years, subject to termination by either party on six months notice, or such other period as may be agreed upon. The widest latitude is to be given to the tenderers, who may indicate any alternative form of service which they may consider suitable. We understand that the Treasury is now willing to contribute substantially towards a subsidy for a period of years, provided the West Indian colonies will also contribute, and it is much to be hoped that the proposals for the invitation of tenders will commend themselves to the colonies concerned, and that before the close of the year we may see a resumption of full business facilities between the West Indies and this country, which will be the surest means of securing to both the United Kingdom and the British West Indies the advantages of the reciprocal trade tariff preferences. It might, at first sight, be thought that the fact that there is now a superabundance of shipping and that many vessels are being laid up through lack of cargoes, might facilitate the solution of the West Indian mail problem. This, however, we understand, is not the case. Ships are being laid up because voyages are unremunerative and it has been asserted that no passenger steamer service can be made to pay unless it is heavily subsidised, under existing conditions of wages and coal. In this connection a leading article in *The Times* of February 25th states:—"A year ago the volume of commerce was so great that there were rows of laden ships in the ports waiting to discharge their cargoes; now there are rows of empty ships unemployed. Then freights were still profitable, in spite of an unprecedented price for fuel and of working costs on the high level to which they had advanced by leaps during the war period. Now freights have fallen to a basis at which many owners find it less costly to lay up their ships than to wait the chance of being offered them. Not only have freights dropped sharply, but the volume of cargo has diminished likewise, and it is common knowledge that the liner companies which are trying to maintain regular, although, in many cases, reduced services are sending their ships to sea with only a fraction of their cargo space filled. Prices of coal have lately declined substantially, but the cost of fuel is only the one main item of expense that is yet lower to any notable degree." One thing is certain and that is that many years must elapse before the West Indies will be able to enjoy a service of transatlantic passenger steamers of the *Ebro* and *Essequibo* type, and it would appear probable that the type of vessel best suited for the trade will be a passenger cum cargo vessel similar to those now employed on the Canadian route.

Kelham asks for more.

An appeal for cheaper transport rates for sugar beets and beet-sugar products has been made to the Rates Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Transport by "Home-grown Sugar, Ltd.," the company which is concerned in the installation of the sugar factory at Kelham, in Nottinghamshire. The arguments advanced in support of the application are mainly that the project is, so far as the British farmer is concerned, educational, and that the success of the scheme would mean that the whole of the sugar required for the consumption of the United Kingdom would be produced at home. This, the appeal goes on to state, would mean the transport of 14,000,000 tons of beets (which would produce 1,800,000 tons of sugar), 1,200,000 tons of coal, 600,000 tons of limestone, and 720,000 tons of dried pulp, which would be of enormous benefit to the railways. As the Memorandum of Association of the company states that one of the objects for which it was formed is "to carry on the business of manufacturers and refiners," it might have been added with great advantage that further results of the above would be that all the refineries now existing in the United Kingdom would be closed down, and a considerable portion of the colonial sugar industry wiped out. Further that a still greater importation of foreign dairy and farm products would have to be made, to take the place of those displaced by the new industry. Home-grown sugar is already largely protected. As shown by the quotation from the prospectus given above, the Kelham factory is to turn out white sugar. The protection which such sugar will receive will be, against foreign white sugars, the one-sixth of the Customs duty accorded to sugar produced within the Empire, equal to £1 5s. 6d., and the allowance on the Excise duty of £2 6s. 8d. per ton (being the difference between the Excise and Customs duty sanctioned under the Brussels Convention), which home-grown sugars enjoyed before the preferential tariff came into force. Home-grown sugar is thus protected against foreign sugar to the extent of £7 12s. 2d. per ton, and against sugar of colonial origin to the extent of £2 6s. 8d. In addition to the Government taking shares in Home-grown Sugar, Ltd., to the extent of one share for every share taken up by the public, it also guarantees a dividend of 5 per cent. on the latter. Surely the promoters of the scheme might well be satisfied with matters as they stand, instead of, like *Oliver Twist*, asking for more.

His many friends in the West Indies and at home will join with us in congratulating Sir Edward Dawson upon his forthcoming marriage to Miss Margot Glyn, daughter of the late Mr. Clayton Glyn and Mrs. Elinor Glyn, the novelist. Sir Edward, it is hardly necessary to say, is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, of which his father, the late Sir Henry K. Dawson, was Chairman, and President of the Associated Chamber of Commerce of the West Indies. He is a British Guiana merchant and estates' proprietor, and has for many years shown a lively and practical interest in West Indian affairs generally.

WEST INDIA MAIL SERVICE.

Tenders to be invited.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies sent the following telegram to the Governors of Trinidad, Barbados, and British Guiana on February 16th:

"If I can obtain concurrence Treasury and of Governments of Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana I propose to instruct Crown Agents to call for tenders for transatlantic Steamship Service by issue of following notice: (Begins) His Majesty's Government invite tenders from British shipowners for a fortnightly or three-weekly passenger service between a port in England and (1) Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana or (2) any two of these Colonies only, by 12 knot steamers carrying from 60 to 120 first class passengers. Such steamers would be required to carry mails for His Majesty's Government and for Colonial Governments free of extra charge. Tenderers should indicate nature of service or alternate services they are prepared to provide and annual subsidy which they would accept for service on lines mentioned, service to be maintained and annual subsidy to run for a minimum period of two years and thereafter subject to six months' notice of determination from either party, or such other periods as may be agreed upon. His Majesty's Government do not bind themselves to accept lowest or any tender. Tenders should reach Crown Agents for Colonies on or before (ends).

"Shall be glad if you will submit matter to Legislature and ascertain whether they will be prepared to accept principle of contribution to service contemplated. Treasury are being invited to agree to similar guarantee on behalf of His Majesty's Government but in absence of proposals from any Steamship Company it is premature to suggest any figures or discuss proportion of contribution payable by His Majesty's Government and Colonies.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

The quantity of sugar imported into Canada for the month of November last was 6,071,308 lbs., of which 3,612,984 lbs. was under 16 D.S., and 2,458,324 lbs. over 16 D.S. Of the former, 247,000 lbs. came from British Guiana, 137,713 lbs. from Barbados, and 3,226,547 lbs. from Cuba. Nearly the whole of the over 16 D.S. sugar was imported from the United States.

For the eight months of the Canadian financial year, 511,730,683 lbs. of under 16 D.S. and 7,801,630 lbs. of over 16 D.S. were imported, in all 519,532,313 lbs., or nearly 231,500 tons. The corresponding figure for the eight months of the previous year was 340,000 tons. Of cacao, 6,231 cwt. were imported for the month, making 61,537 cwt. for the eight months. Of the latter, Trinidad sent in 15,201 cwt., and Jamaica 1,659 cwt.

No crude lime juice was imported for the month. For the eight months, 12,511 gals. were imported, as against 37,456 gals. for the corresponding period of 1919. Of the former amount, 12,242 gals. came from the West Indies.

MEDICAL RESEARCH MISSION.

Members Leave for West Indies.

Professor R. T. Leiper, head of the London School of Tropical Medicine's Expedition to British Guiana, which is to investigate filariasis with the view of obtaining information as to the prevention and treatment of that disease, left London for Demerara, via New York, on February 24th. He proposes to proceed down the islands by a Quebec Line steamer, reaching Antigua, where he hopes to make a short stay, on or about March 26th. The other members of the expedition, namely, Dr. G. M. Vevers, demonstrator of helminthology in the school; Dr. John Anderson, Dr. Chung Un Lee, and Dr. Mahommed Khalil, of the Egyptian Medical Service, go to British Guiana, some by the Harrison Line and others the Dutch Mail.

It is understood that at the suggestion of Sir Patrick Manson the expedition will extend their investigations to certain West Indian islands, such as Barbados, where the filaria rate is high, and Grenada, where it is low, in the hope that by comparing and contrasting the circumstances of such places light may be thrown on the conditions which favour filaria.

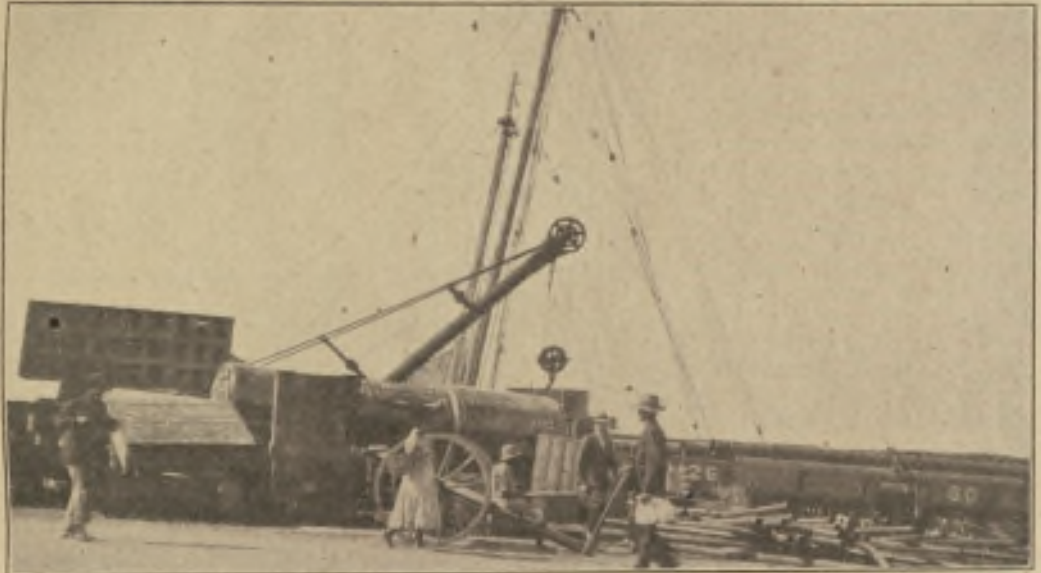
Apròpos of a statement made that it might be necessary to ascertain by practical experiment what kind of mosquito was in the habit of biting sufferers from elephantiasis, Mr. Edward Lyden writes in a letter published in the *Liverpool Post* of Feb. 22nd:

During several years' residence in Georgetown I had abundant opportunities of making the acquaintance of the mosquito of those latitudes. Above all else he is elusive; and he is certainly by way of being an epicure. For example, he has no use for a negro if a white man is handy; and he has no use for a white man who has resided for a considerable period in the tropics, and whose blood is thin and poor, when new arrivals from Europe or the States are on hand. The most welcome sound that greeted us at Georgetown, as we lay behind our mosquito nets, was the fortnightly gun that, in the early morning, announced the arrival of the English mail steamer at the bar of the Demerara river. We old stagers at the hotel knew that, for some days at any rate, we might dispense with nets and eucalyptus. The influx of new blood from Europe occupied the mosquitoes entirely for a season; it was a case of turtle soup versus a very inferior beverage, and the turtle soup had it all the time.

Now, what I should like to know is how Dr. Leiper is going to induce the Georgetown mosquito, with its epicurean tastes, to tackle an elephantiasis patient? It is quite possible to induce a dog or other animal to tackle strange diets by starving it for a protracted period. Will this course be pursued? If so, when and how are the mosquitoes to be captured, and how long are they to be kept in captivity to whet their appetites? Of course, the School of Tropical Medicine is fully acquainted with the age to which the mosquito attains and the length of the period that may be devoted to training. It is possible that a whiskered variety of mosquito may be available, but he must be sought for with tears, and after hundreds of them have been induced to gorge on an elephantiasis patient the task of collecting and examining them is one of the difficulties of which many of those who have had experience of the elusive mosquito can in some measure distantly appreciate.

WHARF QUESTION IN TRINIDAD.

With reference to the West India Committee's letter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, published in the CIRCULAR of January 20th, in which they called attention to the urgent need for increasing the crane capacity on the wharf at Port of Spain and for providing rolling stock for the railway, a correspondent has now sent us two photographs which are reproduced on this page. One shows what he claims to be the only crane on the wharf at Port of Spain. It is, he points out, man-handled, and has a lift of 5 tons only. The second illustration will convey to the reader some idea of the resulting congestion which has been a subject of serious complaints by consignees. It is satisfactory to know that the local Government and Chamber of Commerce are now agreed upon a scheme for wharf improvement, and it is hoped that one of the first steps to be adopted in this direction will be the instalment of modern cranes and more rolling stock.



THE SOLITARY CRANE AT PORT OF SPAIN.

THE death is announced of the Rev. Arthur Gwyther, M.A., late Archdeacon of Demerara, which took place on the 21st ult. An account of his life and of his work will appear in our next issue.



CONGESTION ON THE WHARF.

THE UNITED STATES' SUGAR.

Its Cost of Production.

Some interesting details regarding the United States' sugar supply are given in the "Statistical Survey of the Sugar Industry and Trade of the United States," just published by the United States' Sugar Equalisation Board.

In the year 1918 Cuba supplied the United States

with 2,180,825 long tons of raw sugar, or 70.86 per cent. of the total supplied to the cane refineries. Of this amount refineries at New York received 1,123,272 tons, or 51 per cent., while Philadelphia came second with only 416,403 tons. The total cost of production for this Cuban sugar (after deduction for receipts from by-products) averaged \$78.02 per ton, as against \$58.08 the previous crop, the largest single factor being the cost of the cane, which was \$43.41 per ton. Hawaii contributed 443,996 tons of raw sugar in the same year, or 14.32 per cent. of the total refiners' receipts, of which 389,319 tons, or about three-fourths of the total, went to the refineries of San Francisco. The average cost of production for this Hawaiian sugar was far above that for Cuba, being

\$106.79 per ton, as against \$78.62 per ton for Cuba. Porto Rico and St. Croix shipped 359,469 tons, or 11.60 per cent. of the total refiners' raw sugar supplies, of which 284,480 tons, or 79 per cent., was received at the New York refineries and 55,372 tons at New Orleans. The other refining ports obtained but small quantities. The average cost of production for Porto Rican sugar, \$91.36 per ton, was higher than that of Cuba, but lower than that of Hawaii. The minor sources of supply for refineries, the Philippines, the Continental United States, and the miscellaneous foreign countries, provided only 3.72 per cent. of the total.

The average cost of raws to the refineries per pound of refined in this year was 6.717 cents, and the total refinery cost was .961 cents per pound. The average cost of producing the refined sugar, including the cost of the raw sugars, was 7.549 cents per pound, and since the average price obtained for the refined product was 7.74 cents per pound, the average profit to the refiners was .191 cents per pound, which was equivalent to a "return on the productive investment represented by profits" of 10.32 per cent. From the meltings of 3,086,083 tons of raws there were produced 2,879,083 tons of refined sugar, the remainder representing the loss of conversion from raw to refined. Of this refined output, 2,703,675 tons, or 93.9 per cent., were distributed for domestic consumption, while 150,132 tons were exported, and the small balance remaining was reserved for stock and carried into 1919. To refiners' deliveries for domestic consumption there were added both 523,630 tons from the domestic beet sugar and 113,335 tons of Louisiana direct consumption sugars. Beet growers received an average price of \$10 per ton for the beets from which the sugar was made, and the average cost of production for the beet sugar was \$109.96 per ton, or 5.498 cents per pound, while the average cost of the Louisiana sugars was \$129.43 per ton, or 6.471 cents per pound. Small quantities of raw and washed sugars and Hawaiian refined sugar were also distributed, making a total consumption for the year of 3,394,127 tons, or 73 pounds per capita.

With facilities now available for reaching New Providence via Halifax, N.S., by the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, the Bahamas Development Board hopes to induce English visitors to winter in the Bahamas. To that end they have readily accepted the offer of the West India Committee to represent them in London, and it is possible that towards the autumn a campaign of publicity regarding the amenities of the "Bright and Breezy Bahamas" will be undertaken. The Board has recently published an attractive pamphlet, copies of which can be obtained at the Committee Rooms, giving such particulars regarding the colony as intending tourists require. To show how "up-to-date" the Board is, it may be mentioned that among routes included in this pamphlet appears: "Miami-Nassau, by air 2 hours." This should be balm to the sorely dry American.

WEST INDIAN CABLE QUESTION.

Bermudas—Barbados Cable advocated.

The full text of Lord Milner's despatch to the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago on the subject of West Indian telegraphic communication, to which reference was made in the last issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, is now given below:—

Downing Street,
November 30th, 1920.

Sir,

In my telegram of February 24th, I informed you that a Sub-Committee had been appointed by the Imperial Communications Committee to consider and report upon wireless and cable communications in the West Indies and Bermuda. The Imperial Communications Committee have now considered and concurred in the recommendations of the Sub-Committee, and it will probably be of interest to you to learn how the position stands at present.

2. Some experience has been available during the interruptions in cable communications which have taken place in the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana in the recent past as to the possibilities of communication by wireless telegraphy. The naval stations in Bermuda, Jamaica, and British Guiana are of uniform design, and can, under favourable atmospheric conditions, transmit messages over a range of about 1,500 miles. The remaining stations, mostly owned and operated by the Colonial Governments concerned, are of more limited range and power. Stations exist in Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, Nassau, Belize, and in St. Lucia. The Trinidad Government Station at Port of Spain can communicate over a range of 500 miles in a westerly direction, but does not work well in other directions. The stations at Nassau and Belize can only communicate over a range of 500 miles under favourable conditions. The stations in Barbados and St. Lucia are of even more limited power. Communications between Bermuda, Bahamas, Jamaica, and British Honduras and the outside world have been outside the zone of constant interruption of normal routes, and I do not propose in this despatch to deal with the matter so far as they are concerned. Of these four colonies, it is only in the Bahamas and British Honduras that the improvement of telegraphic communications is an issue of immediate importance, and such improvements in those Colonies as are needed to ensure satisfactory communications with Jamaica can be carried out by the Colonial Governments without serious difficulty.

3. So far as the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana are concerned, the Colonies which provide the great bulk of telegraphic correspondence to and from the West Indies are Trinidad, British Guiana, and Barbados. During the interruptions of the cable service there has been unrestricted communication by Wireless between the naval stations at Bermuda, Jamaica, and British Guiana. The Admiralty naval stations, however, were built not for point to point work, but for ship to shore work only, and they have been used for point to point

work only in order to help the West Indian Colonies during the interruption of their communications by cable. Being built for ship to shore work, they are not suitable for point to point work. It is undoubtedly an advantage that there should be even this alternative method of telegraphic communication, but the system is, of course, unsatisfactory for commercial work. The atmospherics in the West Indies appear to be exceptionally unfavourable, particularly at Jamaica, and messages are constantly being delayed because the stations cannot communicate with one another. The Admiralty are of opinion that no reliable commercial service can, under present circumstances, be guaranteed, and that the conditions in the summer are more unfavourable than during the winter. Messages are liable to delays of several days whenever atmospheric disturbances are prevalent. The accumulation of traffic awaiting transmission at these times gradually grows, and as the existing apparatus is unsuitable for point to point work, it is not possible to wipe off arrears during the lulls of atmospheric disturbances.

Heavy Cost of Wireless.

4. If instead of laying a new cable the Governments concerned proposed in future to rely on wireless telegraphy, the minimum required would be a chain of efficient stations linking up the colonies to be connected by that chain, viz. Bermuda, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana. This would involve the provision of a new station, or the reconstruction of the existing station, at practically the same cost, in Bermuda, and the provision of a new station in Barbados, in order to maintain communication between those two colonies. These would have to be stations of the order of 50 kilowatts, and their cost would probably be about £60,000 apiece. Subsidiary stations would be required in Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, as feeders for the main stations, at a cost of about £10,000 each. It would be necessary to maintain communication with the Windward and Leeward Islands, either by means of the existing cables or by the erection of a wireless telegraph station in each island.

5. It will be observed from the foregoing that the establishment of an effective wireless service throughout the West Indian colonies would involve very heavy expenditure on the part of each Colonial Government. Each station in the chain, if it were erected and maintained by the Government of the Colony in which it was situated, would be under separate control, and the advantages of technical experience on a considerable scale would be lost. Moreover, a station would be required at Bermuda which would presumably have to be paid for and maintained by the colonies of the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana, since it is doubtful whether the Government of Bermuda would be sufficiently interested in such a station as to be willing to bear the very large expenditure that would be necessary.

6. Apart, however, from these considerations, there is a strategic one. I feel sure that the West Indian colonies will all wish to be assured of the most adequate telegraphic communication possible during a time of war. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have expressed the view that there

are very special advantages in favour of cables over wireless telegraphy at such a time, and their Lordships regard it as most undesirable that any steps should be taken which would result in destroying the use of existing cables, though certain cables are regarded as of less importance than others. The position may be summed up by saying that a wireless solution of the problem of telegraphic communication in the West Indies would not be more unsatisfactory from a strategic point of view than the present arrangement, under which the cables pass through foreign territory, but that it would not be nearly so satisfactory as a system of cables passing entirely over British territory. Apart from this, however, commercial interests would be well advised to consider the effect that would be produced upon the trade and industries of the Colonies by the additional restrictions that would have to be placed in war time on messages sent by wireless as against those sent by cables, as for instance in connection with the sailings of steamers.

Improved Cable Communication.

7. The Imperial Communications Committee have, therefore, been led to consider whether a satisfactory solution could not be found by means of improved cable communications.

8. At present communications beyond Jamaica with the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana depend on the duplicate cables of the West India and Panama Company, both of which are landed at Porto Rico, while one touches St. Thomas, and the other St. Croix. Further south, one of the lines is landed in the French Islands, and one goes direct from St. Croix to British territory. Thus, even when both cables are working, messages pass through foreign territory twice on their way to the British Antilles.

9. The cables were laid at varying dates between 1870 and 1898. None of the duplicate lines between Jamaica and St. Croix and St. Thomas were laid later than 1878. The most important links in the chain are, therefore, the oldest. The cables are, of course, continually being renewed in places by way of repair, but interruptions are frequent at the best of times.

10. The West India and Panama Company's cable was originally intended to form part of a system connecting the West Indies with the United States of America by means of a cable from Jamaica to Santiago, in Cuba, then by land to Havana, and thence to Key West. The idea of a land line in Cuba had to be abandoned, and a British company—the Cuba Submarine Company—was formed to lay a cable along the coast of Cuba. In order to secure the formation of this company, the West India and Panama Company entered into a perpetual working agreement, which has ever since been one of the chief obstacles to telegraphic communication with the Lesser Antilles. It is desirable to set out the text of Article 5 of this agreement, which is dated January 31st, 1870:—

“Neither company party hereto will enter into any agreement of traffic arrangements with any other company or persons, or be connected with or interested in any telegraphic line whatsoever which may be prejudicial to the interests of the other

company party hereto without the assent in writing under the seal of the other company party hereto being had and obtained. But either company shall be at liberty to send messages over their lines at the written request of the sender of such messages without solicitation or suggestion by any competing lines, provided that in such case the other company party hereto shall share in the amount accruing in respect of such messages in proportion to the amount each company would have received had the messages gone over the lines of both companies."

11. Without going into past difficulties, I may point out that this agreement effectually prevents the West India and Panama Company from entering into any working agreement with any alternative route that could be devised, and I understand would, in the opinion of the directors, preclude them from making any agreement for the transfer of any part of their system to the Government or any other party unless the rights of the Cuba Submarine Company were fully safeguarded.

The agreement has been reviewed by the House of Lords and is legally unassailable.

The Present Cable Agreement.

12. In 1914 His Majesty's Government, the Canadian Government, and the Governments of Trinidad, British Guiana, Barbados, and the Windward and Leeward Islands made an agreement granting the West India and Panama Company for ten years a subsidy of £26,300, of which £8,000 is from Imperial, £8,000 from Canadian, and £10,300 from Colonial funds, in return for reductions of rates. This agreement will not expire until August, 1924.

13. The actual state of communications with and in the West Indies has recently been intolerable. The cable between Trinidad and British Guiana has been broken since May, 1919, and the cables beyond Jamaica have been totally interrupted for several months, and there have been other breaks too numerous to mention. Strong representations have been received from the Colonial Governments and from individuals and associations interested in the West Indies* as to the delays and uncertainty of the cable. An improvement has now been effected in the position, but it is clearly desirable that steps should be taken to obviate the possibility of its recurrence. Unless an alternative route is provided which will always be open, the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana will remain dependent on the West India and Panama Company; that is, on worn-out cables, passing through foreign territory, and peculiarly liable to interruption by breakages. Moreover, the agreement with the Cuba Submarine Company will in the future, as in the past, make it impossible for the public to derive the full advantage of any improvements so long as the West India and Panama Company is a link in the chain. It therefore appears to be necessary to find a new route to the West Indies independently of that company. The bulk of the traffic comes from Trinidad, British Guiana, and Barbados, as has already been stated above. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty regard it as highly important for strategic reasons to maintain the cable

communications with these Colonies by an all-British route, if possible. Apart from strategic reasons, wireless telegraphy cannot at present be guaranteed to give as reliable a service as cables for commercial purposes in the Caribbean. On all these grounds, therefore, it appears that the best solution of the difficulty would be the laying of a new cable to connect Bermuda with Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, or at least to connect one of these three Colonies with Bermuda.

A Chance for British Enterprise.

14. His Majesty's Government are, therefore, taking steps to ascertain whether a British Company could be formed which would provide satisfactory cable communication between the Colonies mentioned, and if so upon what terms. It would be regarded as essential that if such a cable were provided the company should maintain telegraphic communication also with the Colonies of the Windward Islands and the three Presidencies of the Leeward Islands now connected by the cable.

15. When the enquiries referred to have been completed I will address you further on this subject.

16. There are two other points, however, to which I would refer at this stage. At the recent conference at Ottawa the representatives of the Governments concerned passed a resolution in favour of the laying of further cables without waiting for the termination of the existing agreement with the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. I see no reason why negotiations should not be commenced at once on the basis that a cable should be laid as soon as practicable, but that any subsidies to a new company should not be payable until the expiration of the subsidies due to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, or excepting so far as any such subsidies might lapse. This would obviate the payment of two subsidies simultaneously for the same services.

17. Secondly, it appears undesirable that any Colony of the Lesser Antilles or British Guiana should for the present embark on any ambitious scheme for the development of long distance communications by wireless telegraphy. This recommendation would, of course, not apply to the erection of stations suitable for the ship and shore work required in the surrounding waters, and in erecting such stations the possibility of their ultimately forming part of a general chain of wireless telegraph communications might be borne in mind. Primarily, however, such stations should be regarded as a matter of communication with ships, and as auxiliary only in other respects.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

MILNER.

In fixing the Tariff Valuation of sugar imported into India for Customs purposes, "Java 23 Dutch standard and above" is now officially taken as the standard quality. Beet crystals are valued at the same rate; Mauritius sugar at 1.8 rupees per cwt. lower; Java, 16 to 23 Dutch Standard, 2 rupees lower; Java 15 Dutch Standard and under 2.8 rupees lower; Japanese, Formosan and China crystals 2 rupees higher; and Egyptian crystals 1 rupee higher.

*Including the West India Committee.—Ed.

THE ETHICS OF CANE FARMING.

The determination of the method by which valuation of canes should be made for their purchase by the factory from farmers is one which frequently gives rise to much perturbation in the minds of the parties concerned. The trouble arises mainly from the fear of the farmer that justice will not be done by the factory on the one hand, and apprehension as to over payment by the factory on the other. This is brought about principally by the fact that the cane does not admit of being accurately sampled for analysis, being unlike the beet in this respect. Not only does the amount of sugar in a single cane vary throughout its length, but the canes in the same field, and even in the same stool. Then again, it is out of the question to have cane purchase based on the quality and quantity of juice expressed. A's canes cannot be kept separate from B's without upsetting the factory work, and although the first mill juice gives some idea of the degree of sweetness of the cane, it does not afford reliable information without a knowledge of the percentage of fibre present. Then again, the efficiency of the factory as regards extraction is an important factor in the question. It is manifest that a factory only extracting 9 per cent. from its canes could not afford to give so much for them as its neighbour who extracted 10 per cent. The farmer rightly considers that his canes are worth as much as his neighbour's, and trouble consequently arises. Fortunately, however, the tendency to complete factory plants is increasing, and trouble from this cause is less likely to arise.

The position is really a simple one. The manufacturer knows—or he should know—how much sugar he can extract from the canes, and consequently the value of the canes under various prices of sugar to him. The would-be cane supplier has already had experience of cane cultivation—if he has not he should not attempt the transaction—and thus knows whether it is worth his while to grow the canes for the factory at the price offered.

Into every arrangement the price of sugar has to enter. The factory has to fix such terms as will give it such a profit as will compensate for its closing down when the price of sugar is so low that the farmer has to turn on to some other cultivation. The simplest, and at the same time the most perfect working system, is that of Cuba. There canes are bought by the factory by weight, on the valuation of a fixed percentage of sugar at current rates. Thus for every ton of canes delivered the farmer receives the equivalent in cash of, say, 5 per cent., or 1 cwt. of sugar at the f.o.b. price of 96° sugar ruling at the port of shipment. If, for instance, the sugar is worth £20 a ton f.o.b. Cienfuegos, the farmer would receive £1 a ton for his canes. The terms in Cuba vary from 5 to 6 per cent. of the canes, mainly 5 per cent. and 5½ per cent., due to difference in local conditions. The only stipulations are that on the part of the factory the canes should be fresh and "clean," and on the part of the farmers that no favouritism should be shown in the time of taking over the canes.

The above system is really the modern form

of the old *metayer* one of the French West India Islands, whereby the labourers cultivated and reaped the canes on the factory lands and received half of the sugar in kind. It is, without exception, the best and most workable system in existence.

It must be borne in mind that cane farming is purely a commercial transaction. The manufacturer says: "I will give you so much per ton of canes," and the grower accepts or declines the offer, as it seems most advisable to him. There is too great a tendency to complicate the conditions of sale so as to protect (!) the farmer from the clutches of the grasping manufacturer. Cane farming is not a philanthropic institution, but is based entirely on the economic law of supply and demand.

AGRICULTURE IN BARBADOS.

The report of the Barbados Department of Agriculture for the season 1918-1920 is divided into three parts, of which Parts I. and II. deal with manurial experiments on the sugar-cane, and Part III. with varieties of sugar-cane.

As to the manure experiments, the report is characterised as heretofore with great elaboration of detail. Unfortunately, the canes in the manurial plots in Lower Bay Tree field, at Dodds, the historic cane experiment station, suffered a great deal from root borer, and the brown hard-back did so much injury to the canes that, as Mr. Bovell states: "The results for the first three manurial seasons are valueless so far as ascertaining the effect of the different chemical manurial combinations is concerned." Indeed, the report states that so far as the manurial experiments are concerned there were inconsistencies in the results which showed "how impossible it is to draw any conclusions from the results of the manurial plots this year owing to the attacks of the root borer and the brown hard-back."

More fortunate results were obtained with the new variety experiments. For the season 1918-20, of the canes grown on the black soils of the experimental stations, Ba 8409 was at the head of the class, with a saccharose return of 9,198 lbs. per acre, stated to be equivalent to 7,858 lbs. of good old muscovado sugar. "Proxime accessit" was B.S.F. 12 (48), with 8,948 lbs. of saccharose, equal to 7,158 lbs. muscovado sugar. The Bourbon cane was twenty-fifth, with 5,696 lbs. of saccharose per acre, or 4,541 lbs. muscovado; while B 7169 was at the bottom of the class with 3,095 lbs. saccharose, or 2,476 lbs. of muscovado per acre. In the red soils, Ba 6032 gave the greatest yield of 3,205 tons of canes per acre, and B.S.F. 12 (24) the lowest, 16.78 tons.

As regards the estates' experiments, they are tainted in the same way by the greater or less prevalence of *marasmius sacchari*, and it is difficult to say whether in any instance it is part and parcel of the nature of the cane to be subject to it or not. Thus, taking the results on the Summerville Estate (Table XLI.), one lot of the white transparent is stated to have been badly attacked, and another

lot only slightly. The same thing occurs with R 6450 on this estate. Again, on the Clifton Estate (Table XXVI.) both of the white transparent lots are stated to have been moderately attacked, and B 6450 slightly. Indeed, on looking through the many estates' results, the impression is left of contradiction; and at the same time there is a feeling of regret that so much intelligence and work has been, to a considerable extent, rendered useless by reason of the occurrence of fungoid and insect pests. At the same time, the impression remains that much has still to be done in Barbados in the direction of eradicating these enemies of the sugar cane.

BABY LEAGUE FOR ST. KITTS.

The latest official reports show that the rate of infantile mortality in the United Kingdom fell to 80 per 1,000 last year. This figure is in marked contrast to the rate prevailing in the West Indian colonies, and shows what can be done by education and care of child life by clinics.

It is satisfactory to learn in this connection that a Baby Saving League is to be established in St. Kitts and Nevis on lines of that of British Guiana. To this end Mrs. Burdon, the wife of the Administrator, who was largely responsible for the establishment of the Maternity Hospital at Basseterre, is appealing for funds, which it is hoped will be readily forthcoming. In this letter she writes:—

"The misapprehension that the League in British Guiana when it first started had to fight, that it would tend to undermine parental responsibility and encourage illegitimacy, has been proved to be quite unfounded. The object of the League is to strengthen parental responsibility in that it teaches those parents who require such teaching to look on their offspring, not as inevitable nuisances simply to be tolerated, but as potential assets which will well repay intelligent and efficient care. The League will concern itself primarily with the infant in the pre-natal period, and with the infant from birth to the age of one year. A rough idea of the scheme includes:

"(a) Teaching by means of trained health visitors (locally trained if the right type of woman presents herself).

"(b) Clinics, or Mothers' infant welfare clubs, where babies can be weighed and mothers advised about food, etc.

"(c) Annual baby shows.

"(d) Crèches, or day nurseries, where infants may be left on payment of a small fee while mother is at work, and possibly where they may be lodged in case of mother's illness.

"(e) Creation of interest by means of lectures, lantern slides, etc.

"The League will be established on a proper basis. The advice and co-operation of the district medical officers and clergy will be essential. It will be in close touch with, if not actually a voluntary branch of, the Midwives Board. Its work will necessarily dovetail with that body, though its sphere is quite distinct."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Progress of the Endowment Fund.

In spite of the prevailing depression in the produce and stock markets, contributions continue to come in towards the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, the total of which has now reached £22,905. The hope recently expressed in these columns that every member might subscribe is decidedly nearer realisation, but the list is still far from complete. In this connection, readers are reminded that in spite of increased costs in every direction, the annual subscription to the West India Committee remains at the low figure at which it stood before the war, namely £1 1s. 0d. The Executive consequently have to look to the Endowment Fund as an important factor in providing the necessary working expenses of the Committee.

TWENTY-NINTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged...	£22,881	5	0
H. E. Sir H. Cordeaux, K.C.M.G., C.B.		5	5
W. F. Lawrence, Esq.		2	2
L. T. A. McVane, Esq.		2	2
Hon. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E.		2	0
J. G. Cruickshank, Esq.		1	1
J. S. Dash, Esq.		1	1
Dr. C. J. Gomes		1	1
W. S. Maynard, Esq.		1	1
Miss E. Murray		1	1
H. A. Tempary, Esq., D.Sc., F.I.C.		1	1
P. Stanley Woods, Esq.		1	1
H. H. V. Whitechurch, Esq.		1	0
Mrs. Brodie		1	0
A. D. Macgillivray, Esq.		10	0
R. L. Nicol, Esq.		10	0
C. J. Vigour, Esq.		10	0
Joseph Jones, Esq.		10	0
R. F. Garraway, Esq.		10	0

Contributions to the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, which will be acknowledged in these columns, may be sent direct to the Secretary to West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, or of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Fifty-four Members Elected this year.

At a meeting of the Executive on February 17th, eighteen candidates, whose names are given below, were admitted to membership of the West India Committee, bringing the total number of members to 2,240.

MEMBERS	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES
The Hon Herbert Dunk (British Honduras)	} Mr. Sydney Cuthbert. } The Hon. G. P. Grabham.
Mr. J. M. D. Gilbert (Trinidad).	
Mr. Claude H. Munn (Jamaica).	} (Mr. J. W. Martin. } (Mr. C. de Verteuil.
Mr. C. T. Allder (Guadeloupe).	
Mr. C. Cambie (London).	} (Mr. L. de Menado. } (Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Canadian Bank of Commerce (London).	
	} (Mr. J. Sydney Dash. } (Mr. B. J. Freeman.
	} (Sir William L. Trollope, Bt. } (Mr. J. H. Scrutton.
	} (Sir William L. Trollope, Bt. } (Mr. J. H. Scrutton.

Mr. C. Lloyd Walwyn (St. Kitts).	(Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. C. H. Durrant (St. Kitts).	(Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Mr. Justice K. E. Poyser (St. Kitts).	(Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. W. A. Stephens (St. Kitts).	(Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Mr. E. P. Corner (St. Kitts).	(Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. F. L. Stewart (St. Kitts).	(Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Mr. S. V. Meggs (St. Kitts).	(Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. C. B. Wattlely (St. Kitts).	(Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Mr. G. V. Ballantyne (St. Vincent).	(Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P.
Mr. David Derrick (St. Vincent).	(Mr. H. J. Freeman.
Mr. H. J. Kerr (Jamaica).	(Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P.
Mrs. Florence Brown (Barbados).	(H. L. Ellis & Co.
	(Mr. W. Gillespie.
	(Mr. R. Rutherford.
	(Mr. E. Maxwell Shilstone.
	(Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.

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 candidate 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).

ANOTHER MOSQUITO BITE.

Judge Cohalan's Impudent Suggestion.

Mr. Justice Daniel F. Cohalan, of New York, described as the leading American Sinn Feiner, is reported by the *Times* correspondent, in a message published on February 28rd, to have frankly declared, at a dinner in Chicago, that his desire was to see the British Empire dismembered. He stated that the British Empire was a menace to the United States which must be removed, and argued that the United States should insist on the British Government "liberating" Canada and the West Indies as a basis of the negotiations for the settlement of its debts to America. The British Government would do well to counteract this obvious Irish-German propaganda by giving the utmost possible publicity to the Prince of Wales's emphatic statement: "The King's subjects are not for sale to other Governments"; and Mr. Lloyd George's similar decisive denial of our intention to commit Imperial hari-kari, when, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, he stated that "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."

Sir Francis Watts, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has proceeded to Trinidad with the object, it is understood, of discussing with the Government of that Colony the plans for the West Indian Agricultural College, and the question of the transfer of the Headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture to St. Augustine.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Copra production is being rapidly developed in the Solomon Islands; 30,000 acres are now under coconut cultivation, and the annual export is in the neighbourhood of 10,000 tons.

* * *

In Czecho-Slovakia potash is obtained as a by-product in the production of alcohol from the beet sugar molasses. The present output is about 800 tons a month, half of which is available for export.

* * *

The boll-weevil trouble is stated to have been successfully tackled in Arizona by the use of maize as a trap-crop. Rows of corn planted at intervals of about 300 feet have been found to give practically perfect protection, and proved no detriment to the growth of the cotton.

* * *

Australia shows indications of the existence of oil in several places, and the Commonwealth Government offered a reward at one time of £50,000 for its discovery. In Queensland natural gas has flowed for some years from a boring, and the existence has recently been found by test of over one pint of petrol to 1,000 feet of gas.

* * *

For some time the juice of a plant grown in Paraguay has been used to sweeten the local tea. This plant grows very abundantly, and it has been thought that it might be a rival to saccharin for sweetening purposes, as it contains bodies which are stated to have 200 times the sweetening power of cane-sugar. Difficulties in the way of extraction, however, render the commercial use of this plant improbable.

* * *

Nitrates are important factors in agriculture, and there is every probability not only of a great increase in their production in Chile, but also in the supply of potash for field purposes. In 1918 there were produced in that country no less than 3,217,000 tons of crude nitrates, which were estimated to contain no fewer than 30,000 tons of potash, or about a fifth of the total consumption of the United States.

* * *

The suggestion of that valued friend of the West Indies, Mr. George Hughes, that Molascuit should be used as a source of industrial alcohol as well as for cattle food recalls the theory that was advanced by a well-known physiologist some years ago, that the sugar we consumed was converted into alcohol in the alimentary system, and that its stimulating power was due to the latter agent. Is it possible that the peculiar attraction which Molascuit offers to cattle is due to this cause?

* * *

The coffee production of Mexico has been quadrupled in the last twenty years, over 47,000,000 lbs. having been grown in 1918. The cacao industry, on the other hand, is still small, only 2,500,000 lbs. having been produced in that year. The cotton

industry had also extended largely, 79,000,000 kilogrammes having been produced, of which 50,000 bales were exported; but the ravages of the boll-weevil have since been such that Mexico has had to import cotton from the United States.

* * *

Mechanical tillage recently formed the subject of discussion at the Farmers' Club, in the course of which Professor Lloyd made some interesting remarks. Heavy machines—that is to say, machines designed to penetrate the soil deeply—should, he said, be used on light soils and not on heavy; and, conversely, heavy soils should be treated with light machines.

* * *

The reason for this apparent paradox is that it is not advisable to till heavy soils deeply. If disturbed to a great depth, not only is the "raw" soil brought to the surface, but drainage is difficult on account of the tendency to agglomerate with heavy rainfall and cake with drought. Light soils, on the other hand, can be ploughed deeply with considerable advantage.

* * *

The object of drainage is not so much to get the water away as to give opportunity for light and air to penetrate and supply the necessary conditions for the development of the beneficent soil bacteria. The lower rootlets of the plant are those whose duty it is to obtain the necessary water for its growth, and these may be depended upon to go in search of it. The higher situated rootlets draw upon the plant food of the soil and spread laterally amid the tilled portion.

* * *

As the result of investigations carried out at the Californian Experiment Station on the mottled-leaf disease of citrus plants, it has been found that the mineral composition of the diseased leaves resembles that of the immature healthy leaf, and shows a shortage of lime as compared with the mature healthy leaf. This absence of lime points to the cause of the disease being either a want of lime in the soil or a lack of power of assimilation of it. The mature healthy leaf contains as much as from 5 to 6 per cent. of lime.

* * *

A new disease has made its appearance in the coffee cultivations of Nairobi, in British East Africa. It is found after very heavy rains to be much worse than at other periods. The youngest apical leaves of the tree, or those of a young primary near the top, become black and shrivel, while the stalks and shoots show dark discolorations in the interior. The disease is caused by a species of phoma, and it has been found that trees in the early stage of the disease can be saved by topping well below the discoloration, and those in which the stems appear dead for a considerable distance by stumping within eight inches of the ground. All trees thus saved should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 68.)

The keynote of the Conference was the general desire, which was shown by all the delegates without exception, for closer trade with Canada and the mother country. The discussions regarding this important topic showed conclusively that the Dominion was finding again after many years the bread, which, in the form of tariff preference, steamship services, etc., it had cast upon the Caribbean waters.

It may be of interest to recall here that as far back as 1897 Canada offered a preference of 25 per cent. off the duties on raw sugar and various other kinds of produce entering her territory from the British West Indies, without asking for anything in return, and that the preference was increased in 1900 to 33½ per cent. Until continental sugar bounties were abolished, however, this proved of no avail, as West Indian sugar found a better market in the United States owing to the Government of that country having decided to impose countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugars. But when the preference given by America to Cuban sugar became effective, and when the pernicious bounty system was terminated by the International Agreement embodied in the Brussels Convention of 1902, the British West Indies found the Canadian market very helpful to them. The value of the preference which they enjoyed in it was, however, reduced by the permission given to the Canadian refiners by their Government to import certain quantities of foreign sugar at the British preferential rates. This concession was granted to the refiners to compensate them for the action of the wicked West Indian producers whom they alleged were combining to raise prices against them. It had really no such justification. Those acquainted with the West Indies must know that it is about as easy for a camel to go through the eye of a needle as it is to get the people of those colonies to combine and the absurdity of this allegation against the producers will, therefore, be readily appreciated. As, however, the West Indies were giving no reciprocal advantages to Canada in return for the preference which they were enjoying they had no *locus standi* and could not legitimately protest.

The next move towards closer trade was made in 1909 when, following the visit of a Royal Commission to the West Indies and Canada a conference was held at Ottawa between representatives of the West Indian colonies and the Dominion of Canada, and a Trade Agreement was signed providing for the establishment of a reciprocal trade arrangement between the West Indies and Canada for a period of ten years. The basis of this arrangement was the granting of a mutual preference of 20 per cent. off the import duties on the chief products of the countries concerned, with minimum preferences on flour in favour of Canada and on sugar in that of the West Indies. A time limit was also put on the concessions given to the Canadian refiners by their Government of importing foreign sugar at preferential rates.

Other circumstances had also helped towards bringing about a more intimate relationship between the British West Indies and Canada. There had been, for instance, the financial assistance which the Dominion had given towards securing a reduction in the preposterously high cable rates in 1912. There had been, too, the steamship service from Halifax and St. John down the islands to British Guiana, which Canada had provided free of all expense to the West Indies for eight years, and incidentally it may be remarked that it was the maintenance of this service throughout the war that helped to sugar the bitter pill which the West Indies had to swallow when they were deprived of their transatlantic and intercolonial steamers in 1915. The Canadian Royal Mail line had been bringing down to the islands many visitors of the same nationality in search of business or pleasure or both (for nowhere can the two be more happily combined than in the West Indies), and as every true Canadian is a "bag-man" representing, if not a commercial firm, at any rate his own country, whose amenities he is never tired of "boosting," it will be readily understood how it came about that the Canadian atmosphere had been spreading in the British West Indies.

Some Canadian "Movies."

In developing this tendency, Mr. Frank Keefer's magnetic influence was very pronounced. Every day he told us what Canada could and would do for the West Indies, and one night, in a stuffy little cinema theatre, which was packed almost to suffocation, he showed a set of "movies" illustrative of the wealth and resources of his great country. They included pictures of factories equipped with wonderful labour-saving appliances, great engineering works, steam shovels, vast reservoirs, massive dams, etc., all of which he eloquently described from the body of the hall. Now it is quite certain that equally, if not more, striking pictures could be prepared to illustrate the might and power of Great Britain, her vast mercantile marine, her commerce and industries, and one could not help regretting the modesty of one's countrymen who had failed as yet to realise the value and importance of propaganda, in spite of the lessons of the war. One knew, too, that when Mr. Keefer's pictures were packed up and sent back to Canada, the screen on which they were being shown would be devoted to the exhibition of those abominable films of battle, murder and sudden death, from America, which do such an infinite amount of harm even in communities where education has reached a high level.

Considering the practical and active manner in which the Dominion had been showing its interest in the British West Indies, it was a matter for no surprise to find that our Caribbean Colonies were looking to Canada for their future commercial welfare, and although at present the requirements of that vast country in respect of tropical products are, except as to sugar, very far below the actual output of the West Indies, this disadvantage will tend to disappear as the consuming power of Canada expands with increasing population. On the other hand, it may be well to state here that during a three months' tour in the West Indies I failed to find more than half a dozen people who were in

favour of political union with Canada, in spite of Mr. Harry J. Crowe's active campaign in that direction.

It was known that some Canadian statesmen were anxious that the West Indies in approaching the question of reciprocal trade would agree to grant a substantial preference exclusively to Canada; but the attitude of the West Indian delegates made it perfectly clear that any differentiation against the mother country was not to be entertained for a single moment. A resolution recording appreciation of the fiscal preference now granted by Great Britain to her colonies and advocating the offer of reciprocal advantages in the West Indies was moved by the President, seconded by Mr. G. F. Huggins and carried unanimously, though some speakers appeared to be rather sceptical as to the likelihood of Imperial Preference becoming part of the settled policy of Great Britain; after remaining in the wilderness for so long they hardly seemed to realise as yet that they had at last reached the Promised Land.

Tom Cringle's Rum Punch.

Our deliberations continued throughout the week, and the only break in the daily session, which lasted from ten o'clock in the morning until four in the afternoon, was the luncheon interval, when many of us adjourned to the Bridgetown Club to partake of such delicacies as flying-fish melts and dainty portions of bullock, which are specialties of that hospitable institution. The Bridgetown Club, which is the Mecca of every visitor to Barbados, occupies the top floor of the capital's three-storey "sky-scraper." It is approached by three flights of stairs, and when you reach the top you see in front of you, at the end of a short passage, as if welcoming you, its historic bar, whose skilful tender, attired like all the Club waiters in white drill, dispenses those seductive "swizzles" and cocktails for which Barbados is famous. In respect of these cooling and appetising drinks, one noticed that a subtle change had come over the Anglo-West Indian palate in the last decade, and that the old-time rum punch of Tom Cringle's day had come into its own again, a circumstance attributable, perhaps, to the difficulty experienced in obtaining the main ingredient of the gin swizzle during the war.

At four o'clock, when we were released from our labours, for the day, there was a rush for the fleet of motor-cars placed at the disposal of the delegates; and for those who were fortunate enough to secure one of its units, there followed a delightful evening drive in the country to Long Bay Castle, to the Crane, or to a sugar factory, past an endless panorama of sugar canes, some yellow with promise of harvest, and some, still in their infancy, a most brilliant green. The roads in Barbados would be ideal for this form of enjoyment if—and it is a very big if—they were not so abominably dusty and horribly glaring. Cut out of the solid coral rock, they require and receive no metalling, and when they become worn and uneven they are simply pared down until they are even again. What could be more simple? Perhaps the day may come when they are treated with oil from Trinidad, if not from the local wells, which, one noticed, were already being drilled in several districts.

With the proletariat in Barbados the motor-car is not popular. "Bodderation!" I heard an old black lady exclaim as a 20-h.p. Buick dashed round a corner and nearly knocked her off her feet. "What dey want wid dose nasty tings in B'bados?" This was characteristic. The people infinitely prefer their little donkey carts-- of which there must be hundreds in the island-- to automobiles. This is, perhaps, because they cannot afford anything better, and it is said that when the men of the British West Indies Regiment returned to Barbados and were demobilised, they spent a considerable proportion of their substantial war gratuities in dashing about the island in cheap Yankee cars. The donkey carts swarm on the roads, and are in turn the bugbear of motorist, for they keep in the middle of the road, and nothing but the incessant shrieking of the raucous Klaxon horn will induce them to draw aside to let one pass.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

Mr. Pierpont Morgan in the Bahamas.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan have been paying a visit to New Providence, and on January 23rd made a trip to the Clifton estate at the western end of the island, which has recently been acquired by Mr. F. E. Kip, and the next day entertained the Governor and Lady Cordeaux, the Speaker and Mrs. Malcolm to lunch on Mr. Morgan's yacht, the *Corsair*. His Excellency was due to visit Harbour Island for the exhibition and regatta taking place at Dunmore Town on February 17th and 18th.

Nassau was delighted with the appearance and fittings of R.M.S. *Canadian Fisher*, which arrived on January 25th, but it was felt that a tender is badly needed in the port for the landing of passengers, who, if the weather had not been kind, might have had an uncomfortable disembarkation. February 1st constituted a record for this winter's tourist traffic, passenger steamers from Canada, New York, and Miami, and a seaplane from Palm Beach, all being in port together. The *Nassau Guardian* calls attention to the resuscitation of the Inagua salt industry. Up-to-date machinery for pumping and grinding is being installed, and already two experimental shipments of about 40,000 bushels have been made to America, and it is hoped to supply the markets of Canada, Jamaica, and Cuba also. The Inagua Salt Co. contemplate running their own schooners, and anticipate that from 25,000 to 50,000 tons will be shipped annually in the near future.

V.D. Commission in Barbados.

Mr. Peter Patterson was successful in his petition against the election of Mr. H. Graham Yearwood for the parish of St. Joseph. After hearing witnesses and arguments on both sides, the House of Assembly on January 11 decided by an unanimous vote that the election was null and void, it having been found that the Sheriff who presided at the election had marked four of the ballot papers, contrary to the Ballot Act.

The delegates from Barbados to the Educational Conference, which is being held in Trinidad during this month, are announced as His Lordship the Bishop, who is President of the Education Board, Mr. Greenhough, the Assistant Inspector, and Mr. A. R. Parkinson, of the Wesley Hall School. Dr. A. F. Wright and Dr. Laetitia Fairfield, the members of the

Veneral Disease Commission, have been extremely active since their arrival in the island on January 15th. The following day they had a conference in the morning with the Chamber of Commerce, presided over by Mr. H. Jason Jones, and in the afternoon addressed a meeting of the members of the Legislature in the Council Chamber, at which His Excellency Sir Charles O'Brien was present. Sir Charles said that any expenditure sanctioned on the objects of the Commission could be looked upon as an investment and an insurance, involving as it would a healthier community and less outlay on the lunatic asylums and almshouses.

Moncrieffe Plantation, in St. Philip, 203 acres, has been sold to Mr. S. B. Gooding for £10,205, and Fairfield, in the same parish (92 acres) to Mr. E. H. Gooding for £8,852. Many labourers are being recruited for Cuba. The weather for the first three weeks in January was characterised by high winds and small rainfall, less than an inch being registered in St. Joseph, and not more than half an inch in St. Thomas, St. John, and St. George. The supplying of fields for next year's crop is being conducted on a significantly large scale, some fields taking over 1,200 plants per acre to replace those lost. The yam crop has practically failed.

Mr. Rodway's Services to British Guiana.

The Hon. Cecil Clementi, the Colonial Secretary, was on January 15th appointed Deputy Governor of the Colony during the temporary absence of Sir Wilfred Collet.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society, at which the Governor presided, Hon. R. E. Brassington was elected President. On the same occasion the presentation of \$1,000 collected locally was made to Mr. Rodway. Mr. Daggett, of Phi. Leonora, has been appointed manager of Phi. Providence, in succession to the late Mr. Beach.

Owing to the general financial stringency and the absence of demand for raw material, the Demerara Bauxite Company has decided, says the *Argosy*, to suspend mining operations at Akyma and Mackenzie, and as a result, until the employees can be absorbed in other industries, there is likely to be a considerable amount of distress. On account of the illness of Hon. J. P. Auld, the Governor has appointed Mr. H. S. Whittaker to act temporarily as Director of Sea Defences.

The Chamber of Commerce has approached the Secretary of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce with a view to concerted action, having regard to the attitude taken up by the steamship companies on the question of liability for pilferage.

Hon. Hector Josephs, K.C., the new acting Attorney-General, was welcomed to the Colony by the Chief Justice (Sir Charles Major), and by Mr. Woolford, K.C., and Mr. Luckhoo on behalf of the bar, on the occasion of his first appearance in the Courts of Law.

British Honduras in the Limelight.

Gradually British Honduras is making its presence on the map known (writes Mr. P. Stanley Woods on January 27th), and a few distinguished individuals are visiting us, or are about to do so. We have at the moment Sir Samuel Hoare, who has come out in the interest of the Belize Estate & Produce Co., Ltd. He is now visiting the interior, and will get a much better idea of the capabilities of the Colony than he ever could have done by correspondence. To-morrow he will address the Chamber of Commerce on "The Imperial Aims of the British Government." Soon, also, we are to have Sir John Dimsdale and Mr. T. D. Westcott in connection with oil fuel. Col. Dennis with

three other gentlemen are coming as a Commission to enquire into our economic possibilities on behalf of the Canadian Government. [An account of this delegation and its objects is given on page 64 of the CIRCULAR of February 17th.]

The *Clarion* reports the departure from the Colony of Mr. H. B. Stoyles on January 21st. Mr. Stoyles, who has been for many years the Superintendent of the Stann Creek Railway, and Acting Commissioner for the Stann Creek District, goes via England to take up a position in Africa. His loss will be greatly felt in British Honduras.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on January 14th, Hon. G. E. Crabbam, the President, gave an interesting account of negotiations with Mr. Young, the representative of the Canadian Government Railway Lines and the Canadian Merchant Marine. The *Canadian Fisher*, the first of the new service, was expected to reach Belize about February 11th, having called at Nassau and Kingston. Mr. Young had stated that it was up to the people of the Colony to make their own arrangements with Canadian agents to open up business. The tonnage of the vessels was to be about 5,000. Freight and passage rates had not yet been received. In Mr. Young's opinion the great demand of Canada was for fruits, with the exception of bananas, and there should be a good market for coconuts.

Dominica's Preventable Disease.

The Hon. Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., giving evidence before the Committee of Inquiry into the question of labour supply on the island's estates, of which he is a member, said that the health of the population was not satisfactory. Syphilis was prevalent and was spreading, and a large number of the sores the people called "yaws" were really syphilitic sores. Several medical appointments had been vacant for a considerable time, so that most of the people in the country districts were unable to obtain the necessary medical aid. Again, the infantile mortality was excessive, the deaths among infants being principally due to improper feeding, the result of ignorance among the mothers, and of the scarcity of milk in the island, so that very young children were fed on arrowroot and other unsuitable diet. The best way to combat this evil was the establishment of crèches. There should be licensed midwives in every village, as in Antigua, whereas there were only three or four in the whole island outside the hospital at Roseau. The abundance of malaria all along the coast was preventable, and the witness strongly recommended the formation of local boards of health in the different districts, with power to act in sanitary matters.

It is reported in the *Chronicle* that if sufficient support is forthcoming, the Raporel Line is once more prepared to make Roseau one of her ports of call; a first attempt was made in 1916. Mr. S. L. V. Green is the Company's agent in the island.

Jamaica's gift to the Prince.

The Governor has received a letter from the Prince of Wales expressing the latter's pleasure at receiving the silver bowl which, with a quaint inscription, was sent to him from the island. Accompanying the gift were souvenirs for the Prince's staff in the form of jippi-jappa hats and specially manufactured cigars. His Royal Highness, in his letter, expresses the hope that the visit which he "owes to Jamaica" may not be too long deferred.

Following the recent controversy regarding the increase of the salary of the Cayman Islands Commissioner, the *Jamaica Times* suggests the formation of a Cayman Association with the object of keeping

Cayman to the front and educating Jamaica about her affairs and resources.

An interesting record of the achievements of the British West Indies Regiment during the war, in the form of a diary by Lieut.-Col. C. M. Ogilvie, is appearing in serial form in the *Jamaica Times*.

At the 1921 Conference of the Jamaica Union of Teachers, which was held from January 2nd to 7th, the Hon. D. T. Wint, the retiring President, attacked the appointment of the present Director of Education, but characterised the Board of Education as a useful and progressive body. The Rev. G. I. Young was installed as the new President. A resolution in favour of compulsory school attendance was carried.

Mr. S. S. Stedman, who has represented Portland in the Legislative Council for many years, and done splendid work for the parish, has resigned his seat. It is reported that Mr. A. E. French, the Chairman of the Portland Parochial Council, is to be approached with a view to nomination for election. Another vacancy in the Council has been caused by the resignation of Hon. W. Coke-Kerr, a nominated member, and head of the firm of Messrs. J. E. Kerr & Co. Fully 1,000 men were present at the Ward Theatre on February 4th to hear a clever and outspoken lecture on venereal diseases by Dr. W. F. Martin, a specialist who is visiting the island to help in combating these appalling scourges, which are so terribly prevalent.

The Government has issued a loan for the sum of £197,000 at 5½ per cent. interest, repayable in forty years.

St. Lucia and U.S. Mine Ships.

On January 28th the United States Cruiser *Sau Francisco*, and the U.S. Destroyers *Murray* and *Mahan*, and the Minesweepers *Lark* and *Mallard* dropped anchor in Castries Harbour. The usual interchange of courtesies took place between Captain Lackey and Mr. G. McG. Peter, the acting United States Consular Agent, followed by a pleasant "At Home" at Government House, at which a number of the American officers paid their respects to the Administrator. *The Voice* understands that Captain Lackey, who had grateful memories of old visits to the West Indian Islands, was personally responsible for bringing about the cruise of the Mine Force in Caribbean waters. Mr. Elford Williams, eldest son of the Hon. George Williams, who was seriously wounded in the war, sustaining a compound fracture of the thigh, has had to undergo a further operation, as the result of which it is hoped that a permanent cure may be effected.

St. Vincent's Cotton Crops.

By the end of the first week in January the reaping of the first bearing of cotton was almost exhausted, and in many places picking had ceased. The prospects of a second crop, says the *St. Vincent Times*, are not very encouraging, except in a few localities. The first shipments of the new crop consisted of 452 bales, of which 221 were ginned and baled at the Central Cotton factory. They were sent per s.s. *Speaker*, which also took over 1,000 barrels of arrowroot.

Tobago's Cacao and Coconuts.

A correspondent writes from Tobago: The fall in cacao is serious for planters here. I have just returned from a visit to Mr. Reid's estate, of King's Bay. Compared with what it was thirty years ago, the change in the windward district is marvellous. The cacao being produced is equal to the best Trinidad. Coconuts by the hundred thousand are bearing or just coming into bearing. In a couple of years' time the demand for tonnage will be imperative, and must be supplied.

Trinidad's Record Oil Consignment.

The largest single cargo of oil which has as yet left Trinidad was shipped by s.s. *San Fraterno* from Point Fortin, the depot of the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, on January 31st, and consisted of 17,000 tons of fuel oil consigned to the Mexican Eagle Co. The delivery was carried out by two barges, and according to the *Port of Spain Gazette* the complete loading only took about 80 working hours.

A visit was paid on January 23rd by His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by the Director of Public Works, the Surgeon-General and Sisters from the Cocorite Leper Asylum, to the island of Chacabacare. It will be recalled that the Chamber of Commerce have delivered a vigorous protest against the proposal to transfer the leper settlement to this island. The chief features noted by the party were the plentiful tobacco growth—though it is said that the industry can be only carried on profitably at certain times in the year—and the absence of water.

Nearly three thousand dollars have already been subscribed to a fund started by the *Port of Spain Gazette* to alleviate the famine with which China has been stricken.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, under date January 20th, says: We had an important visitor here yesterday in the person of the Hon. Bainbridge Colby, Secretary of State of the U.S.A., who landed from the U.S. battleship *Florida* on his return voyage from Bahia, Brazil, whither he had been as the personal representative of President Wilson on a special mission. In addition to the usual formalities of his reception, the Consular body flew their flags in honour of the occasion. The Minister was entertained to a banquet at Government House the same evening, and later on attended a dance given by the Navy Blue Club in his honour, and in that of the officers of the *Florida* and the British ships *Calcutta* and *Constance*, which happened to be in the harbour.

Mr. S. H. Davies, the principal chemist of Messrs. Rowntree, of York, gave yesterday before the Agricultural Board an interesting and practical address on the cacao industry and trade. Amongst other things he suggested that about five or ten acres of Trinidad land should be planted in the Arriba cacao from Ecuador. It had previously been decided not to obtain plants or seed from Guayaquil owing to the fear of importing some infectious disease, but it was decided now that, in view of the importance of the experiment, it should be undertaken, taking every possible precaution against the risk of disease.

The new Canadian naval squadron, consisting of the light cruiser *Aurora* (lately presented by the Imperial Government to the Dominion), and the destroyers *Patriot* and *Patrician*, arrived here to-day en route to British Columbia.

Writing on January 15th, Mr. Tripp says that among the many useful measures adopted by the Governor for the benefit of the Colony has been the question of Forest Reserves. His Excellency instructed the Conservator of Forests to report whether any existing reserves could be released, and whether there were any areas of Crown lands in addition to those now proclaimed which should be reserved either for the protection of water supplies or for other reasons. Mr. Rogers submitted a very comprehensive and valuable report, published as Council Paper 25 of 1920. This was submitted by the Governor for the consideration of the Secretary of State, who referred it to the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew. Sir D. Frazer reported that the proposal to release from the existing Forest Reserve an area of 24.64 square miles

of fertile land, which will be made available for cultivation, and to add to the Reserves an area of 91.45 square miles of waste Crown lands, the greater part of which is either useless for agriculture or is required to form water belts, appears to be eminently sound and practicable, and should prove of considerable benefit. Lord Milner, in a despatch to the Governor, dated 3rd September last, approves of the adoption of the report as the basis for developing the forests of the Colony, which will now be further added to the valuable services that Mr. Rogers has given to Trinidad.

A proposal to make it illegal to clay *cacao* beyond the standard of 2 per cent. added clay has been submitted to the Cacao Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

We have had some very welcome rains of late which have proved of great benefit to cultivation, whilst not too heavy to interfere with prospect of the commencement of the sugar crop next week.

LETTERS TO EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

The Story of the Seedling Cane.

SIR,—The "Story of Seedling Canes," published in your last issue, recalls a visit I paid to Dodd's Reformatory, in Barbados, in the very earliest days of the seedling cane cult. At that time only known varieties of canes were being experimented with at the Botanic Gardens in British Guiana, and when Mr. Bovell kindly presented me with a seedling, still in its blade-of-grass infancy, I handed it over to the late Mr. G. S. Jenman, the Government Botanist, to cultivate. The stool grown from it was simply appalling in the number and size of the canes comprising it, some of the stems being over 20 feet long. This early promise, however, was not fulfilled; and the theory was advanced that this enormous initial growth was due to an accidental drenching with whisky and soda which the young plant received on board ship. But this was the first seedling in British Guiana, and it came from Mr. J. R. Bovell.

Yours, etc.,

FREDERIC I. SCARD.

The Food value of Bananas.

SIR,—With reference to my letter which you published in your issue of February 3rd, under the heading "The Food Value of Bananas," I enclose correspondence between Mr. Ackerley of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., and myself, which may, I think, be of interest to your readers.

I am, etc.,

February 11th, 1921.

SYDNEY OLIVIER.

[ENCLOSURE.]

31, Bow Street, W.A.C.A.

February 9th, 1921.

DEAR SIR SYDNEY OLIVIER,—In your letter to the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, on the food value of bananas, you estimate 300 bunches to the acre. In the Canary Islands an acre of good banana land produces one thousand bunches. On our Hoya Estate, on the slopes of the Peak of Tenerife, without undue crowding we got 813 bunches to the acre on fifty acres in 1920.

For such land as this £120 an acre rent is not considered especially high.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) A. ROGER ACKERLEY.

37, Brookfield Highgate, N.6.
February 11th, 1921.

DEAR MR. ACKERLEY.—Many thanks for your letter; the facts you give about Canary Island cultivation are very interesting. The Canary Banana plant is, of course, much more compact than the Jamaican; the skill and attention devoted to the plants by the grower are incomparably greater, and I should not be surprised if you told me that you plant nearly twice as many to the acre and get more "count" bunches per plant. I see that this banana is now being planted largely in Jamaica in diseased areas as being immune. It will be interesting to see if the yield is greater. I do not expect it. On special cultivation in Jamaica you may, no doubt, get more—even on an average of quiet years—than 300 count bunches to the acre; but that is what, on a good many years survey, I have good authority from experienced planters for assessing as a safe but by no means too low average. I may say that it was in connection with this very question of the relative productivity of crops and with the desire to give credit to the banana that I first looked into the matter.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) SYDNEY OLIVIER

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS,

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Trinidad	Dover	Oranje Nassau	Mar 5
Jamaica	Bristol	Changuinoh	" 8
West Indies	London	Commodore	" 9
Jamaica	Liverpool	Nicoya	" 11
West Indies	Liverpool	Electrician	" 12
Jamaica	Bristol	Camito	" 14
Trinidad	Dover	Stuyvesant	" 19
Jamaica	Liverpool	Pacure	" 21
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	" 22
West Indies	Glasgow	Spectator	" 22
West Indies	London	Specialist	" 23
B'nos & T'ad	Liverpool	Antillian	" 26

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	New York	Zacapa	Mar 15
Jamaica	New York	Tolosa	" 19
Jamaica	New Orleans	Abangarez	" 19
St Lucia, T'ad & Demerara	St Nazaire	Macoris	" 22
West Indies	New York	Korona	" 26
West Indies	New York	Parima	" Apl. 1
B'nos, J'aca & B' H'as	Halifax	Canadian Fisher	" 7
West Indies	Halifax	Caraque	" 12
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	" 26

The above dates are only approximate.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

(Continued from next Column)

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.—Sailings to West Indies, from London in s.s. *Speaker* (Captain Haylett) February 21th

Mr P. Bailey	Miss Kysh	Mr G. Wright
Mr & Mrs Benta	Mr S. Walter	Miss & Mrs. Vuille
Mr & Mrs A. J. Brooks	Mr R. Watts	

Sailings to West Indies, from Glasgow in s.s. *Counsellor*. (Captain A Dingle) February 25th

Mrs. Alexander and two children	Dr. J. Anderson	Mr. W. Macdonald
	Mr. de Freitas	Mrs. Roskilly and child
	Mrs. Forrat	

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Coronado* (Commander W. T. Forrester, O.B.E.) February 14th

Mr & Mrs A. Akenhead	Capt. A. E. Drysdale	Miss D. Suttler
Mrs Alvey	Mr & Mrs J. S. Genth	Mr. H. Sykes
Miss E. D. Ba four	Miss Greenwood	Mrs. K. H. Sykes
Mr & Mrs C. P. Hill	Col. W. F. Le se	Mr. H. A. Wilkinson
Mr. A. R. Cawood	Miss M. Z. Leese	Lieut. Col. & Mrs. H. Wilson
Mrs. G. J. Cawood	Mr. D. MacGill	Wilson
Mr. F. de Bourgenion	Mrs. J. S. McLeod	Mr. W. Wilson
Lady Densham	Mr. & Mrs. T. H. Moore	Mr. J. M. Wilson
Miss S. Densham	Mr. A. Sinclair	

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth in S.S. *Atolagua*, February 22nd

Capt. C. C. Carlisle	Mrs. I. Forester	Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Mazorra
Mr. E. H. Cartwright	Miss L. Gideob	Mr. T. E. McKay
Mrs. L. F. Downer	Mr. W. G. Gigg	Miss H. M. McLeod
Master G. Downer	Mr. A. Herod	Capt. N. S. G. McVean
Capt. A. E. Drysdale	Mr. C. R. Howarth	Mr. H. M. Perry
	Mr. S. G. Marriott	

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Patuca* (Commander F. H. Swain) February 28th

Mrs. G. R. Ackery	Mrs. A. F. Kendrick	Miss C. O'Toole
Miss N. Ackery	The Misses Renick (2)	Mr. E. M. Prince
Mr. E. D. Clarke	Miss M. Kyle	Mr. F. H. Robertson
Lieut. Col. and Mrs. A. Gardner	Mrs. E. F. Madden	Major H. Robb
Mrs. C. Corley	Mr. B. C. de Martin and Family	Mr. J. L. Rounds
Mr. Jas. Gregson	Mrs. Molyneux	Mr. J. Stevens
Mr. J. H. Gregson	Miss D. Moore	Mr. R. Stott
Mr. N. Hart	Mr. L. B. O'Hanlon	Mr. K. G. Wood
Mr. P. K. Hodgson	Mrs. B. O'Toole	Lord & Lady Worsley

Home Arrivals from Jamaica, in S.S. *Patuca*, Avonmouth February 20th

Mrs. F. Abraham	Mr. I. J. Culverwell	Lieut. A. Nosworthy
The Misses Abraham (2)	Mr. J. Gilbody	R. N.
Lieut. Col. H. Behrend	Major A. E. Glanville	Miss J. E. Reckitt
Miss N. B. Camm	Mr. L. Halle	Mr & Mrs. C. B. Shippson
Baron de Chakiton	Major H. Jarr tt Kerr	
Col. J. H. Cox	Mr & Mrs F. Lanckster	Mr. C. E. Wiseman
Mr. T. J. H. Culverwell	Mr. R. E. Le Roux	

Concluded at foot of previous Column

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

		PRICES
		Mar. 1, 1921
Div.	Antigua 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	68.68cd
3 1/2 %	Barrados 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	62.64
4 %	British Guiana 4 % Redeemable 1935	74.77
4 %	British Guiana 3 % Redeemable 1921-45	59.61
4 %	Grenada 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	71.73
4 %	Jamaica 4 % Redeemable 1914	76.78
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 1/2 % Redeemable 1919-49	59.62
3 1/2 %	Jamaica 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	57.60
4 %	St. Lucia 4 % Redeemable 1919-44	69.71
4 %	Trinidad 4 % Redeemable 1917-42	73.75
3 %	Trinidad 3 % Redeemable 1922-44	58.60
10 %	The Colonial Bank	57.62
5 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	80.100
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	83.68
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4% Debentures	66.71
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	66.71
6 1/2 %	Angostura Bitters Part Preference	7.11
7 1/2 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6 1/2 % Debentures	105.110
	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref	6.
	St. Madeline Sugar	10.6
	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd	49.
	Petroleum Options, Ltd. 10	2.
10 %	Trinidad Central Oilfields	72.8
	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd. 10	2.6
12 1/2 %	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (Ed)	44.
	United British Oilfields of Trinidad Ltd	17.6
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	25.35
7 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 7 1/2 % Perp. Pref.	85.101
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Ex. Pref.	50.55
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4 % Debentures	55.60
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., Ordinary	34.
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 6% Cum. Int. Pref.	44.39
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 2nd	22.30
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 5% Debentures	83.87

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6682

Telegram—
"Carib, London"



15, SEETHING LAKE.

LONDON, E.C. 3.

March 1st, 1921.

BANK RATE, 7 per cent., as from April 15th, 1920

EXCHANGE on New York \$3 86-83 87

West Indian Produce in 1914 and 1921.

In view of the recent slump, the following quotations of various West Indian staples in London on March 1st, 1914 and 1921 will be of interest:

	1914	1921
Sugar		
96° f.o.b. Cuba	1 90c	4 60c
96° c.i.f. U.K.	10/6	31/-
89° Muscovado c.i.f. U.K.	8/6	23/-
Rum		
Jamaica fine	6/-	7/- to 8/-
Demerara, proof	15/-	4/6
Cacao		
Trinidad fine	65/-	65/-
Grenada fine	64/-	53/-
Coffee		
Fine Ordinary	56/- to 61/-	58/- to 65/-
Blue Mountain	78/- to 110/-	130/- to 185/-
Cotton		
Sea Island Fine	21d	36d
Lime Products		
Lime Juice, Raw	1/4	2/6
Distilled	1/10	3/6 (nominal)
Handpressed Lime Oil	9/-	18/-
Concentrated	£21 10s	£25
Copra	£29 10s	£32 (nominal)
Coconuts per 100	15/-	40/-
Arrowroot	4 1/2d	6 3/4d
Balata Sheet	2/11	3/10
Pimento	2 1/2d	3d
Nutmegs		
100's	5 1/2d	6d
114's to 127's	5d	7d
Ginger	55/-	157/6
Petroleum		
Pen. Crude	\$2 50	\$4 25
Mace		
Fine Pale	2/5	1/3
Good Red	2/1	10d
Honey		
Jamaica	3/-	70/ (nominal)

SUGAR. As foreshadowed in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, all restrictions on importations of sugar, and all regulations with regard to distribution, dealings, and prices have been withdrawn. Decontrol became effective on February 28th. For the final week of the operations of the Royal Commission (21st and 26th), prices were fixed at 67/6 for granulated crystals, etc., the maximum "reasonable" price for licensed free sugars being the same. The Imperial Food Journal of January 27th states that the sale of muscovado, which it describes as a "very useful description of sugar," is being hampered owing to refiners' prices, which look somewhat like it, being largely displayed in most shops. "To the inexperienced eye, they appear to be one and the same description of sugar, but such is far from being the case, as in the case of muscovado, a crystallizable sugar is to be found, and it is quite suitable for the bulk of household requirements, which cannot be said of the more chemically constituted pieces."

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on February 19th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Imports	3,449	6,241	3,916 Tons.
Deliveries	6,289	4,475	5,724 "
Stock	5,564	9,902	4,414 "

CACAO. There is practically no change to report, the market remaining dull and inactive. Fine Trinidad is quoted at 62/- to 66/-, and fine Grenada at 52/- to 53/-.

Imports of West Indian into United Kingdom for January, 9,088 cwt.

It is claimed that some Trinidad cacao which has recently been arriving in London has been mixed with Venezuelao. This practice is obviously to be deprecated, as it might prejudice Trinidad cacao receiving its share of Imperial Preference.

The stocks in London on February 19th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	21,199	20,481	19,887 Bags.
Grenada	18,849	12,418	9,985 "
Total of all kinds	193,907	99,437	127,620 "

RUM remains in the extremely quiet condition which has characterised it for so many months, and since our last report values have shown a tendency to decline. Considerable sales of 1921 rums have recently been made, but it is improbable that the prices fetched could be repeated to-day, as the ideas of value among dealers here are much below the prices asked for from Jamaica. Stocks are steadily accumulating. Jamaica fine is quoted at 7/- to 8/- and Demerara at 4/6 proof.

The stocks in London on February 19th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	8,859	6,933	3,273 Puds.
Demerara	15,065	13,296	11,006 "
Total of all kinds	34,037	27,801	19,195 "

ARROWROOT. Market still very dull; nominal prices 2 1/2d. to 6 3/4d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is again easier. There are spot parcels offering at 3/10 per lb., landed terms, with forward quoted at 3/8 c.i.f.

COFFEE. The market generally is dull. Ordinary Jamaicas are almost unsaleable, with spot sellers at 58/- to 65/-. Blue Mountain continues to meet with a ready sale, the prices realised at last auction ranging from 130/- to 183/-; the latter price for hold size. Imports of West India for January, 912 cwts.

COPRA. Only a very small business passing. Nominal value f.m.s. West Indian £22 c.i.f., London or Continent.

COTTON. The market generally is dull, and prices show considerable declines. The quotations for West Indian Sea Island are reduced a further 200 points, medium being quoted at 25d. and fine at 36d.

HONEY. The demand remains disappointingly slow. Small sales of Jamaica have been made at 45/- to 55/- for darkish to fair palish, and some sales of Cuban have been made at cheap rates, but particulars have not been reported.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is quiet after sales at 18/-, and stocks are small. More interest is being shown in **Distilled** but no sales are reported. **Raw Lime Juice** is dull and neglected.

LOGWOOD is difficult of sale, even at a considerable decline on prices previously reported. A small business has been done at £9.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet. There are sellers on the spot at 12/6 per lb., and retail business at this figure. **Bitter** is not wanted yet.

RUBBER. Market rather dull. Crepe spot 1/1; and sheet spot 11 1/2d.

SPICES. Pimento. Some cheap sales of parcels in secondhands have been made at under 3d. per lb., with occasional lots in importers' hands at 3d. There is, however, as yet no general demand. Jamaica **Ginger** is still only in limited demand, with small sales of fair quality up to 157/6 per cwt. **Nutmegs** are unchanged (West Indian 80's 10d., 110's 7d., wormy 5d.). **Mace** is unchanged. (Fair to good pale 1/- to 1/3, red 10d.)

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 8/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

POSITION AS SUGAR PLANTATION MANAGER.—Six years' experience in Fiji, three years on own plantation. Thorough experience in control of staff and native labour. Hindustani spoken.—Apply P. M. P., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3.

Copies of "CIRCULAR," No. 349.—The Manager will gladly pay 8d. for copies returned to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London.

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXVI.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1921.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone
CENTRAL 6642.



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

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.

March 17th, 1921.

The Prince and the West India Committee.

IT is with very great pleasure that we have to announce that the PRINCE OF WALES has been graciously pleased to accept the invitation of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to attend a banquet to be held in London on June 24th next. If any precedent were needed for this function, it would be found in a similar banquet which THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE held over a hundred years ago, which was honoured by the presence of His Royal Highness's great-great-great uncles, the DUKE OF CLARENCE (afterwards His MAJESTY KING WILLIAM IV.) and the DUKE OF YORK. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to determine the actual date of that entertainment, though a plan of the seating arrangements, designed by MR. A. CRUIKSHANK, is still preserved. But this dinner, too, was probably held in June, inasmuch as it is recorded in

the Minutes of the Standing Committee of West India Planters and Merchants—as the COMMITTEE was then called—under the date March 26th, 1811: "That the West India Planters and Merchants will dine together in the month of June next, and about the same time annually, the Chairman regulating the day, the place of meeting, and the notices and invitations to guests." At the earlier banquet many distinguished guests were present, including the then Prime Minister, the EARL OF LIVERPOOL, GEORGE CANNING and ROBERT PEEL, besides six other members of the Privy Council, LORD COMBERMERE, Governor of Barbados from 1817 to 1820; and the EARL OF HAREWOOD, the ancestor of the fifth EARL OF HAREWOOD, President of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, who will preside at the banquet in June next. But we merely refer to this as a matter of historic interest, for assuredly no precedent could be required for the forthcoming banquet, which will afford THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE the opportunity of again demonstrating to the PRINCE OF WALES how greatly His Royal Highness's recent tour was appreciated, not only in those Colonies which had the honour of receiving him, but also in those which were denied this privilege, as well as by the West Indian community in this country.

The "Annual General Reports."

READERS accustomed to study or consult the Colonial Secretaries' Reports on the Blue books of the West Indian Colonies will, no doubt, have noticed the subtle change which is coming over those official publications. The old Colonial Report was a dry-as-dust pamphlet, which repelled rather than attracted. A mass of statistics more conveniently available in the Blue books themselves, it was very obviously prepared according to a hard and fast plan, the only opportunity afforded to the compiler of letting himself go regarding matters of real interest being at the end, under the heading: "General Observations." This

particular item has now been promoted to a more important position in the amended type of these reports, which are now no longer produced on the stereotyped lines by which they were formerly characterised, and are appearing as Annual General Reports standing on their own merits, rather than remaining dependent upon the Blue books. We have been prompted to call attention to this notable change by a perusal of the Annual Report for the Financial Year ended March 31st last, prepared by COLONEL HERBERT BRYAN, C.M.G., D.S.O., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, which, like the Report of COLONEL FRANCIS JENKINS, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Barbados, for the preceding year is compiled in a manner which makes it far more attractive in every way than the report which preceded it. This welcome change, it may be noted, is attributable to the recommendations of the Committee on Colonial Blue books and Blue book Reports, which was set up by MR. WALTER LONG, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, in 1917, with SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND as Chairman. A Sub-Committee of that body, under the Chairmanship of MR. T. C. MACNAUGHTEN, made an exhaustive examination of these annual publications, and recommendations, which are already resulting in making them more generally uniform one with another in respect of arrangement and definition, in cutting out much unnecessary matter and consequent waste of paper on "nil" returns, and in rendering them far more convenient for reference purposes. The object now aimed at is to make the Reports a vivid and interesting record for presentation to Parliament, and at the same time attractive to other persons in this country who are interested in the progress of His Majesty's Overseas Possessions and Protectorates. COLONEL BRYAN'S Report on Jamaica furnishes an interesting example of how the new style of report will "pan out." Prefacing his remarks with a brief geographical and historical note, he reviews the social and general conditions of the Colony in the year, calling special attention to such outstanding features of interest as the tide of emigration, which, by the way, rose in 1919-20 to the alarming total of 23,618 souls, as against 7,140 in 1917, and 8,786 arrivals. In this connection he expresses the pious hope that conditions in Jamaica will so far improve that there will be fewer inducements for the labouring population to leave the island for the development of foreign countries. Paragraphs regarding health, vital statistics, and trade—the latter showing a gratifying expansion, as stated elsewhere in the present CIRCULAR—follow, and these are succeeded by a "Chapter" on Government Finance which covers statements of great importance regarding revenue and expenditure, public debt and taxation. Next we have paragraphs showing the annual progress of trade, agriculture and industry, under which heading COLONEL BRYAN gives a brief epitome of Jamaica's many flourishing industries, now far more numerous than most people imagine. These, in turn, are followed by an interesting account of progress in the investigation and development of natural resources, in the course of which COLONEL BRYAN, after a historical résumé of earlier attempts

to win copper in the island, which were far from unsuccessful, declares that "the geological formations of Jamaica being in many respects similar to those of Cuba, where iron and copper mines have long been successfully worked, there is some reason for entertaining the hope that scientific research may result in the discovery of valuable deposits in this island"—to which we say "Amen." Fishing, manufactures, and water power are not forgotten, and under the succeeding headings, "Banks and Banking Facilities," "Legislation," "Education" and "Meteorology," "Communications," "Postal Telegraphs, Telephone and Aerial Services," and "Public Works" much useful information is given in a readable and attractive form, and the report is brought to a conclusion by a list of publications likely to be of general interest. Provided that their colleagues in the neighbouring Colonies follow the recommendations of the Blue books Committee as intelligently as COLONEL BRYAN and COLONEL JENKINS have done, we should soon have a series of annual pamphlets which will be of real and practical value to all interested, or likely to be interested, in the West Indian Colonies, for which we must be grateful to the Colonial Office.

THE Legislature of Trinidad and Tobago has passed a resolution to the effect that in view of the present financial stringency and of the inadequate facilities already existing for the despatch of mails, they do not feel justified in voting a subsidy towards a British Transatlantic service. On the other hand, British Guiana and the Windward Islands have sent favourable replies to Mr. Winston Churchill's cablegram, which was published in last issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

THE paper on "The West Indies, their Present Position and Future Prospects," by the Secretary of the West India Circular, which was read before the members of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Colonial Institute on January 17th, has been published as a pamphlet, by permission of the Institute, and by order of the Executive of the West India Committee. Copies can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms, by members free of charge, and by others for 6d. each, post free 7d.

IN a paper read at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on March 8th, Mr. J. W. Connel, chairman of the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers' Association, said that of the cottons grown in the West Indies the greatest interest attached to those of the Sea Island variety. In this variety America once enjoyed a monopoly, but in the last year or two the boll weevil had made the growing of it commercially impossible in the United States. It had been replaced in the mills of the world partly by improved cottons from Egypt and partly by similar cottons developed from Egyptian seed in Arizona; but for the very finest types the only present source was the West Indies. The quantity grown there was about 3,000 bales, infinitesimal in comparison with a world's crop of 20,000,000 or more, but a vital and necessary portion.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

" You eber see empty hag 'tan' up?"

* * *

THE manufacture of plantation white sugar was carried out last crop at one factory in Cuba, 15,000 tons being produced.

* * *

MR. E. R. CAMPBELL, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, returned on February 27th from British Guiana, via New York.

* * *

MR. ALEXANDER DUCKHAM, who only returned from the West Indies in December last, left again for Trinidad on March 5th, and expects to be absent from London for about two months.

* * *

THE value of the sugar imported into India last October was almost exactly double that of the sugar imported the previous October, and over two and half times the value of the imports in October, 1918.

* * *

MR. J. ARTHUR HUTTON, one of the founders of the British Cotton Growing Association and chairman of that body from 1904 to 1918, when he resigned on account of ill health, was presented with his own portrait, in oils, by the Council, at Manchester, on March 1st.

* * *

THE total quantity of balata exported from Brazil in 1920 was 49 tons, and from Peru 10½ tons. Of the aggregate, 48 tons were shipped to Liverpool, 9 tons went to Havre, and 2½ tons to New York. The industry in these countries was only started on a commercial scale in 1918.

* * *

ACCORDING to advices from Canada, says the *Colonizer*, an extensive rush is anticipated to a new oilfield at Fort Norman, on the Mackenzie River, in North-West Canada, as soon as the travel conditions permit. The area of claim is 640 acres, of which one-half is reserved to the Government.

* * *

THE business of Messrs. Lee, Spooner & Co. is now being conducted by Mr. H. D'Esterre Spooner from "Hazeldene," Littlehampton, Sussex, while the ordering of factory and estate stores and their shipment to the West Indies has been entrusted to Messrs. Samuel Dobbie & Sons, of 7, Moorgate Street, E.C.2.

* * *

A DELIGHTFUL setting of Shelley's poem "Day Dream" (Winthrop Rogers) has reached us, the composer being Major H. V. Jervis-Read, who served in the 10th Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment from January, 1916, to June, 1919. The *Musical Times* pronounces the work "one of the most immediately attractive little songs seen for some time."

* * *

MR. H. DE CAMBRA has presented to the West India Committee a very beautiful photograph of the Ite-Balli Rapid on the Essequibo River,

mounted in a frame made of local purple heart wood. The passage of these falls is a very exciting experience, the safety of the boat's crew and passengers depending on the skill of the captain, which is usually remarkable.

* * *

THE annual report of the Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce and Labour of Cuba states that the income from last year's sugar and molasses crop was \$1,005,451,080. The 3,735,425 tons of sugar produced sold at the average price of 11.95 cents per lb. The molasses amounted to 185,091,864 gall., which brought in an average price of 3 cents per gallon. The average yield of sugar from the cane was 10.90 per cent., as against 10.76 per cent. for the previous crop.

* * *

M. HENRI THIERY has been appointed manager of the Kelham Beet Sugar Factory, now in course of erection. M. Thiery has had a large and successful experience in connection with the French sugar industry, and is now superintending the erection of the factory by the contractors, Messrs. Fives, Lille, the machinery contractors. *Home-Grown Sugar* states that he will be ultimately joined by French foremen selected by him to supervise the various processes, and to train the English staff.

* * *

THE cost of producing a ton of sugar in Queensland for the crop of 1919 was, for the Babinda factory, £20 8s. 6d. per ton; for the South Johnstone factory, £21 11s. 2d. per ton; for the Proserpino factory, £21 3s. 6d. per ton; and for the North Eton factory, £21 10s. 10d. per ton. These figures include interest on loans and depreciation. The Babinda and Proserpino factories showed profits of 16/4 and 8/11 per ton respectively; accounts balanced at South Johnstone, and the North Eton factory sustained a loss of £1 7s. 1d. per ton.

* * *

MR. R. A. SWAN, successively magistrate and judge in British Guiana and Trinidad, has left Oxfordshire and is now residing in Jersey. He was recently in London, on the occasion of the presentation of the Military O.B.E. to his son, Major (Robin) Swan, by the King. Mr. Swan's granddaughter, Miss Ilma de Jonge, daughter of the late Hon. J. H. de Jonge, a member of the Executive Council of British Guiana, recently took her B.A. degree at the Welsh University, and has entered Lincoln's Inn as a student, with a view to being called to the Bar.

* * *

THE mistake in the St. Vincent Customs Duties Ordinance, 1920, to which attention was called in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of February 17th, has been rectified by an amending Ordinance (No. 1 of 1920), which substitutes a fresh schedule of Customs Duties for the one given in the principal Ordinance. This now brings the tariff into line with the terms of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, the *ad valorem* duty on goods not specified or exempted, for example, being 10 per cent. under the British Preferential Tariff, and 15 per cent. under the General Tariff.

"PLANTERS' PUNCH" is the suggestive title of a new illustrated publication of humour emanating from Jamaica. Its "mixer" is the capable Mr. Herbert G. de Lisser, C.M.G., who is apparently the author of the various articles which it contains, whilst Mr. Ernest de Souza, a young Jamaican with no technical training in art, but with a natural talent in that direction, is responsible for the caricatures. The features of the first number of "Planters' Punch," which the Editor hopes to make an annual "brew," consist largely of amusing imaginary interviews with the Island's celebrities, skits on the proceedings of the Privy Council, and other topical matter. It is dedicated to Sir Leslie Probyn, whose portrait appears.

THE report and statement of accounts of the West Indian Club for 1920 show that the total membership on December 31st was 725, 81 new members having been elected during the year, as compared with 61 in 1919. The general appearance and comfort of the premises have been greatly improved, and the year witnessed a marked revival of the social activities of the Club. With regard to the Club's efforts in the realm of sport, the report says that an attempt was made to arrange the visit of an English cricket team to the West Indies; but although this had to be abandoned owing to difficulties of communication and in finding a suitable captain, the Committee hope to be able to arrange a tour next winter. They also propose to revive the contests for the West Indian Club's shooting trophy.

THE existence of a diamond "chimney" in British Guiana, yielding stones as rich, or richer, than those of the South African diamond fields, is believed in by Mr. W. J. La Varre, a Harvard graduate, who is leading an expedition to the "Magnificent Province" to search for this great store of wealth. His views on the subject, as reported in the *Financial News*, are that "somewhere near every spot where diamonds are found in considerable numbers there must be a 'chimney.' There is no telling definitely where the Guiana 'chimney' is located, but we mean to find it, and are basing our expectations on more than speculation. Study of data collected by other explorers and prospectors, as well as my own observations, indicate that it is near the Venezuela border."

IN the discussion following Mr. Howell's address on the Petroleum Resources of the British Empire, which was summarised in the CIRCULAR of February 3rd, Sir George Le Hunte recalled an episode which occurred in Trinidad. A man had found oil in a certain gully. It would be a fine thing, he thought, and would save a great deal of money, to dam up the end of the gully next to the sea, and indeed he did form a beautiful reservoir, but he quite forgot that oil is lighter than water, and so, when the rain came down, all the oil floated over the top of the dam into the sea. Sir George then spoke of the great services to Trinidad rendered by Mr. Randolph Rust, who he thought had not always received the credit that was due to him as a

pioneer, by Mr. Cunningham Craig, and by Sir John Cadman. The public did not really know how much their interests had been safeguarded in that island. The authorities were very much abused at the time and told they were short-sighted and unprogressive, but they made a hard-and-fast rule that they would not give a prospecting licence to any company which could not satisfy them they had sufficient capital to make, at any rate, a working start. In this way the public were saved from embarking in a number of wild-cat schemes.

MR. GEORGE HUGHES, who also spoke, said there was a belief in some quarters that the world was about to run short of oil, but he thought from what he had seen and heard that we were not going to suffer a dearth, at any rate immediately. As regarded Trinidad, he pointed out that the rivers Amazon and Orinoco had for ages been carrying down their course vast quantities of vegetable matter. These currents passed Trinidad and Venezuela, which would serve as a sort of net for this floating matter, and he suggested that that was probably the origin of the oil-fields and pitch-lake of Trinidad.

COMMENTING on Lord Milner's despatch regarding West Indian telegraphic communication, which was published in last CIRCULAR, the Naval Correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in an article appearing on March 5th, writes: "Briefly, the Admiralty's view is that no trustworthy service can be guaranteed by means of wireless, and that in time of war there are very special advantages in favour of cables. The truth of the matter is that wireless and cable communications supplement one another. Each has some advantages over the other, but the use of the cable, provided that its terminals and intermediate stations are situated on British soil, has one outstanding advantage over wireless—secrecy. He who runs may read, as far as wireless is concerned. No precautions of cipher, however careful, can ensure that vital wireless messages will not fall into the hands of unauthorised persons who may have the key of the cipher. This consideration applies to diplomatic messages in time of peace, in the same way as it does to operational orders in war time. In peace time also it may happen that important orders to an isolated naval unit can only be transmitted safely by cable; not so much for reasons of secrecy as because the ship, although capable of receiving the message from a powerful land station, has not sufficient wireless power to acknowledge its receipt. It may be said therefore that the cables owned and operated by British companies are the nerves of the Navy."

WHELK SOUP.—Whelks three dozen; sweet potatoes ½ lb.; pumpkin ½ lb.; salt beef ½ lb.; roux of 1 tablespoonful each of butter and flour; vinegar 1 tablespoonful. Pound the whelks and boil them until tender in water in which a tablespoonful of vinegar has been placed. Pour the whelk stock over the salt beef and sweet potatoes. Season with the onion, and cook thoroughly, then strain and mix with the roux. Boil for five minutes more and serve.—HON. F. H. WATRINS, I.S.O.

THE CUBAN SUGAR COMBINE.

President Menocal's Decree.

The *Havana Post* of February 12th gives the following translation of Decree No. 155, made by President M. G. Menocal on the preceding day to regulate the sale of Cuban sugar. The tenth resolution, which was omitted by the *Post*, is reproduced from *Facts about Sugar*, of Feb. 19th:—

Whereas a great majority of mill owners and cane planters have appealed to the Executive, stating that sugars produced in Cuba are being sold in the world's markets at a price below that obtained for sugars from other countries, and below the actual cost of production in Cuba; and, furthermore, that because of the present situation special measures should be taken to terminate this state of affairs, the continuation of which would cause a general paralyzation of the crop in a great number of districts, and result in an exaggerated rise in the price of sugars were Cuba's production thereby inordinately decreased to the detriment of the consumer, both here and in the United States: it is one of the principal objects of this decree to recognise and declare that this measure is being taken to safeguard the consumer, principally in the United States, who is the purchaser of a great part of our sugar, and ought to obtain it at a reasonable price that will at the same time insure Cuban producers against the ruin of our main industry, in which American capital is heavily invested.

Whereas, said mill owners and cane growers have repeatedly recommended, among other measures, the organisation of a commission composed of sugar producers, and of bankers principally engaged in the advancing of funds against sugars, said commission to take charge of all operations relative to the sale and shipment of the above-mentioned production of the present 1920-1921 crop.

Whereas, any measures tending to insure the sale of Cuban sugar under normal conditions, as it may be required by the United States, Great Britain, and other nations, at prices proportionate, or even slightly below those obtained for sugars of the same quality from other countries, with the end in view of obviating a monopoly or an exaggerated increase in prices, will enable our sugar producers and merchants to fulfil their contracts with foreign markets.

Whereas, during the crops of 1917 to 1918, and 1918 to 1919, the export of our sugars was regulated in order to aid Cuba's allies in the European war, under legislation enacted at the time and still in force, it is logical that in a situation like the present analogous measures be taken, also under the above-mentioned legislation, to save Cuban sugar producers from complete ruin and to avoid the consequent discredit that this would bring upon our foreign commerce the obligations inherent to which we are already in danger of not being able to fulfil, as also of being placed in a position where it would be impossible for us to acquire and purchase, principally in the United States of America, the great quantities of merchandise usually bought by Cuba for home consumption.

Therefore, in use of the faculties granted me by the Constitution and the existing wartime legislation, **BE IT RESOLVED:**

First: To create a Commission that will be known as the Sugar Finance Commission, composed of seven members, two of whom will represent the big producers; two, the other producers; two, the bankers who are contributing with their loans to the financing of the 1920-1921 crop, and one who will represent the public interest in general, the Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce and Labour.

Second: This Commission will take charge of all the operations relative to the sale and shipment of the sugars produced during the crop of 1920-1921, distributing pro rata among the producers the sales, and the price, which will be in proportion to the quality of the sugars sold in accord with and through the above mentioned Commission in its transactions with foreign markets.

Third: The Commission will decide upon and put into effect any measures that may be necessary to the fulfilment of its functions, as also to aid in every possible way the producers in obtaining the necessary funds for making the crop.

It shall also be one of the principal objects of the Commission in the exercise of the powers conferred upon it by this decree, to put into effect the purpose herein expressed, with respect to the sale of the sugars produced in an orderly manner, in conformity with the natural law of supply and demand, so as to avoid the creation of an artificial price.

Fourth: The Commission is empowered to designate delegates in the different ports of shipments, and as soon as the present decree goes into effect, no ships engaged in the transport of sugar will be dispatched, until authorised to load by special permit to be issued by the Commission. The Secretary of the Treasury and custom house collectors are hereby charged with the exact fulfilment of the regulations herein set forth.

Fifth: All parties interested in this matter shall, within eight days, commencing with the date of this decree, present to the Commission a statement of the sales that may have been made for foreign countries, up to the date of such statement. This statement shall be signed and sworn to before a commercial notary by the seller and the buyer, or by their representatives, such contracts to be fulfilled in accordance with the terms stated therein: in such statements should be included all agreements for the sale of raw sugars to refiners, or such persons as may utilise them in the United States, in those cases in which, in said agreements, it may have been stipulated that the price of the sugars referred to shall be the market price as of the date of shipment; or in the cases in which it may have been agreed to fix the price in the future with the condition, however, that in such cases, the contracting parties shall agree, in terms satisfactory to the Commission, that such sugars are to be refined, or utilised by the buyer named in the agreements, and will not be sold or offered for sale as raw sugars. In the event of the violation of these provisions, the Commission is empowered to deny, at its discretion, all future permits to the contracting parties for the shipment of sugars.

Sixth: The Commission will remit to the President of the Sugar Brokers' Exchange of Havana, who will represent the other exchanges of the Island, a weekly statement of the sales effected, and of the prices obtained, which statement shall also be published in the Official Gazette, in order to establish the fortnightly and monthly average of sugar sales that may be effected by the Commission.

The Sugar Exchanges and Commercial Notaries will take into account the above-mentioned statements in their quotations in order to arrive in turn at the corresponding averages that will serve to liquidate contracts between mill owners and cane growers. This procedure, however, will not affect any other form of liquidation that may be agreed upon by mill owners and cane growers.

Seventh: The members of this Commission shall receive no compensation, but will have the right to charge, pro rata, all the interested parties with the expenses incurred in the fulfilment of their duties.

Eighth: The operations of the Commission will imply no responsibility to the Government, nor for any of its members, unless it be for the commission of a misdemeanour.

Ninth: The following persons will constitute this Sugar Finance Commission: Manuel Rionda y Polledo and R. B. Hawley, representing the big interests; Jose Miguel Tarafa and Manuel Azpuru, representing the other producers; Porfirio Franca and Frank J. Beatty, representing the bankers; and General Eugenio Sanchez Agramonte, Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce and Labour, representing the public interests.

Tenth: The Secretary of Agriculture, Commerce and Labour is charged with the enforcement of this decree, which shall commence to be in force as soon as said Secretary shall announce in the Official Gazette his assumption of the duties of same with the consent of the owners of centrals making sugar of no less than 75 per cent. of the production of the past crop of 1919-1920.

Given in the Presidential Palace in Havana, February 11, 1921.

It is not without interest to note that the form of contract covering sales and shipments of Cuban sugar under the proposed Commission provides throughout for sales to "the United States or Canada."

AN EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

Some modification in the system of training primary school teachers in the West Indies and in the curriculum of primary schools is foreshadowed by the assembly this month of an inter-colonial Education Conference in Trinidad. It may be recalled that in a circular despatch on the subject dated February 13th, 1920, Colonel Amery referred to the suggestion that a central Training College might with advantage be established at a place accessible to students from all the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana, and that, if it were decided to establish a College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, the Training College might also be located in that Colony, so that the teachers could attend a course at the Agricultural College.

The delegates selected are:—Barbados: The Right Rev. A. P. Berkeley, D.D., Mr. N. Greenhalgh, B.Sc., Assistant Inspector of Schools, and Mr. A. Rawle Parkison, Headmaster of the Wesley Hall Boys' School; Grenada: Archdeacon H. A. Walton and Mr. J. F. Nurse; St. Lucia: Hon. William V. Degazon, and St. Vincent: Hon. R. Popham Lobb, C.M.G., Administrator and Colonial Secretary. The selection of the Trinidad delegates was left to Mr. H. H. Hancock, the newly-elected Director of Education.

IMPERIAL CUSTOMS CONFERENCE.

A Step towards Uniformity.

The Imperial Customs Conference which, as stated in last CIRCULAR, was held in London in the week beginning on February 28th, is likely to be productive of a greater degree of uniformity in various Customs matters throughout the Empire. The main matters discussed were:—

- I. Variety in forms of certificate of origin
- II.—Basis of assessing the value of goods subject to ad valorem duties—
 - (a) Definition of "value"
 - (b) Home consumption value certificates
- III.—Conditions under which Imperial Customs preference is granted in respect of manufactured goods
- IV.—Certificates required in connection with anti-dumping legislation
- V.—Official valuers for verification of invoice values

In addition, the Canadian Government suggested the discussion of the following points:—

- 1.—Standardisation of procedure as regards treatment of travellers' samples of goods of Empire origin
- 2.—Standardisation of the value for duty of Empire goods as being the market value as sold for home consumption on the date of placing of the order, or the date of shipment
- 3.—Should the value for duty be based on the cash price or credit price? If the cash price, what should be the maximum discount allowed for cash?
- 4.—Would it be well to provide that the invoices of goods shipped from a foreign country should, in addition to the certificate of the exporter, be certified by a British Consul? If no British Consul available, by the Consul of any country stationed therein.
- 5.—Should certificates of origin of goods shipped from a British country be certified by a Collector of Customs in the country of export? If so, such certificate might be made to include a currency certificate as to the rate of exchange existing between the country of export and import on the date of shipment.
- 6.—Uniform regulations respecting travellers' baggage.

The delegates were:—

Board of Trade: Mr. H. Fountain, C.B., C.M.G. (Assistant Secretary, Commercial Relations and Treaties Department). *Customs Department:* Mr. N. E. Behrens (Commissioner of Board of Customs and Excise), Mr. C. J. T. B. Grylls, C.B.E. (Assistant Secretary to Commissioner of Board of Customs and Excise). *Department of Overseas Trade:* A representative. *Canada:* Mr. S. W. Michael, I.S.O. (Chief and General Inspector of Customs), Mr. J. S. Roe. *Australia:* Mr. W. H. Barkley (Collector of Customs, Sydney), Mr. I. J. F. Kennedy. *New Zealand:* Mr. T. E. Hord (Enquiry Agent for New Zealand Customs in London). *South Africa:* Mr. C. O. Smith (Commissioner of Customs and Excise for Union of South Africa), Mr. J. W. Haddon. *Newfoundland:* Sir Edgar R. Bowring (High Commissioner for Newfoundland). *India:* Mr. C. S. Hardy (Collector of Customs, Bombay). *Non-self-governing Colonies:* Mr. T. F. Burrowes, C.B.E. Mr. H. Broadley, of the Board of Trade, and Mr. M. E. Antrobus, of the Colonial Office, were Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively.

**GOVERNOR HENRY WORSLEY.
Amiconi's Painting for Barbados.**

The Secretary of the West India Committee has secured for the Government of Barbados a painting of Colonel Henry Worsley, a former Governor of that island, by Giacomo Amiconi.

Colonel Henry Worsley, who had been M.P. for Newton, Isle of Wight, and Envoy to the Court of Portugal in 1714, was appointed Governor of Barbados in 1721, and reached the island on January 22nd in the following year. According to Schomburgk, his salary, which was voted by the House of Assembly, and raised by a capitation tax of 2/6 upon each negro, was £6,000 per annum. With low prices ruling for produce, this was regarded as a heavy impost, which pressed severely on all classes, and the inhabitants seized the opportunity afforded by the death of George I. to declare that as Sir Henry had not received a new commission, their liability was at an end, and they backed their view by refusing to pay the tax. Governor Worsley thereupon presented a Memorial to the Throne, which was referred to the Law Officers, who gave it as their opinion that he was entitled to his levy, and the King directed that legal steps were to be taken to collect arrears of the tax if it were not paid by July 1, 1733. Meanwhile the Governor had resigned in September, 1731; but within five weeks of the expiration of the time limit for payment of the tax, as a result of a number of law suits in the Court of Exchequer, upwards of £17,000 were collected and paid to his agent. Colonel Worsley died in 1747.

Jacopo or Giacomo Amiconi, the artist, was born in Venice in 1675. He subsequently visited Rome and Munich, but his chief work was done in England, where he resided for ten years, from 1729 to 1739. Whilst here he painted the portraits of several of the nobility of England, and among his sitters were also Peter the Great and the Empress of Russia. He died at Madrid in 1752.

It is understood that the cost of the painting will be defrayed by subscription among the members of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly. Though not a popular character during his nine years of administration, Governor Worsley lives in Barbados history, and, as there was nothing in his career to justify the destruction of his portrait, like that of the Doge of Venice, Marino Falieri (whose empty frame still hangs in the Ducal Palace), this painting will now, no doubt, adorn the walls of the Public Buildings at Bridgetown.

In the portrait Colonel Henry Worsley, who is wearing the characteristic dress of the day, is shown seated. In the background of the picture is depicted the fort on Needham's Point, Barbados. This, it is interesting to note, is almost identical with the picture of the same fort appearing in Kips' engraving of Copen's panorama of Bridgetown, dated 1695, which was reproduced in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of May 6th, 1918.

LIEUT.-COLONEL FRANCIS JENKINS, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Barbados since 1919, has been promoted to be Lieut.-Governor of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria, and will consequently be leaving Bridgetown in May or June next.

**THE PRINCE OF WALES
Honours The West India Committee.**

The Prince of Wales has graciously accepted the invitation of the West India Committee to attend a Banquet, to be held in London on Midsummer Day, June 24th.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O., President of the West India Committee, will preside, and full particulars regarding the arrangement will be communicated to members in due course.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

New Members Elected.

At a meeting of the Executive on March 3rd, eleven candidates, whose names are given below, were elected members of the West India Committee, making the number admitted this year sixty-five, and bringing the total membership to 2,250.

Names	Proposers and Secondars
Mr. C. T. de D. Whitehouse (Malay States).	{ Mr. F. I. Seard, F.I.C.
Mr. A. W. Elliot (St. Kitts).	{ Mr. H. J. Freeman.
Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge (St. Kitts).	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. O. P. Challenger (St. Kitts).	{ Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Phs. Van Ommereu (London), Ltd.	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. Morton Cuthbert (British Honduras).	{ Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Professor R. T. Leiper, M.D., D.Sc. (London).	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. James J. Sahy (London).	{ Mr. J. R. Yearwood.
Mr. William R. Scott (Glasgow).	{ Mr. F. I. Seard, F.I.C.
Naprima Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd. (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
Culloden Consolidated Co., Ltd. (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
	{ The Hon. G. E. Grabham
	{ Mr. F. I. Seard, F.I.C.
	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
	{ Mr. H. J. Freeman.
	{ Mr. R. Rutherford.
	{ Mr. B. Rutherford.
	{ Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc.
	{ Lieut. Colonel H. A. Clifton
	{ Mr. H. F. Prévité
	{ Lieut. Colonel H. A. Clifton
	{ Mr. H. F. Prévité.

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 candidate 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 10s.).

St. Kitts heads the list of West Indian Colonies contributing new members during the current year to the West India Committee. Of the 65 members admitted, 33 reside in the British West Indies, as shown below:—

Barbados	1	Montserrat	1
British Honduras	1	St. Kitts	3
Grenada	1	St. Vincent	4
Jamaica	5	Trinidad	1
		Virgin Islands	1

COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

Assistance for West Indian Industries.

The Colonial Research Committee, which was set up in 1919, at the instance of Mr. Walter Lang, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a view to the extension of application of research to the development of the economic resources of the Colonies, and for the assistance of the smaller Colonies by means of financial help towards carrying out researches which they could not afford, have now presented their first report. They cite bauxite, the ore of aluminium, as a conspicuous example of a material produced to an insufficient extent within the Empire, and quote the investigations of Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., as a result of which extensive deposits of this valuable substance were discovered in British Guiana. It may be recalled that £1,000 was voted for the purpose of the Committee in 1919-20, and £10,000 last year, and it is intended to ask Parliament for £100,000 in all. The present chairman is Sir Halford Mackinder, M.P., and the other members are Sir Herbert Read, Mr. G. E. A. Grindle and Sir Frank Heath. The policy of the Committee includes:—

(1) The employment of officers to conduct investigations under the supervision of the Committee.

(2) The giving of grants in aid of Colonial revenues or other funds, to be expended, usually by Colonial Governments, upon researches which have been approved by the Committee.

(3) In the case of Colonies whose financial position is such that they are themselves able to defray the necessary expenses, the encouragement of research by means of enquiries, information and suggestions.

As a preliminary step, the Committee sent despatches to all the Colonies, setting forth their objects and asking for suggestions. The replies of the Governors are printed in an appendix to the report.

Following a meeting with Sir William Allardyce, and on the recommendation of Sir Sydney Harmer, Mr. L. R. Crawshay was appointed a research officer for sponge, to be stationed principally in the Bahamas, although it was hoped that the results of his work would be valuable elsewhere in the West Indies. Mr. Crawshay, who took up his duties in May of last year, has already furnished a preliminary report on the steps which he is taking to set up a laboratory in the island of Abaco.

In 1919 the Secretary of State drew the attention of the Governor to the fact that British Honduras, which was originally a settlement of mahogany cutters, was not in possession of the services of any scientifically trained forester, and that its forests had not been examined by such an officer for upwards of 30 years. It was pointed out that, in the absence of further expert investigation, it was not possible to evolve a satisfactory policy for the conservation and utilisation of the forests. He suggested that, in the first instance, a trained forest officer should be employed to make a survey of the extent and present condition of the forests in sufficient detail to enable the available supplies of mahogany and other kinds of timber to be cal-

culated. In this connection he suggested that it would be well to study the conditions of the natural reproduction of mahogany trees, and the question of the advisability of artificial planting, which was little practised if at all. He added that there also appeared to be scope for the study of the diseases, pests and other causes which led to the production of inferior wood, and, in particular, of the possibility of devising protective measures against the Teredo worm. As secondary objects of the enquiry, the Secretary of State suggested the consideration of the possibility of establishing an export trade in timber of kinds other than those already exported, and of introducing into the Colony new forest industries, such as the making of wood pulp or the destructive distillation of wood. Mr. C. Hummel was selected to undertake the investigation, and embarked for the Colony in July, 1920, the Committee agreeing to recommend that the cost should be defrayed from the Research Grant up to a maximum of £1,000, approximately the equivalent of \$4,000 at the current rate of exchange.

Panama disease, which has had devastating effects on the banana industry in the greater part of Central America, has appeared in the Stann Creek valley, where it threatens the banana plantations with extinction. It is due to the presence in the soil of a vegetable organism known as a *Fusarium*. The disease has already received considerable study, but no remedy has been found, and the only measures in force against it are designed to check its spread by means of quarantining infected areas. The disease has also entered Jamaica, but apparently in a less virulent form. In that Colony quarantine measures have hitherto proved fully effectual in preventing it from spreading, but the Stann Creek valley, in British Honduras, is liable to floods, which carry the disease, and quarantine has proved of little avail. Great efforts have been made by the United Fruit Company of Boston, U.S.A., to find a variety of banana which is immune to the disease and is also suitable for commercial cultivation. Varieties are known which are highly resistant or altogether immune, but while some of these are suitable for local use they are unfit for export owing to bad keeping qualities or other defects. The Committee is in communication with the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Colonial Governments concerned, with a view to arriving at a conclusion upon the question whether the prospect of success is sufficient to justify expenditure upon further experiments.

The Committee were advised that the mineral resources of British Honduras were little known, but that there were possibilities that mineral oil or bauxite might be discovered in the more recent rocks which occupy most of the area, and that gold or other minerals might occur in the older beds which underlie them and outcrop in the interior. The Committee were also advised that in any case it was desirable that the Colony should be prospected and examined geologically for the sake both of the mineral resources that might be disclosed and of the assistance that might be rendered to agricultural development. The Legislative Council

of the Colony were in full accord regarding the need for investigation, but had been unable to proceed for lack of sufficient funds. The Committee was of opinion that a suitable officer should be employed upon a general geological and mineralogical examination of the Colony during a period of three years, at an estimated total expenditure of about £1,800, inclusive of salary, the cost of apparatus, travelling and incidental expenses. The Committee recommended that one-half of this sum should be paid from the Research Grant, and the Colony has undertaken to pay the other half. An Australian candidate, Mr. Ower, has now been appointed and will shortly proceed to England to confer with the Petroleum Department, the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau and the Colonial Office regarding his programme and methods of work.

Having regard to the information supplied by the Governors of the Leeward and Windward Islands, of which some account is given in Appendix II., the Committee decided to recommend that a suitably qualified officer should be employed upon a general geological and mineralogical examination of the Leeward Islands during a period of three years, at an estimated total expenditure of about £3,600, inclusive of salary, the cost of apparatus, travelling and incidental expenses. The Committee recommended that one-half of this sum should be paid from the research grant, provided that the Colonies concerned undertook to pay the other half. The Colonies have since given the necessary undertaking. Mr. K. W. Earle, M.Sc., F.G.S., late of the geological staff of University College, London, has been appointed Government Geologist for this mission, and left for the West Indies in December, 1920, after a short preliminary course of special study in the methods of petroleum prospecting, which was arranged with the co-operation of the Petroleum Department and included a visit to British oil borings. He will be attached to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies and, after a short stay at the headquarters of that Department in Barbados, will proceed first to the Virgin Islands and next to Dominica. It is anticipated that the Government Geologist will make an examination of the Windward Islands in 1922.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line. Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed "Colonial Bank."

BIRTH.

MARTIN-SPERRY.—On the 7th March, at Alderley Edge, Cheshire, the wife of Cecil Martin-Sperry, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE

TWOSE-BUSHE.—On the 24th January, at St. George's Parish Church, Antigua, by the Rev. V. M. Narnett, Rector, assisted by the Very Rev. the Dean of Antigua, Lawrence Rendle, only child of Mr. and Mrs. E. Bishop Twose, of Colonial Bank, Antigua, to Kathleen Maude, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Scott Bushe, of Port of Spain, Trinidad.

OBSCURATION OF RUM.

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

"Obscuration" in connection with Rum is the term applied to the "veiling" of a certain amount of the alcohol present by the solid matter in the colour used, which is, or should be, some form of burnt sugar, when the strength of the spirit is determined by the hydrometer. Alcohol is lighter than water, while the colour used is heavier, and this instrument, which measures the weight of the liquid, no longer gives a true indication of the amount of spirit present, but records a lower amount according to the quantity of colour used.

In determining the amount of duty which rum has to pay, the actual amount of spirit present has to be ascertained. One method of doing this is by separating the spirit from the colouring matter and thus bringing the rum back to its original uncoloured condition. A given volume of rum is taken, diluted with water, and carefully distilled in a special form of laboratory still until all the spirit has come over into the distillate, the colouring matter being left behind. The distillate is then made up with water to the original volume distilled, and the amount of alcohol present determined by the hydrometer. The difference between the quantity thus found and that indicated by the hydrometer in the original coloured rum is termed the obscuration. Thus, if the hydrometer indicated in the original rum the presence of alcohol equal to 140 parts of proof spirit per cent., that is to say a strength of 40 deg. over proof, and in the same rum, after re-distillation, 143 parts per cent. of proof spirit, or a strength of 43 deg. over proof, the obscuration would be said to be 2.1 per cent. In other words, 2.1 per cent. of the spirit present has been obscured. Another method, and one more suited to estates' conditions, is to take the gravity of the coloured rum and to boil a known volume of it in a porcelain dish until all the spirit is driven off, which is denoted by the syrupy condition of the residue. This residue is then dissolved in water, the solution made up to the original volume at the same temperature at which the original gravity was taken, and the gravity again observed. The gravity due to the colour is thus obtained, and the means given for correcting the gravity of the coloured rum for the interference of the colour. The true quantity of spirit present is found by reference to alcohol tables of gravity.

In breaking down the rum with water so as to reduce it to the retail strength, the ultimate dealer only uses the hydrometer to gauge the amount of water required to be added. With a spirit of high obscuration, therefore, the customer would receive more alcohol, with its accompanying esters, for his money than with a spirit of less obscuration. The ultimate dealer has, however, paid more duty on the more highly obscured rum, and therefore, quite naturally, claims compensation for his loss. The higher the duty, the greater the loss he incurs.

There is, however, no reason why an obscuration

should go above the 2 per cent. which the dealers accept without claim. The amount of obscuration depends upon two factors, viz., the quality of the material used for colour and the manner in which it is burned to produce it. The tendency of modern factory work is to give poor ultimate molasses. It is advisable, therefore, to use only first quality molasses for colour burning. In carrying out the latter operation, also, the burning should be prolonged until a small "blob" of the molasses transferred to a basin or glass of water floats for a short time before sinking, this temporary condition being due to occluded gases.

If this point is arrived at and the burning rapidly stopped, the minimum of obscuration for sound rum of the depth of colour now required will be obtained, and the obscuration will be within the trade allowance. If the burning is stopped short of this point, too high an obscuration will result; if carried further, a "faulty" rum will be produced on breaking down with water.

In addition to the above precautions, every lot of colour made should be tested to see if it complies with the requirements. The writer adopted this system in connection with the distilleries under his control in British Guiana, and there were no further complaints as to high obscuration.

A high obscuration is the fault of the producer, and should be recognised as such.

There is one important point about the colour of rum which is apt to be overlooked, and that is that a part of the characteristic flavour of rum is due to the colour. That is one reason why molasses, which contain more "flavour" than sugar, are preferable to the latter for colour burning, and why it is advisable to use good molasses. It is also a reason why logwood or other dyes should be avoided for colouring rum. If the quality of rum is to be maintained, it must be characteristically and well coloured with a product of the sugar-cane, from which it derives its origin.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

Praedial larceny in Jamaica has been the subject of consideration by a Special Committee of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, which has made recommendations for dealing with this form of crime. The society, after examining the recommendations of the Committee, has agreed to advise the Government to try some of them experimentally. These include (1) strict enforcement of the Vagrancy Act, (2) relegation of habitual thieves and vagrants to Government land settlements for a term, (3) flogging at the police stations for second offences (in this connection it is pointed out that flogging has always resulted in a cure), (4) a scheme for indenturing the younger vagrants and thieves for planters in conjunction with land settlements, and (5) the use of armed guards.

No steps have yet been taken to carry out these suggestions, but the Government propose to introduce a Bill to deal with praedial larceny in the near future.

AMERICA & TROPICAL RESEARCH.

Mr. F. S. Earle, of Porto Rico, contributes to the American journal *Science* some interesting suggestions for the establishment of an "Institution for Tropical Research," under the auspices of the National Research Council of America. Mr. Earle believes that the most rapid developments of the future will inevitably be in the tropics, and that an increased demand will arise for accurate and extensive knowledge of their conditions. He accordingly proposes the establishment of a permanent secretariat to collate and index existing knowledge of tropical conditions, and the formation of a body of expert workers to undertake special research, and to advise the different Governments of the Pan-American Union in all such scientific projects as geological surveys, including special studies of mineral resources; forestry surveys, including suggestions for the utilisation of existing forest products, and the afforestation of denuded areas; physiographic surveys; archaeological studies; faunal and floral studies; industrial problems; and the investigation of plant diseases, and other special agricultural problems.

Mr. Earle cites as an instance of the need of this research work the heavy losses suffered by the United Fruit Co. as the result of the ravages of the banana wilt disease, the remedy for which, he thinks, is not obtainable by ordinary pathological methods.

Long range advice without personal investigation is always risky, but in this case the most obvious method for combating banana wilt would seem to be to plant the (affected) lands in sugar cane for a term of years. This crop is adapted to banana lands, and it would fully utilise the railroad and other equipment. After the wilt fungus had died out of the soil (requiring an unknown number of years) a portion or all of the lands could be again planted to bananas.

THE BANANA WEEVIL BORER.

This pest, which used to be known as *Sphenophorus sordidus*, is now called *Cosmopolites sordida*. The Director of the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, makes the following practical recommendations for its control:—(1) Where a field is infected with borers, and a supply of bulbs is available, the latter should be cut in half and laid about the field as traps. Every other day children should collect the beetles that hide under the bulbs. If bulbs are not plentiful, thin slices will answer the purpose almost equally well. (2) Where the plantation is quite small, fowls are most useful in destroying the borers. (3) When infected suckers are required for planting, soak them for 48 hours under water. This submersion destroys all stages of the borer without harm to the suckers. The suckers must be fresh. (4) To destroy borers in all stages in banana plants, chop up, put in pits, and cover with 12 inches of earth. A dose of one ounce of carbon bisulphide per ten cubic feet, repeated after an interval of ten days, is then applied. Burning banana plants is impracticable. While the application of the carbon bisulphide is proceeding, the adults at large may be trapped.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Scheme Makes Encouraging Progress.

As announced in the last WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Sir Francis Watts, Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has been visiting Trinidad in order to discuss with the local Government the plans for the buildings of the West Indian Agricultural College.

During his stay at Port of Spain he availed himself of the opportunity of addressing the members of the Agricultural Society at a meeting held at the Red House on February 10th, over which Mr. W. S. Barnado presided. In the course of his remarks, Sir Francis referred with enthusiasm to the progress which the College scheme was making. He regarded the movement as a most important one. The ground work was solidly established, and he was hopeful that as Trinidad and Tobago had relieved them by generously contributing £50,000 for the establishment of the College, the various industries interested, such as sugar, cacao, cotton, etc., would supplement the Colonial Government contributions.

Dealing with the same subject, the *Agricultural News* (No. 489), after reviewing the steps which have brought negotiations to their present satisfactory position, urges that the great diversity of the aims and interests of the College may be kept prominently in mind. There is, says our contemporary, naturally a tendency for each Colony and for each individual to think first of the plan as it affects local or individual interests. This is both a source of strength and of weakness; for there will arise discussions on an individualistic basis on the question of support, and these may not manifest sufficient breadth of view, if taken entirely by themselves. The whole outlook should be envisaged. The position is strengthened when the great variety of aims and interests is considered.

It may be stated that one of the main objects of the College will be to educate and train the young men of the West Indies with a view to enabling them to play their part in the maintenance and development of agricultural industries in the West Indian Colonies. As an example of this, it may be mentioned that it is intended to pay particular attention to affording instruction in the practical manufacture of sugar, in addition to giving theoretical instruction on the subject. To this end, the erection of a small sugar factory, equipped for teaching purposes, is contemplated, and the Committee have in view the creation of a special fund in order to provide this.

It is anticipated, moreover, that the College will provide a training ground for scientific experts in the several branches of study relating to agriculture, and from which agriculture receives support and assistance. The training of such experts in regard to tropical matters is urgently called for for the West Indies, but it is believed that men so trained will, subsequent to their training, be usefully engaged in other parts of the tropics beyond the West Indies. It is expected, therefore, that

amongst the earliest students of the College will be some who, having received their general scientific training in Universities and Colleges in Great Britain, Canada, and other countries, desire to acquire knowledge concerning the tropical aspects of scientific agriculture. Thus an early influx of post-graduate students may be looked for, and it would seem possible to arrange for their instruction in special lines of work, even before provision can be made for definite lecture courses to less advanced students. Such an arrangement would present advantages, for it would bring to the College at the outset a body of students who have already acquired traditions of student life, and whose presence should imprint on the new College a sound and wise outlook as regards work and conduct, and whose work, being of a high order, should go far to maintain the early teaching at a high level.

It is expected that the plans of the buildings will shortly reach London, and meanwhile the Tropical Agricultural College Committee, of which, it may be recalled, Sir Arthur Shipley is chairman and Sir David Prain, of Kew, the deputy chairman, has now under consideration the draft documents in connection with the incorporation of the institution.

COALING AT CRISTOBAL.

297 Tons of Coal in 20 minutes.

Judging from the statistics now available, there is no coaling station in the British West Indies which can, under existing conditions, hope to compete with Cristobal, in the Panama Canal Zone, in the rapid coaling of ships. On December 19th, 297 tons and 480 lbs. were loaded at that port into the bunkers of the s.s. *Rio Grande* in twenty minutes. The vessel docked at 17.55, coaling began at 18.20, and she left again at 18.40. The coaling was effected by one mechanical reloader at the rate of 891 tons per hour.

It is believed, says the *Canal Record*, that this plant can deliver coal into bunkers faster than any other plant in the world. An earlier record delivery was made at the rate of 696 tons an hour, 11.6 tons a minute, or a ton in slightly over 5 seconds. The quantity delivered amounted to 2,468,300 lbs.—25,982 lbs. per minute, 433 lbs. a second.

The largest quantity of coal ever delivered to one ship at one time at the Cristobal plant was 5,338 tons, to the transport *Mount Vernon*, requiring three days under adverse conditions. The next largest was 3,102 tons 1,000 lbs., bunkered into the s.s. *Armagh* on December 16, 1919. The time required was 18 hours and 40 minutes. The delivery was at the rate of 166.3 tons per hour for the period. The quickest delivery on record at the plant is the bunkering of a ship in three minutes. This was on October 26th, 1916, when 50 tons 440 lbs. were delivered to the *Alfred Noble* in three minutes. Shortly before that, the *Takushima Maru* received her bunkers of 106 tons 20 lbs. in five minutes. For a ship to receive her bunkers and be on her way in less than half an hour is not an infrequent performance.

THE USE OF OIL FUEL.

How it is Applied.

At the meeting of the Society of Arts on February 2nd, a paper was read by Mr. Andrew F. Baillie on "Fuel Oil Burning in various parts of the World." After describing the methods whereby the oil as it comes from the wells was "fractionated" in order to separate the lighter from the heavier oils, the author went on to describe the manner in which the oils were burnt for the purpose of power in various parts of the world, and in the different industries.

The modern method of using fuel oil on board ship is given as follows:—

Fuel oil is sucked from double bottom or other tanks by means of an oil fuel transfer pump discharging into two settling tanks placed on the main deck, each of these settling tanks having a capacity of 24 hours' supply. The tanks are fitted with heating coils, giving at least one square foot of heating surface per ton of oil carried. The object of these heating coils is to reduce the viscosity of the oil in the settling tanks over a period, say 20 hours, so that if inadvertently any water has contaminated the fuel oil it will settle out much more easily by aid of heat. It will be seen, therefore, that to obtain 20 hours' heating in each of these 24 hours' supply settling tanks, the fuel oil transfer pumps should be of such a size as easily to handle the day's supply in about four hours.

From the settling tanks the oil is sucked by means of boiler fuel oil supply pumps and thence discharged through heaters and filters to the burners on the boiler front as described before. At the bottom of the settling tanks drain cocks are fitted and connections led from these to a special pocket in the bilge in the boiler room. A connection can also be taken from the suction side of the fuel oil transfer pump and another from the discharge side with a connection overboard, so that the drainage water from the settling tanks can be discharged overboard by means of this pump.

When using Mex fuel oil, .950 specific gravity, it has been found that with the exception of double bottom tanks it is not necessary to heat the oil to transfer it to the settling tanks. If double bottom tanks are used, however, it is always advisable to have steam heating coils in the vicinity of the suction pipes, so as to reduce the viscosity of the oil, as in this case the oil has to be lifted, whereas, in the case of cross bunkers, deep tanks and side pockets, the oil will flow to the pump. In the settling tanks, with the same class of oil, it should be heated up to at least 100 deg. F., as by this preliminary heating it takes a certain load off the fuel oil heaters as the oil has not to be heated up, say, from 40 to 260 deg. F. Therefore, one operation is split up into two operations, viz., preliminary heating in the settling tank and a final heating in the fuel oil heaters.

It is sometimes necessary for oil companies to use a fuel heavier than that supplied to the ship owners, so as to ease accumulation of stocks at the refineries. This heavy oil is carried in the cross

bunker adjacent to the boiler room and is handled through settling tanks, etc., to the burners. In this case the oil is usually heated up to about 135 deg. F. in the cross bunker, and in the settling or measuring tanks to about 180 deg. F., and finally in the fuel oil heaters to a temperature of 270 deg. F., at which most efficient burning results are obtained.

JAMAICA'S IMPORTS.

The Returns of the Customs Department of Jamaica for 1919, which have just been published, show a big increase in the value of the imports into that colony as compared with that of recent years. Thus, in 1913, the value was £2,837,043; in 1918, £3,375,798; and in 1919, £4,860,457. The high figures of 1918 and 1919 are, of course, due mainly to inflation in values and to some extent on the exchange in regard to goods coming from the United States, as the quantity of almost every article imported was less than in 1913. The bulk of the goods on which a specific duty was payable, consisting principally of food-stuffs and raw material, came from the United States, the imports under these heads being valued at £1,432,485.

The principal items of these were coal, £163,661; petroleum and naphtha, £135,956; and flour, £474,523. The items in the same category coming from Canada amounted in value to £476,860, the chief of which were fish, valued at £285,713, and flour, valued at £143,966. The imports of rice from Canada amounted to 8,846,243 lbs., and of salt 11,127,350 lbs. The bulk of the articles paying the ad valorem duty of 16½ per cent. were manufactured goods, which the United States supplied to the extent of £1,931,947, the United Kingdom to the value of £623,959, and Canada to the value of £51,732. The value of imports of this description coming from the United States is more than double what it was in 1917, while their import value from the United Kingdom has remained practically stationary, showing that Jamaica was in 1919 depending more and more on the United States for manufactured goods.

Taking the import figures for 1919 as a whole, and comparing them with those of 1917, the values stand as follows:—

	1917.	1919.
From the United Kingdom	£ 623,457	2,805,482
From the United States	2,429,204	3,361,112
From Canada	223,357	528,591
From other Countries	121,015	169,656

These show that there is a greater proportionate increase in the value of the imports from Canada, pointing to a gradual development of trade in that direction. But it will be seen that at present the commercial interests of Jamaica are more with the United States.

"This is a dream place and a delight. Paradise enough for every age and every mood except the unthinkable one of hustle," writes a visitor to Nassau, Bahamas, who was induced by the West India Committee to include New Providence in a West Indian tour.

OBITUARY.

MR. E. ALFORD WALLACE.

It is with deep regret that the CIRCULAR has to record the death of Mr. E. Alford Wallace, widely known as "Imperialist," who for fourteen years contributed a weekly article under the caption, "Round the Empire," to *The Financier*.

Mr. Wallace, who had a long career as a journalist, was formerly connected with the *European Mail*, a publication which was once largely read throughout the West Indies. On all matters regarding our Dominions and Colonies he possessed a great fund of information, and it is not too much to say that his weekly articles helped materially to bring about a greater appreciation of the immensity of the wealth and resources of the British Empire in the old country. For the West Indies he always had a particularly warm corner in his heart, and it will be remembered that he was present at the banquet given by the West India Committee to the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation in 1920, at which Mr. H. A. Trotter announced the proposed establishment of the Committee's Endowment Fund. In this fund Mr. Wallace took a lively interest, referring to its progress in the columns of our contemporary.

ARCHDEACON GWYTHER.

As briefly announced in the last issue, Canon Arthur Gwyther, M.A., late Archdeacon of Demerara, died at Bournemouth, on Monday the 21st February, 1921.

One who was associated with him for many years in his work in British Guiana writes: The late Archdeacon was born in Yorkshire some seventy years ago, and graduated at St. John's College, Cambridge, as B.A., 1873, and M.A., 1874. He was ordained Deacon 1874 and Priest 1875 by the Bishop of Winchester, and became curate of Weybridge. In 1875 he proceeded to British Guiana on the invitation of Bishop Austin, and was appointed by the Colonial Government headmaster of Queen's College, Georgetown, and was attached to the Cathedral as assistant curate under the then Rector, Archdeacon Wyatt. His work at the school was very successful, and made him numerous friends, and many of his "old boys" remember him kindly to this day. During this time he was an active member of the Demerara Rowing Club, and his practical experience as an oarsman at Cambridge proved of great help. In 1877 he was appointed Vicar of St. Paul's, Wakenaam, where he remained three years, when he was transferred as Missionary on the Demerara River, where he did splendid work amongst the aboriginal Indians and Creoles of the river districts. He was Chaplain of H.M. Penal Settlement, Rio Mazaruni, 1888-90, and during this period did good work amongst the Indians of the interior, translating several portions of the Bible and Prayer Book into their language, which proved most useful to his successors. In 1890 he was appointed Rector of the extensive parish of "The Holy Trinity," Essequibo, Rural Dean of Essequibo in 1893, and Canon of St. George's Cathedral in 1894. In 1896 he was transferred to Georgetown as incumbent of the important town church of St. Philip, and Archdeacon of Demerara, which he retained up to his retirement from the diocese of Guiana in 1910. He was held in high esteem by the three Diocesans under whom he served, Bishops Austin, Swaby, and Parry, the last-named being the present Archbishop of the West Indies, as indeed were the other two, also, in their day. Arch-

deacon Gwyther acted as Vicar-General on several occasions, and administered the diocese in 1900, pending the arrival of Dr. Parry, who valued him highly as a member of his Council, and who always found him a very excellent adviser on diocesan matters. Whilst Missionary Priest on the Demerara River, Archdeacon Gwyther married an English lady, who survives him, and has the sympathy of a large circle of friends both in the West Indies and the homeland. After their retirement from the colony in 1910, they resided for some time at Louth, Lincs, and in 1911 he was licensed by the Bishop of Lincoln, but when, for reasons of health, they left the diocese in 1915 for Bournemouth, the late Archdeacon ceased to take any active part in the ministry.

HINTS ON COFFEE PLANTING.

Some useful hints on coffee growing are given in the *Farmers' Journal*. Wind-breaks are characterised as being essential, and *Grevillea robusta* is recommended as being the best tree for the purpose. A thick belt of wattle makes a good wind-break provided it is at least thirty yards away from the coffee. *Eucalyptus sahijira* is also advocated. Short trees are regarded as being essential, and here again *Grevillea robusta* is recommended.

As regards nurseries, the seeds should be planted in drills one inch deep, at intervals of two and a half inches. The drills should be five inches apart, and the soil should be rich and "crumbly." For seed purposes, the beans should be carefully selected, and pulped carefully so as not to injure the parchment skin, and if the planting is not carried out at once it should be partially cured and kept in a cool place. The beds should be kept free from weeds and be shaded by screens about four feet high. These can be gradually removed three or four months after germination.

In planting out the coffee the holes should vary in size from 12 to 20 inches in diameter, according to the size of plant. Weeding should be carefully performed with frequent tilling to keep the surface open and produce a rust. In pruning, the top and centre of the tree should be kept well open to admit the sun and air. If the tree is too thick, some secondary branches must be cut. Primary branches ought seldom to be cut unless they droop on the ground.

Coffee should be pulped the same day on which it is gathered. In fermentation, as soon as the coffee has been pulped it should be heaped up and covered with sacks or matting, and the water allowed to drain off. A good test for sufficiently fermented coffee is to take three or four handfuls from the heap and wash them in a bucket of water, when, if the saccharine matter leaves the parchment skin readily, the coffee is sufficiently fermented.

As soon as the parchment has been taken from the washing and draining tanks, it should be dried with the least possible delay, so as to prevent it becoming wet or damp during the curing. When the parchment has become thoroughly dry it should be transferred to a well ventilated stove. If beans, when tested, show a whitish fracture, they are not sufficiently cured. Experience gives the colour of the beans when curing has reached its proper stage.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Trinidad Esmeralda.

This company recorded on March 7th the receipt of *delayed and mutilated cables* reporting trouble with the boring of Well 1, but the difficulties have been overcome and boring resumed.

Petroleum Options.

At the meeting on March 7th, Mr. Kindell said that they had arranged to buy out the other companies interested in the Palo Seco area, for which purpose a further issue of shares would be made. The company would then own 610 acres. Resolutions were passed approving of the increase of the capital to £100,000 by the creation of 900,000 additional Ordinary shares of 1/- each.

Trinidad Central Oilfields.

In a report issued to shareholders last week, Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, the consulting engineer, stated that he was more than ever impressed with the potentialities of the properties held by the company. Considering the many delays and difficulties occasioned by the war, the results must not be regarded as unsatisfactory. They were, indeed, only now beginning to revert to pre-war conditions, and some months would have still to elapse before the projected drilling programme could be in full swing. Essential material was now arriving in Trinidad; but, unfortunately, the local wharfage and railway arrangements were inadequate to deal with the sudden influx of goods following the suspension of hostilities. Nothing had transpired during the last year's development to cause any misgivings as to the future of Tabaquite; indeed, the opposite was the case, for recent developments had proved the deep sands to extend over a larger area, where they maintained their thickness and highly productive character. One very promising feature was the entire absence of water in the lower series of oil sands. As the little water found amidst the upper oil group proved as unimportant as had been foreseen, the company was to be congratulated on the fact that the field was devoid of those troubles and dangers which beset so many oilfields.

COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

A list of appointments made during February, and of recent transfers and promotions affecting the West Indian Colonial Civil Service, is given below:—

Appointments.

- SUB-LIEUT. F. N. MILES, R.N.D., Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamaica.
MR. E. H. CARTWRIGHT, Telephone and Telegraph Linesman, Government Railway, Jamaica.
LIEUT. C. C. H. CUFF, F.R.C.A., House Surgeon, Victoria Hospital, St. Lucia.

Transfers and Promotions.

- MR. F. C. WELLS DURRANT, K.C. (Senior Puisne Judge, Jamaica), Attorney-General, Jamaica.
MR. C. G. B. FRANCIS (Registrar of the Supreme Court and Registrar-General, Fiji), Attorney-General, British Honduras.
MR. R. SIMMONS (Deputy Island Chemist, Jamaica), Analytical Chemist, Medical Department, Gold Coast.
MR. E. R. PASHLEY (Comptroller of Customs, Bahamas), Chief Inspector of Revenue, Excise Branch, Trinidad.
MR. MAURICE VARDY (Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture, Grenada), Supervisor of Fruit and Vegetable Farms, Gold Coast.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 90.)

The picturesque windmills which once formed such a characteristic feature of the scenery of Barbados have now almost entirely disappeared. Towards the close of last century the sugar estates' proprietors began to realise that only the fittest could hope to survive in the constant struggle for existence in the sugar markets of the world, and fell rapidly into line with those of other countries in the adoption of modern methods of manufacture. As a first step in this direction they dispensed with the services of Boreas, who had helped them gratuitously for so many years to crush their sugar-canes, and, dismantling their windmills, substituted for them the more reliable steam engine.

Ever since the mahogany forests which once covered the island were cut down by the early settlers, sugar has been King in Barbados, and His Majesty's Throne has never been seriously imperilled. Both soil and climate of this favoured outpost of Empire are specially suited to the growth of sweet and easily manufactured canes; but apart altogether from this, there is no other agricultural industry which could possibly give employment to so large a proportion of the teeming population (which amounts to over 190,000 souls) as sugar does.

Barbados has been appropriately compared with a well-kept garden. Of its total area, 74,000 acres are devoted to the cultivation of sugar-cane, and from one-half of that acreage a crop equivalent to about 50,000 tons of sugar is yielded every year. The greatest pains are devoted to cultivation from the day when the soil is prepared for planting to that on which the ripe cane falls to the cutlass of the labourer and the crop season commences, the intermediate agricultural processes of tillage, weeding, trashing, manuring, etc., being conducted with more scrupulous care and attention than is shown in any other sugar-cane growing country in the world.

Scattered over the face of Barbados are over two hundred and fifty sugar works. At first sight it may seem anomalous that so many factories should be needed to take off a crop equal to about a half only of the yield of the largest central in Cuba, but it must be remembered that Barbados is essentially an island of resident proprietors, whose main interest in life lies in the cultivation of the sugar-cane and manufacture of sugar. Many estates have been handed down from father to son for generations, and though the high prices prevailing at the time of my visit were bringing about some changes of ownership, there appeared to be none of that anxiety on the part of estates' proprietors to sell out altogether and leave the island which is so general in other parts of the West Indies. The majority of the proprietors make Barbados their home, and look with pity on visitors who do not possess a place in the sun upon its attractive shores! One can quite understand this attitude.

for Barbados has an exceptionally healthy and delightful climate, and, at present, at any rate, no Income Tax, two circumstances which make it a particularly favoured place of residence for retired officials. The love of Barbadians for their island was further exemplified when an oil company entered into negotiations with them for acquiring the right to prospect for oil over their estates. They regarded with the deepest apprehension the possibility of their sugar plantations being ruined by derricks and gushers, and the suggestion that if such a contingency were to arise they would become so rich that they would be living in Park Lane instead of Barbados did not appeal to them in the least, for most of them would infinitely prefer a moderate income in Barbados to the wealth of a Cæsus in foggy London.

Barbados' Miniature Centrals.

It must not be inferred from the large number of works in comparison to the output of sugar that Barbados is backward in respect of manufacture, for although the factories are small, many of them are now miniature centrals, being equipped with all the latest machinery, including crushers, multiple mills, evaporators, crystallisers, etc., and it may be noted that the modern "crystalliser," which is now universal, was anticipated in the old muscovado works of Barbados by the "oscillator," the paddles of which were made to revolve by an unfortunate labourer turning spokes with his feet, as if he were on a treadmill. The tendency in Barbados in recent years has certainly been toward concentration of manufacture. The larger factories now produce 96 deg. test sugar for refining purposes, or West Indian crystallised for direct consumption, as circumstances demand, whilst the smaller still yield the old world Muscovado sugar, now produced under modern conditions with centrifugals, which, in my opinion at any rate, has robbed it of much of its charm. They also make fancy syrup, a valuable commodity, the method of manufacture of which was described in an earlier instalment of this article.* It was in Barbados that the fancy syrup industry was started, and the producers of this speciality, naturally jealous of its reputation, were greatly wrath when they learnt that syrup made in a neighbouring island was being shipped under the designation "Barbados"—though this in itself bore testimony to the merits of the variety produced in "Little England."

Barbadian planters are exceptionally fortunate in respect, not only of the extent, but also of the quality of their labour supply. It has been said that Barbadian labourers are troublesome when they are out of their own island, and that they are the ringleaders in most of those regrettable disturbances which arise from time to time elsewhere. However that may be, they certainly are the most amiable and light-hearted folk in the whole world in their own home. With an irrepressible fund of good humour, they are willing and obliging when treated firmly, fairly, and with kindness. It is claimed that they do not care for continuous work,

but, on the other hand, it must be remembered to their lasting credit that it was they and their kinsmen from the neighbouring British West Indian Colonies, to the number of 40,000 and upwards, who were responsible for the greater part of the manual labour in digging the "big ditch" which now links the Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean. Very clannish, they are great believers in equality; thus a Barbadian, when sentenced by a Judge of the same nationality in Trinidad for some misdemeanour, to three years' imprisonment, on being asked whether he had anything to say for himself, replied, "Yus, Sah! Dats de wust of you Bajans. Wen ye get raised to de throne, ye fergit yer countrymen." But their chief characteristic is their loyal devotion to the British Crown and their island home.

Benefactors of the Sugar Industry.

It would be impossible to leave the subject of the local sugar industry without referring to the signal service which Barbados has rendered to the sugar-growing world by the practical application of the discovery made in the island by Mr. J. W. Parris, in 1859, that sugar-canes could be raised from seed. With this development the names of Mr. J. R. Bovell, the present director of the local Agricultural Department, and of Professor J. B. Harrison, who now holds a similar position in British Guiana, will always be closely associated, for it was they who originated the long series of experiments which resulted in the propagation of disease-resisting canes when the historic Bourbon variety failed. These experiments are still being continued at Dodds, a reformatory for boys established on an old sugar estate about ten miles from Bridgetown.

The only other industry in Barbados which contributes appreciably to the exports of the Colony is that of cotton. In 1902 the late Mr. George Carrington made a successful experiment on his estate with the cultivation of the Sea Island variety, which, as its name, *Gossypium barbadense*, implies, had its original home in Barbados. In the following year Sir Daniel Morris paid a visit to the United States, and managed to purchase \$2,500 worth of cotton seed from one of the finest estates in the "Sea Islands" off Carolina, and with this the foundations of a new industry for Barbados were laid. From sixteen acres the area under cotton rose rapidly to 7,194 acres in 1907-8, but since that year it has had a tendency to decline before the superior attractions of sugar, till in 1920 it had fallen to a few hundred acres only. The cotton fields, when the plants are flowering, with their delicate yellow blossom, form a pleasant change from the eternal sugar-canes, which are apt to become a trifle monotonous when one has driven past them for miles.

(To be continued.)

MR. G. MACGREGOR FRAME, a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has returned to London after a six weeks' stay in Trinidad, Demerara, and Barbados. Another member, Mr. Harold de Pass, has also just arrived back after visiting Trinidad and Jamaica.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

South Africa likes its raw coffee tinted a bluish-green—and buys it on this basis; while in the north of Brazil a blackened berry is preferred. It is claimed that the materials used are destroyed in the roasting, but as these comprise graphite, ochre, and talc powder, this is doubtful.

A new nitrogenous manure for the sugar-cane is, says *The Australian Sugar Journal*, ammonium nitro-sulphate, which is claimed to combine the advantages of sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda. It is not a mixture of these two bodies, but is described as a new chemical product. It contains 27 per cent. of nitrogen, and consequently the cost of freight and handling per unit of nitrogen is much less than with the two manures above mentioned.

The manufacture of glue has been going on in Australia for many years; but it is only recently that the gelatine industry has assumed much importance. The entire wants of Australia in this respect are now being supplied, and an export trade is anticipated. The raw material is very plentiful, Australia being devoted to the raising of cattle and sheep, and also rejoicing in a plague of rabbits, and gelatine is now a by-product of the freezing works, tanneries and similar institutions.

Rice is an extremely important agricultural industry in Japan, as it is the main food of the people, and the good prices of recent years have enabled farmers to spend a considerable amount on fertilisers. In 1918 the value of the fertilisers imported was 70 million yen (yen=2/1), and constituted 10 per cent. of the value of Japan's imports. In 1919, owing partly to an increase in cost, the value of the fertilisers imported had risen to 190 million yen, and for the first month of 1920 to 200 million yen.

In an article on cotton in the *Journal* of the South African Department of Agriculture, it is stated that the demand for cotton is increasing more rapidly than the supply. Of the world's population, about 500,000,000 are properly clad, 750,000,000 partly dressed and 250,000,000 practically naked. The population of the world is growing more civilised, and the first call of civilisation is clothing in some form. As the production of animal fibre suitable for clothing is limited at present, the only solution of the clothing problem seems to be much greater production of cotton.

There has been inaugurated in New Zealand the manufacture of oil from Kauri-gum peat (that is to say the soil of buried Kauri forests saturated with the oil of the Kauri pine), the first factory having started operations in Auckland last December. This, according to the United States Vice-Consul in that district, is constructed to turn out 4,500 gallons of oil per week. When "fractionated" the products are a motor spirit, a valuable

solvent oil, and paint and varnish oils. Large quantities of oil-saturated timber are also found in the swamps and it is proposed to treat these later.

It is impossible to peruse the published records of scientific work in connection with agriculture without being struck by the amount of valuable research carried out by the advanced students of agricultural colleges, under the guidance of the professors, as a part of their educational course. By no means the least part of the value to West Indian agriculture of the Agricultural College in Trinidad will be in this respect. There is much to be done in this direction, and the assistance thus given will be of the greatest value to the present inadequate staffs of the Agricultural Departments in the British West Indies.

In connection with Canadian agriculture, Dr. Creelman said, in the course of a recent lecture before the Society of Arts, that there now existed a chain of agricultural colleges from the Atlantic to the Pacific and that fully 5,000 men and women were receiving instruction every year under their auspices. "The spread," he said, "of weeds, injurious insects, fungus diseases, diseases of animals, the introduction of gasoline as a factor in farm power, and other changing conditions require every farmer's son to have a course of instruction in his father's business. The colleges of agriculture, therefore, have fulfilled a very important function in Canada." It may, therefore, be fully expected that the West Indian Agricultural College will be of enormous service to West Indian agriculture.

Although of recent years strenuous work in regard to the West Indian agricultural industries has been going on, it has to be carried out by men who received the initial training in temperate climates, and although the principles of the practice of the science of agriculture and of the control of diseases and pests associated with plant life are the same all over the world, it must necessarily occupy some time for the mental machinery to adopt itself to the new conditions of the tropics. The new college, therefore, will supply men who will have the same general knowledge but who will not have to go through the mental acclimatisation which scientific agriculturalists trained in a temperate climate have to go through.

The use of green leaves and twigs as manure for rice fields is now extensively practised, and is being recognised as the most economical, safest, and best manure to use. The *Tropical Agriculturist* gives striking illustrations of this. In one instance an increase of 14 bushels an acre of paddy was obtained for an application of 1,400 lbs. of the green stuff; on another 12 bushels for 1,500 lbs.; on another, 29 bushels for 2,000 lbs. per acre. It is recommended that at least 2,000 lbs. of the green leaves and twigs should be applied per acre, in two applications, the one after the first ploughing and the other after the second ploughing.

WEST INDIAN MAIL NOTES.

Opening of Bahamas' Legislature.

The Governor, opening the Session of the Legislature on February 15th, sounded a note of caution regarding the Colony's trade prospects. He said that although there was a very marked increase of over (£550,000) in the value of the imports in 1920, as compared with the preceding year, exports had declined to the extent of £81,733, owing to short shipments of the two staple products of the Colony—sponge and sisal. The development and future prosperity of the Colony were inseparably bound up with and dependent on the development of the Out Islands, and no satisfactory progress could be made until a more regular means of communication could be assured between the Out Islands and Nassau, and between Nassau and the outer world. In order to bring about these results, His Excellency thought it might be necessary to consider the advisability of improving Nassau harbour.

The Queen Victoria Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire held a successful drawing-room sale, which was opened by Lady Cordaux, on February 15th, at the residence of their Regent, Mrs. Edward George.

Barbados and Ottawa Trade Agreement.

The recent troubles of Plantations, Ltd., have, according to the *Agricultural Reporter*, been successfully surmounted, and at a general meeting on January 25th the shareholders voted unanimously in favour of carrying on. The Chairman, Dr. J. W. Hawkins, spoke appreciatively of the assistance given by the banks. Under the new arrangement, Mr. W. T. Edgill, of Jones & Swan, will supervise the general affairs of the Company.

The Canadian Trade Agreement was debated in the House of Assembly on February 1st, Mr. H. G. B. Austin outlining its principles. A Committee, consisting of Mr. Haynes, Mr. E. L. Skeete, Mr. Wright, Dr. Clarke, with Mr. H. G. Yearwood, "should be re-elected," was appointed to report on the proposals and to advise on a re-arrangement of the tariff involving a minimum of loss to the revenue. Sir F. J. Clarke, K.C.M.G., has been re-elected President of the Agricultural Society.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, writing under date February 8th, states that the weather continues very dry, and the crop to be reaped this year will be a short one. A few factories have made a start, and the returns are not encouraging. There is an estate in Christ Church on which three acres were cut to give 2½ tons of canes, and this is not the worst. The young crop is holding wonderfully well, but a good rain of about two inches is badly wanted. On Saturday, 5th inst., a fire broke out at Mr. C. F. Cole's printing establishment in Middle Street, Bridgetown, and did considerable damage. Besides burning Mr. Cole's printery, Mr. Evelyn's garage was damaged, as well as the eastern roof of Messrs. Whitfield & Co.'s building. The Fire Brigade deserve great credit for confining the fire to such a small area.

Mr. E. G. Sinckler's able report on the Government Savings Bank, which was established in 1852 for the especial benefit of the labouring and industrial classes, shows that that institution is still holding its own, and in spite of the keen competition of four other savings banks in the Island, its deposits have actually increased by \$100,551 in one year.

On February 14th, Mr. H. A. Williams and Mr. H. G. Yearwood were returned to represent St. Joseph's Parish in the bye-election resulting from Mr. Patterson's petition. Lieut. C. B. Swinley, R.N., the

Governor's new A.D.C. and Private Secretary, arrived in the Island on February 9th. Mr. A. W. Laing, the acting Manager of the local branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is leaving for Port of Spain. He will be succeeded by Major Watson. There have recently been frequent cane fires, due, the *Advocate* thinks, to carelessness or accident.

Rain is still wanted, the earth being parched, and far too dry for the young crops. Reaping operations are expected to be of short duration.

Good Crop Prospects in British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing under date January 29th, reports good growing weather. At a meeting of the Lamaha Proprietors on January 28th, Mr. A. E. Craig, Mr. H. Deverill, and Mr. G. E. Anderson were elected the Committee for 1921, as representing the Estates, with the Mayor, Mr. Nascimento, Professor J. B. Harrison, and Mr. J. Gonsalves representing the Town Council. Mr. F. Thornhill, of Cornelia Ida Estate, has been appointed Deputy Manager of Pln. Leonora in succession to Mr. R. P. Daggett.

Sir S. Hoare's Impressions of Honduras.

Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., addressed a representative meeting held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce on February 4th, Hon. G. E. Graham presiding. In the course of his remarks, he mentioned the interesting fact that he was the first member of the British House of Commons that had ever visited the Colony. Dealing with world problems after the war, he said the Empire to-day was far closer knit than it had ever been before, and he could not help thinking it was the beginning of a new era altogether in our imperial relations. The speaker admitted that some years ago, when he was private secretary to the Secretary of State, the Colonial Office gave first charge to the affairs of the great Dominions. Now all that was changed, and the Colonial Office would soon be able, as he believed, to devote its whole time to the development of the Colonies.

Giving his impressions of British Honduras gleaned during his short stay, Sir Samuel said that it was a colony with a very rich soil, upon which, given the necessary economic conditions, almost anything could be grown. Secondly, although it suffered from a very heavy rainfall, it had, on the whole, not a bad climate. Thirdly, they had the asset, so important in South and Central America, of a stable government. He was glad to find that among the first schemes to be embarked upon was one for the improvement of the harbour. He would like to see Belize itself spread over a wider area, and reclaimed land take the place of the swamps that came down almost into the centre of the town, with a public park and pleasant houses where at present there was nothing but mangrove. Communication with the interior also stood in need of improvement, for to get to the wonderful forest, magnificent lakes, and beautiful scenery that were quite a few miles from Belize, took almost as much time as to get to London. Again, it seemed a great drawback that for much of its news the Colony should have to depend on foreign telegraphic services and on a foreign press. In conclusion, Sir Samuel spoke with gratitude of the great interest and energy which the Governor, Mr. Eyre Hutson, was devoting to these questions.

The *Clarion* gives an interesting account of the St. George's Club, situated at the corner of New Road and Hyde's Lane, which, although only started in July, 1920, is already attracting a good membership. The appointments (to take effect on June 24th) of Mr. L. Keruack as Manager, and the Colonial Treasurer, Hon. L. R. Grant, and Mr. F. R. Draylen as Commit-

tee of Inspection of the Riversdale Estate of the Honduras Trading Co. are announced.

Dr. Nicholls as Dominica's Administrator.

Owing to the absence of Mr. R. Walker, Dr. H. A. A. Nicholls assumed the administration of the Presidency on February 4th.

Grenada's Manjak and Oil Possibilities.

Mr. John Barclay, the head of the local branch of Thomson, Hankey & Co., has resigned his seats in the Executive and Legislative Councils. On the motion of Mr. F. H. Copeland, it was decided at a meeting of merchants on January 20th to inaugurate a Grenada Chamber of Commerce, and a committee consisting of Mr. Barclay (Chairman), Mr. E. P. McCartney, Mr. E. A. Donelan, Mr. R. C. Fitt, and Mr. W. Slinger was formed to make the necessary arrangements and draw up the rules. A correspondent in the *West Indian*, apropos of the appointment of a geologist for work in the Leeward and Windward Islands, mentions the presence of manjak of excellent quality in such places as Chambourd, Requin, and La Sagesse, and thinks this may very likely be indicative of a supply of oil waiting to be tapped in the island.

His Honour Joyce Thomas, Chief Justice of St. Vincent, is appointed to act as Chief Justice of Grenada until the arrival of Mr. G. O. D. Walton.

Marcus Garvey to visit Jamaica.

The R.M.S. *Canadian Fisher* (Commander J. T. Randall, D.S.C.), of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Ltd., whose local agents are the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Co., arrived at Kingston on February 4th. At a meeting at King's House on February 9th, convened by Lady Trobyu, O.B.E., it was decided to inaugurate a branch of the Y.W.C.A. in the Island, and a strong advisory council, of which the Bishop of Jamaica, Major Dixon, and Col. H. Bryan are among the members, was appointed to arrange the necessary steps to be taken.

Mr. S. S. Stedman has notified his constituents that if Portland is satisfied with his past services, although he would prefer to remain outside, he would be willing to accept re-election to the Legislative Council. Mr. P. F. Lightbody was returned unopposed on February 11th to represent St. James in succession to Mr. H. M. Kerr-Jarrett.

In an interesting contribution to the *Gleaner*, Dr. Josiah Oldfield criticises the position of the Penitentiary as a site more suitable for a residential "West End" than for a prison. In his view, "with its wonderful view over a great harbour, it could be made almost to emulate that 6th wonder of the world—the hanging gardens of Babylon." In fining a minister of religion £20 for making a false declaration on a passport, His Honour Mr. S. C. Burke pointed out that a regular traffic was growing up in this connection. At a meeting of the local branch of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, on February 11th, Mr. Edwin Reid, the acting president, announced that Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican by birth, and President-General of the Association, which saw its origin in Kingston seven years ago, was coming on a visit to the Island in a few days' time.

The Jamaica Y.M.C.A. Advisory Council, of which Mr. R. D. Pringle is the Organising Secretary, have published their first report, in which they give an excellent account of the year's work. With fine premises in the building that used to be the Jamaica Hotel, the Association has made rapid progress, and already 400 men have joined as members. In addition, an Estate service is to be established at Morelands and Amity Hall, the chief aim being to relieve the

monotony of the agricultural labourer's life. Mr. Edgar Hallett is conducting the latter enterprise, of which the entire expense is being borne by Vere Estates Co. and Amity Hall Co., the owners of the two properties.

Mr. Williams's death in Nevis.

Mr. J. E. C. Chaderton, writing on January 21st, reports the death of Mr. E. Williams, in whom the Agricultural and Commercial Society have lost an energetic and hard-working Secretary, who had the interests not only of the Society, but also of the West India Committee (for whom he acted as Honorary Correspondent) at heart.

Mr. Edward Keens dies in Tobago.

The death of Mr. Edward Keens on Ash Wednesday 10th Tobago of an interesting personality. Mr. Keens was the last survivor of the Legislative Council of Tobago, and was in office when the Council was dissolved in 1883. At one time, it is said, he owned half Tobago, and for many years he acted as the agent of the R.M.S.P. Co.

H.M.S. "Calcutta" leaves Trinidad.

Sir Thomas Gilbert-Carter has been paying one of his periodical visits to the Island from his home in Barbados. Admiral Sir Allan Everett invited a deputation of East Indians to visit H.M.S. *Calcutta* on February 11th, the day before she sailed for Jamaica. The party consisted of Hon. Rev. C. D. Lalla, Mr. G. Adhar, Mr. L. Teelucksingh, Mr. A. B. Gobin, Mr. Maharaj, Mr. A. Ghany, Mr. Chankerdgal, and Dr. Smadh. The occasion forms an interesting precedent, for, as the *Guardian* recalls, no such invitation has hitherto been extended to the East Indian community.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on February 14th, reports fine growing weather. The Auditor-General's report on the accounts of the Colony for 1919 has just been published. One cannot be expected to be very enthusiastic over these, when the financial results of 1920 are already approximately known.

The Petition against the establishment of a Lepet Settlement at Chacachacare has been sent to the Colonial Secretary for despatch to the Secretary of State. The official proposal as to the site has at last found a solitary but influential supporter in the Catholic Archbishop, who devotes a few columns in the *Port of Spain Gazette* to the expression of his views on the subject. He is, however, in error in stating that "Patos is 20 miles from Port of Spain," seeing that it is only about 2½, and that "its acreage is 135," since the island is about one and a quarter miles long by half a mile in width. The covering letter accompanying the Petition points out that the total number at the present leper asylum is 505, of whom only 335 are Trinidadians, and also draws attention to the fact that Chacachacare is the largest fishing station in the Colony, and supplies the best fish, owing to its situation near the deep water of the Bocas.

The United States Mine Force has been here with the warship *San Francisco*, and both officers and men visited most points of interest, and had, it is hoped, a good time. Amongst the distinguished visitors during the past fortnight has been Mrs. Roosevelt, who was here with her famous husband a few years ago, and Mr. Pierpont Morgan in his steam yacht *Corsair*.

The Carnival has once more come and gone. It occurred whilst the s.s. *Meganitic* was here, and our visitors had the opportunity of watching the strange and, to a certain extent, savage antics of some of the masqueraders, although it must be confessed that the more objectionable features associated with this "Festival" were not so prominent as hitherto. A great

number of the better classes took part, and in all directions could be met motor cars and decorated lorries full of happy young, and in some cases old, people in costumes, who drove through the town and seemed to enjoy it thoroughly. Some of their dresses were exceedingly attractive, and excited a good deal of admiration. Some very interesting wireless telephone experiments were conducted here during the stay of the American ship *San Francisco*, when wireless telephone messages were exchanged between that ship and the Director of Public Works at the Wireless Station in Port of Spain by means of a telephone installation there. The experiments appear to have been entirely successful, and it is now suggested that wireless telephone connection should be established with Tobago.

Sir Norman Lamont has been selected to succeed Dr. E. Prada as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council.

St. Lucians ask for Representation.

Mr. Henry de Minvielle, partner in the firm of Minvielle & Chastenel, has been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council in the place of Mr. W. Peter. The Agricultural and Commercial Society have appointed a Committee consisting of Hon. G. L. Lafitte, Hon. G. Williams, and Mr. G. Peter, to arrange for the entertainment of the Canadian Pacific Railway representatives. It is suggested that there should be a tour of the Island in cars.

The St. Lucia Representative Government Association have prepared the Petition which, following the lead of St. Vincent and Grenada, they propose to forward for presentation to the King. They pray for the grant of franchise on the grounds that a considerable section of the inhabitants have reached a stage of fitness for political privileges, and that taxation without representation is inequitable.

St. Vincent's Cotton Crop Complete.

In the debate on the Customs tariff in the Legislative Council on December 31st, Mr. Richards asked whether importers were allowed to bring certain goods, such as panama hats, into the Colony and only pay duty on what was actually sold, the remainder being exported within the time limit. He was told that the custom had existed for many years, but the Administrator agreed that total imports should be duty paid whether sold or not, and said he was prepared to bring the matter up in Executive Council, hearing in mind the case of *bona fide* travellers. The Rev. G. B. Byer has been re-elected Chairman of the Kingstown Board. The Kingstown crèche, which was started at the suggestion of the Administrator, has not met with public use, and the Legislative Council have agreed to its being closed.

Very favourable weather has been experienced recently. The cotton crop is practically over, and the cane harvest is not yet in full swing. According to the Kingstown *Times*, there is no activity on the arrowroot fields. A bill is to be introduced in the Legislative Council without delay to amend the Income (Arrowroot) Tax Ordinance, 1920, by providing that costs of production may be set off against the fixed price of £2 5s. per barrel. There is some anxiety among cotton growers as to the payment by Government of 1919-20 crop bonus, which is overdue. The Mine-laying Squadron of the U.S.A. paid a short visit to Kingstown on January 30th and 31st, about 400 of the crews obtaining shore leave.

St. Kitts Sugar Crop.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, writing under date February 17th, says that the Basseterre Factory has started crop, and a few places in the Sandy Point district are making muscovado sugar. There have been good rains this week, and on February 15th, 5.61 inches fell at Brotherson's.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

West Indies and the Imperial Conference.

The Prime Minister, in reply to Mr. Hurd, stated that the gathering of the Statesmen of the Empire, next June, would be on the lines of the Imperial War Cabinet meetings of 1917 and 1918. It would not be possible to arrange for the direct representation of the British West Indies. They had not been represented up to the present, and before they could be, it would be necessary, he imagined, to consult the Dominions.

After Decontrol.

Mr. McCurdy informed Major Hall, on March 3rd, that the British refiners held no stocks of imported refined sugar. The agreement concluded between the Government and the sugar refiners for the sale of all the Government supplies of raw sugar contained a provision that Government stocks of refined sugar should be sold only for delivery six weeks after the date of contract. Any sudden flooding of the market with Government stocks would tend to discourage, if not altogether to stop, private importation. He had no fear that the supply of sugar in the immediate future would prove inadequate.

The Drawback on Molasses.

Mr. Baldwin, replying to Mr. L. Scott, on March 3rd, said that the rate of drawback on molasses used solely for the purpose of food for stock was fixed by reference to the fact that normally only low-grade molasses containing a comparatively small proportion of sweetening matter were used for this purpose. As regards the rate of drawback on export, drawback at the rate of 11s. 8d. was only paid in the case of molasses containing less than 70 per cent. and more than 50 per cent. of sweetening matter, the rate in the case of molasses containing less than 50 per cent. being 5s. 8½d., the same as was paid in the case of molasses used for food for stock.

An Echo of the Sugar Commission.

Mr. Jesson asked the Minister of Food on March 2nd, the names of the Sugar Commission, and their attendances during the year ended January 31st last; also why the recent purchase of 100,000 tons of sugar by the Sugar Commission had been made from Cuba, and not from an Empire source; what was the date of delivery of this purchase; what efforts had been made to obtain information in regard to the possibilities of delivery of Empire sugars in the same time; and whether, whenever a large purchase of sugar had had to be made by the Sugar Commission, it had always been, with very few exceptions, at times when no Empire sugar was available. Sir William Mitchell-Thomson, in reply, said the members and attendances of the Royal Commission were as follows:—

Sir Henry Primrose, K.C.B., C.S.I.	
(Chairman)	86
Sir Robert Park Lyle, Bart.	86
Sir Joseph White Todd, Bart., J.P.	61
Sir George E. May, K.B.E.	7
Claude H. Luddell, Esq.	51
Ben Tillett, Esq., M.P.	1

Eighty-seven meetings were held during the year ending January 31st, 1921.

The Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply had been in close and constant touch with all the sugar markets of the world and all sources of supply had been explored before any purchase was made. The sugar in question was purchased from Cuba because, in consequence of the financial difficulties ruling in

Cuba, it was found possible to effect a purchase on exceptionally favourable terms. The date of delivery of the sugar was February-March, 1921.

American Troops in Hayti.

Mr. Harmsworth, replying to Major C. Lowther on February 24th, said that no representations had been received from the Haytian Government regarding the treatment accorded to Haytians by the officials and marines of the United States of America with regard to forced labour, unjustified executions, restrictions of freedom of worship, and restraint of commerce.

[The allegations of Mr. Harry Frank, the American Journalist, on this subject, were published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of November 25th, page 366. Ed. W.I.C.C.]

Refiners Seek Protection.

Captain Bowyer asked on March 1st whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer was aware that after the removal of restrictions on sugar imports, the sugar refiners of this country would be subject to severe competition from the product of foreign countries enjoying advantages over this country in the matter of cheap labour and favourable exchange, as well as from British Colonial sugar enjoying the preferential rate of duty; and whether he would take some steps in the forthcoming Budget in respect of this essential industry, employing a large number of workpeople. Mr. Chamberlain replied that after full discussion with the refiners, the Foul Controller had removed on the 26th February all restrictions on the imports of sugar. He thought the apprehensions as regards foreign competition were, at any rate, premature so far as the sugar industry was concerned; and, in any case, he could not now make any statement as to future legislation.

Overseas Empire and the Navy.

On the motion for the adjournment, on March 2nd, Rear-Admiral Adair, M.P., urged the Government to save millions by deciding to abandon battleship construction. If we built these huge battleships costing £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 each, we should have to keep up attendant flotillas and to develop bases at great cost at Halifax, the Bermudas and Jamaica. He also drew attention to the contributions of the Overseas Dominions and Possessions towards the upkeep of the Imperial Navy. He thought that hitherto they had not done half enough in this respect except, perhaps, Australia and little New Zealand. In round figures there were 10,000,000 British people in these overseas Dominions as against 48,000,000 in this country, and on that basis the overseas Dominions ought to contribute a fourth of the cost of the Navy. In 1913 the volume of trade of our overseas Dominions and Possessions was no less than £800,000,000. The overseas trade of our own United Kingdom was £1,400,000,000. On that basis, he thought the overseas Dominions and other Possessions should contribute two-fifths of the cost of the Navies, including the Australian Navy and so on. But even in regard to Australia, let them consider their responsibility. They cried for a white Australia; what did that mean? It meant a Navy in Australian waters comparable, at least, to that of Japan. The Australian Navy at present was insignificant compared with Japan's, but the responsibility for that lay with Australia. India, which did £327,000,000 of trade in 1913, contributed mighty little to the Navy Estimates. The Navy of Canada was a lamentable failure. The contribution of South Africa was ridiculous, having regard to their trade. The West Indies, the East Indies, Mauritius, and Hong Kong, from which a tremendous trade flowed overseas, contributed nothing at all, and the sooner this matter was considered the sooner it would relieve our finances.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

Molascuit for the Still.

STR,—In your issue of February 17th, your correspondent, Mr. George Hughes, suggests the use of molascuit for the still and states that alcohol will be greatly required for industrial purposes.

There is a large surplus of exhausted molasses in some countries which is either burnt with the megass as fuel, returned to the fields for fertilizing, or thrown out to sea as waste, and it is in cases of this sort, I suppose, where the utilisation of it would come in for still molascuit for export.

The progress of alcohol as a substitute for petrol is patent; that it is an efficient substitute is also patent, and it will undoubtedly make considerable headway when it is generally realised how great a profit can be made from the production of 95 per cent. alcohol—a profit greater in some cases than that from sugar.

Generally speaking it takes about 3 gallons of molasses to produce 1 gallon of, say, 97 per cent. alcohol, using only the natural or wild yeast, and the cost of production works out to about 1½d. per gallon. In cases where bactericides or antiseptics are used, the yield is greater and cost of production lower in consequence, and this is further improved on where a pure or cultivated yeast is used.

No actual figures can be given because these depend on the quality of the so called exhausted molasses and the attention paid to the fermentation. In rare cases where the yield drops low from an apparently rich molasses the cause on a thorough analysis has been found to be due to the high ash content in the molasses—the ash content of molasses from canes grown near the sea is invariably abnormal, due no doubt to salinity of soil and atmosphere.

Now that tractors have made such a hold on plantations for light field work, it is made possible to run them on alcohol manufactured on the spot for 1½d. per gallon, plus the cost of the denaturant which should not exceed, say, 2d. per gallon.

In the Central and South American Republics the production and local consumption of 95 per cent. spirit were very large, and the larger republics whose production was greater than its consumption would supply its neighbour with a consumption in excess of its output, but to-day this is changed and in many of the republics production has been reduced 50 per cent. or more as there is no demand. Molascuit, or rather the production of still molascuit from these places would be a way out for utilizing stuff which is at present thrown out as waste, although transport expenses to port of shipment may make the matter not worthy of consideration.

I am, Yours faithfully,

F. L. J. MURK.

February 28th, 1921.

With the minimum subscription still as low as one guinea, the pre-war rate, the West India Committee relies upon its members paying their dues (which became due on January 1st) without delay. To the banks into which subscriptions can be paid (the Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada) is now added the branches of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, whose managers have kindly consented to receive and forward them.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in ss *Changuinola* (Commander A D Riseley), March 8th

Mr G. G. Down	Mr & Mrs F. H. Milson	Mr G. M. Turner
Mr & Mrs T. C. Graham	Mr & Mrs J. Nethersole	Mr H. R. Wansbrough
Mr J. M. Harris	Mr & Mrs G. E. Silvey	Mr & Mrs A. Yarn
Mr G. Mackern	Miss G. A. Silvey	and Infant

Home Arrivals from Jamaica, in ss *Bayano*, Avonmouth March 13th.

Mr W. Abbott	Mr. R. E. Massell	Miss A. M. C. Roper
Mr & Mrs W. D. Alexander	Mr W. K. Heywood	Mr. & Mrs. R. V. Sara
Mr C. W. Anderson	Mr W. T. Hunt	Mrs. F. G. Schwabe
Col G. P. Bouvier	Earl Kitchener	Mr & Mrs L. W. D.
Mr H. J. Brightmore	Mlle. E. Lollivier	Mr. G. I. Thonson
Mr & Mrs E. J. Coley	Miss D. M. Morris	Mr & Mrs R. S. Todd
Comdr. P. T. Dean, V.C.	Miss R. E. McEvoy	Mr. H. Todd
M.P.	Mr. J. C. McNaught	Mr. J. Weddell
Mr & Mrs. H. de Pass	Mrs. C. C. Meltrum	Mrs. E. C. Whitlam
Sir John and Lady	Mr. K. Miller	Mr W. G. Wooding
Dora Frost	Mrs. T. D. Monckton	Mrs Wooding & Infant
Mr H. E. Goffrey	Mr W. P. Morrison	
	Mr. & Mrs. Porter	

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.—Sailings to West Indies, from London in ss *Commodore*, March 10th

Professor & Mrs d'Alberquerque	Miss Hinds	Mr & Mrs Seale
	Mrs A. Morgan & child	Mr & Mrs Seton-Milne

Royal Netherland West Indian Mail—Home arrivals, from Trinidad, in ss *Stuyvesant* Plymouth, March 3rd

Miss A. Mackman	Mr S. McI. de Freitas	Mr. J. W. Harrison
Mr H. Benth	Major G. Dusuey	Mr & Mrs J. Kidd
Mr. F. W. H. Clarke	Mr & Mrs T. L. Dunsire and 3 children	Mr. A. Macfarlane
Miss P. G. Collins	Mr C. P. Gates	Mr. A. H. Penfold
Mr C. K. Cox	Mr S. C. Harland	Mr. R. Riley
Mr H. V. Davis	Mr & Mrs P. S. Harris	Mr & Mrs C. B. Williams

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Pacuare	Mar. 21
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	" 22
Bermuda	London	Teviot	" 24
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Antilliau	" 26
Jamaica	Bristol	Coronado	" 28
West Indies	London	Scientist	" 30
Trinidad	Dover	Jan Van Nassau	Apr 2

To	From	Packet	Sailing
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Macoris	Mar 22
West Indies	New York	Parima	Apr 1
West Indies	Halifax	Caraque	" 12
West Indies	New York	Guiana	" 15
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	" 26
B'ias, J'aca & B'idas	Halifax	Canadian Forester	" 28

The above dates are only approximate

WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.

Mr. E. W. Bowen	Mr. I. M. Hobson
Mr. James Brown	Mr. J. P. Kirkness
Capt. J. A. Burusid, M.C.	Mr. L. J. Lee
Mr. W. J. Canty	Mr. C. H. McClean
Mr. J. B. Corbin	Mr. T. Elton Miller
Hon. D. S. Davis	Mr. James Miller
Mrs. A. G. Farman	Mr. G. O'Reilly
Mr. J. M. Fleming	Mr. H. Seedorf
Mr. Percy George	Hon. A. P. Sherlock
Dr. C. J. Gomez	Dr. F. G. Rose
Mr. E. P. Houghton-James	
Rev. J. H. Brindley, c/o W.M.M.S., 24 Bishopsgate, E.C.	
Mr. R. Bryson, 26, Lewes Crescent, Kempston, Sussex	
Mr. A. Somers Cocks, 61, Queensborough Terrace, W.2	
Mr. Archibald Gordon, c/o John Leckie & Co., Ltd., 64, Fane Street, E.C.	
Mr. Ronald I. Harvey, 5, Lower Camden, Chislehurst, Kent	
Mr. G. S. Selou Browne, c/o Thomson, Hankey & Co., 7 Mincing Lane, E.C.	

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates in 1920, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti-gua To Dec 31	Bar-bados To Dec 31	British Guiana To Dec 23	British Honduras To Dec 31	Dominica To Dec 31	Grenada To Nov 30	Jamaica To June 30	Mont. SEPT.	St. Lucia To Dec 31	St. Kitts To Dec 31	St. Vincent To Dec 31	Trinidad To Dec 31
Arrowroot												119,981
Asphalt												6,778
Balata			918,175	584,827	1,192		4,354,927					58,765
Bananas												82,708,672
Bitters			23,241	1,043	620,490	8,998,416	4,439,568		1,004,192		168,504	343,308
Cacao												21,974,204
Cassava Starch												73,101
Coco nuts			2,607,939	6,156,033	796,979	42,850	13,650,056		301,272			2,434,570
Coffee			407,012		1,456		2,891,744					
Copra			33,240	58,001			581,084		19,040			
Cotton, M. Galante												
Cotton, Sea Island	46,116	149,260					374,976			656,742	475,650	
Cotton Seed							984,432			808,160	31,326	
Diamonds			21,369									8
Dye woods												
Ginger			9,075									
Gold												
Ground Nuts				1,170			675,922		61,086			16,214
Honey	8,559				273,082	700	12,063					4,557
Lime Juice (raw)	400				154,040	29,310			27,836			
Lime Juice (couctd)									1,188			
Lime (citrate of)			61,392		682,080		19,316		1,134			3,687
Logwood				1,470								
Lumber			292,269		8,979,193							
Mahogany			90									165
Manjak						14,048			199,366	190,400	165,399	560,656
Molasses	604,070	6712,930	100									850,270
Oranges	4,223											
Essential Oils												
Peiro-eup												
Pimento												
Rice			18,110,388									19,985
Rubber			18,861									54,870
Rum		30,310	1,544,258				239,027					
Shingles			2,586,750									49,974
Sugar	12,682	34,737	27,634				30,687		4,027	10,625		49,988
Timber			67,993									

No figures yet supplied.

The figures can be read easily with the items to which they relate by laying a sheet of paper below them across the page.

*To November 30th, only.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegram—
"Carib London"



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

March 15th, 1921.

The recent crisis caused by the breaking down of the London Conference has had a most depressing effect upon the produce markets, buyers adopting a "wait and see" policy, and business with the near Continent being at a standstill.

BANK RATE, 7 per cent., as from April 15th, 1920.

EXCHANGE on New York \$3.60-33.90.

SUGAR. The demise of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply has not been marked by any sensational movements in the sugar market. De-control has, however, stimulated the demand for sugar among those who, pending a decision, had been buying from hand to mouth, and refiners advanced prices 6d. per cwt. West Indian crystallised is realising 60/- to 62/-, and syrups 33/- to 50/-. The refiners have, it is understood, agreed among themselves to refrain from bidding for raw sugars until supplies which they took over from the Commission are nearer exhaustion. Consequently, plantation white and crystallised will be the most readily marketable sugars in the United Kingdom this season.

The Cuban Combine the decree announcing the formation of which appears elsewhere in the Circular, is already getting to work. British West Indian producers will stand to benefit if the Cuban Commission holds out over prices, which will show a reasonable margin of profit; but, on the other hand, they will naturally view with some suspicion the suggestion made in the decree that sugar will be sold at prices below those at which other sugar producing countries can sell. Thus Himeley states, under date February 19th: "The sale of sugars will then be in the hands of men who are wise, moderate, and well informed, and whose avowed policy will be to supply the United States and other countries with all the sugar they will want at prices which will keep out the sugars of other sugar producing countries." The contract makes it clear that an attempt is to be made to market sugar in Canada as well as in the United States.

Willet and Gray estimates for 1920-21 crop places the grand total at 17,330,010 tons, as against 15,193,367 tons for the preceding year.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on March 5th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	5,014	8,400	4,143 Tons.
Deliveries	8,346	6,144	6,188
Stock	5,072	10,392	4,147

CACAO. There is no change to report, the market remaining in a very dull state. Fine Trinidad spot is quoted at 62/- to 65/-, and fine Grenada new crop at 53/- to 54/-. Owing to unsettled conditions on the Continent there is practically no export enquiry. The export from Trinidad during January amounted to 1,634,187 lbs.

The stocks in London on March 5th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	4,838	23,267	18,036 Bags.
Grenada	4,183	17,133	13,018
Total of all kinds	192,256	115,877	146,365

RUM is very dull owing to almost complete absence of demand, and buyers have practically withdrawn for the time being. Some small sales of new crop Jamaica on London landed terms have been made at a decline on prices previously reported. The deliveries in London this year show a heavy falling off.

The trade is complaining of the excessive obscuration of many parcels of West Indian rums, and are pressing the importers for an increased allowance to compensate them for the loss involved. This high obscuration is attributable to underburning the molasses in preparing the colouring matter. A solution of the trouble complained of would be in the use of scrupulous care in the preparation of the colouring matter, bearing in mind that under-burning results in high obscuration and over-burning in turbidity when the rum is "broken down" by water. This subject was very fully dealt with in an article entitled "Some Points in Distilling," by F. J. Seard, which appeared in the Circular of December 11th, 1919, p. 331.

The stocks in London on March 5th were:—

	1921	1920.	1919.
Jamaica	9,114	6,754	3,155 Pons
Demerara	15,456	12,518	11,460
Total of all kinds	31,724	27,366	19,338

ARROWROOT is depressed, with practically no demand.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is lower, with small spot sales at 3/9-3/10. Forward is quoted at 3/7-3/8, c.i.f.

COFFEE is extremely dull, and there is no export enquiry. Ordinary Jamaica is quoted nominally at 38/-, but Blue Mountain retains full value—130/- to 150/-, according to quality.

COPRA. Only a small business passing. Nominal value West Indian, £20 c.i.f. London or Rotterdam.

COTTON generally has been in quiet request, but Sea Island remains in a neglected condition, West Indian being quoted nominally at 25d. for medium and 34d. for fine. There have been no further imports of West Indian during the past month.

The position of trade in Lancashire continues to be quite lifeless, and even if a revival comes within the next few months it must be remembered that the fine trade, which caters in turn for luxuries, will be the last to derive benefit. The fine spinners are understood to hold ample stocks, which, unless trade improves, will last them for twelve or eighteen months. In the circumstances it is not surprising that quotations should remain purely nominal, like those of most other kinds of tropical produce.

HONEY. There is still only the most limited demand owing to the absence of orders from the Continent. Some very cheap sales of foreign West India have been made, and the tendency of values of Jamaica is downward. Owing to the absence of demand, no auctions are being held this month.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed is steady and quotation unchanged (17/-). Distilled is valued at 3/- per lb., but market very quiet. There is no demand for Raw Lime Juice.

LOGWOOD is very quiet on the spot, and nothing doing in shipment.

ORANGE OIL. Small sales of Sweet have been made, but Bitter is not wanted.

PETROLEUM exports from Trinidad during January were, according to advices from Mr. Edgar Tripp, 2,211,534 galls.

RUBBER. A very fair business has been passing, and several orders for the better quality of browns have been filled at market rates. Although America shows no sign of activity, a better feeling is apparent. Crepe spot 11/- and sheet spot 10½d.

SPICES. Pimento remains very dull, with sellers at 3d. per lb. on the spot. Jamaican Ginger is in very limited demand only, and prices are tending lower. The market for Nutmegs and Mace is very dull, and as importers seem anxious to make sales, cheap prices have been accepted for slightly defective quality, of which the bulk of the parcels offered has consisted.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642



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

Telegrams:
CARIBBE, LONDON.

March 31st, 1921

West Indian Cable Communication.

UNDER the Agreement between the Imperial Government, the Government of Canada, the Crown Agents (for the West Indian Colonies), and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, dated August 10th, 1914, for cheaper communication for the West Indies, it was provided that if during any year after the fourth anniversary of the date on which the agreement came into force the Company's revenue should exceed £74,000, there should be deducted from the Imperial and Canadian subsidies in respect of the following year a sum equal to one-half of such excess, and that if the Company's revenue exceeded £106,000, there should similarly be deducted from the Colonial subsidy a sum equal to one-half of such excess up to a revenue of £126,000. Under this clause the Imperial and Canadian Governments became entitled to a refund of part of the subsidy paid by them for the year ended September 30th, 1919. It was represented, however, by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company that its increase of revenue was, owing to causes beyond its own control, accompanied by an even greater

increase in expenditure, and that its need for the whole subsidy was even more pressing than it was in 1914. In the circumstances, the Imperial Government agreed to waive its right to an abatement of subsidy, and the Canadian Government, which had paid its share of the subsidy for the year ended December 31st, 1920, similarly agreed not to ask for a refund. A modification of the original agreement was accordingly embodied in a supplemental agreement between the Treasury, on behalf of the Imperial Government, and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, which was formally approved by the House of Commons on March 21st. It must be clearly understood that this agreement has nothing whatever to do with, and will not stand in the way of, the carrying out of the scheme for a new West Indian cable service via Bermuda, recently recommended by the Imperial Communications Committee, and approved by His Majesty's Government. It is purely an emergency measure to prevent the West Indian Colonies from being suddenly left without cable communication, as would be inevitable if the contracting company were forced into liquidation before the expiration of the contract, and before a new service were available. In moving the adoption of the resolution approving the new agreement, MR. PIKE PEASE, the Assistant Postmaster-General, pointed out that the Company was in a very bad way, that it had been obliged to sell practically all its investments, and that if the refunds due under the original agreement were insisted upon, it seemed probable that it would have to cease working almost at once. He added that as it would not be possible to bring into operation an alternative service, whether by cable or wireless, immediately, the course now taken was absolutely necessary. Though we are adverse to bolstering up a Company which has given the West Indies such an atrociously bad service, it must be admitted that no other course was open to the Government, for it would obviously be most unwise to allow the existing contract to lapse until some other service were ready to take its place. Incidentally, MR. PIKE PEASE brought out some figures which throw an interesting light on the possibilities of expansion of cable business. It will be recalled that when THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE protested against the preposterously high message rates which prevailed prior to 1912, the Company used to reply that the reduction of rates would not be accompanied by a sufficient increase in revenue to make

good the loss. In practice, the reverse has been the case. From £54,000 in 1915, the Company's revenue rose to £69,000 in 1916, £87,000 in 1917, £94,000 in 1918, and £106,000—or nearly double—in 1919. Thus, under the old agreement, the Imperial and Canadian Governments were entitled to a refund of practically the whole of their subsidy of £16,000, which goes to prove that under normal conditions West India telegraph communication is by no means so unremunerative as it has been made to appear. It is evident that the reduction in message rates has been followed by a great increase in the use of the cables as a means of communication, and this fact should prove encouraging to any business firm or capitalist willing to consider the proposals of the Imperial Government for laying cables from Bermuda to Barbados, etc., on the understanding that they shall receive the existing subsidies of £26,300 per annum when the present contract expires in 1924.

Another Disease Conquered.

An eminent authority in an interview published in the *Observer* of March 20th expressed his confident belief that in time the tropics would be as free from disease as any other part of the world. "Now that we know that the diseases are caused by parasites," he said, "and how in many cases they are acquired and how we can prevent them from being transmitted from one human being to another, it is only a question of time, money and intelligence before they are all definitely conquered." One by one the diseases of the tropics are disappearing before the advance of science. Yellow fever has practically gone, malaria is no longer rife where energetic measures are adopted and maintained for its prevention, and the success which has attended Dr. CRISTOPHERSON'S discovery that Bilharziasis or Bilharziosis—a disease sometimes described as an ancient plague of Egypt and found in certain forms in the West Indies—by antimony, leads us to the hope that the expedition of the London School of Tropical Medicine, whose members will shortly be meeting at their rendezvous, will mark the beginning of a new era in the history of the sanitation of the British West Indies. For it was Dr. R. T. LEIPER, the head of the mission, who worked out the natural history of Bilharziasis and thus rendered the cure of the disease possible. It was he who discovered that the parasite multiplied in snails and then escaping into water infected persons wading about in fresh water and bathing in pools; and until the cause of the disease is known it is obvious that a cure can hardly be discovered. As we have already pointed out in an earlier issue, Dr. LEIPER'S energies will be mainly confined to investigating filariasis which, we understand, is communicable by a mosquito, and we confidently believe from what we know of his skill and enthusiasm that he will be successful in segregating that mosquito form, and in determining its life cycle. In his quest, time and money will be at his disposal, and we confidently believe that he can count upon an abundant supply of the third attribute of success demanded by the *Observer's* informant, namely—intelligence. Until it is brought home to

a community, whether in temperate climes, the tropics, or anywhere else, what a campaign such as that against tropical disease implies and how greatly its success contributes to their well-being, comfort and prosperity, no permanently satisfactory results can be obtained. We may rest assured, however, that in the West Indies at any rate, this obvious fact is fully realised, and that Dr. LEIPER and his assistants may rely upon the fullest measure of support from all members of the communities with whom he is brought into touch.

A "Mare's Nest."

THE *Daily Chronicle* of Demerara, in a leading article published in its issue of February 13th, takes THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to task for not having brought "to the attention of Parliament and the British Government, and failing them the British Public," the "grave scandal and injustice to British interests in general and the West Indian sugar industry in particular" arising out of the purchase by the Royal Sugar Commission of "50,000 tons of German beet sugar at 5½ cents per pound." Working itself up into a frenzy of unrighteous indignation, our contemporary, after indulging in sundry personalities, goes on to make the alarming statement that "ruin faces our (the British Guiana) sugar industry if sales have to be effected at less than six cents per lb." Before publishing rubbish of this kind, which is calculated to prejudice the credit of the sugar industry of the Colony, whose interests it professes to have at heart, our contemporary would have done well to make a few simple enquiries. Had it taken the trouble to do so, it would have found that it had discovered a mare's nest. What are the facts? During the twelve months ended December 31st last, only 16,640 tons of sugar were imported from the Continent of Europe, of which 13,297 tons were entered in the Board of Trade Returns as imported from Germany, and we have an assurance that since the close of the year only a few odd parcels of very small amounts have been received from German ports. This is very different from the "50,000 tons" of which the *Daily Chronicle* so glibly speaks. But this is not all. Our contemporary boldly asserts that the sugar in question was "German beet sugar." Here again it is at sea, for though 13,297 tons of sugar was certainly imported from German ports, it was not German, but sugar from Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, which, as we must remind our contemporary, are friendly Powers. That the question of the importation of this sugar was not overlooked by THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE can be proved by a reference to the file of the CIRCULAR for last year; but when it was discovered that the sugar in question came from friendly Powers and bore no evidence of being bounty-fed, no further action was called for, and, indeed, none could be taken. Our worst enemy would not venture to charge us with having any particular affection for the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply in its closing days, and it is not for us to defend them; but the suggestion that they have been purchasing German sugar to the exclusion of British will not hold water. What was believed to be their last purchase comprised 100,000

tons of Cuban sugar, which they secured at a price round about 4 cents f.o.b., and their action in this connection was justified on the grounds that there was no British sugar offering at anything approaching that price. With regard to the future of the sugar industry of British Guiana, our contemporary appears to overlook the fact that British 96° test sugar is admitted to the United Kingdom at a rate of duty of nearly £4 per ton less than that levied on foreign sugar, and that it will shortly enjoy an equal advantage in the Canadian markets. It is paying the sugar planters a poor compliment to suggest that with this substantial measure of protection they will not be able to hold their own in the struggle in the markets of the world.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN tiger get ole, dog bark after him."

MR. HERBERT SCRUTTON, who is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of Lloyd's Register.

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies is in communication with the Government of the Union of South Africa as to the possibility of emigration of East Indians from that country to British Guiana.

CAPTAIN G. HUDSON LYALL, M.B.E., has been elected a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. Captain Lyall, who is a son of the late Hon. A. J. Pile, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Barbados, practised for some years as a solicitor, and has lately become a West India merchant.

TIME is getting on, and it is now 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, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce, without further delay.

THERE is quite a West Indian community in Jersey, among the residents there being General J. E. W. S. Caulfield (who commanded the troops in Jamaica from 1902 to 1906), and his wife; and Sir Joseph and Lady Godfrey, Mrs. and the Misses Gillespie, Dr. and Mrs. Barnes, Judge J. D. Hill, Archdeacon and Mrs. Heard, and Mr. Justice R. A. Swan.

MESSRS. EDWD. GREY & CO., of Liverpool, announce that they have appointed Messrs. E. Atkins & Co., of New York and Boston, their sole representatives in the United States and Canada, and that similarly they will represent that firm in Europe for the purchase and sale of raw and refined sugars. Messrs. Edwd. Grey & Co. have also appointed Messrs. E. Atkins & Co., Ltd., their sole representatives in Cuba.

MR. PROWSE, of the R.N.V.R., recently emulated the feat of Mr. Ralph Stock, who a year or so ago visited the West Indies in a 47 ft. lifeboat, and went out to the West Indies in a 7-ton yawl with another ex-naval officer. On arrival at Barbados he was appointed engineer in charge of the Barbados Government Harbour Craft, on probation. Mr. Prowse served throughout the war in motor launches and trawlers in the North Sea, and was subsequently employed on the dangerous work of mine sweeping. An entertaining account of Mr. Stock's travels in his "Dream Ship," as he called her, is given in the January number of the *National Geographic Magazine*.

MR. L. OWER has been appointed Geologist to the Government of British Honduras, and will leave for Belize in about a fortnight's time. Mr. Ower, who was selected for the appointment by the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, has three years' work in the Colony before him, but he expects to return to England for two months in April, 1922, in order that he may keep in touch with latest developments. The object of his visit will be to search for minerals of economic value in the interior of the Colony, and it is understood that his services will be placed at the disposal of the Government of Jamaica also in this connection. Mr. Ower was born in Melbourne, and was for 14 years connected with the Victorian Geological Survey.

OUR contemporary, *Tropical Life*, in a leading article, congratulates the West India Committee on the success which has met their appeal for contributions towards their Endowment Fund, and calculates that "the amount collected works out around £10 per head of the subscribers. As, however, less than half the members have replied, if the remainder only average £5 a head the results will be extremely good, and the benefits that will reflect on those who have helped to place the work of the Committee on an assured and permanent basis will last as long as the islands themselves. Now with the Tropical Agricultural College about to be established in Trinidad, thereby creating a precedent, the Committee is likely to assume an educational importance equal to its present influence in British colonial economic politics and commerce."

VIN DE BANANES.—Peel some thoroughly ripe bananas the smaller varieties are the best for the purpose—and cut them crosswise into thin rounds. Fill an earthenware jar with one-third bananas and two-thirds water, leaving the contents to soak and ferment, watching the process of fermentation carefully, as it is very rapid, seldom lasting for more than twenty-four hours. Strain the liquor, which is then ready for drinking. The drink thus obtained is somewhat similar to an acid lemonade, slightly effervescent; an agreeable odour can be given it by the addition of some slices of lemon or orange or pine-apple, or a pinch of aromatic herbs. This banana wine ought to be drunk immediately; it cannot be kept for any time, except in bottles perfectly corked, and with the corks strongly tied down.—*Agricultural News*.

CINDERELLA OF THE ANTILLES.

Dominica's Plight and the Remedy.

By S. H. DAVIES.

It is difficult to write of Dominica in sober prose. A Swinburne might find words to sing praises of its high woods and mountain solitudes, where the sissou dwells on the tree tops, where the agouti seeks shelter from the Carib hunter! The richly coloured prose of an R.L.S. might do justice to that glorious windward coast, a succession of deep bays, carved apparently out of red Devonian rock, but actually out of a cheesy volcanic conglomerate; encircled by the deepest of azure blue seas, with surf, driven by the strong steady "Trades," breaking on a reef, or dashing high over honeycombed rocks. I have a vision of villages (rejoicing in some quaint patois or Carib name) squatting on a headland, or straggling up a fertile valley from the fringe of mangrove and coconut at the estuary; each neat, thatched hut half smothered in luxuriant vegetation: breadnut or coconut; mango, orange or lime; papaw or cassava; cocoa or coffee; one glorious jumble!

Here, too, are the lime estates, detached outposts of civilisation (not a dozen white men to 80 miles of roadway running W. and S. of Portsmouth!), the estate house perched high above the old mill yard: the stone built canal carrying water, may be half a mile from one of Dominica's 365 streams, to the huge water wheel, driving a ponderous, heavy-gearred sugar mill, embedded in solid masonry, relic of the slave days; now used to grind the puny lime! The old rum still is called into service: it distils the essential oil of lime in a cloud of steam from the bulk of boiling juice. Unless your planter is a man of means, or of progressive ideas, you will find him using the "coppers" or "tatches" of the sugar days to concentrate the juice, over direct wood fires. His plantation, lined, trenched and mulched, forms a fine orchard with myriad leaves and spiny branches laden with bunches of rich green fruit (as big and round as a golf ball) shading to gold, with a litter of golden-ripe fruit in the trenches.

Again one would gladly draw on R.L.S.'s vivid imagination to conjure up a picture of the Carib quarter, some thirty miles from Portsmouth, extending over seven miles of coast line with a hinterland five miles in depth. Through it runs the coast road of red clay, lined by glossy-leaved bay trees, past well-built huts (with detached fire-place, or oven, or cassava washing plant) out of which peep the gentle and attractive Carib women, with children shyly clinging to their skirts. They are characterised by straight, glossy, blue-black hair, pale yellow skin, high cheek bones and Mongolian features. Their lithe menfolk retain much of the ancient skill in hunting and woodcraft. The women weave Carib baskets (the universal portmanteau of the island), and the men fashion canoes out of the trunks of giant gomiers, rough hewn and expanded at the waist by weighting with stones and water, the finished dugout being a triumph of skilful handiwork.

There are 440 individuals in the reservation, 160 of whom are believed to be true bred Caribs, the sole remnant of the early inhabitants of the Caribbees (unless indeed there were survivors of the Soufrière eruption in St. Vincent). They are subject to no law but that of their elected chief, and pay no taxes.

At the hamlet of Salybia we found a devoted Belgian priest fashioning hollow blocks of concrete and building a decorative church to take the place of one swept away by the hurricane of 1916. We also found a school with 96 children on the register, and a placid little schoolmaster (whose son fought in France!). Fifty children of all ages up to 15 were present, about one-half full-blooded Caribs.

The instruction is of a futile kind—nothing to draw out the latent talent for drawing and handicraft, nor to develop powers of observation. Why, oh why, do we impose our queer bookish type of primary education on these creatures of the tropical beach and forest?

Let me carry you back from attempts to describe the indescribable to the hard facts concerning Dominica. This fair daughter of the Antilles is the Cinderella of the Islands. Two faithful guardians of her purse accumulate a dowry of £30,000—whilst a third squanders her treasure in profitless enterprises. She shipped produce valued at £60—£80,000 a year in 1900-1906, and at £100—£124,000 in 1906-1910. The hurricanes of 1915 and 1916 left her torn and bleeding, but thanks to the demand for lime juice in wartime her exports were valued at £228,000 in 1917-18 (of which £205,000 represents lime products and only £3,000 cocoa). Her yearly revenue ranged from an average of £30,000 in 1900-1906 to £40,000 in 1907-10 and rose to £46,000 in 1917-18.

She is too poor to maintain her roads in proper order although they are vital to the existence of an agricultural community. Of her revenue, only £3,500 is spent on maintaining 350 miles of roads, or, deducting mere bridle tracks ("second-class roads"), a sum of £20 per mile on the upkeep of "first-class" mountain roads, subject to the terrific wash-out of tropical storms! Well may Mr. Noble, the Island Engineer (an admirable roadmaker), urge that road maintenance should form a first charge on the revenue, allotting, say, 10 per cent. to the road service.

Dominica is too poor to establish a wireless station (think what that means to shippers when steamers are liable to call not only days after, but days before the advertised time!). She has not yet resumed her coastal service, and only despatches letters twice a week between Roseau and Portsmouth. She offers such miserable remuneration to her medical officers that only one out of four stations was supplied for many months, and only two are supplied to-day. As a consequence, the sanitary conditions of many coastal villages are bad; preventible disease runs its course, and the child mortality is deplorable.

Next to the guardians of her health and her means of communication must rank her guardian of plant life—the man who stands between her prosperity and the ravaging of her plantations by

disease; who introduces new industries, inculcates sound agricultural practices, and incidentally builds up a fair botanic garden (unrivalled in the sister islands) and turns a derelict ravine into a fruitful lime orchard, where experiments of great moment have been brought to fruition. This devoted and modest guardian of her plant life has given 30 years of his life to the service of fair Dominica. And when I turn to the treasurer's statement for 1917-1918 I find the total salaries paid to the curator, assistant curator and chemist, and foreman amounted to the princely sum of £602! The net cost of all the experimental work, together with the upkeep of the renowned botanic garden, was £841! Thanks to the astonishing yield of limes that Mr. Joseph Jones has obtained from the experimental plots and to a substantial crop of cocoa from the economic plots in the garden, the net cost of the department for the current year should approach zero. The lime figures are so remarkable that I quote them here:—5th year, 55 barrels; 6th, 175; 7th, 288, and 8th (present) year, estimated to yield 400 barrels per acre! The greater part of the area has received nothing but green mulches.

When you find Cinderella struggling to win out to freedom and happiness, but unable of her own resources to reward her true counsellors, what is the true remedy? Is it to rely on the coming of the fairy prince, or to leave her struggling? That is the vexed question of the poorer Caribbees and, frankly, I do not know the answer. In other words, is it better to rely on the Home Government for a direct grant or a substantial loan, or to endeavour to raise more revenue from a people who are far from wealthy?

The chief ways of raising revenue appear to be (a) taxing imports; (b) an export tax on produce which taxes planters at the high average rate of £2 per acre on bearing trees or other crops; (c) taxing income; (d) excise on rum, etc., and (e) fees for litigation, the favourite sport of the Dominicans! The Act imposing an income tax seems to be defective—it has been construed to exclude licensed traders. Thus by payment of a trifling licence fee, the only wealthy men on the island, the traders of Roseau, escape all liability to income-tax. This way of escape can obviously be blocked to the benefit of the island.

Now the population of Dominica is small, 84,000 in 1911, or only 115 per square mile, to compare with 204 per square mile in St. Lucia; 279 in St. Vincent; 311 in Antigua and Montserrat, and 679 in Grenada. To people Dominica even as moderately as St. Lucia would mean an addition of 26,000 souls! The small population is partly due to the heavy child mortality and spread of preventible disease, and partly to extensive emigration in the past to the goldfields of Cayenne, to the States and to the Sugar Estates of Cuba and Santo Domingo.

The serious problems confronting Dominica today are:—

(1) *The lack of population.* There is not enough labour properly to cultivate the "gardens," small holdings and estates and no labour to open up Crown lands and develop estates. *With proper cultivation the produce of the island could readily*

be doubled without increasing the area under cultivation.

(2) *The low standard of education.* The education is of an unsuitable bookish type, and in any case the teacher hardly reaches half the child population. Thus the intellectual curiosity of the negro is not aroused; he makes no fresh demands on life and is content to browse in a state of bovine placidity. Owing to the smallness of his needs and the prevalence of preventible disease he makes an indifferent worker.

(3) *The revenue is insufficient (a) to maintain a proper medical and sanitary service; (b) to main-*



Map of Dominica
Showing the principal roads, some of which are more brittle tracks. Three roads referred to in Mr. Davier's article are marked with heavy black lines.

tain and extend the roads, and coastal service by sea; (c) to adequately staff the schools; (d) to develop the scientific agricultural department and properly remunerate its staff; (e) to meet the proper expenses of administration.

The true solution of these knotty problems is not for me to determine, but I may venture to out-

line certain obvious remedies. To break the vicious circle, and make it possible for Dominica to rise to a sound economic plane, it seems necessary to negotiate a loan through the Colonial Office. This would enable some or all of the following projects to be carried out:—

Lack of Population.

(a) The immediate improvement of the medical and sanitary service to check the waste of child life and the spread of disease.

(b) When the collapse of prices renders some of the islands less prosperous than they are to-day (or were yesterday!), it should be possible to develop a scheme of Colonisation from the sister islands (e.g., St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Antigua or Montserrat. Villages should be established of 50 to 100 houses for the colonists, in fertile districts now crying for cultivation.

Roads and Coastal Service.

To allot a fixed proportion of the revenue to this service. In particular:—

(a) To improve 11 miles of metalled road from Portsmouth to Hampstead and continue the metal-ling another 13 miles to Melville Hall. This would give the planters and small proprietors of the La Soye district a chance of conveying their produce by motor lorry on a well-graded road to Portsmouth for shipment in the deep-water harbour of Prince Rupert's Bay.

(b) To complete the Imperial Road by a track 6½ miles long, already surveyed by the Engineer, to its junction with the windward road. This would give an outlet for motor traffic from Roseau to Marigot and thence to Portsmouth (a direct motor road between Roseau and Portsmouth is impracticable). During certain months of the year the strong trade winds debar shipping from most of the windward harbours. To maintain in fit condition for motor traffic:—

(c) The Coast N. of Roseau to St. Joseph;

(d) The road up Roseau River Valley;

(e) The Coast road running south to Pointe Michel, thus enabling part of the remaining produce to be brought to Roseau by motor. Access to the S.E. of the island is difficult. A small steamer, preferably burning oil as fuel, would suffice to maintain a daily service between Roseau and Portsmouth.

Education.

To train good teachers at a College in Barbados or elsewhere to educate on the lines suggested above, and to provide them with adequate salaries.

Agricultural Department.

The development of this department could only be done by co-operation with the well organised Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies. Dominica has benefited already by the visits of Sir Francis Watts and his expert staff, and has everything to gain by closer association with the department. A very substantial increase in salaries is necessary.

Administration.

The present status of Dominica under the Leeward Islands Government, but with the right of direct approach to the Colonial Office, is an unhappy compromise. For the considerable sum paid by her for salaries and upkeep of the

Government in Antigua she sees little return. Her present alliance with islands dependent on sugar and cotton is artificial. Her natural allies are to be found in the Windward group, comprising St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada.

The Hon. C. G. Murray, once Administrator of St. Vincent, in his closely reasoned argument for "A United West Indies," shows that geographically Dominica might belong to either group; historically it has actually belonged to both, with an interregnum of independent government (prior to 1833).

Mr. Murray's admirable scheme of Federation embraces the British Antilles and British Guiana, excluding distant Jamaica, the Bahamas and British Honduras. He would set up a Federal Council in this compact group of colonies with an unofficial majority elected by and from members of local legislatures, presided over by a High Commissioner assisted by a Secretary and legal adviser, the number of members from each colony to be proportional to population. Thus Dominica would have two members in a council of thirty. He would give supreme power of legislation in specific matters of common interest, but no power over taxation or any matter affecting revenue and expenditure save that a fixed amount, a mere 3 per cent. or 4 per cent. of each island's revenue, should be secured for the Central Government.

Amongst the chief objects of federation as defined by Mr. Murray are:—

External interests. (a) Trade relations and communication with other countries; (b) cable communications and wireless telegraphy; (c) merchant shipping; (d) quarantine; (e) defence.

Internal interests. (a) Trade relations and communications between the colonies; (b) establishment of a single system of law throughout the colonies; (c) lighthouses, etc., and central weather bureau; (d) currency, weights and measures; (e) patents and copyright; (f) fisheries.

It requires no words of mine to emphasise the great advantage that would accrue to a somewhat isolated and struggling colony like Dominica by federation with the whole group of the Antilles, including Trinidad and Barbados and the great colony of Demerara. The annual visits of the High Commissioner would ensure a serious review of the island's problems. His reports would receive respectful attention in Whitehall.

Since the Canadian Government decided to turn shipowners and take a hand at trading, a splendid opening is in prospect for Dominica and her sister colonies. Already a Canadian Commissioner for fruit and island produce has taken up his abode in Barbados and opportunity is knocking at the door! Three of the new Canadian vessels are being equipped to carry bananas, oranges, grape fruit and the like.

But sans road, sans capital, sans labour, how can Cinderella display her charm or her power? How can she display the richness of her soil, the amenities of her climate, how develop her splendid resources for fruit culture? Given roads, capital, labour and good administration, in ten years Dominica could build up a fine fruit trade with Canada, while steadily developing her production of limes, cocoa and coconuts.

A LITTLE KNOWN INDUSTRY.

The Basis of Chewing Gum.

BY "CHICLERO."

How many people who exercise their jaws and titillate their appetites with chewing gum are aware that the raw material with which that commodity is made comes from a British Colony? One can confidently reply, Very few, if any. It may, therefore, not be without interest to give a brief account of chicle, the gum from British Honduras which forms the basis of the confection which is so largely advertised and so immensely popular throughout the continent of America.

Chicle gum—the name is pronounced "chickly," and not, as might be supposed, "chickel"—is obtained from the Sapodilla tree, which is found in Southern Mexico, Northern Guatemala, and British Honduras. These trees abound in the forests in those countries, and are bled on the same principle as rubber trees are. The milk or gum is collected in the forest and cooked in situ in large iron cauldrons, and, after all the water has been evaporated from it, it is then pressed by native gum bleeders, or "chicleros," as they are called, into soap boxes, which form a ready-made and very convenient mould. The square blocks of gum, now closely resembling rubber in appearance, are then transported to Belize, the shipping port, on mules and by the river, and there they are stored pending shipment.

There is a local tradition in British Honduras that the true Sapodilla "chicle gum" tree is not to be found in the areas of the Colony south of the Belize River, with the result that the trees found in the forests south of that area are described as bastard Sapodilla. This theory is, however, disputed, and the true species is now believed to exist in the mountains in the hinterland of the Southern Province of the Colony.

The quantity of chicle exported from Belize to the United States and Canada in 1919-20 was approximately 3,300,000 lbs., from which a local revenue of approximately \$100,000 was obtained by the export duty of three cents per lb. Most of this chicle came from Mexico and Guatemala in transit. While the Government of British Honduras naturally values this industry highly on account of its revenue-producing power, it is recognised, on the other hand, that chicle tends to have a demoralising effect on a large portion of the males, creole and aboriginal Indian population, because the agents employed by the large American companies interested in the trade follow the long-standing custom of making heavy advances of money to the "chicleros." These men have no difficulty in receiving at the proper season, once a year, advances of \$150 to \$200 in cash, without any security, before they go off into the forests. The "chicleros," as a rule, "make good," and so do the agents. The number of cases of dishonest or absconding "chicleros" is comparatively a small one, and the industry is demoralising only to the extent that, with the certainty of a liberal advance of cash, and with good results at the end of the bleeding season,

chicle winning is so popular that it is difficult to attract a sufficient number of labourers to work in ordinary agricultural pursuits in the Colony. British Honduras must, therefore, and no doubt will, take steps to attract to its shores bona fide agricultural labourers from Jamaica and elsewhere.

It is remarkable when one sees hundreds of blocks of the chicle gum stacked in large warehouses in Belize awaiting shipment to realise that this large mass of rubber is to be mixed with other ingredients, including sugar, and after being chewed dry and colourless by the inhabitants of the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand will be found discarded under the seats of railway carriages, tramcars, and chairs in restaurants and hotels! In this connection it is said that an enterprising American recently applied to the railway companies in the United States for the exclusive right of access to all railway carriages with a view to collecting the remnants of gum attached to them! May his fortune be made!

A large proportion of the raw chicle gum is exported to Canada through the United States in bond, it being considered advisable to carry on the manufacturing process in Canada instead of in the United States, for some reason or other. It is hoped, however, that the product will now be shipped direct to a Canadian port by the steamers of the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, whose steamers are now plying between Halifax and Belize, via the Bahamas and Jamaica.

THE Rev. Vibert Jackson, Archdeacon in Central America, was on February 24th consecrated Coadjutor-Bishop of Honduras. The ceremony took place in Jamaica.

BORING for oil continues to be carried out at Kelham, near Newark, in Nottinghamshire, and on March 12th No. 1 Well had reached a depth of 1,573 feet, slight indications of heavy oil being encountered between 1,553 and 1,561 feet. It may be recalled that Kelham is the site of the new beet sugar factory.

THE annual report of the Civic Circle of the Lyceum Club, which aims at securing the beautification of Bridgetown, shows that during the year ended October 20th much valuable work was done, gardens being planted up and tended and various other matters tending to the improvement of the capital receiving attention. A committee including Miss Law, Miss M. Packer, Mrs. N. Boxill and Mrs. R. Browne (hon. secretary), and headed by Lady Gilbert-Carter (the president), took the lion's share in carrying out the decorations on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit, and lately the Circle has been moving in the direction of securing for exhibition in Barbados healthy English films to take the place of the salacious pictures now so often shown. Since the date of the report this energetic body has been devoting its attention to the betterment of the Military Cemetery at Needham's Point, the disgraceful condition of which was referred to in these columns last year.

SUGAR IN PERU.

Cheap Labour and Irrigation.

By F. J. L. MURE.

These impressions, formed during a residence of slightly over three years on a sugar plantation in Peru, must not be regarded as a technical effusion of an expert nor as a criticism; but only the views of an ordinary individual with some experience in sugar production. It may also be as well to add that the views expressed are "general."

The Peruvians are nothing if not polite, and the first feature which impresses one is the courtesy they extend to the stranger within their gates. In the plantation workshop one comes across a surprisingly capable and highly efficient class of native workmen (mechanics) and I am exploding no gun-powder plot secrecy when I assert that in isolated cases the chief engineer would be "all out" without the direction of his native workshop foreman.

With some few exceptions the sugar plantations in Peru are owned by Peruvians or Peruvian syndicates and are of fair size, some being of large area and others capable of considerably extending their present acreage. The exceptions referred to represent respectively British American and German interests and in one case Chinese. The plantations are all situated in the valleys and coastal plains on this "rainless coast" where irrigation is the order of the day for cultivation or growing of the crops, and there is no wet season.

The coast line of Peru is a rather long one—starting from the southern boundary of the Ecuadorian frontier, a few degrees below the belt, and terminating somewhere near the northern border of that bone of contention, the Tacna Arica district, which up to the present is Chilean territory and is likely to always remain so unless Monroe doctrine pressure decides otherwise, for in the natural course the weakest must always go to the wall and Peru wouldn't have a ghost of a chance in the pitch and toss game with its southern neighbour, and I think the fact is appreciated. However, this factor, length of the coast line, accounts for the variation in temperature in the different districts and the influence on the growing crops identifies itself to the eye of the casual observer.

There are two seasons, not wet and dry as in the West Indies, but hot and cold, and there are no extremes in either. The Humboldt current moderates the climate, yet at the same time its influence is not so pronounced as it proceeds further north where it gets diluted with the waters of the Equatorial current.

It is recognised that the country with an irrigation system—whether by gravity or by pumping, both except regarding cost being equally efficient—has the advantage over one depending on a rainfall, inasmuch as the one has complete control over, and command of, its watering arrangements and the possibility of draught is thoroughly eliminated; these conditions make of Peru an ideal sugar-cane country, and there is no rainfall to record.

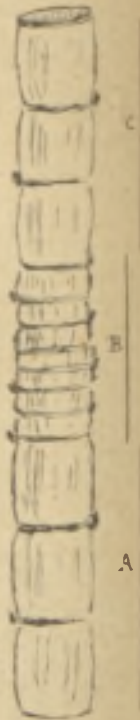
To the sugar cane planter whose experience has been gained in countries where climatic conditions are not entirely against him yet a powerful contending force, the method of sugar cane agriculture in Peru presents no difficulties but rather the reverse. There is opening for improvement and so, by the way, increasing the present returns by some considerable percentage in the yield of cane per fanegada.*

Canes grown are of the Bourbon class and there are few if any of the other varieties, and although here and there one may come across a different looking type of cane it will on investigation be found to have been shooted from the original stool—in short, a sport. The sugar content of the Peruvian grown cane is high and should yield about one-sixth of its weight in sugar. The fibre content is also generally speaking about 12-13 per cent., there or thereabouts, and should be sufficient to supply all the necessary steam power for running the factory, without additional fuel. Outside fuel, whether imported coal or local wood, is a seriously expensive matter, and when transportation costs are included as a plus item it borders on being prohibitively so. Green manuring is hardly if ever practised, therefore the cane trash compressed makes a comparatively speaking cheap auxiliary fuel with a good calorific value which is increased by the addition of molasses.

Labour in Peru would at first sight appear to be scarce, but it is soon detected that there is waste in this direction. With a properly regulated and efficiently organised recruiting system, the man power possibilities obtainable in the country are colossal. Labour is both cheap and plentiful and not half so hopelessly troublesome to manage as in some other cane growing countries. It stands to reason that Peru can produce cheaper than most countries bar Java, and there is every cause to believe that when things drop back again to their normal pre-war level, the fact will be more than ever emphasized. Japanese labour has been imported into the republic to some extent, and to the eye is more expensive than the native, but it is well organised and reliable, which more than compensates for the slightly higher cost.

The manure used most extensively and generally is guano—by some plantations it is the only manure used and is looked upon as a complete fertilizer. In the districts of Carabaya, Canele and Santa Catalina, it is noticeable in the instances where the guano is the manure solely used that the growth of the cane is checked appreciably during the cold season, and the length of the joints that come into existence during this period are only 1 inch to 1½ inches in length, while the joints preceding these are of normal growth and so are those that come after. (See sketch).

* 1 Fanegada = about 1½ Acres.



The middle portion, B, in the illustration on this page refers to the portion of cane with stunted growth grown in the cold season. The other end portions, A and C, are hot weather growth, respectively. This characteristic occurs in spite of the fact that the difference in temperature is rarely if ever more than 10° F.

On enquiry as to cause of this peculiarity it was explained that it was due to want of, or short supply of water, which amounts to practically the same thing, but this theory may be at fault because in the north of Peru, where the temperature never drops as low as to equal the level it gets at in the south, no such peculiarity is pronouncedly apparent. To the ordinary mind it would suggest the need of a force in the form of nitrates or salts, in any case it would be presumed that some remedy was urgently required and it would be a paying proposition without doubt.

Some of the factories and sugar mills are not what would be termed the last word in up-to-date efficiency if compared in the mind's eye with some seen in Cuba, and as a matter of fact many of the Peruvian factories are a long way behind the times. Some few have attempted to get up to date after a fashion by adopting the patchwork system of dumping a new piece of machinery or installation here and there, and the result is a most rambling construction as a whole, indeed quite an eyesore. It may have been owing to the idiosyncrasy of the designer or the spirit of economy in the owner, but some factories appear to have been originally laid out in a way purposely to avoid the possibility of any extension to the plant—therefore when necessity did arise through the war for increased output, many and various were the methods adopted to bring it about. Producers throughout the world reaped a rich harvest for their sugar and many who were just on the brink of pauperism, if not bankruptcy, were saved and made rich, and those in Peru were no exception.

I have heard the opinion expressed that Peru must be a land of milk and honey, perhaps it is, but the impression is erroneous if meant in the light that prosperity had made it possible to delete from the individual that innate modesty which prevents him from offering to share his prosperity without getting more than full measure in return.

The Fowler steam plough has hitherto been the chief implement used for tillage, but there has lately been a great influx of tractors of the Fordson, Parrott and such like type, but as these will not be able to stand up to very heavy work there is no likelihood of their ousting the Fowler—in practice these tractors are a cheaper method of doing the lighter work.

Shipping facilities as a whole leave much to be desired and quite an appreciable loss of produce, etc., is due to the unfortunate situation of some of the ports, but this can to some extent be reduced by lengthening some of the existing moles and so get beyond the reach of the full force of the breakers on rough days. An alternative method would be to take surveys and shift existing rough ports to more sheltered positions, but this is a Government matter and the cost of such an undertaking is against it.

CEYLON'S CACAO INDUSTRY.

In an interesting article on the cacao industry of Ceylon, a correspondent writes in the *Times Trade Supplement* that at one time cacao gardens were to be found all over the island. Within the last ten or fifteen years the inferior low country cacao plots were laid under rubber. The cacao area is gradually becoming restricted to certain portions of the island where the climate suits the tree. In 1914 the cacao area of the island was estimated at about 26,000 acres; to-day it is said to be something like 12,000 acres. Owing to want of proper cultivation a great deal of inferior cacao, which comes mainly from native gardens, is marketed. The better European estate product still realises fair prices as against Javan, Venezuelan, Trinidad, and West African cacao.

Recently cacao prices dropped heavily. To-day there is hardly any demand for inferior material. Colombo shippers are disinclined to buy even the better quality at anything like its worth in London, owing to tightness of money, congestion at London, and a dull demand in America. Many cacao growers are now shipping their produce to be auctioned in London and New York in the hope of getting fair prices owing to the expected German demand—in 1913 Germany took 8,684 cwt. of Ceylon cacao—and the steadily increasing consumption at home and in North America, coupled with the drop in the price of sugar. In pre-war days practically the whole of the island's cacao output went to London; to-day more than half is shipped to Australia and America.

With Java and Indian sugar available at cheap rates the manufacture of cacao on a large scale is likely to be begun here at an early date. Already there is one company manufacturing plain chocolate slabs. A new company was recently formed to manufacture chocolate of all kinds. An up-to-date factory is now being erected, and the machinery has been ordered from England.

BERMUDA & TRADE AGREEMENT.

The Bermuda House of Assembly has refused to ratify the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. This decision, though a matter for regret, was not altogether unexpected. Indeed it was a surprise to many that this Colony, which is outside the West Indies, should have been represented at the Ottawa Conference. Bermuda has little to export beyond vegetables which are raised for the New York market. It will now remain to be seen whether, in view of this adverse decision, Canada will decide to modify the itinerary of the new steamship service between Halifax, N.S., and British Honduras, which included a call out and homewards at Bermuda. It is to be hoped that she will take a broad minded view of the situation and make no alteration.

MISS THELMA IZEYL WHITEFIELD SMITH, daughter of Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, I.S.O. of Turks Islands, was married to Captain Geoffrey H. Frith on Thursday, February 24th.

CANADIAN IMPORTS OF PRODUCE.

The quantity of sugar imported into Canada for the nine months ending December, 1920, was of sugar below 16 Dutch Standard in colour, 529,824,611 lbs., of which 19,268,507 lbs. came from British Guiana, 16,943,201 lbs. from Barbados, 25,644,268 lbs. from Jamaica, 25,185 lbs. from Trinidad and 1,660,935 lbs. from other British West India Islands. 277,988,696 lbs. were imported from Cuba, 56,271,165 lbs. from San Domingo, 18,544,317 lbs. from Peru, and 4,920,333 lbs. from Fiji. Of sugar above No. 16 Dutch Standard, and all refined sugars, 9,225,231 lbs. were imported, of which 236,680 lbs. came from Barbados and 835 lbs. from Jamaica.

The imports of cacao for the nine months amounted to 67,485 cwts., of which 1,639 cwts. came from Jamaica and 15,695 cwts. from Trinidad.

The quantity of coffee directly imported was 12,703,077 lbs., of which 1,282,671 came from Jamaica.

The total number of coco-nuts imported was 2,129,272, of which 369,300 came from Jamaica, 754,150 from Trinidad, and 221,884 from other British West India Islands.

\$4,833,188 worth of oranges were imported, of which only \$5,928 worth came from the British West Indies.

The banana imports amounted to 1,512,265 bunches, which came entirely from the United States.

As regards the minor industries, the importation of unground ginger amounted to 462,534 lbs., of which 85,000 lbs. came from Jamaica. Of unground nutmegs and mace, 219,995 lbs. were imported, of which 900 lbs. came from Trinidad and 130,936 lbs. from other British West Indies. 1,814,542 lbs. of unground spices entered Canada, of which 65,993 lbs. came from Jamaica and 2,114 lbs. from other British West India Islands. Uncleaned (paddy) rice was imported to the extent of 30,583,105 lbs., of which it is interesting to note that for the first time British Guiana figures in the countries of import to the extent of 8,173,638 lbs.

Under spirits the imports show that 237,115 gals. of rum were entered, of which 95,105 gals. came from British Guiana, 1,554 gals. from Barbados, and 87,488 gals. from Jamaica. The figures throughout show an increase in the rum consumption of Canada to an extent of double the 1919 corresponding figures, both as regards the total and the West Indian imports.

The total value of the imports from the British West Indies for the nine months was \$16,213,488, made up of \$2,685,036 from British Guiana, \$26,690 from British Honduras, \$7,517,371 from Barbados, \$4,143,927 from Jamaica, \$505,238 from Trinidad, and \$1,935,226 from other parts.

The value of the exports from Canada to the British West Indies for the period was \$13,169,317, of which those to British Guiana were worth \$2,720,341; to British Honduras, \$29,800; to Barbados, \$2,017,695; to Jamaica, \$2,827,171; to Trinidad, \$3,855,601; and to other parts, \$1,718,709.

SEEDLING CANES IN LEEWARDS.

The Report on the experiments carried on under the ægis of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the Leeward Islands for the season 1918-19, is now to hand, and embraces seedling cane and manurial experiments carried out in Antigua and Nevis.

In the Antigua variety cane experiments, sixty-nine varieties were dealt with, being with the exception of the White Transparent and the Uba cane, all seedlings raised in Barbados, Demerara, Antigua and Mauritius. They were conducted at eight different stations distributed through the island, representing the various descriptions of soil obtaining there. The highest yield as plant cane was obtained by B. 6,308, which gave an average return of 23.4 tons of canes and 3,840 lbs. of sucrose per acre, with juice containing 2.08 lbs. of sucrose per gallon. This was the sixth year of its cultivation in Antigua and its average yield has been 24.8 tons per acre, as compared with 16.1 tons for the White Transparent, and it has proved to be a good "ratooner."

With the ratoon cane the first place is occupied by B. 10,650 with a yield of 14.29 tons per acre of canes as compared with 12 tons for the White Transparent, and with practically the same sucrose content of 1.97 lbs. per gallon. The sucrose per acre yield of this cane was 2,350 lbs. B. 6,308, which as mentioned above, headed the plant canes list comes next with 15.9 tons of canes and 1,780 lbs. of sugar per acre, the juice containing 2.07 lbs. of sucrose per gallon.

In St. Kitts, 23 varieties were dealt with, the work being distributed over six estates. For the season with plant canes BII 10 (12) headed the list with 6,350 lbs. of sucrose per acre, the juice containing 2.04 lbs. of sucrose per gallon. B 6,308 came sixth, with 27.6 tons of canes and 5,220 lbs. of sucrose per acre, the juice containing 1.70 lbs. of sucrose per gallon. In the ratoon series BII 10 (12) maintained its position with 41.7 tons of canes and 8,540 lbs. of sucrose per acre, with a juice sucrose content of 1.98 lbs. per gallon. B. 6,308 was second with 34.6 tons and 6,260 lbs. of sucrose per acre, the juice polarising 1.62 lbs. per gallon. Similar results were arrived at with the plant canes at Nevis.

On account of the difficulty in obtaining manures, no manurial experiments were conducted, experiments on the broader lines of liming, green manuring and tillage, of which no account is given, being substituted.

It is of interest to note that the exports of sugar for the crop were, from Antigua, 1,070 tons muscovado and 11,000 tons grocery crystals, in all 12,736 tons, and from St. Kitts, 9,105 tons, of which 7,220 tons were crystals and 1,885 tons muscovado.

THERE are at present four Fruit Companies operating in Jamaica—the United Fruit Company, the Atlantic Fruit Company, the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company, and the Baltimore Fruit and Shipping Company. All now purchase bananas, and are also banana cultivators.

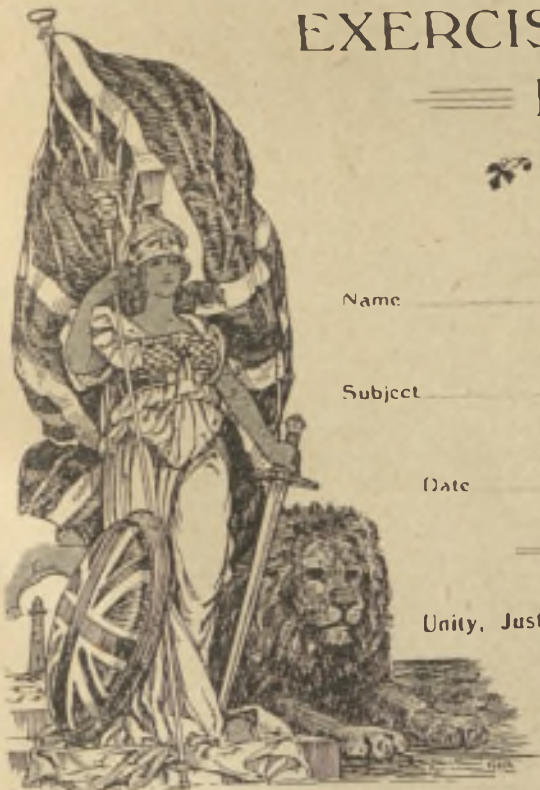
JAMAICA'S SCHOOL BOOKS.

British Firm's Action.

It is satisfactory to learn that as a result of the publicity given in the CIRCULAR of February 3rd last to the fact that exercise books embellished with the American Eagle, and the Stars and Stripes, were being offered for sale in Jamaica for use in the schools, several British firms are now preparing all-British books, which, it is hoped, will be substituted immediately for the foreign ones complained of. We reproduce on this page the patriotic design of one of these new British books (published by the Educational Supply Association), on which the familiar figures of Britannia and the British Lion are depicted.

It would appear from a letter received from a correspondent at Belize that the American books have been used not only in Jamaica, but also in British Honduras, for he writes:—"I am glad that you have drawn attention to the practice of obtaining school books from the U.S.A. The same bad custom prevails here, and all the covers have designs that must leave an impression on the child mind that tends towards estrangement from Great Britain. This is no time to dally with patriotism, especially in these parts."

EXERCISE BOOK.



Name _____

Subject _____

Date _____

Unity, Justice, Freedom.

ANOTHER PATRIOTIC EMBLEM.

As the result of the prominence given to the design of the American exercise books which were being sold in Jamaica, in the CIRCULAR of February 3rd last, the Educational Supply Association has produced all-British exercise books, the design on one of which is given above.

" VIA IMPERIAL."

The Postmaster-General has drawn the attention of the West India Committee, in a letter dated March 22nd, to the special facilities for the transmission of telegrams between the United Kingdom and the West Indies afforded by the State-owned cable which is now working between this country and Canada.

It is the desire of His Majesty's Government that this cable, which is known as the Imperial Cable, should be used mainly for traffic between this country and British Dominions and Colonies. The cable is specially well adapted for the transmission of West Indian traffic, as it works direct between the Central Telegraph Office, London, and the Dennis Building, Halifax (Nova Scotia), where connection is made with the cable to Jamaica via Bermuda, which is worked from the same building. A rapid service is thus provided.

The rates for ordinary telegrams sent by the Imperial Cable are the same as those by other Atlantic Cables, but the Imperial route is at present the only route on which the deferred service to Canada and the West Indies has been restored. Deferred telegrams can be sent "via Imperial" between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies, in either direction, at half rates, viz., 1/3 a word.

In order to ensure transmission by the Imperial Cable, telegrams from the United Kingdom should be handed in at a Post Office. In the reverse direction, telegrams from the West Indies should be routed "via Bermuda and Imperial."

WHY NOT SHARK INDUSTRY?

Why should not the British West Indies develop a shark fishing industry? This enterprise is, according to an American Consular report, becoming increasingly important in the Ensenada Consular district of Lower California. The local shark, known locally as the dogfish shark, is from four to five feet long, and weighs from 90 to 125 lbs. The fishing is usually done by individual fishermen working out from camps on land. The fish are caught on long set lines, on which are 50 to 100 hooks baited with small fish or lumps of shark meat. These lines are secured to floats, and the fisherman visits the lines daily to remove the catch.

The fins are sold for consumption by Chinese in shark-fin soup. The liver is boiled down, and shark oil rendered out; each liver gives an average of 1 gallon of oil. This oil is used in paints and as a leather preservative. The remainder of the fish is dried and made into fertiliser or chicken feed. The skins are not utilised, except for fertiliser. Frequently shark steaks are sold by Chinese in the district under the name of grayfish.

The large canneries operating fish-fertiliser plants in San Diego, California, are eager to buy shark, and the newly finished plant at Sauzal, Lower California, expects to specialise on converting shark into fish-meal fertiliser. Whereas formerly sharks caught in nets were separated out from the more valuable fish and returned to the water, they are now brought ashore, although the demand is not yet sufficient to warrant using nets for shark exclusively.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION.

The total of the West India Committee's Endowment Fund has now reached £22,938 4s. The Hon. Treasurers have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following contributions since the last list was published:

THIRTIETH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	22,905	11	1
Messrs. Plis. van Ommeren (London) Ltd.	10	10	0
S. M. Haughton-James, Esq.	5	5	0
Messrs. Berry Brns. & Co.	5	5	0
C. F. P. Renwick, Esq.	3	3	0
S. Didier, Esq.	2	2	0
Edwin Jones, Esq.	1	13	11
C. H. Bagot, Esq.	1	1	0
Major A. S. Bowen	1	1	0
Lt.-Col. J. H. Collens, V.D.	1	1	0
Dr. C. W. Daly	1	1	0
W. Macdonald, Esq.	1	1	0
W. H. Murad, Esq.	1	1	0
E. A. Robinson, Esq.	1	1	0
C. L. Royle, Esq.	1	1	0
Lady Sendall (2nd Donation)	1	1	0
Mr. Justice R. A. Swan	1	1	0
E. Curzon-Villa, Esq.	1	0	10
A. Siegert, Esq.	10	0	0

Contributions to the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, which will be acknowledged in these columns, may be sent direct to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C., or paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, or of the Royal Bank of Canada.

ST. VINCENT ARROWROOT.

From the annual report of the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' Association for the year ended December 31st last, it appears that during the period under review graded prices were temporarily removed in consequence of the resignation of Mr. J. R. Cowen, who intimated his intention of instructing his agents in London to sell his arrowroot irrespective of the Association's prices. Mr. F. M. Beach was elected in Mr. Cowen's place. The Association advocated the continuance of the Arrowroot New Market Fund arrangements for a further period of five years and recommended the adoption of the necessary legislation. The advertising campaign remained in suspense, only business commenced in Canada in the previous year in the direction of distribution of booklets and fancy packets being carried out. Mention is made of the fact that a contribution of £25 was made to the West India Committee Endowment Fund, the report stating that, "The Association desires thus to mark its appreciation of the excellent work the West India Committee is doing for the West Indies generally, and regrets that the contribution on this occasion could not be larger owing to the low position of the Association's funds in consequence of the depression in the arrowroot market."

Mr. C. W. Hines, in the course of an interesting and instructive article on "Essentials in the Production of Sugar-Cane," in the *Philippine Agricultural Review*, says: "When it is considered that various soils in China have been cultivated for thousands of years, and produce larger crops to-day than they did when first cultivated, it must be admitted that the treatment those soils received had much to do with increasing or even maintaining their fertility. If such results are attained only by studying nature's way in a rudimentary fashion, it is easy to see what can be expected when planters realise the value of a constant application of the science of agriculture in the production of crops.

"The practice so extensively followed on many sugar plantations of letting the land lie fallow, after the production of a number of crops of cane, if the yield begins to decrease, no doubt has some virtue in it, provided that conditions are favourable to the operations of the nitrifying bacteria; but it is not absolutely necessary that it should be resorted to when modern ingenuity would have the land producing a remunerative crop while at the same time increasing in fertility. The practice of rotating crops, the more especially when one of them is a legume, not only tends to permit the toxins from the previous crop to be oxidised and destroyed, but also permits of the storing up of nitrogen; and if the crop is turned under or used for pasture, a valuable supply of organic matter is added as well. In the light of modern investigations into soil fertility, it is evident that something more than a favourable physical composition and a fair content of necessary plant food elements is required to make a soil productive. It has been demonstrated that many of the worn-out or exhausted lands are in reality better prepared to produce large crops, so far as their physical condition and the supply of available plant food material are concerned, than some of the soils classed as being fertile."

The above is a short extract from one of the most valuable articles on the sugar-cane and its cultivation it has been our lot to peruse, and the planter who wants to make himself acquainted with the last word on the subject cannot do better than to procure a copy of the journal in question, which is published in Manila, at the Bureau of Printing.

THE HARRISON LINE s.s. *Jugoma* will sail for Barbados, Trinidad, and other West Indian islands at the end of April. Intending passengers wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity of reaching the West Indies are advised to communicate with the West India Committee without delay.

MESSRS. ALSTON & Co., LTD. (formerly Geo. R. Alston & Co.), of Port of Spain, Trinidad, have appointed Messrs. Mann, Little & Co., Ltd., incorporating Messrs. Thompson, Alpine & Co., Ltd., as their European agents. Mr. John D. Taylor, Mr. Nightingale and Mr. Seymour, who were for many years with the firm of Alston Arbuthnot & Co., are associated with Messrs. Mann, Little & Co., the first named being a Director.

THE BOWL OF PUNCH.

Under the above heading the *Daily Mail* of March 23rd has the following eulogy of the time-honoured rum punch. It is written by "A member of the Cambridge Punch Club."

Punch is one of the oldest mixed drinks in our history, and it is a pity to see how very little known it is at the present day.

It is essentially a sociable drink, for though two or three may gather together anywhere and absorb cocktails, for a dozen or more good souls a bowl of punch provides in itself entertainment for a whole evening.

Its preparation is not complicated, and yet should be treated almost as a most solemn rite, for, as we read in Pepys's Diary: "That which was the most esteemed was a large bowl of punch, a liquor of that noble and divine original that all the gods and goddesses contributed to its composition."

For about a dozen persons a good recipe is: Three bottles of rum, a dozen lemons, a pound of sugar, and a little spice. The squeezing and slicing of the lemons provide everyone with ample occupation; opening the bottles and pouring the contents with a rich gurgle into the punch bowl, the addition of boiling water—three pints for those who like a good nip to the first glass—and, finally, the adding of a sprinkling of spice, all serve to start the evening off with the greatest possible *blat*.

An alternative to sugar is the syrupy juice of preserved ginger, which imparts a deliciously rich "tang," a flavour which may also be obtained, though in a less satisfactory degree, by half a pint or so of ginger cordial.

A still further adaptation of this recipe is to dilute the rum with China tea instead of with water, but this is likely to appeal only to the palate of the connoisseur.

BAUXITE.

Bauxite is now figuring so prominently in the exports of British Guiana that some account of the use to which this product is put should be of interest. Bauxite is the most valuable source of aluminium, and consists of the oxide of that metal associated with impurities in the form of iron and silica. The preparation of the metal is, however, a long and tedious process. The first step is the preparation of an aluminate of soda. For this the Bauxite is heated with carbon in an atmosphere of nitrogen to a temperature of from 2900° F. to 3300° F. Nitride of aluminium—that is to say, a body consisting of nitrogen and aluminium—is formed, which, when treated with soda, gives ammonia and aluminate of soda. The ammonia produced in this way is a valuable by-product, and goes a long way towards reducing the cost of the aluminium production.

From the solution of aluminate of soda thus formed, pure oxide of aluminium is easily precipitated, and is now in a condition for further treatment, which is carried out electrically. On account of the great affinity of aluminium for oxygen, the metal cannot be separated in a metallic state from the water solution by the electric current, and the intervention of a fusible body not containing oxygen is necessary. This body is found in another ore of aluminium, cryolite, which is found

in Iceland, and is a double fluoride of soda and aluminium. The alumina and the cryolite are mixed together and subjected to heat in an electric furnace. The mass fuses, and the oxide of aluminium is decomposed by the electric current, and the aluminium separates in a metallic state, the carbon which forms the electrodes supplying the chemical agency for the reduction of the oxide.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

The Cable Contract Modified.

In the House of Commons, on March 21st, the Assistant Postmaster-General, Mr. Pease, moved a resolution approving of the following Agreement which had been circulated with a Treasury Minute:—

AN AGREEMENT made the 16th day of March One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one between JOSIAH TOWN JONES and JAMES PARKER Esquires two of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury (hereinafter called "the Treasury" which expression shall where the context so requires or admits include the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being) for and on behalf of His Majesty's Government of the one part and THE WEST INDIA AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH COMPANY LIMITED whose registered office is at 4 South Place Finsbury in the County of London (hereinafter called "the Company" which expression shall where the context admits include their successors and permitted assigns) of the other part supplemental to an Agreement dated the Tenth day of August One thousand nine hundred and fourteen and entered into on behalf of His Majesty's Government of the first part by the then Crown Agents for the Colonies of the second part on behalf of the Government of the Dominion of Canada of the third part and by the Company of the fourth part and providing for the reduction of the rates of charge for telegrams passing over the Company's system and for certain payments to be made to the Company in the circumstances therein mentioned (hereinafter called "the Principal Agreement") WHEREAS the Principal Agreement was approved by a Resolution of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom passed on the Twenty-sixth day of August One thousand nine hundred and fourteen and in accordance with Clause 17 thereof its provisions came into operation on the First day of October One thousand nine hundred and fourteen AND WHEREAS it has been agreed by and between the parties hereto that the rights conferred upon the Treasury by the provisions of Clause 14 of the Principal Agreement shall be released in manner hereinafter appearing NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH as follows:—

1. The Treasury hereby agree that in respect of any year as from and after the fourth anniversary of the date when the provisions of the Principal Agreement came into operation when the Company's revenue exceeded Seventy-four thousand pounds they will repay or allow to the Company the amount of any deductions which they may have made or been entitled to make from the portion of the Imperial and Canadian subsidy payable by them.

2. If in the now current year and if and whenever during the continuance of the Principal Agreement the Company's revenue shall exceed Seventy-four thousand pounds the Treasury may if in their

discretion they shall think fit so to do pay to the Company the portion of the Imperial and Canadian subsidy payable by them without making the deductions which are provided for by Clause 14 of the Principal Agreement.

3. In these presents the expressions "the Company's revenue" and "the Imperial and Canadian subsidy" shall have the same meaning as in the Principal Agreement.

4. THIS Agreement shall not be binding until it has been approved by a Resolution of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom.

Sir Samuel Hoare, M.P., said that he had just returned from British Honduras, and that he would like to know if that colony came within the scope of the contract. It was within the orbit of the British West Indies, and suffered very much from the absence of communication, British or otherwise, with the outer world. It was therefore most important that in any agreement made with this or any other cable company the interests of British Honduras should be included.

Mr. Pease reminded him that the colony had wireless, but on Sir Samuel stating that it was American wireless he replied that it was the Marconi Company's wireless.

[Sir Samuel no doubt had in his mind that all messages had to be relayed by an American Company on Swan Island.]

Mr. Pease then moved the Resolution on behalf of the Treasury. The supplementary agreement, he said, provided for the waiver of deductions from the Imperial subsidy which were due under terms of the agreement of the 10th of August, 1914. That agreement provided for a large reduction in the cable rates to the West Indies and for the payment to the company of an Imperial and Canadian subsidy of £16,000 per year—£8,000 Imperial and £8,000 Canadian—and a subsidy of £10,300 contributed by the various Colonies, making up a total of £26,300. The agreement was for the period of ten years expiring on the 30th September, 1924. The conditions, owing to the War, had been very much changed. Clause 14 of the agreement provided that if during any year after the 1st of October, 1918, the company's revenue should exceed £74,000, there should be deducted from the Imperial and Canadian subsidy, payable in respect of the next following year a sum equal to one-half of such excess up to a revenue of £106,000, which would entirely absorb the subsidy, and that if the company's revenue should exceed £106,000 there should be deducted from the Colonial subsidy a sum equal to one-half of the excess up to a revenue of £126,600, which would entirely absorb the Colonial subsidy also. He would give the company's revenue from 1915 to 1919. The first four years were not affected by this proposal. For the year ended 30th September, 1915, the company's revenue was £54,000. In 1916 it was £69,000; in 1917, £87,000; in 1918, £94,000, and in 1919, £106,000. Thus, under Clause 14 the Imperial and Canadian Governments were entitled to the refund of practically the whole of their subsidy, £16,000, for the year ended 30th September, 1919. The company was not yet in a position to give the actual figures for the year ended 30th September, 1920, but it was understood that there was not likely to be any large deduction due for that year.

As in many other similar cases, the sliding scale arrangement was made under pre-war conditions. As everyone knew, the conditions had changed very much. When the sliding scale was agreed upon in 1914 no one could possibly foresee the enormous rise in prices which had occurred, and it was assumed that if the

company's revenue increased beyond £74,000 a year there would be an increase in their profit which would enable them to bear a reduction in the amount of the Government subsidy. In actual fact, however, the company were in a very bad way, and the increase in expenditure had more than absorbed the increase of revenue, and the company's need of the whole of the subsidy was greater now than it was when the agreement was made in 1914. They had been obliged to sell practically all their investments, and if the refundments due under Clause 14 were insisted on it seemed probable that they would have to cease working almost at once. The whole question of West Indian telegraphic communication was being fully considered by a sub-committee of the Imperial Communications Committee, but it would not at present be possible to bring into operation an alternative service, whether by cable or wireless, at short notice. Therefore, it would be seen that it was absolutely necessary that they should take the course which was being pursued to-day.

Consultation took place between the Treasury, the Colonial Office and the Post Office, and it was thought that the best course would be that the Treasury should waive the deductions from the Imperial portion of the subsidy which had already accrued, and should take power to waive any further deductions during the remaining 3½ years of the agreement if they considered that the circumstances warranted that course. The Canadian Government had paid their portion of the subsidy in full up to the 31st December last. They were not calling for any refundment at present, and it was hoped that they would agree to adopt the same course which he was asking the House to pursue now. The Company had agreed that if the deductions from the Imperial and Canadian subsidy were waived they would make a concession in regard to the British Guiana subsidy. Their cable between Trinidad and British Guiana had been interrupted for upwards of a year, and communication between these colonies had been maintained by a Government wireless service. Under the terms of the 1914 agreement, however, the Company could still claim the whole of the British Guiana subsidy, £3,000 a year, but they had now agreed that as from the 1st of July last that subsidy should be reduced by three-fourths—that is, £2,280 a year—so long as through communication with British Guiana was maintained not entirely by the Company's cable system, but partly by means of that system and partly by means of the Government wireless service.

To Mr. Percy Hurd, who asked if the West Indian colonies as well as Canada had been consulted, Mr. Pease replied that he understood that the Colonial Office had been in touch with them, and Colonel Amery added that the West Indian colonies hoped to secure a direct-British through service from Bermuda. But under present conditions—the cost and difficulty of constructing cables—he did not think it would be possible to get such a service laid down within the next year or two. In the circumstances, it was in the interest of the West Indian colonies to maintain the present communications.

The question was then put, and agreed to.

Sugar from Germany.

Sir P. Lloyd-Græme informed Mr. G. Roberts on March 17th that it was highly improbable that any of the sugar consigned from Germany was of German origin, the bulk being Polish (shipped from Danzig) and Czechoslovakian (shipped from Hamburg). The imports from Germany into the United Kingdom during February this year consisted of 12,005 cwt. of refined sugar, valued at £23,780. There was no unrefined from this source during the month.

St. Lucia's Petition.

Mr. Hurd asked, on March 17th, whether a petition for representative government had been received from the colony of St. Lucia; whether this petition referred to the patriotic services of colonists during the war and declared that they felt it somewhat of a reflection on British rule or a slur on their state of civilisation to see their fellow West Indians in neighbouring French, Dutch, and American islands in possession of elected legislative bodies, while they, after 100 years of British rule, were still without the elementary privilege of choosing who should represent them on the body charged with making the laws they had to obey; and what answer was being made to the petition. Lieut.-Colonel Amery replied that no such petition had been received from the colony of St. Lucia.

Trade with Canada.

Replying to Mr. Hurd, on March 18th, Lieut.-Colonel Amery supplied the following comparative statement of the trade between Canada and the British West Indies and Bermuda for the three years to March 31st, 1920:

	Years ended 31st March		
	1918	1919.	1920
<i>Imports</i>			
From Bermuda	\$ 81,940	\$ 39,056	\$ 55,604
" British Guiana	6,716,647	6,747,072	7,412,931
" British Honduras	352,028	298,906	302,043
" British West Indies—		5,148,827	7,532,265
Barbados		1,481,638	2,631,833
Jamaica	10,550,550	1,197,200	954,469
Trinidad and Tobago		610,160	974,577
Other British West Indies			
Total Imports	17,704,165	15,522,859	19,863,722
<i>Exports</i>			
Canadian Produce—			
To Bermuda	\$ 823,407	\$ 1,179,025	\$ 1,249,020
" British Guiana	1,978,323	2,646,169	3,109,381
" British Honduras	13,168	51,868	29,350
" British West Indies—		2,069,177	2,131,171
Barbados		2,379,564	3,280,559
Jamaica	6,838,563	1,128,850	3,746,644
Trinidad and Tobago		1,662,991	1,710,889
Other British West Indies			
Total Canadian Exports	9,653,761	14,077,584	15,257,014

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 109.)

One of our cousins from over the water, giving his impressions of a West Indian tour recently in an American newspaper, declared that the only thing worth seeing in Barbados was that house at the junction of Bay Street and Chelsea Road, where George Washington is alleged to have stayed when he visited the island in 1751 with his invalid brother Lawrence. Possibly this myopic traveller was prompted to make so singularly unfair a statement by an overweening sense of pride in his own country and all concerning it; or, alternatively, he may have preferred "cooling out" on the gallery of his hotel to exploring Barbados. Be that as it may, he was certainly wrong, for the island has numerous sights of great interest to visitors, notably

MISS LEILA VIRGINIE CAMERON, elder daughter of Sir Edward Cameron, K.C.M.G., and Lady Cameron, was married on February 5th to Mr. Edward Oswald Mackwood, second son of the late Mr. Charles Mackwood and Mrs. Mackwood, of Colombo, at St. Michael's Church, Colombo, Ceylon. The engagement is announced of the bride's only surviving brother, Guy Fremantle, to Miss Marjorie Frances Browne, only child of the Rev. and Mrs. F. D. Browne, of Lambrook, Bracknell, Berks. It will be recalled that Mr. Guy Cameron was very severely wounded during the war, but after seven operations and the loss of his right lung he has made a wonderful recovery, and has gone back to his old school as a master. Sir Edward Cameron, who attended his daughter's wedding in Ceylon, expects to return to London in May.

OUTSTANDING subscriptions to the West India Committee should be paid at once, or sooner.

its churches, many of which look as if they had been taken bodily from some rustic village in the old country and dumped down amid the sun-flooded cane fields of this tropical island, its "Great Houses" still bearing traces of the splendours of the palmy days of the eighteenth century, when immense fortunes were amassed by the wealthy sugar estates proprietors, and Codrington College, its ancient seat of learning, founded by Christopher Codrington, Governor-General of the Leeward Islands and the benefactor also of All Souls College at Oxford.

Barbados boasts, too, the tomb of Ferdinando Puleologus, lineal descendant of the last Christian Emperor of Greece, who was driven from Constantinople by the Turks, and also its famous haunted vault at Christ Church, the coffins deposited in which were again and again found to have been thrown about higgledy-piggledy when, after being hermetically sealed, it was reopened for inter-

ments.* The island has, moreover, many beauty spots of well recognised merit, such as the Crane with its small hotel perched on the very edge of a low cliff overlooking an exquisite white coral strand, caressed by the limpid blue water of the Atlantic (which is the delight of bathers), its rocky windward coast fringed with menacing coral reefs through which the skippers of the flying-fish fleet pick their way with a precision which seems almost uncanny to the onlooker, and its rugged and mountainous Scotland district almost encircled by an amphitheatre of lofty hills and forming a magnificent panorama when viewed from such vantage points as Hackleton's Cliff, Cherry Tree Hill, the Cotton Tower—one of the positions in the chain of semaphore stations used for signalling before the electric telegraph was introduced—and Bissex Hill.

While the Conference was sitting time did not permit us to go far afield; but we found plenty to be seen in Bridgetown and its neighbourhood in such spare minutes as there were at our disposal. In the cathedral we pondered again over the pathetic monumental inscriptions which tell such a terrible tale of the mortality resulting from the Yellow Jack in the old days, even in this island, which was afterwards justifiably described by a Chaplain to the forces as a "West Indian sanatorium." How little this dread malady was understood is shown by one of the tablets which ascribes deaths resulting from it to "this fatal climate." Another appealing inscription was one just on the right hand side of the West entrance which runs:—

TABLET OF INKY HILL
REMAIN
AND MARK THE SPOT
WHERE NOBLE DEATH IS SHOWN
FOR WELL THE POET'S STRAIN HATH SENG
AN HONEST MAN'S THE NOBLEST WORK GOD
THEN SAY
BENEATH THIS CHURCHYARD'S MOUND
THE BONES OF HENRY CHEERS
COMMINGLED WITH NECH VALUED ROWES
ARE LAID
HE ATTAINED THE AGE OF
SEVENTY-FIVE
THE 25TH OF DECEMBER 1821

An odd half hour was also profitably spent in witnessing the administration of justice in the magistrates' court. The cases down for hearing were of the most trivial nature—minor assaults and so forth—but they were regarded quite seriously by the litigants, who were supported by their respective families between which there seemed to be a regular vendetta, and one was forced to the conclusion that Bridgetown must be a lawyer's paradise and that no Justice of the Peace in the British Empire could be gifted with as much tact as was shown by the presiding magistrate—himself a Barbadian.

In Barbados the proverbial West Indian hospitality is met with at its very best. The local "season" extends throughout the winter months when the hotels are full to overflowing with visitors, the weather truly magnificent—sometimes too magnificent when rain is wanted for the crop—and the

planters, merchants and people generally in the best fettle (again weather permitting) with the promise of crop and its attendant circulation of money immediately before them. The stores shut early, and every afternoon there is lawn-tennis and cricket, and often polo on the Savannah; every evening dinners and dinner parties. Lest there be any misunderstanding it should be explained that between the two last-named forms of entertainment there was a subtle distinction. If "Greenidge" was there it was a "dinner party"; if he were not there it was just a dinner—this individual being a functionary of the Colonial Secretary's office who performed most efficiently the menial duties of Thackeray's Grundsell and Truncheon, and incidentally made also an excellent salad. But where all vied with one another in their efforts to do the honours of Barbados in the traditional style no distinction or difference was noticeable, and the foregoing remarks are only based on the *ipse dixit* of a well-known Barbadian whose name must not be divulged.

The evening usually ended with dancing. To residents in the West Indies, one of the original homes of "Jazz" music, the one-step, the fox-trot and, perhaps one ought to add, the "shimmy" have no mysteries. The ladies of Barbados are certainly devotees of Terpsichore and the fine hall room, which Mr. Pomeroy (himself a perfect Mordkin) had recently added to his hotel, was well patronised. It was not surprising therefore, that at the end of each perfect day one crept under the mosquito net of the blanketless bed in a state of exhaustion bordering on collapse. By the way it struck me that it was a merciful thing that mosquitoes appeared to be practically non-existent in the Marine Hotel in the winter for the mosquito nets used in that establishment were only sufficient to salve one's conscience. For the practical purpose for which it was intended, mine would have been absolutely useless, since it had a hole in it quite big enough to have admitted one of those attractive little sparrows which visit the bedrooms just after sunrise and dip their beaks into the sugar basin at the hour of that uninteresting meal known as "early morning coffee," or one of those crooning pea-doves whose mellow note also soothed the senses at daybreak.

But if the mosquito is absent during the dry season the same cannot be said of the pestilential house fly, and I have a vivid recollection of partaking of tea at one house in the country where the *musca domestica* was positively swarming over the bread and butter, over the cake, over everything, which left the impression that a campaign against flies, the harbingers of typhoid, dysentery and other horrible illnesses, was every bit as necessary as the maintenance of constant warfare against the mosquito.

Once released from our duties as delegates to the Conference, we were able to make more ambitious expeditions into the country. Thus we visited Codrington College, where we were shown much courtesy and kindness by Mr. Dunlop and his wife in the absence of the Principal and continued our drive through the rugged Scotland district to the manjak mines, and finally Bissex Hill, where

*The full story of this haunted vault is given in "West Indian Tales of Old." London, Duckworth & Co.

we were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Percy Haynes, and were shown one of the last surviving windmills and an ancient boiling house with copper wall all complete and the exquisite panorama of the majestic amphitheatre of hills already referred to. The aspect of Codrington College was less pleasing. The grand old avenue of cabbage palms leading from the buildings to the foot of the hill on which the Rawle monument stands, was a ghost of its former self, many of the old trees being decrepit and the younger ones, planted to fill gaps, far from healthy in appearance, the lake densely covered with weeds and the erstwhile beautiful gardens overgrown and neglected. On the other hand the buildings were well cared for and one learnt that the College was prosperous and was adequately carrying out the objects which its pious founder had in view. Two sugar estates were bequeathed by Codrington to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in trust to provide for its maintenance. These estates had been leased before the sensational rise in the price of sugar commenced, but the College appeared to be in a prosperous condition and it seemed deplorable that so little care was being devoted to its ground of which Kingsley wrote with such enthusiasm in "At Last."

From this somewhat discursive account of my stay in Barbados it might perhaps be thought that the main object of my mission was overlooked. This was not the case, however, and it should be recorded that the Agricultural Society and the Chamber of Commerce were kind enough to arrange meetings, over which Sir Frederick J. Clarke and Mr. V. Hanschell presided respectively, to discuss the question of the West India Committee's Endowment Fund, and that not only were many promises of support forthcoming, but also a substantial sum of money was collected in the room on each occasion. (To be continued.)

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The weevil of rice, *Sitophilus oryza*, is the most widely distributed of known insects, and one of the most destructive. In the year 1918, it is estimated that 350,000,000 bushels of corn were destroyed by this pest. The most effective agents for its control are bisulphide of carbon and heat, the grains being treated before sowing. This little insect habitually feigns death at the approach of an enemy, and gets up and scampers off when the danger is past.

The cultivation of cotton is receiving particular attention in the Caicos Islands, and an excellent series of notes as to its cultivation there has been published by the Commissioner, Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, for the guidance of existing and prospective growers. In these, great stress is laid on the necessity for maintaining the humus content of the soil. The cotton plant is a great exhaustor of humus, and the difficulty in the Caicos Islands is, states Mr. Smith, that its supply cannot be kept up by applying pen manure, green dressings, and other decaying vegetable matter, on account of the "rocky nature of the soil."

The lint contains very little of the constituents of plant food taken from the soil, the seeds a great deal. It is recommended that these should not be shipped, but returned to the soil. If this be done every year, and supplemented by the application of a mixture composed of superphosphate, sulphate of potash, and sulphate of ammonia, Mr. Smith sees no reason why the fertility of even such shallow soils as those of the Caicos Islands should not be maintained for some years. The mixture of the above fertiliser which he recommends is 300 lbs. superphosphate, 40 lbs. sulphate of potash, and 100 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia per acre.

The campaign against the sugar-cane pest known as the brown hard-back or *Phytalus Smithi* is being carried on in Mauritius with great activity. Mr. Tempany's report for the season 1919-20 shows that 30,969,504 beetles were captured, as against 71,119,278 for the season 1918-19, and the reduction in the number of captures recorded is considered to be due to the diminution in the incidence of the pest, as the result of the various repressive measures which have been adopted. The principal factor in this reduction is stated to be due to the parasite *Tiphia parallela*, and the operations of this insect, coupled with the collection of the beetles, is expected to result in a complete control of the pest.

A recent number of the *Journal of Heredity* contains an article on the subject of bud variation as a factor in the production of new varieties of plants, in the course of which, speaking of the sugar-cane, reference is made to the case of a variation of the Striped Tanna, in which the lower internodes were, normally striped, while the upper internodes were, like those of the parent, plain green. In Mauritius, it is stated, eight or nine varieties of sugar-cane have been raised by bud variation, some of which are superior to the original types in strength and yield of sugar. These varieties come from kinds recently introduced into the island, and it is suggested that they are due to the change of environment having influenced the habit of the plant.

The paper industry of Canada is making great progress. In 1890 pulp and paper were only exported to the value of \$120, while last year \$150,000,000 worth were exported, principally to the United States. As regards the wood supply for paper purposes, it is estimated that in Ontario and Quebec alone there are 450,000,000 cords available which are accessible. This quantity will supply the present output of Canada for seventy years, while in British Columbia there is sufficient wood to last at least sixty-five years more. It is calculated that it takes a hundred years for a spruce tree to arrive at a commercial size, and with a proper system of forestry Canada should thus be able to supply its own paper for an indefinite period.

A useful development of cinematography has taken place in Louisiana in connection with the sugar industry. In every part of that State moving

pictures illustrate the methods and habits of the cane borer, and show how the pest can be wiped out by the destruction of its eggs by the Cuban fly. The pictures, says *Facts about Sugar*, show in sequence the borer and the way in which the Cuban parasite kills the borer; and how the cocoons are gathered in the Cuban canefields, packed and despatched to New Orleans. The hatching out of the flies is then shown, their transference to the feeding and breeding cages, and the method of their transport to the estates. The series of pictures ends by the illustration of the manner in which the destruction of the borer eggs is effected by the fly laying its eggs within them, the contents of the borer eggs being consumed in the course of the hatching of the fly.

WEST INDIA MAIL NOTES.

Economy urged in Antigua.

The annual session of the Federal Council of the Leeward Islands opened on February 15th. A resolution approving of the Canadian Trade Agreement had been prepared by the Government, but was quietly withdrawn, owing, it is believed, to the fact that no provision had been made by the local Legislatures to enable the Federal Council to deal with the matter, which is one affecting local revenues. In their reply to the Governor's speech, which was lauded in by Hon. J. J. Camacho, Chairman of the Committee, on February 16th, the Legislative Council agreed that the outlook for the coming crop was discouraging, and urged the necessity for the greatest economy in public expenditure, in particular protesting against the further increases in the salaries of public officers, which had been foreshadowed in His Excellency's speech.

Major J. T. Dew has resigned his commission in the Antigua Defence Force, and Captain T. E. Dyett has assumed command. Renewed interest has recently been shown in the Force, whose annual week's training in barracks, just completed, wound up with a successful smoking concert, at which Sir Edward Meicwether was present.

A very successful Children's Fancy Dress Dance, organised by the Committee of the St. John's Day Nursery, was held on February 4th, under the patronage of the Governor and Lady Merewether, who have at all times assisted all movements for the welfare of the poor children of the Island. The total receipts by sale of tickets, etc., amounted to £36 17s., which, after the necessary expenses have been deducted, will be devoted to the work of the crèche.

Mr. Pashley leaves the Bahamas.

Mr E. R. Pashley, the Comptroller of Customs, was presented with a tortoiseshell paper-knife and an illuminated address on his leaving the Colony for his new appointment as Chief Inspector of Revenue, Trinidad. On March 7th H.M.S. *Calcutta* arrived at Nassau from Jamaica on a few days' visit.

Continued Drought in Barbados.

Very dry weather is reported for the first fortnight in February, but there were local showers on the 14th, 15th, and 16th. Reaping had begun on most sugar estates, and the *Agricultural Reporter* expected that nearly every factory would be at work by the end of the month. Some fields are maturing very quickly, others are still not ripe and only sun-burnt. The

amount of raw juice required to make one gallon of syrup is at present about seven gallons. Later, not more than five or six will be required. Cane fires continue to be of frequent occurrence.

British Guiana and the Shipping Problem.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, under date February 17th, writes that the weather has been very dry, and rains are wanted generally. Mr. C. Farrar, presiding over the half-yearly general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, paid a tribute to the work of his predecessor, Mr. Martin Sperry. Dealing with the transatlantic steamship position, he said that after Trinidad and Barbados had declined the Imperial Government's offer, the Chamber felt the matter to be of such vital importance that an endeavour was made to induce one of the steamship companies to run a limited service with one steamer capable of carrying a fair number of passengers and from 2,000 to 3,000 tons of cargo, the service to be guaranteed against loss by the Government. Of the companies approached, only the R.M.S.P. Co. had so far replied, and they did not see their way to providing a service on those terms. With regard to the rice situation, the President hoped that the Governor would be able shortly to withdraw the restrictions on export, otherwise the Colony might be in danger of losing their market in the Islands. In accordance with a suggestion made by the President of the Associated Chambers in his circular letter, which Mr. Farrar characterised as a "most valuable and thoughtful contribution on West Indian affairs," a resolution was passed unanimously favouring an Agreement with the Mother Country which would recognise the mutual tariff concessions for a period of ten years.

Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Director of Science and Agriculture, spent the greater part of February in Barbados on holiday, his place being taken by Mr. W. Francis, Deputy Government Analyst. Mr. M. Nascimento, Mayor of Georgetown, presided over a meeting held on January 17th to commemorate the second anniversary of the formation of the British Guiana Labour Union. Dealing with the present position of the Union, Mr. H. Critchlow referred to the fact that the Government had promised to introduce legislation for its incorporation.

On January 16th a tablet was unveiled in St. Andrew's Scotch Church to the memory of the late Lieut. J. O. Smellie, son of Mr. W. G. Smellie, who was killed on service in 1917.

At a special joint meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, on February 3rd, presided over by Hon. R. E. Brassington, Lieut.-Col. Ivan Davson, O.B.E., delivered a lecture on "West Indian Currency," in which he pointed out that the West Indies and British Guiana formed one of the few remaining parts of the Empire that had not their own coinage, and advocated a reform in the direction of a decimal system, pointing out that if the West Indies had their own currency, the seigniorage alone should provide about £50,000 a year towards cable, steamship, and aviation services. Hon. C. Clementi thanked Colonel Davson on behalf of the Currency Commissioners for endeavouring to arouse interest in the matter in the Colony and in the West Indies generally. An important problem was with respect to the interior of the Colony, where there was no currency. When he travelled from Roraima, the cost of his transport was a gramophone and a church bell. The best currency in that part of the Colony was a gun. Colonel Davson concluded his visit to the Colony on February 25th.

Mr. Thomas T. Smellie, director of Messrs. Garnett & Co., has been appointed a member of the Executive

Council in succession to Hon. G. Russell Garnett, who left the Colony over twelve months ago. Mr. E. A. Haynes has been appointed to succeed Mr. H. P. C. Melville as Commissioner of the Rupununi District. Major C. Hampden King's departure for Sierra Leone, on his appointment as Commissioner of Police there, was the occasion of numerous presentations to the popular acting Inspector-General of Police. Colonel Cecil May, the Inspector-General, has returned to the Colony.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, on February 25th, the question of a mail service with the United Kingdom was again discussed. The meeting approved of the principle that the Colony should contribute a subsidy, and suggested that tenders should be invited for a direct service to the Colony. Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E., has been elected a member of the Sugar Planters' Association in the place of Mr. A. P. Sherlock. The Association have lost the services of their able Secretary, Mr. J. C. McCowan, who is retiring on account of ill-health. He will be succeeded by Mr. V. P. Fitzpatrick. After a twelve-days trip, Mrs. Roosevelt and her party returned from visiting the Kaieteur Falls on February 23rd. A destructive fire took place in New Amsterdam on February 10th, involving the properties of Mr. D. Gonsalves and Mr. D. N. McGregor.

"Canadian Fisher" reaches Belize.

The Council of the Chamber of Commerce, at their meeting on March 2nd, with the Hon. G. E. Grabham in the chair, discussed the question of passage rates between Belize and Kingston, which it was agreed were excessive, especially in view of the fact that about half the amount was charged for a passage between Nassau and Kingston, which was about the same distance. A motion in the Legislative Council to advance from general revenue a sum not exceeding \$30,000 to the Belize Electric Light & Ice Company, in which the Government is the majority shareholder, has been adopted. Residents in country districts in the Colony have recently experienced the thrill of seeing a flight of aeroplanes for the first time.

The new Canadian service was successfully inaugurated on February 11th by the arrival of the *Canadian Fisher* at Belize.

Jamaica and the "Cherries and Hatchet."

The Alastrim epidemic is now definitely declining, and at the end of February only 55 cases were being treated at Bumper Hall.

Sentence of three years' penal servitude has been passed on H. M. Joseph, the Syrian trader who was convicted of setting fire to his dry goods store at Port Maria with intent to defraud.

Serge Island sugar factory now has its up-to-date machinery operated by electric power generated from a large dam across the Morant River, designed by Mr. H. W. Holgate, son of the Managing Director of Serge Island Estates, Ltd.

In his speech at the opening session of the Legislative Council on March 1st, the Governor urged the necessity of keeping a proper Insurance Fund, which would be of great advantage whenever the Colony required to borrow money on loan. In view of the general situation, he had had to prune down the estimated expenditure with an axe. In deciding what reforms were essential and could be afforded, he would have the advantage of being able to consult a "Development Commission" composed of members representing the Island's interests. His Excellency, in a message to the Council, foreshadowed the introduction of a resolution giving effect to the suggestion of the New Zealand Government that Kingston should be made a free port of call for at least three years.

After filling the post of Senior Puisne Judge for twelve weeks, His Honour Mr. F. C. Wells Durrant has been appointed Attorney-General in succession to Hon. E. St. John Branch. The anniversary of Washington's birthday was celebrated by a dinner and dance at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, which was largely attended by prominent British and Americans in Kingston society, and formed, in the words of the *Gleaner*, "one of the gayest events of the social season."

Mr. Morgan in St. Lucia.

The Island has had a visit from Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, who is touring the West Indies in his yacht the *Corsair*. Mr. Morgan was entertained by the Administrator, and left for Dominica on February 15th.

Mr. R. B. Archibald dies in Tobago.

The death of Mr. Robert Bruce Archibald at his home, Roxboro House, on February 22nd, has meant a great loss to the Island, where he enjoyed the respect and affection of the whole community. Mr. Archibald, who was a life member of the West India Committee, was noted for his hospitality as well as for his extensive knowledge of the practical side of a planter's work.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, writing from Man o' War Bay on February 15th, mentions that no white man has been resident in that district for several years, the last being Captain Henderson, who left early in 1914. The workers are fairly good agriculturists, but it is difficult to get from them steady work or improvement in cultivation. We have a fine average rainfall (over 100 inches) and good soil, and growth of everything makes the Leeward planters quite envious. Another month will see most of the cacao picking at an end. December was too dry a month, and the young fruit was almost entirely dried up. Good January rains brought about a flush of new leaves, and the young crop coming out now can hardly face the dry season, unless showers are exceptionally frequent. Not much cacao can be expected before September. It is useless commenting on prices, as we must take our "kicks" with the others in this world of disturbance.

Oil Fuel for Trinidad Trains.

After forty-six years in the public service, during eighteen of which he has been in charge of the Island's Post Office Department, Mr. Clarence Ross is retiring. He will be succeeded as Postmaster-General by Mr. James Morgan.

Mr. G. F. Huggius presided at a meeting, on February 24th, which was held with the object of establishing a Trinidad branch of the Y.M.C.A. After an address by Mr. R. D. Pringle, the Field Secretary of the Association, on the motion of the Bishop of Trinidad, a strong advisory council was appointed to decide ways and means. In the course of a lecture on the subject of pig-rearing in the Colony, given to the San Fernando District Agricultural Society, over which Sir Norman Lamont presided, Dr. Shannon advocated the formation of a pig club, with stud boars at the disposal of members—a system similar to that which had worked excellently in Barbados with the introduction of the Swiss goat.

In his message to the Legislative Council on the occasion of the opening of the 1921 Session, Sir John Chancery mentioned some of the uses to which the £1,000,000 subscribed to the Government loan was being put. Work had been begun on the railway stations at Port of Spain and San Fernando, and good progress made with the widening of the line between Port of Spain and St. Joseph, and with the strengthening of the railway bridges, whilst in six months' time the whole of the locomotives would have been converted to burn oil fuel. His Excellency announced

that the drainage of Caroni and Laventille swamps was proceeding satisfactorily, and he hoped that within three years ten thousand acres of unhealthy swamp would have been turned into fertile agricultural land.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has consented to the prolongation of the service of the detachment of the Royal Sussex Regiment in the Colony for a short period, on the understanding that the interval is used to improve the police force and re-organise the volunteer reserve in such a way as to make the Colony independent.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on February 22nd, states that rains have been falling plentifully this year, and the dry season is only beginning, but the water authorities are already warning the inhabitants to be careful, in view of the annual shortage. More wells are to be sunk in the lowlands, to be pumped into reservoirs on the hills, and then conveyed by gravitation to the City. All the while there is a plentiful supply running to waste in the high lands above Arima, which would be sufficient to provide for the whole Island. Important resolutions were carried at a general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on February 23rd. One resolution protests against ship-owners acknowledging liability for pilferage. A second approves of the suggestion for the creation of a Central Council of official and commercial representatives of the British West Indies to make recommendations with regard to legal, medical, fiscal, educational, police, commercial, and other questions. In a third, the Chamber expressed the hope that negotiations would take place for a trade agreement with the Home Government to extend over a term of at least ten years.

Brigadier-General J. A. Bell-Smyth was decorated by the Governor, on February 10th, with the Companionship of the Order of the Bath, bestowed in recognition of his distinguished services in command of a cavalry brigade in France.

In a Gazette Extraordinary dated February 14th appears a Proclamation prohibiting the exportation of sugar from the Colony except with a licence first obtained from the Governor.

Turks and Caicos, Gin in full Blast.

The weather latterly has been seasonable, according to the latest report of the Direct West India Cable Co., but rain is badly needed. Business generally has been quiet during the month, many of the vessels which usually call here for cargoes of salt on their return from the Windward Islands and Brazil having taken salt from St. Martins.

The Government gin is going full blast, and quite a quantity of cotton is being brought up by the peasantry of the Caicos group. Reports from the West Indies Development Company, Ltd., Lorimers, are very promising, and they are likely to ship over 200 bales for this season's crop. From Parrot Cay Cotton Co., Ltd., reports are also good, although they have been hampered in their operations by the non-arrival of machinery. They have quite a large quantity of cotton on hand ready for ginning.

The conch shell and sisal industries are still dormant. Small shipments of sponge are being made at intervals to Nassau. The labourer of the Dependency, more especially in the Caicos group, has never been so well off as at the present time, the several cotton plantations affording employment for the women and children, the men many of them coming up to Grand Turk and going on the steamers. Hence very little of the product of the Caicos group finds its way to Grand Turk, being consumed by the peasants themselves.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

Bahamas Booming.

The annual report on the Colony for 1919-20, just to hand, shows that the year's revenue was more than double that of 1918-19, being £204,206 as compared with £81,049. This large increase was due partly to increased taxation, and partly to large spirit importations, the outcome of prohibition in the United States. The expenditure was £108,939, an increase of £10,702 on the figures for the preceding year, and for the first time for six years there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure, in this case by the handsome margin of £95,357, or more than the whole revenue of 1918-19. The imports during the year were valued at £539,242, as against £367,180 in 1918. Of the former total only £34,179 represents the value of goods shipped from the United Kingdom, high freight rates and the lack of transportation facilities militating largely against trade with the Mother Country. The factors responsible for the enormous increase in the value of the imports as a whole were the large purchases in foreign countries, notably the United States, of goods that were unobtainable during the war years, and the greatly augmented prices that had to be paid for them.

The value of the exports also showed an increase, being £278,171 in 1918 and £382,140 in the year under review. The direction of the export trade was again mainly to the United States, who took 63.67 of the total produce shipped, the United Kingdom being the next best market, with 16.54 of the exports, the value of which exceeded that of the year before by £45,843, owing to larger shipments of sponge and tortoise-shell. Exports to Canada, which were 1.82 of the whole, showed a decrease of £3,328. The chief articles sent to the Dominion were preserved pineapples, valued at £1,843, and sponge, valued at £910. France and Holland, with 8.7 and 7.777 respectively of the Bahamas' exports, each took considerably more than in 1918. Exports to other colonies in the British West Indies consisted of 75,753 bushels of salt, valued at £1,264—a decrease of almost 21,000 bushels on last year's output and other articles, valued at £1,369.

As regards the Colony's industries, the Agricultural Board reports favourably on the prospects of tomato growing, in spite of a year of financial loss due to the complete breakdown of transportation. It has been established beyond a doubt that tomatoes of superior quality can be produced in New Providence in any quantity desired. The J. S. Johnson Co. have made a beginning in packing tomatoes with the hope of supplying the Jamaica and Cuba markets. An outbreak of the spiny citrus white fly, which attacked the citrus fruit trees at Spanish Wells and the Current, Eleuthera, would have proved serious had not energetic spraying measures been at once resorted to, as a result of which the situation is well in hand. Coconut and avocado pear cultivation and bee keeping form industries in which developments may be expected. The sponge trade was severely handicapped by a

serious hurricane on September 8th, which permanently disabled many of the ships. The total sales amounted to £110,569. The outlook for the future is bright; whereas in 1918 there were but eight buyers, the year under review closed with twelve in the market. The Marine Products Board again closed the Bight of Acklins, and endeavoured to restock it with the valuable equina gossypina variety, a sponge that nearly resembles the Mediterranean sponge, and is not far behind it in commercial value. The turtle shell industry experienced a year of remarkable prosperity, with a liberal supply and an unbounded demand, so that some shell fetched over £18 per lb. in the London market.

It is to be regretted that the Bahamas have not yet adopted the recommendations of the Blue-Book Committee in the matter of the form in which their annual Blue-Book is produced.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

Canadian Freight Rates.

SIR, With reference to the leading article in your issue No. 582 on the subject of West Indian freight rates, I have been wondering if you have seen the following announcement, which appeared in the St. Lucia Voice of February 9th, 1921:—

"The Canadian Line of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. has raised their rates of freight between Canada, Bermuda and the West Indies by 25 per cent."

Of course, this increase will go a long way towards nullifying the benefits under the Canadian-West Indian Preference Agreement, or at least towards transferring the benefit to shipping.

Yours faithfully,

AN OLD PLANTER.

[The announcement to which "An Old Planter" calls attention is somewhat belated, the increase in freight rates on the Canadian route, amounting to 25 per cent. except in the case of sugar and molasses, which remained unchanged, having been made on November 20th, 1920. It must be borne in mind that the rates on the Canadian route are controlled by the Canadian Government, and as Canada is at present paying the entire subsidy for the service, it is obviously entitled to make such arrangements with regard to freight rates as it considers fit. The West Indian colonies will, however, be partners of the Dominion in respect of the new service to be established in accordance with the recommendations of the Ottawa Conference, and they will then presumably have some voice in the matter. Meanwhile, it is understood that the Canadian Government regarded the increase of 25 per cent. as justified on the grounds that the service was showing a considerable loss. It is only fair to point out that instructions were sent out on February 17th this year for a reduction in the sugar rate from the West Indies to Canada from 50 cents to 35 cents per 100 lbs., and that on molasses from \$7 and \$8 (according to the port of shipment) to a flat \$6, representing reductions of from 14 to 30 per cent.—ED., W.I.C.C.]

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LISTS.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.—Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Camilo*, March 14th

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. H.O. Barnhill | Miss P. M. Hamilton | Mrs. R. Rankin |
| Mr. J. Canepa | Mr. J. Hanton | Mrs. G. R. Robinson |
| Lt. Col. C. Clifford | Rev. & Mrs. E. Armoud | Mrs. H. G. F. Taylor |
| Miss H. D. Clifford | Jones and Family | The Misses Taylor (2) |
| Mr. R. P. Cowling | Mr. & Mrs. W. Mason | Mrs. C. V. Townsend |
| Mr. F. C. C. Dale | Miss J. A. Mason | Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Wilson |
| Miss D. E. Dymott | Miss A. M. McGrath | |
| | Mr. E. Parsons | |

Home Arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Coronado*, Avonmouth, March 20th

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Arkenhead | Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Hone | Mrs. J. Tapley |
| Mr. M. Algazi | Miss B. Jackson | Mrs. E. R. Tyndale |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. P. Bell | Mrs. & Mrs. Jones- | Major & Mrs. W. E. Walker |
| Major J. P. Church | Williams | |
| Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Crawshaw | Major U. Loraine | Mr. H. J. Ward |
| Mr. H. Crum-Ewing | Mrs. C. C. Mitchell | Capt. D. S. Waterlow |
| Mr. E. Evans | Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Moore | Mrs. H. A. Wilkinson |
| Lady & Miss Deansham | Miss H. Mathias | Lieut.-Col. & Mrs. H. Wilson |
| Mrs. C. E. Edwards | Lieut. F. W. Mustarden | |
| Miss M. J. Farewell | Miss T. S. Perry | Messrs. W. & J. M. Wilson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Genth | Mr. R. G. Percy | |
| Mr. C. Green | Miss Smith | Mr. Mrs. & Miss Whippenn |
| Miss Greenwood | Rev. C. J. Snowden | Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Wooley |
| Miss Grimshaw | Mr. A. H. Storkley | Miss E. Wragge |
| Mr. Mrs. & Miss Henderson | Miss Stockley | |

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.—Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Scientist*, London, March 17th.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| From DEMERARA. | | Mr. Justice |
| Mr. Dougall & Family | | |
| From DOMINICA. | | Mrs. Norris |
| Mr. Ashpitel | | |
| From St. VINCENT. | | |
| | Mr. Richards | |
| From TRINIDAD. | | |
| Mr. Brown & Family | | Mr. Savan |

Royal Netherland West Indian Mail.—Sailings to Trinidad, from Dover in s.s. *Stuyvesant*, March 19th

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mr. H. S. A. Adams | Miss A. Manning | Mr. J. E. Robson |
| Mr. Boyd Adamson | Mr. and Mrs. W. McLaren and two sons | Mrs. J. Rose and three daughters |
| Mrs. G. P. Aiston & son | Mrs. K. Murray and daughter | Mr. N. R. V. Thompson and two daughters |
| Mr. B. E. Bagdale | | Mr. L. F. Tuck |
| Mrs. J. Corbet & 2 sons | Mr. R. B. Murray | Miss I. M. Witter |
| Mr. A. W. Davies | Miss I. Munroe | Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Yearwood |
| Mr. J. R. Donnan | Miss M. A. Reed | |
| Mr. J. Kirkness | Mr. and Mrs. W. Reside and daughter | |
| Mr. M. K. Abdel Khalik | | |
| Mr. C. U. Lee | | |

Home arrivals, from Trinidad, in s.s. *Jan Van Nassau*, Plymouth, March 17th

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. A. Campos | Mr. Walsie Lewis | Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ferreira |
| Mr. Chas. C. Carmichael | Mr. R. H. S. Mather | Mr. John W. Steubens |
| Dr. A. E. Field | Mr. McMillan | Rev. Father Thayne |
| Major C. Hampden King | Rev. Father O'Kelly | Mrs. Agnes M. Wright |
| Miss S. Hampden King | Mr. & Mrs. Harold de Pass | |
| Mr. S. Mook Lang | | |

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:—

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Mr. S. Archer | Mr. E. P. Houghton-James |
| Mr. E. W. Bowen | Mr. I. M. Hobson |
| Mr. James Brown | Mr. L. J. Lee |
| Capt. J. A. Burnside M.C. | Mr. C. H. McClean |
| Mr. W. J. Canty | Mr. W. McMillan |
| Mr. C. H. Chambers | Mr. T. Elton Miller |
| Mr. J. E. Corbin | Mr. James Miller |
| Mr. H. S. Cox | Mr. C. V. Newtou |
| Hon. D. S. Davis | Mr. G. O'Reilly |
| Hon. D. S. DeFreita | Lieut. W. M. Richards |
| Mrs. A. G. Farnum | Dr. F. C. Rose |
| Mr. J. M. Fleuning | Mr. H. Sredoff |
| Mr. Percy George | Hon. A. P. Sherlock |
| Dr. C. J. Gomez | Mr. James Sowray |
| Mr. L. A. Gomez | Mr. H. Blin Storey |
| Mr. N. Macleod Balder, West View | Mt. Agate, N.B. |
| Rev. J. B. Rindley, c.o. W.M.M.S., 2, Hishopsgate, E.C. | |
| Mr. R. Bryson, 28, Lewes Crescent, Kempdown, Sussex | |
| Mr. A. Somers Cocks, 61, Queensborough Terrace, W.2 | |
| Mr. Archibald Gordon, c.o. John Leckie & Co. Ltd. 84, Fore Street, E.C. | |
| Mr. Ronald I. Harvey, 5, Lower Camden, Chislehurst, Kent. | |
| Mr. C. S. Seton Brownie, c.o. Thomson, Hankey & Co. 7 Mining Lane, E.C. | |

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone
Central 6642.

Telegrams—
"Carib, London"



15 SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
March 29th, 1921.

BANK RATE, 7 per cent. as from April 15th, 1920

EXCHANGE on New York \$3 91-£3 92

SUGAR. The outlook is distinctly more encouraging. The market remains fully steady, and grocery descriptions are a trifle firmer. Refining Crystals, basis 96 deg., are valued at 31/- c.i.f., and Muscovados, basis 86 deg., at 25/- per cwt. c.i.f. On the spot, Jamaica Grocery is worth 60/- to 61/-, and Muscovados 48/- to 52/-, duty paid. American markets have been firm. 8,000 tons of Cuban centrifugals have been sold at 5 cents f.o.b., whilst the Cuban Sugar Finance Committee has fixed the price for the next 100,000 tons at 5.10 cents f.o.b. It is said that 80 per cent. of the producers have now given their adhesion to the control scheme.

The Board of Trade Returns for February show that 66,139 tons of sugar were imported for the month, making 143,153 tons for the year. Of the month's imports, 3,111 tons were "refined," of which 2,183 tons came from Europe. Of the 63,014 tons of "unrefined," 26,184 tons came from Mauritius, 14,078 tons from Peru, 11,928 tons from Brazil, and 7,868 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana.

The amount liberated from the refineries for the month was 85,432 tons, making 163,131 tons for the two months. The total quantity which went into consumption was 96,182 tons for the month, and 187,128 tons for the two months. The stocks on hand on February 28th were 359,000 tons, of which 31,250 tons were imported refined, 28,700 tons home refined, and 299,050 tons unrefined. Last year at the same date, the stocks were 268,850 tons.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on March 19th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Imports	6,291	11,190	4,101 TONS.
Deliveries	10,978	7,526	7,386 "
Stock	3,717	11,800	3,207 "

CACAO remains dull. Fine Trinidad is weaker with sellers on the spot at 60/-, and Grenada is quoted at 50/- to 52/-.

The imports of cacao for February were, according to the Board of Trade Returns, 126,502 cwt., making 275,313 cwt. for the year. Of these qualities 78,117 and 162,421 cwt. respectively were entered for home consumption. Of the month's imports, 11,052 cwt. came from the British West Indies, and 111,205 cwt. from British West Africa. The exports for the month were 23,290 cwt., as against 41,593 cwt. for the same period last year. The stocks on hand on February 28th were 1,071,000 cwt., as against 849,000 cwt. at the same date last year.

In our last issue we unfortunately gave the stocks of Trinidad and Grenada as 4,838 bags and 4,183 bags, respectively. The correct figures are 23,657 bags and 22,025 bags.

The stocks in London on March 19th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	22,194	20,219	15,633 BAGS.
Grenada	21,360	16,349	12,410 "
Total of all kinds	190,951	139,385	147,177 "

RUM remains extremely dull and depressed, and in the absence of demand values are quite nominal. The falling off of consumption is becoming more and more pronounced. No decision has as yet been arrived at regarding the warehousing period to be enforced after May 19th, when the present concession of 18 months "age" under

the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act expires. The matter is engaging the attention of the West India Committee.

The imports of Rum for February were 471,216 proof gallons, making 1,006,042 gallons for the two months. Of the former quantity, 190,867 gallons were freed for consumption, making 111,209 gallons for the two months. The corresponding 1920 figures were 283,358 and 680,029 gallons respectively. The stocks on February 28th were 12,018,000 galls., as against 12,032,000 galls. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on March 19th were:—

	1921	1920.	1919
Jamaica	9,018	0,885	3,360 Puns
Demerara	15,968	11,928	11,410 "
Total of all kinds	35,182	26,083	19,341 "

ARROWROOT continues very dull. Some small sales of common have been made at 2d.

BALATA. There is no business to report in West Indian sheet. The nominal prices are 3 9/- 3 10 for spot, and 3 8 forward.

COFFEE. Fine home-trade sorts command steady rates, but export kinds are neglected. Ordinary Jamaica is quoted nominally at 55/- to 60/-. At public auction on the 22nd, the small parcels offered were withdrawn owing to absence of bidding. Blue Mountain has sold up to 185/-. The imports of West Indian during February were 20 cwt.

COPRA. There is very little doing, and West Indian f.m.s. is now valued at £27 10s.

COTTON generally has been in improved demand, with a better undertone. A small business has been done in Sea Island. The nominal quotations of West Indian are unchanged—25d. for medium, and 33d. for fine.

HONEY. Only a very small business has been done during the past fortnight, at a slight decline. Fair to good Jamaica is quoted at 45/- to 55/- per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is dearer, with small sales up to 19 6 per lb., but Distilled is unchanged. Raw Lime Juice is neglected.

LOGWOOD is lifeless, and quoted nominally at 45 to £10 per ton.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet and Bitter very quiet.

RUBBER is quiet but steady. Crepe spot 1 0½, sheet spot 10½d. to 11d.

SPICES. A small quantity of Nutmegs & Macs offered at last auction was only partly sold. Good pale Mace realised 1/- to 1 1/-, and fair pale 10d. to 11d. Nutmegs fetched 10d. for 80's, 7d. for 110's, 5d. for wormy. The Pimento market is extremely quiet, with sellers at 2½ per lb.

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Barranca	Apl. 1
Jamaica	Bristol	Motagua	" 3
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Antillian	" 9
Jamaica	Bristol	Patuca	" 11
West Indies	London	Scientist	" 12
Trinidad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	" 15
West Indies	Glasgow	Matador	" 19
West Indies	Liverpool	Actor	" 19
Bermuda	London	Tainar	" 20

St Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St Nazaire	La Navarre	Apl. 12
West Indies	Halifax	Claudiere	" 26
B'inas, d'aca & B'Idas	Halifax	Canadian Forester	" 28
West Indies	New York	Korona	" 29

The above dates are only approximate

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



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

April 13th, 1921

The Re-Shuffle of the Cabinet.

THE resignation of MR. BONAR LAW deprives the British West Indies of a valued friend in the Cabinet, for though he was only Colonial Minister for a little over eighteen months, he always evinced a close and sympathetic interest in our oldest group of colonies and was invariably ready to give favourable consideration to any reasonable representations made regarding them, despite the fact that the period of his tenure of office—May, 1915 to December, 1916—synchronised with a most critical period of the great war. West Indians will not easily forget the brilliant speech which he made as Unionist Member for the Blackfriars Division of Glasgow in the House of Commons during the memorable debate on the Sugar Convention resolution on November 24th, 1902, which showed a business knowledge then rare in Parliament and a statesmanlike grasp of the situation resulting from the unfair competition of bounty-fed beet sugar, which was ruining our sugar producing Colonies and rendering the British consumer perilously dependent upon foreign sources of supply. It was by that speech that he "won his spurs" and we recall that his well considered phrases were regarded by many of those who were

privileged to be present on that occasion, as foreshadowing for him the high office to which he subsequently attained. We can say with a full degree of confidence that all West Indians will join with us in wishing MR. BONAR LAW a speedy and complete recovery from the breakdown which most unfortunately necessitated his premature retirement. The rearrangement of the Cabinet which followed MR. BONAR LAW'S resignation and was announced on April 2nd, has resulted in the removal to another sphere of utility of a second good friend of the West Indies. We refer to LIEUT.-COLONEL LEOPOLD C. S. M. AMERY, who is translated from the Colonial Office, where he has been Under-Secretary of State since January, 1919, to the Admiralty, to which he becomes Financial Secretary. It can truly be said that the Royal Navy's gain will be the Colonies' loss for, during his all too short stay in Downing Street, COLONEL AMERY materially assisted his chief, LORD MILNER, whose resignation we had recently to deplore, in reviving the best traditions of the Colonial Office, so that the MILNER-AMERY régime bore favourable comparison with that associated with the name of MR. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, who raised the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies from one of second rate importance to one of the most honoured in the Ministry. COLONEL AMERY will be remembered not only for his ability, his accessibility and his quickness in getting at the root of the many problems affecting the West Indies; but also for having established an entirely new precedent. We refer to his having visited Canada on a mission concerning the welfare of the West Indies whilst he was Under-Secretary. He is one of those men who like to see things for themselves. He is a believer in the truth of the West Indian proverb which appears elsewhere in our columns this fortnight, "When yie no see, mout' can't talk," and it was this, no doubt, that took him to Canada to represent the Imperial Government at the Conference on Trade between the West Indies and the Dominion, in June last, a precedent which we should like to see followed by his successor. COLONEL AMERY is succeeded at the Colonial Office by MAJOR THE HON. E. F. L. WOOD, the only surviving son of the second EARL OF HALIFAX, a young man who only completes his fortieth year this month. Educated at Eton and Christ Church, MAJOR WOOD was a Fellow of All Souls like his predecessor, and, though he is new to parliamentary honours, he has sat for the Ripon Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire since 1910, and

has consequently no doubt a wide experience of the House of Commons and its ways, and the fact that he served in the Great War as second in command of the Yorkshire Dragoons marks him as a man of initiative. The appointment of MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, the distinguished son of a brilliant father, to be Leader of the House of Commons, will be a matter for genuine satisfaction to West Indians who are acquainted with his fiscal views, whilst finally we have particular cause to be gratified by the promotion of SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL-THOMSON, K.B.E., to be Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. From the year 1906 until his appointment to be Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food last year in which capacity he rendered signal service to West Indian producers on more than one occasion, during the period of "control"—he was a member of the Executive of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, while the volumes of Hansard from 1906, when he was elected Member of Parliament for North-West Lanark (he now sits for the Maryhill Division of Glasgow) to date, testify to the devotion which he has shown to colonial matters, his many speeches on Imperial Preference and West Indian affairs proving him to be a staunch supporter of the British West Indies.

"Cinderella of the West Indies."

MR. JOSEPH JONES'S valuable Report on the Agricultural Department of Dominica for 1919-20, forms an interesting commentary on the article by MR. S. H. DAVIES entitled "Cinderella of the Antilles," which was published in our last issue. Both MR. JONES and MR. DAVIES make it abundantly clear that all is not well with Dominica, the development of which island can only be described as arrested, when it is compared with that of other parts of the West Indies. MR. DAVIES attributes the lack of progress to the scarcity of labour, the low standard of education prevailing, and the insufficiency of revenue, and he very properly advocates the immediate improvement of the medical and sanitary services in order that the waste of child life and the spread of disease may be checked, and suggests the further development of a scheme of colonisation from the neighbouring islands. He further advocates the development of roads and the extension of the Agricultural Department, incidentally pointing out that the total salaries paid to the Curator, who has devoted thirty years of his life to the service of the island, the Assistant Curator, the chemist and the foreman, amounted in 1917-18 to the "princely sum" of £602, a monstrously inadequate pay-sheet for a Department which furnishes the very mainstay of the island. Finally, he suggests that Dominica would derive great advantage by federation with the Eastern group of colonies, including British Guiana, on the lines suggested by MR. GIDEON MURRAY, whose scheme he describes as admirable. He shares the view of SIR ROBERT HAMILTON and the Royal Commission of 1897 that the island's alliance with the rest of the Leeward Islands group is artificial, and that her natural allies are to be found in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenada. In

the present state of Dominica, however, we fail to see how political union with a larger group of the West Indian Colonies, desirable though the federation of the West Indies may be, would help to develop the fortunes of this beautiful island, which, experience has shown, requires the untrammelled attention of a bold and earnest official empowered to act on his own initiative and responsibility, with the support and approval of the local community. With regard to population, MR. JONES makes it clear that there is no prospect of supplementing the labour supply from Montserrat, Antigua and St. Kitts. For many years, labourers arrived from these islands, but owing to the development of the sugar and cotton industries there, this source of supply is now practically closed. On the other hand suggestions are, he tells us, now under discussion as to the possibility of attracting some of the surplus labouring population of Barbados with a view to its settlement on the Crown Lands. On the subject of labour, MR. JONES speaks with significant gravity. During recent years, he states, money has been made in this island, but, unlike other tropical countries, there are no signs of any considerable sums having been spent in improving and extending local agriculture. This is one of the results of the low level of contentment which, generally speaking, obtains in Dominica, a condition which often leads men to cease working at a time when they should be developing their interests with all the vigour at their command. And this low standard of living, accompanied as it is by a low standard of production, is an effective bar to progress. Amongst other drawbacks, it is to-day the chief cause of the dwindling population of able-bodied manhood and womanhood. Under such conditions as now exist, regular employment and a decent rate of wages are alike impossible. Consequently, the more intelligent young men and women proceed to countries which offer a wider scope for their energies. And this exodus means more than a reduction in numbers and a loss of labour. This continued disappearance of the more active minds is a drain on the intelligence of the working classes. If continued over a considerable period, the level of intelligence in village communities may tend to fall, and this at a time when the planter is crying out for labour of a better class than is obtainable at present. To meet the situation, MR. JONES has eminently practical proposals to make. If the island is to regain a place on the path of progress, it is certain that cultural and manurial measures, quickly applied and vigorously carried out, are needed on plantations. The requirement necessary is increased production; a doubling of the output of lime products within the next two or three years. Great as this would appear to the planter, it is nevertheless a possibility if certain conditions can be fulfilled. Only by these means can the present situation be met fully, and the future position of the planter be made financially sound, and in accord with the changed conditions of the times. At present it is a deplorable fact that while on the one hand planters are complaining of a shortage of labour for the development of the island, labourers should be leaving Dominica owing to the low scale of

wages and a lack of regular employment. As MR. JONES rightly points out, the less work there is done on the estates the larger will be the exodus of able-bodied manhood, and matters in this respect, bad enough already, will tend to become much worse unless some immediate steps are taken to remedy the causes of this state of affairs. Once the planters can see their way to give regular employment at higher rates, this tendency will be checked, and an increase in the number of men willing to work on the estates will be brought about. MR. JONES makes a strong appeal for the establishment of peasant proprietors on lines which have proved so successful in Grenada and Montserrat, where the output of produce is growing, and he goes so far as to state that if the Dominica peasant had received the assistance which has been freely given for a long period by the Windward Islands' Government to the small growers of Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, there is every reason to believe that the economic situation of the island would be much stronger than it is to-day, and he warmly advocates the establishment of co-operative lime factories, agricultural credit societies, land settlement schemes, and Government cotton factories near the coast. The young man with capital cannot be expected to favour the island until labour conditions improve and only one course remains and that is the perfectly natural, but long delayed, one of increasing local wealth by the active encouragement of small growers. The more numerous the settlement of peasants the more important will be the future of the Colony, while the existence of such communities should go a long way towards furnishing estates with the labour service required for all lines of development. MR. JONES is to be congratulated upon the acumen shown in his report, with which we find ourselves in entire agreement.

MR. W. P. B. SHEPHERD is, we are glad to learn, decidedly better, and has been able to get up for a short time every day recently.

MR. WILLIAM J. GILCHRIST, the British Guiana Stipendiary Magistrate, was married at St. George's, Hanover Square, on April 9th, to Dora, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Seedorf, of British Guiana. After the wedding a reception was held at the Langham Hotel.

THE appointment of Mr. Alfred Moore Low, M.A., to be Principal of Queen's College, Trinidad, will be a subject of much satisfaction to present and former pupils of that institution, and also to his many other friends. Mr. Low, who was educated at Aldenham School and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. in 1893, became Assistant Master of Queen's Royal College in January, 1897, and subsequently Second Master. At Aldenham, Mr. Low was head of the school and captain of the cricket and football elevens. For many years Mr. Low has been a member of the West India Committee and the West Indian Club.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN yie (eye) no see, mout' can't talk."

MR. HENRY ALEXANDER TROTTER, Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee from 1917 to 1920, was on April 5th re-elected Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England for the ensuing year.

BRITISH GUIANA balata was used for the manufacture of the largest conveyor belt ever made. This belt, which has just been completed in England to a Strasbourg order, is 3,609 feet long, and 24 inches wide, and weighs 5½ tons.

At a recent meeting of the West Indian Agricultural College Committee it was announced that the colony of Bermuda had decided to contribute £100 towards the cost of establishment of the College, in addition to the £100 a year already promised.

THE birth of a son to Mr. Alexander Elder, of Messrs. Gillespie Bros. & Co., and Mrs. Elder was announced on April 1st. Mr. Elder, who spent several months in Jamaica in 1911 and 1913, will no doubt be the recipient of many congratulations on this auspicious event.

MR. C. MARTIN-SPERRY has severed his active connection with British Guiana, and has joined the board of Thomas Collier & Co., Ltd., of Manchester. He will, however, retain his sentimental interest in the West Indies, and has taken up life membership of the West India Committee.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. Charles E. Cox, Barrister-at-Law, Stipendiary Magistrate at St. Vincent, B.W.I., and elder son of Sir Charles T. Cox, K.C.M.G., of British Guiana, to Marjorie, only daughter of the Hon. Jas. H. Conyers, M.D., Surgeon-General of British Guiana.

THE *Gazette of India* announces that the report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India to consider and report upon assessments necessary to be made in the existing Excise Regulations to meet the possibility of the larger production of industrial alcohol is under consideration.

SUGAR planters on the island of Negros, one of the Philippines, have asked the President of the Philippine Senate for financial assistance in harvesting and milling their 1920-21 crop. Facts about Sugar states that at least 8,000,000 Philippine dollars are wanted, and that the Philippine National Bank is unable to do the necessary financing.

The Mexican production of oil has been more than tripled in the last seven years. In 1913 Mexico supplied one-fifteenth of the world's production of oil; in 1918 it provided more than one-eighth. In 1919 the power of production of Mexican oil—that is to say, what could be produced if the wells were allowed to run full bore—was

547,000,000 barrels of 42 gallons each, or over 78,000,000 tons.

THE presents and loyal addresses which were received by the Prince of Wales during his tour in H.M.S. *Renown*, last year, have been, by the express wish of His Royal Highness, on public view at the Imperial Institute. They include a number of gifts from the West Indies, which, grouped near the entrance, make a brave display and form an interesting memento of the Prince's visit to the West Indian Colonies.

THE preliminary estimate of the American beet sugar crop of 1920 places the output at 990,000 long tons, beating all previous records by 27 per cent. The production of cane sugar in the United States proper was 172,000 tons, making the domestic production 1,162,000 tons. The consumption in 1920 rose to the phenomenal figure of 92 lbs. per caput, as against 84.2 lbs. in 1919. The total consumption was 4,350,000 long tons, or 446,000 tons more than 1919.

A NEW use for sugar has been discovered by a Continental surgeon. Having noted the fact that diabetic patients were more readily anaesthetised than non-diabetics, he carried out experiments which showed that after injections of sugar made about ten hours before an operation, patients recovered from the effect of the operation quickly, and usually without any sickness, and without any interference with the healing of the wound. Another valuable point was that much less anaesthetic is needed.

THE *Panama Canal Record* states that on February 12th the American tank steamer *Acme* passed through the canal loaded with 8,020 tons of coconut oil en route for New York. The *Acme* had passed through the canal outward bound, carrying 8,807 tons of petroleum. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company intends, it is said, similarly to handle coconut oil in part of the fuel oil space. They will bunker enough oil for the round voyage, and fill the empty tanks with coco-nut oil on the return journey.

THE traffic through the Panama Canal during the calendar year 1920 was in excess of that of any previous twelve months. It consisted of 2,814 ships in the commercial service and 221 vessels of the United States Government. The aggregate tonnage of the merchant ships was 10,378,205 tons, and the tolls earned amounted to \$10,295,862. As to the nationality of vessels using the Canal, 45.5 per cent. belong to the United States, 30.8 per cent. to Great Britain, 5 per cent. to Japan, and 3.9 per cent. to Norway.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL sent the following cablegram, dated February 14th, to all the Colonial Governors on the occasion of his appointment to be Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

"Informing you that His Majesty the King has entrusted to me the Seal of the Colonial Department, I

wish to assure you of my interest in the future of the community over which you preside. I look forward to receiving your earnest co-operation in dealing with the difficulties which the war has left in its train and developing our great inheritance for common good. You may rely on my support in my task.—WINSTON CHURCHILL."

THE *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* gives imports of cacao into the United States for the seven months ending January 31st last as amounting to 148,158,910 lbs. as compared with 240,572,712 lbs. for the corresponding period of the previous year. Of the former figure, 14,273,678 lbs. came from the British West Indies as compared with 19,877,365 lbs.; and 8,786,708 lbs. from the United Kingdom as against 7,789,617 lbs. for the same period in the preceding year. The re-exports for the two periods were 11,225,848 lbs. and 19,445,956 lbs. respectively.

H.M.S. *Raleigh* will leave shortly for Bermuda and the West Indies, where she will fly the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir William C. Pakenham, K.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., Commander in Chief of the North American and West Indies station. The *Raleigh* is a new light cruiser of great speed and embodies all the latest improvements in construction and equipment. Among her officers is Midshipman Ian M. Martineau, R.N., the grandson of that staunch friend of the West Indies, the late Mr. George Martineau, who was one of the expert advisers to the British delegates at the Brussels Sugar Conference, and is the author of several books on sugar.

NAURU, or Pleasant Island, in the Western Pacific, was discovered by Captain Fearn in 1798, and remained a "no man's land" until 1888, when it was annexed by Germany. At the outbreak of the war, however, its ownership changed hands, the island surrendering to the Australian man-of-war *Melbourne* in November, 1914, and it is now administered by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. Although the island only has an area of eight square miles, it is of great value on account of the phosphatic rock it contains, which by an agreement dated July 2nd, 1919, is to be mined jointly by the Imperial and Commonwealth Governments. The *Fertilizer and Feeding Stuffs Journal* now states that the whole of Great Britain's allocation of phosphates has been acquired by the South Wales Basic Slag Company, and it is anticipated that the quantity will amount to 180,000 tons per annum. A portion of this quantity will be sold as basic phosphate to farmers at 3s. per unit for next manuring season, a figure much below the 5s. to 7s. of present quotations.

BOILED ARROWROOT PUDDING.—Boil 1 pt. milk, mix smooth 2 table-spoonfuls arrowroot with a little cold milk. Throw this to the boiling milk, stirring all the time, sweeten to taste, add 3 well-beaten eggs and flavouring if liked, simmer until it thickens. Pour into a wet mould, cool, ice and serve with a sweet sauce.—MISA SKINNER.

WEST INDIAN OIL PROSPECTS.

BY A. BEEBY THOMPSON, A.M.I.MECH.E., F.R.G.S.

Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, who recently visited Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana (in which Colony he was commissioned by the Local Government to report on the water supply) is the well-known consulting engineer and specialist in petroleum mining. He has been closely associated with the development of the Trinidad oil fields, and his impressions regarding the West Indian petroleum industry, which he contributes in the following article exclusively to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, should therefore prove of great interest.

Frequent visits to the West Indies during the last twelve years have not failed to deepen an interest first stimulated by the conviction that in Trinidad and Barbados there exist commercially exploitable petroleum resources of immense value awaiting enterprising prospectors. The results in Trinidad have more than fulfilled expectations, although but a small part of the favourable territory in that island has as yet been drilled over. Not only have the heavy oil fields of the Forest Reserve of Morne L'Enfer, and the districts of Guapo and Fyzabad proved highly productive, but the light oil regions centred around Tabaquite are no longer regarded with that scepticism which characterised their birth. The discovery of a highly productive, deep-seated oil horizon on the main Tabaquite oilfield has stimulated activity in the district, and already one successful well on an anticline paralleling, but distant from, that already operated has proved that the oil is not confined to an isolated pool. Development has shown that Trinidad will furnish in the future a variety of crude oils of very divergent properties and commercial values. Even the heavy asphaltic type oils vary much in their light oil contents and products, and some are peculiarly susceptible to cracking. The oils of Guapo, Barrackpore, Tabaquite, Guayaguayare and Lizard Springs all betray special features that give them value for particular purposes; but even in the same field two or more types of oil may be struck at different geological horizons.

With some ten or more important companies conducting serious operations on the Island, it will be very surprising if other important fields are not discovered within the next twelve months, especially now that plant is once more available and skilled operators obtainable.

As regards Barbados, some results should soon be forthcoming. No expense has been spared by an enterprising British group in initiating an active policy of prospecting which should within the next year or two prove Barbados to be another British oilfield. After many fruitless efforts the land proprietors of Barbados were induced to pool their interests in a manner satisfactory to financiers, thus removing the necessity of passing the oil Bill which, in 1914, was in preparation for legalising measures that would encourage oil prospectors to test the Island's worth.

To a visitor like myself it always appeared a mystery that a healthy Colony, with first-class roads to

every point, and a large surplus population, should have been so long neglected by oil people. There are few oil countries where there is a more encouraging display of oilfield phenomena, and possibly none where operations could be conducted with so little delay and discomfort.

The oil industry has already had a marked influence on Trinidad, and it has given what was a purely agricultural colony a second string to its bow which will have far reaching consequences. Fortunately the asphalt and oil industries are not dependent upon the vagaries of climate like cacao and sugar, and although fluctuation in prices may alternately check and stimulate oilfield activity, the business once firmly established is not likely to go backward.



A TRINIDAD OIL WELL.
SHOWING A SUMP IN THE FOREGROUND.

Unfortunately British Guiana does not present those favourable oilfield conditions displayed by the two sister Colonies. Whilst in Georgetown a sample of alleged natural oil was brought in that savoured too much of refined products to attract serious interest. From the extreme North-West section of the Colony asphalt does appear on the surface at irregular intervals under circumstances that make it difficult to attribute any other than a natural cause; but the geological conditions appear so unfavourable that one could hold out little hope of success. The material apparently oozes from a thin and nearly horizontal series of water-logged lateral deposits lying unconformably upon the continental platform of archæan rocks.

British Guiana, however, although relying upon its sugar and rice cultivation, is blessed with certain mineral wealth in the form of gold, diamonds and great deposits of bauxite, and although so far their

presence has had practically no influence on the Colony's welfare, it is probably mainly on account of their inaccessibility and lack of official enterprise. The bauxite is being actively exploited by a strong company at present because conveniently located for transport. Until roads and railways are made, enterprising capitalists will not be induced to investigate seriously the Colony's mineral resources. The difficulties in reaching the interesting mineralised areas are so great, the time occupied so long, and the health situation so bad, that few desirable and competent prospectors would undertake the journey or stay the requisite period to investigate matters thoroughly.

The labour problem in Demerara appeared the most serious owing to the repatriation of many Indian coolies. All the medical profession affirm that the health of the indigenous population is extremely bad. In no Colony have I seen so many



HAULING MACHINERY BY TRACTOR AT TABAQUITE.

suffering from Filaria; and apparently malaria and dysentery are responsible for an abnormal death rate and lowered vitality that is reflected in the work. The health situation is probably not unconnected with the water problem, for the present system of water tanks for potable purposes is to be strongly condemned. Improperly maintained and inefficiently protected water vats and cisterns are not merely a source of danger to those using them, but they constitute an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos, especially *anopheles*, the distributors of malaria. When the rain water supplies run out the inhabitants simply drink the canal supplies with all their filthy pollution.

In the country districts the dangers are less than in the towns, but once it is proved that

abundant and permanent supplies of pure water can be made available by sinking artesian wells there should no longer be any excuse for Georgetown or the larger villages being dependent upon surface water.

There is no question about "familiarity breeding contempt," for although health is the one essential of energy in the tropics it is still surprising how few realise the enormous advantages and comforts derived from screened dwellings. The results at Panama should satisfy most people, yet beyond the mining companies where activities demand high efficiency from their staff, few concerns have protected the dwellings of their employees by screens.

ANTI-DUMPING.

Two resolutions are to be submitted to the Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Commons to give effect to the Government's pledge to introduce legislation for safeguarding British industries from foreign competition. The first provides for 33½ per cent. duty on certain commodities, such as chemical and scientific glassware, magnetos, and tungsten products. The second deals with dumping in the following terms:—

There shall be charged on any of the following articles imported into Great Britain or Ireland, in addition to any other duties of customs chargeable thereon, a customs duty of an amount equal to 33½ per cent. of the value of the article, that is to say:—

Articles of any class or description in respect of which an order by the Board of Trade has been made under any Act of the present Session for giving effect to this Resolution, if manufactured in whole or in part in any of the countries specified in the Order, or deemed to be so manufactured.

Any such Order as aforesaid may be made on the ground that articles of the class or description in question are being sold or offered for sale in the United Kingdom—

- (a) At prices below the cost of production thereof; or
- (b) At prices which, by reason of depreciation in the value in relation to sterling of the currency of the country in which the goods are manufactured, are below the prices at which similar goods can be profitably manufactured in the United Kingdom; and that by reason thereof employment in any industry in the United Kingdom is being or is likely to be seriously affected.

For the purposes of this Resolution, "cost of production" in relation to goods of any class or description means the current sterling equivalent of—

- (a) The wholesale price at the works charged for goods of the class or description for consumption in the country of manufacture; or
- (b) If no such goods are sold for consumption in that country, the price which, having regard to the prices charged for goods as near as may be similar when so sold or when sold for exportation to other countries, would be so charged if the goods were sold in that country.

It will be noted that the extra duty is only to be imposed where, by reason of the dumping, "employment in any industry in the United Kingdom is being or is likely to be seriously affected." It would not, therefore, appear to be applicable to foreign dumped sugar unless it were shown that employment in the home beet or the refining industries were seriously affected.

SUGAR MARKET RE-OPENS.

96° Cane Sugar replaces 88° Beet.

The London Terminal Sugar Market, which was closed on August 4th, 1914, on the outbreak of war, was reopened on April 4th last.

For the benefit of overseas readers it may be explained that this market comprises the leading sugar brokers and others who meet daily under the chairmanship of one of their members, who serve in rotation, for the sale of sugar. At present June is the earliest month dealt in; but eventually dealings will no doubt be for prompt and forward delivery. The presiding broker calls each month in turn and ascertains the lowest price at which there are sellers and the highest price at which there are buyers. In some cases actual sales are made, and failing this the mean of the nearest sellers' and buyers' prices is taken as the official price upon which margins are based from day to day.

Before the war the transactions took place in 88 deg. beet f.o.b. Hamburg, and the market was a highly speculative as well as a business one.

Under the new conditions now prevailing, the basis of dealings is cane sugar of 96 deg. polarisation in quantities of 50 tons or multiples thereof, in Public Bonded Warehouse. The sellers, however, have the option of delivering 88 deg. beet at 1/- per cwt. below the contract price, or white sugar not inferior to a standard set up by the United Terminal Sugar Market Association at 1/6 above contract price, the actual terms of the option being as follows:—

(a) CANE SUGAR, of fair merchantable quality, first runnings, basis 96 per cent. polarisation. Degrees above 96 per cent. to be paid for at 3d. per degree, and below 96 per cent. to be allowed for at 1½d. per degree down to 95 per cent., and under 95 per cent. to be allowed for at 6d. per degree down to 93 per cent. per cwt. basis, all fractions in proportion. Sugar under 93 per cent. shall not be tenderable under this contract. No Sugar shall be tenderable the samples of which taken by the Sugar Association at the time of first landing did not polarize 94.50.

(b) At one shilling per cwt. below basis price:—
BETROOT SUGAR, fair merchantable quality, first runnings, basis 88 per cent. net analysis. Degrees above 88 per cent. (no maximum) to be paid for at 3d. per degree. Degrees under 88 per cent. to be allowed for at 1½d. per degree per cwt. basis down to 86 per cent. Sugar under 86 per cent. not tenderable under this contract. All fractions in proportion.

(c) At one shilling and sixpence per cwt. above basis price:—
ANY WHITE SUGAR, *tel quel*, not inferior in colour, quality, grain or dryness to the type fixed by the United Terminal Sugar Market Association. Cane or beet sugar is deliverable in London and/or

Liverpool and/or Greenock, while white sugar is deliverable in London and/or Liverpool and/or Glasgow.

The price is based on the delivery of sugar assessable at the ordinary rate of Custom Duty, any preferential duty being added to and any penal duty being deducted from the basis price.

For each 50 tons of sugar purchased a deposit of £100 is required by the London Produce Clearing-House, which "cover" has to be increased if or when the quotations decline. The Clearing-House Fees are 7/6 for buyer and 7/6 for seller in the case of each transaction of 50 tons.

It will be of interest to record that the first call



OIL WELL AT TABAQUITE, TRINIDAD

on August 4th, 1914, which proved to be the last in respect of 88 deg. beet was:—

Aug	Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	May
9/4½	9/5¼	9/5¼	9/7½	9/9¼

The opening call for 96 deg. sugar on April 4th, 1921, was:—

	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct-Dec
Sellers	32/-	33 -	32/6	31/-	30/-
Buyers	31 -	30 -	30/-	30/-	29 -

These prices being, however, purely nominal, as no transactions took place.

BRITISH AND CUBAN SUGARS, LTD., is the name of a private company which was registered March 9th, with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares. To carry on the business of cultivators, manufacturers, importers and exporters of and dealers in sugar, sugar cane, beets and all ingredients and products which enter into the manufacture of sugar and other food, products and by-products thereof in any part of the world. The subscribers (each with one share) are:—E. A. Bosworth and C. Durnston, Priars House, New Broad Street, E.C.2, clerks, and the first directors, H. J. Fairrie, J. A. MacDonald and William Hamar Greenwood. Sugars of Canada, Ltd., may, while holding 25 per cent. of the issued capital, nominate one director. The registered office is at 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

BRITISH WEST INDIAN TRADE.**SALT AS A FERTILISER.****United Kingdom still ahead of Canada.**

The Imperial Government has recently published figures showing the extent of the trade of the United Kingdom, from which the following table relating to trade with the British West Indies in the calendar years 1913, 1919 and 1920 is extracted:

	1913	1919	1920
Imports from B W I	£2,115,929	£11,021,522	£14,665,958
Exports to B W I	2,339,278	2,184,306	5,946,804
Re-exports	382,810	178,730	513,671
	<u>£1,838,017</u>	<u>£13,384,558</u>	<u>£21,156,433</u>

It will be of interest to compare the above with the figures of Canada's trade with the British West Indies for the fiscal years ended March 31st, 1913, 1919 and 1920, respectively, which are as follows:

	1913	1919	1920
Imports from B W I	\$9,443,363	\$15,522,859	\$19,863,722
Exports to B W I	4,591,105	14,077,584	15,257,011
	<u>\$14,034,468</u>	<u>\$29,600,443</u>	<u>\$35,120,736</u>

It will be noted that these returns show that, both as regards imports and exports, the trade of the United Kingdom and the British West Indies is largely in excess of that between Canada and those Colonies.

OUT of a total of 550,105 bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom in the quarter ended March 31st, 997 bales came from the British West Indies.

Mr. A. J. PAVITT, II. M. Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies, returned from Trinidad by the Royal Dutch mail steamer on March 29th. Mr. Pavitt recently paid an extended visit to Jamaica, which he reached by way of Colon.

Mr. H. HOWARD HUMPHREYS, M.I.C.E., returned on March 25th from the West Indies, where he has been reporting upon the sanitation of Georgetown and the surrounding villages in British Guiana, Grenada, and Barbados. It will be recalled that Mr. Humphreys similarly visited the Bahamas in 1918 to report on the water supply, and Jamaica last year, in connection with the question of hydraulic power.

THE re-exports of cacao from the United Kingdom during the month of February amounted to 22,987 cwts., of which 9,190 cwts. were shipped from London, 13,797 cwts. from Liverpool and 303 cwts. from Manchester. Of the London exports 5,888 cwts. went to Germany; 382 cwts. to the Netherlands, and 451 cwts. to Belgium. Liverpool shipped 1,879 cwts. to Germany, 4,978 cwts. to the Netherlands, 1,488 cwts. to Belgium, 4,173 cwts. to the United States, and 801 cwts. to Canada. The solitary Manchester shipment of 303 cwts. went to Canada. Of products prepared from cacao, 55 cwts. were exported to the British West Indian Islands, 44 cwts. to British Guiana, and 3 cwts. to British Honduras.

Common salt is not a manure, in that it does not supply the plant with any food essential for its growth; but it often acts as a fertiliser by enabling the plant to obtain necessary constituents from the soil that would not have been obtained in sufficient quantity but for the presence of the salt. This action of salt, says the "Agricultural Gazette" in an article quoted by the "Fertiliser and Feeding Stuff Journal," is chiefly due to its effect in releasing potash from certain insoluble combinations in the soil, and it is only in cases where (1) the soluble potash in the soil is insufficient for the needs of any particular crop, and (2) where the soil contains a supply of potash in an insoluble form capable of being made soluble, that the salt is effective.

The natural supply of potash in the soil chiefly comes from the weathering of felspar, or similar minerals, into clay, and it exists in the form of zeolites, or what are chemically known as hydrated double silicates, containing potash, soda, magnesia and lime. Any soluble salt, but especially a salt of soda, will react with these zeolites, with the result that the soda goes into the zeolite and a portion of the other minerals is thrown out in a soluble form. Ordinary household or agricultural salt, consisting as it does of nearly pure chloride of sodium, is able to react with the zeolites in this way, as also does nitrate of soda, as well as carbonate and sulphate of soda. Any one of these salts is, therefore, able to set free potash from the insoluble zeolites and make it available as plant food.

From this it is apparent that if salt is to be of any commercial or practical value as a fertiliser two things are necessary: First, the soil or some particular crop must be in need of additional potash; and, second, the soil must contain zeolites from which potash can be released. It would be of no use from a profit-making point of view, of course, to provide further potash in a soil already containing abundance for all the needs of the crop. Clay soils, that naturally contain plenty of potash, seldom need the application of salt.

In some cases, even where the soil is inclined to be clayey, such as the reddish-clayey soils on chalk and some of the boulder clays, salt may be most valuable if potash is not provided by the use of potash salts.

On the lighter soils, containing small percentages of clay, there is usually much more need of potash, and on these dressings of salt will generally pay far better than they can ever do on clay soils. If they do not produce satisfactory results, then it is evident there is not enough zeolite in the soil from which potash can be extracted, and the only thing to do is to apply potash directly to the crops likely to need it. Very often, however, on very light soils no single plant food, applied by itself, does very much good, for most of the others are present in such small quantity that increasing the supply of one of them does not help the plant very much.

An application of salt in such a case would do little or nothing to increase the crop, even if it were able to set free some potash; but if phosphates

were applied along with dung, or a green crop were taken off, then an increase in the potash might be helpful.

Both nitrate of soda and lime are known to have very similar effects in the releasing of potash from the insoluble compounds in the soil. This is one of the reasons why nitrate of soda generally gives better results than sulphate of ammonia, though the difference disappears if potash is applied directly in the manure. The lime so commonly applied for wheat in olden times gave its results partly from increasing the rate at which nitrates were formed in land inclined to be sour, and partly from the release of potash from zeolites.

It must be remembered, however, in all these cases where potash is extracted from the soil in this way, that the supply left in the soil for future use will become less and less, and that the process cannot be continued indefinitely. It is, however, well known that good and profitable results can be obtained from the application of salt in dressings of from 2 cwts. to 4 cwts. per acre of common salt where phosphates and nitrogen are also supplied.

TRINIDAD'S RAW CACAO.

Not to be mixed with Venezuelan.

A draft Bill to amend the law relating to the importation and exportation of cacao has been introduced into the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago.

The objects of this measure are two-fold, being firstly to prevent Venezuelan or other foreign cacao being shipped from Trinidad as Trinidad cacao and obtaining the benefit of the British preferential rates, and second to carry out the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce that cacao imported from abroad whether from a foreign country or from a British Colony should be shipped apart from Trinidad cacao.

Section 2 of the Bill provides that: (1) Cacao landed in this Colony shall be weighed immediately on landing under the supervision of a Customs Officer, who shall issue the necessary landing documents. (2) The importer or purchaser shall before removal of the cacao from the place of weighing enter into a bond in the form A in the Schedule hereto in such sum and with such surety as the Collector of Customs may require for the due exportation of the cacao so landed as cacao of the country in which it was produced, such exportation to be within such period as the Collector of Customs may fix: provided that a general bond in the form B in the Schedule hereto in such sum and with such surety as the Collector of Customs may require may be entered into to cover a series of shipments.

The Governor in Executive Council will be empowered to make regulations to be published in the Official Gazette for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Ordinance. Any contravention of this Ordinance or of any regulations made under it will be punishable by a fine not exceeding £20 recoverable summarily before a magistrate.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON'S MARRIAGE.

The marriage of Sir Edward Davson and Miss Margot Glyn took place at St. Margaret's, Westminster, Canon Carnegie, the rector, officiating, assisted by Canon Pycock.

The bride, who was given away by Colonel Geoffrey Carr Glyn, C.M.G., D.S.O., was attended by four bridesmaids—the Hon. Flavia Giffard, the Hon. Elizabeth Douglas-Scott-Montagu, Miss Rhondda Rankin, and Miss Barbara Chaplin—and two picturesquely attired train-bearers—Miss Elizabeth Peel and Master Billy Cooper. Mr. H. F. Previté was best man. A reception was held at 57a, Cadogan Square, lent by Mrs. Graham Singer. Those present included, among many others:—

Lord and Lady Montagu of Beaulieu, Viscountess Barrington, Admiral Mark Kerr, Lady Mills, Lady Rookwood, Lady Cynthia Mosley, Lady Buckingham, Lady Emmott, Viscountess Tiverton, Sir William and Lady Portal, Dame Meriel Talbot, Lady Constance Butler, the Hon. Stanhope and Mrs. Tollemache, the Hon. Mrs. St. Clair, Sir William and Lady Alexander, Lady Muir-Mackenzie, Lady Newnes, Mrs. Arthur MacLaren, Lady Sinclair, Sir Rhys and Lady Williams, Mrs. Williams of Mickin Manor, Mrs. Cavendish, Sir William and Lady Trollope, Colonel and the Hon. Mrs. Davson, Lady Slucke, Lady Goschen, the Hon. Mrs. Westmacott, Mr. and Mrs. Ieland Buxton, Mrs. Herbert Williams, Miss Hozier, the Hon. Ada St. Clair, Mr. William Gillett, Sir F. and Lady Hodgson, Mrs. Chisenhale-Marsh, Colonel and Mrs. Preynman Newman, Mr. P. N. Davson, Mr. A. W. Davson, Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley, Mrs. Barrington Crake, Brigadier General and Mrs. Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Duckworth, Mrs. Graham Singer, Mrs. Washington Singer, Sir George Bettesworth Piggott, Mr. and Mrs. Vere Chaplin, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Previté, Mr. and Mrs. R. Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. de Pass, Mr. and Mrs. Harold de Pass, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. France, Mr. Algernon Aspinall, Captain F. C. Messum, Mr. Marks, Mr. Rowland Woodhouse, Mr. Seaford, and Captain G. N. Knight.

After the reception Sir Edward and Lady Davson left for the Italian Lakes. The many telegrams of congratulation received included messages from the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce foreshadowing a testimonial to their President.

A West Indian Club Lunch.

Sir Edward Davson was the guest of the West Indian Club at a luncheon on March 30th at which Mr. Robert Rutherford presided. In proposing Sir Edward's health, the Chairman referred to the keen interest the guest had always taken in the British West Indies, as evinced more particularly by his having inaugurated and twice presided over meetings of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, as well as by his active support of the Empire Sugar Research Association and other movements.

Sir Edward, in reply, said it was the custom of the club to entertain Governors and Administrators on appointment to a West Indian Colony. In view of his approaching marriage, he felt, as they must feel, when they had very fully pointed out to them by those who had been there, all the advantages

of the "promised land," and in the same way he would be able to say more about the state of matrimony when he had had some years experience of it. (Laughter.)

The toast of the Chairman was proposed by Mr. E. A. de Pass, and cordially honoured.

The company present included:—Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. Claude Berthon, Mr. B. Bonyun, Mr. T. F. Burrowes, C.B.E., Mr. S. X. Comber, Mr. P. Cressall, Mr. A. W. Davson, Mr. P. M. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. A. H. Dix, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. G. M. Frame, Mr. W. J. Gilchrist, Mr. J. J. Glover, Mr. C. Hewett, Mr. A. Hirsch, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Major C. Hampden King, Mr. J. Hampden King, Captain Gilfred Knight, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Dr. G. B. Mason, Mr. R. H. McCarthy, C.M.G., Mr.



SIR EDWARD AND LADY DAVSON LEAVING ST. MARGARET'S.

A. E. Messer, Mr. F. F. C. Messum (Hon. Secretary), Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. G. Parrott, Mr. A. J. Pavitt, Mr. H. J. Pooley, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. H. K. M. Sisnett, Major O. V. Thomas, O.B.E., Mr. W. A. Walber, and Mr. Guy Wyatt.

THANKS to the kindness of friends, the West India Committee is gradually obtaining a valuable collection of old and rare books concerning the West Indies. An interesting example is "An Account of the Number of Slaves Employed and Quantity of Produce Grown on the Several Estates in the Island of Saint Vincent and its Dependencies, from 1801 to 1824," published at Kingstown in 1825, which has been recently presented by Sir Daniel Morris. From this old record it appears that in 1824 there were over 20,000 slaves on the St. Vincent estates, and the production consisted of 18,549 hogsheads of sugar (of 1,500 lbs. each), 5,321 puncheons of rum (of 110 gallons each), 13,743 lbs. of coffee, 23,110 lbs. of cacao, and 628 bales of cotton (of 260 lbs. each).

CLARIFICATION OF CANE JUICES.

Much attention has recently been given in connection with the clarification of cane juice to the more satisfactory removal of the colloids than obtains in present methods of clarification. In the Annual Report of the Progress of Applied Chemistry, issued by the Society of Chemical Industry, Mr. J. P. Ogilvie says: At various times the effect of adding alumina, silica, clay, pumice, peat, pulp, sawdust, and different forms of carbon has been tried; but of these materials none has hitherto been regarded to be of practical value. Particularly encouraging experiments have recently been conducted, however, on the use of kieselguhr, followed by a highly active form of carbon, and for these results we are indebted again to F. W. Zerban. On mixing the juice with about 0.5 per cent. of kieselguhr, and raising its temperature to boiling point, he found that filtration could be conducted without difficulty, the liquid obtained after this operation being brilliant, though not very greatly improved in colour. In order, therefore, to complete the absorption of the colloids, it was heated with 1 per cent. of the powerful decolorising carbon known as "Norit," a water-white solution thus resulting. Analysis showed that the treatment with kieselguhr alone raised the quotient of purity as much as sulphitation generally does, viz., about 0.4 per cent., and that after the application of "Norit" it was increased to 2 per cent. These experiments

were carried out in the laboratory were confirmed in large-scale operations, and it was fully proved that a white sugar, superior in quality, and not inferior in yield compared with that in ordinary sulphitation practice, could be obtained. Another result was that the molasses, being much lighter in colour, had an appreciably higher market value as a table syrup than had that produced by the usual plantation methods.

It would consequently seem that the application of kieselguhr in this way to absorb the coarser dispersoids of the raw cane juice, followed by decolorising carbon to take up the more highly dispersed colloids, approaches very closely, so far as the chemical and physical results are concerned, to the ideal method of clarification to which reference has been made in this discussion. It is unfortunate that, at the present time at any rate, it is unlikely to be as favourably regarded from the economic point of view, since the cost of its application to practice would doubtless prove much higher than that of sulphitation and carbonatation. It appears, therefore, to be of much importance for

sugar manufacturers to concentrate upon the problem of the production of cheap and efficient absorbents of the nature described. W. D. Horne remarks that what is required is "a decolorising carbon cheap enough to throw away after using once, and which will absorb 10-20 times as much colour as bone-black with ash and organic impurities in proportion."

With decolorising carbon at its present value, the cost of this agent alone in Mr. Zerban's process would be about £10. per ton of sugar as matters now stand.

In this connection the Copenhagen correspondent of the *Morning Post* stated on March 29th:—

A young Danish scientific chemist, Mr. Schmidt, has devised a process which probably will introduce great changes into the cane-sugar industry. By his new method the troublesome process of refining the sugar juice by means of lime is avoided. The juice rolled out of the canes is purified in the course of one treatment into a syrup clear as water, which is ready for evaporation into pure sugar.

In Mr. Schmidt's invention the lime is replaced by an exceedingly comminuted charcoal, which is churned into the raw sugar juice, and combines with the components contained therein in a far more complete way than in the lime refining. A perfect result is obtained by filtering the product. The charcoal for the process is supplied by the combustion of the refuse product resulting from the filtering, the producing process thereby becoming continuous, as the refining of the sugar juice is effected by components contained in the juice itself.

Mr. Schmidt's invention is the result of a long series of experiments carried on in the sugar mill in Java where he is employed, and it is believed that it will greatly increase the quantity of sugar obtained from the canes, as well as simplify the producing process.

AGRICULTURE IN DOMINICA.

The Report of the Agricultural Department of Dominica for 1919-20, on the subject of the progress of agriculture in that Island, states that the lime crop for 1919, calculated in barrels of 4.55 cubic feet, was equivalent to 401,928 barrels, or 83,000 barrels over the output of 1918, and 12,000 barrels over the average annual output for the five years prior to that year, when the production was abnormally poor. The disposal of the crop in lime products was 62 per cent. as concentrated juice, 10 per cent. as raw juice, 5 per cent. as fresh limes, and 22 per cent. as citrate of lime.

The shipment of concentrated juice was the highest on record, amounting to 106,718 gallons. The decline in the shipments of raw juice continued, only 298,812 gallons being shipped as against 575,985 gallons in 1918. Three factories are now engaged making citrate of lime, and a record shipment of 6,772 cwts. was made. 21,861 barrels of fresh limes were shipped for the year, no less than 20,810 of which went to New York. The business in lime oils is also stated to have been a record, the weights of the otto of limes and essential oil of limes shipped being respectively 16,964 lbs. and 68,787 lbs. The total value of the products shipped was \$190,401.

Cacao showed signs of revival after the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917, 7,387 cwts. being shipped for 1919, as against 4,239 cwts. in 1918, and 3,169 cwts. in 1917.

The total value of the agricultural products shipped for the year was £245,169. Mr. Jones makes some sound and valuable remarks on the subject of agriculture in the island. "No doubt," he says, "the chief industries are generally in a sound state, but in material progress there has been nothing to record for several years." After reviewing the causes of this stagnation he goes on to say, "If the island is to regain a place on the path of progress, it is practically certain that cultural and manurial measures, quickly applied and vigorously carried out, are needed on plantations." Further, that the Dominica peasant should receive the assistance which has been freely given to the small growers of Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, the encouragement taking the form of co-operative lime factories, agricultural credit societies, land settlement schemes, and co-operative factories.

Higher Pensions for B.W.I's.

It will be gratifying to those who appreciate the great services rendered by the British West Indies Regiment during the war to learn that the efforts to obtain a higher scale of disability pensions for the N.C.O.s and men of this Regiment have met with a considerable measure of success.

It will be recalled that when, in the summer and autumn of last year, Sir John Butcher, at the request of the West India Committee, put a series of questions on this subject in the House of Commons, the Government admitted that a totally disabled man of the Regiment was entitled to a pension of only 14/- a week from Imperial funds, as compared with 40/- a week received by a similarly disabled soldier in this country, although in special cases 17/6 could be given, and with Treasury sanction, even higher rates allowed if the pre-war earnings of the recipient exceeded these amounts, whilst colonies which desired to grant pensions at higher rates from local funds had been authorised to do so.

A report was thereupon asked for by the Secretary of State for the Colonies from the Governor of Jamaica, who in reply complained of the inadequacy of the existing scale, and urged the adoption of 8/- a day as the rate for pension in the case of a totally disabled private. A scale, which was framed by the Ministry of Pensions on these lines, has now been sanctioned by the Treasury, and came into force on the first of this month. It provides for a maximum payment of 4/- and 3/- a day for N.C.O.s and men respectively in the case of total disablement, and there is a graduated scale down to 1/3 and 9d. a day respectively for a 20 per cent. disability. The Ministry believe that it may be necessary in the near future to consider further improvements in the scale, particularly in connection with the case of widows and children.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 133.)

My most ambitious expedition in Barbados was a visit to the Animal Flower cave in the Parish of St. Lucy, at the north end of the island. Formerly this excursion was regarded as quite an undertaking, occupying as it did almost an entire day. Now it can easily be accomplished by motor-car between breakfast and luncheon. My host on this occasion was Mr. Clarence S. Pitcher, a comparatively young Barbadian of the old school, who had assembled a cheery party of his countrymen (and charming countrywomen) to entertain his guests, and to point out to them the various objects of interest *en route*.

Our road lay through innumerable sugar plantations, all so much alike that a proprietor might almost be pardoned for entering a neighbour's factory in mistake for his own. As we got farther north the monotony of the scenery was broken by picturesque gullies, which, viewed from the massive stone bridges traversing them—a relic of the days of cheap slave labour—appeared a riot of tropical foliage. One longed for time in which to explore their hidden recesses. These ravines, which in some places are fully 150 feet deep, are believed to have been formed in part by some subterranean convulsion in prehistoric times, whilst the rushing torrents which they carry down to the sea during heavy downpours in the rainy season, have, no doubt, helped to deepen them. Years ago they formed ideal hiding places for runaway slaves and fugitives from justice, who lived in the caves hollowed out in their sides, and sustained life with fruits and nuts. Farther on again we halted at Nicholas Abbey, the Elizabethan "great house" now owned by Mr. Charles J. P. Cave, which enjoys the distinction of being the only residence in Barbados possessing fireplaces and chimneys—unnecessary adjuncts in this tropical island, and certainly never used. Here we had the joy of seeing a real, live, wild monkey cross our path. This we regarded as a special privilege, inasmuch as the Barbados variety of this anthropoid was said, even in Schomburgk's time, to be nearly extinct, the Legislature having set a price upon its head owing to its depredations. Still, a flourishing family of monkeys survives in one of the last remnants of the mahogany forest at Porter's—formerly the residence of my old friend, Mr. Forster Alleyne, and now that of Dr. Graham Pilgrim and it is said that these little creatures have been seen to take possession of the tennis-court there at the close of day, and to go through all the antics of the human players whom they had previously watched, throwing the balls to and fro over the net with remarkable agility.

From Nicholas Abbey we plodded up a broad avenue of mahogany trees and feathery casuarinas to Cherry Tree Hill, where the road ends abruptly at the brink of the glorious amphitheatre of hills encircling the Scotland District. Here we were rewarded for our tramp under a blazing sun by a

superb view of hill and dale of the Parish of St. Andrew, which might with equal appropriateness be called "Little Switzerland" instead of "Scotland," and the surf breaking on the rock-bound windward coast far far below in the haze.

A large sugar factory next engaged our attention, and we marvelled to notice that the building was made of solid coral rock—if such a substance can ever be said to be solid—which is evidently a cheaper material in Barbados than the galvanised iron so common elsewhere in the West Indies, and has the advantage of resisting the ravages of hurricanes better than "tin." Eventually we reached a rocky plain quite devoid of vegetation, and mounting shank's mare, walked for a distance of about a hundred yards and gained the entrance to the much-fabled Animal Flower Cave on foot.

The Animal Flower Cave.

Prior to 1912, to enter the cave one had to scramble down a rocky cliff in imminent danger of slipping and breaking a leg, or of being washed off by one of the waves which often break impetuously at its base. In that year, however, some enterprising individual excavated a passage-way into the cave from the land side, so that now, after paying a shilling to the custodian, one can enter with perfect equanimity and no discomfort. For itself alone, this remarkable cavern, eaten out of the coral rock by the tremendous Atlantic rollers, with its stalactites and limpid pools, would be worth visiting, but its chief attraction lies in the phenomenon of the "Animal Flowers" from which it takes its name. These animal flowers, variously described as *serpulae*, or sea-worms, and zoophytes, or sea anemones, are very remarkable. Few, alas, now remain, but there are still sufficient to convey some idea of what the "carpet room"—the cavern in which they mostly congregate—must have been like before many of these fragile "flowers" were "plucked" by predatory tourists. Here, in the clear water apparently grow flowers like chrysanthemums or marigolds of many colours. One touch and the petals of these exquisite blossoms are mysteriously withdrawn, only to reappear again when the anemones, from whose internal economy they emerge, recover confidence. It was all very wonderful.

On our way back to the capital we drove down the main and only street of the second town in Barbados, which though spelt Speightstown is known the world over as "Spikestown," and caught a glimpse of the swift schooners which, with spotless white canvas bellying to the wind, cover the distance between the two main ports of the island in an incredibly short space of time. Apropos of this town, it is said that one of its leading citizens, when paying his first visit to London, entered a fashionable tailor's shop in Savile Row to order a coat, and that when asked what kind he required, replied: "I want a coat like the one Mister — wears in Spikestown,"—to the mystification of the assistant!

We passed, too, Hole Town, with its ancient church and rather commonplace memorial in the form of an obelisk, which marks the spot where the gallant men of Sir Oliph Leigh's vessel, the

"Olive Blossom," driven out of their course by adverse winds during a voyage to Guiana, landed and erecting a cross, inscribed on a tree near by, "James K of E and of this Island." The monument is inscribed :

1605—1905
THIS MONUMENT COMMEMORATES
THE TRICENTENARY OF
THE FIRST LANDING OF ENGLISHMEN
FROM THE "OLIVE BLOSSOM," NEAR THIS SPOT
ABOUT THE MONTH OF JULY 1605.
THEY ERECTED A CROSS
AND INSCRIBED ON A TREE THE WORDS
"JAMES K. OF E. AND THIS ISLAND,"
THUS CONSTITUTING POSSESSION FOR THE CROWN OF ENGLAND
IN WHOSE UNINTERRUPTED POSSESSION
THIS ISLAND HAS REMAINED.
THE CORNER STONE
WAS LAID ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER 1905.
BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GILBERT T. CARTER, K.N., K.C.M.G.
THE GOVERNOR OF THE ISLAND
IN THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE
AND A LARGE CONCOURSE OF THE INHABITANTS.
THE COST OF ERECTION WAS DEFRAID
BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION OF THE INHABITANTS

All good things must come to a close, and it was with real regret that I left Barbados on March 3rd.

Off to St. Vincent.

The distance from Barbados to St. Vincent, as the crow flies, is ninety-eight miles. Leaving Bridgetown at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon in the *Chaudiere*, one of the steamers which run from Halifax down the islands to Demerara, under contract with the Canadian Government, we covered that distance in leisurely fashion, and the sun was just gilding the tips of the rugged mountains overlooking Kingstown, when we dropped anchor in the magnificent open bay at the head of which that picturesque little town stands. The ship was unpleasantly crowded, as the vessels on this line always have been since the intercolonial mail service was suspended in 1915, many first class passengers being crammed into second class cabins, whilst quite a number of late comers had to be content to sleep on deck. Dinner was served in several series, and the exiguous menu reflected the strain on the commissariat; but Captain Willats and his officers certainly did all they could to make their guests comfortable. All the same it was a great relief to get ashore from that overcrowded ship and to re-visit Kingstown even for a few hours.

The little capital seemed as yet hardly awake when we landed shortly after 6 o'clock, though probably it would always appear somnolent after bustling Bridgetown. Chief Justice S. J. Thomas, the Acting Administrator, most kindly offered to place a car at our disposal; but as Mr. J. M. Gray, one of our fellow passengers, and a representative of St. Vincent at the Barbados Conference, had already made similar arrangements, there was no need to trouble that courteous official, who was much occupied with preparations for the departure of Sir George Haddon-Smith, the Governor of the Windward Islands, for Grenada, his seat of Government.

The contrast between Barbados and St. Vincent is quite remarkable, though not surprising, for while the former island is, as we have seen, mainly of coral formation and consequently flat, St. Vincent is purely volcanic, and if Columbus really ever did attempt to describe one of the West Indian

islands to Queen Isabella by crumpling up a piece of paper in his hands, it must surely have been this one. The island is one mass of rugged and serrated mountains, Mount St. Andrew, dominating Kingstown, rising to a height of 2,600 feet, whilst the highest peak in the backbone of mountains which traverses the island from north to south with buttressing spurs forming a succession of fertile and well-watered valleys of rare charm, is 4,000 feet high.

Kingstown itself with its white and tinted houses with red roofs peeping from among the trees and palms, gives one a pleasing sense of space altogether wanting in Barbados, where agriculture only grudgingly finds place for buildings, which in the towns and villages are consequently huddled together. At the St. George's Cathedral—and St. Vincent is See of a Bishop—an early Celebration was in progress, but we were able to inspect many interesting mural tablets, several of which record that here, too, yellow fever was once rampant, especially in the crowded barracks of Fort Charlotte, which we could see perched up on Berkshire Hill, formerly the principal defence of the island.

Froude, who visited Kingstown in 1887, likened it to a Norwegian town, with its houses along the shore painted in the same tints of blue or yellow or pink as those in Norway, with the same red-tiled roofs, the trees coming down the hill sides to the water's edge, villas of modest pretensions shining through the foliage, with the patches of cane-fields, the equivalent in the landscape of the brilliant Norwegian grass.

In his time sugar was the staple of St. Vincent, but the eruption in 1902 of the Soufrière, the volcano at the north end of the island, and the devastation of the fertile Carib Country, the principal cane-growing district, completed the work of ruin begun by the foreign sugar bounty system, so that before the war the cultivation and the manufacture of sugar had sunk almost to the level of a minor industry, the production of cotton and arrow-root occupying the foremost places among the exports of the Colony.

Fortunately for the passing visitor, both of these industries are established quite near Kingstown, and it is therefore possible for him to get some impressions regarding them during an hour or two's stay in port. (*To be continued.*)

It was only after the publication of last CIRCULAR that the writer of the article "The West Indies Revisited" learned with deep regret that that valued public servant, William Greenidge, to whom reference was made in it, had died in Bridgetown. The following announcement appeared in the Official Gazette of Barbados on February 24th :—

The Governor in notifying the death of Mr. William Greenidge, messenger in the Colonial Secretary's Office for the past 37 years, desires to express the regret of the Government at the loss of a tried and faithful servant, who, although he occupied a comparatively humble position, held the respect of all classes for his courtesy, zeal and helpfulness at all times, and to express keen sympathy with his family.

By Command, FRANCIS JENKINS,
Colonial Secretary.

24th February, 1921.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The honey industry of Spain is one of great importance, upwards of 1,600,000 beehives being in existence, which give rise to an annual output of about 19,000 tons, the value of which is estimated at 47,000,000 pesetas (peseta = 9½d.).

The main agricultural industry of Uganda is cotton-growing, the exports of cotton constituting over two-thirds of the entire exports of the colony. The industry is almost entirely in the hands of the natives, who own the land and specialise on cotton-growing. The area under cultivation is 183,000 acres, and the yield somewhere in the neighbourhood of 30,000 bales of 400 lbs. each.

In the question of the manufacture of alcohol for motor purposes, the value of the carbonic acid generated in fermentation is an important item. In the production of 100 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol, 760 lbs. of carbonic acid are produced, which can be collected and liquefied by suitable machinery, and the present value of which is about 2d. a lb. In this way the cost of production of the spirit can be considerably reduced.

Some of the West India Islands are ideal for the cultivation of pineapples, and it is a matter for regret that this industry is practically extinct so far as they are concerned. At present the United Kingdom receives the bulk of its supply of pineapples from the Azores, where the fruit has to be grown under glass, and is inferior in flavour to those grown in the open, the finest hot-house pine not being in the same street in this respect with one cultivated on its native heath.

In this connection it is interesting to record that in 1847 a Trinity yacht landed in London, 25 days from the Bahamas, varieties of the Birds-eye, Providence, and Sugar-leaf pines, mostly grown at Eleuthera and Governor's Harbour. These fetched 10/- to 40/- per lot of 20. Bananas were also included in the consignment, which realised from 8/- to 10/- per bunch. It is, by the way, a fact not generally known that the flavouring matters of pineapples and bananas are identical.

The prevention of the spread of tuberculosis by cows' milk has occupied the attention of health authorities for some time. Cows appear to be particularly susceptible to this disease, and the tubercle bacillus finds its way into the milk. It has now been found that goats, on the other hand, are quite immune from this malady, no tubercle bacillus having ever been discovered in their milk. Goats' milk is also richer in albumen than cows' milk, and on this account the vitamine content is probably higher.

As a matter of interest, it may be stated that no difference has been found to exist between the shapes of hens' and pullets' eggs; but whatever the age of the layer, eggs laid in the spring are more rounded than those laid at other periods of the year, and are lighter in colour. After two years of age the colour of the eggs darkens. The eggs laid after a rest from laying are in general heavier, narrower, and more darkly coloured than those laid after several days of persistent laying.

Poor tea, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, is due to the fact that instead of stopping the plucking at the second leaf, the third and fourth leaves, which are deficient in tannin, are included. As the soluble contents of black tea are largely derived from tannin by fermentative decomposition, the result is a flavourless tea. In the usable leaves of the tea plant there is about 10 per cent. of tannin, but after manufacture the percentage sinks to about 4 per cent., the balance having been changed by fermentation into the soluble bodies giving body and colour. A dark coloured tea, in fact, may not contain so much free tannin as a light coloured tea.

The mango-seed weevil, *Cryptorhynchus mangiferae*, is a very prevalent pest in Hawaii. So long as it remains within the husk of the seed until some time after the fruit has ripened it does not affect the quality of the "flesh" of the fruit, nor detract from its external appearance; but its presence within the seed itself often causes injury in both of these respects. Its greatest injury is done to the seed, which, if allowed to remain within the husk, is usually destroyed by it. The *Experiment Station Record* states that in Hawaii, out of the seeds opened at the Experiment Station in that island in 1919, no less than 90 per cent. were weevil infested. The most effective method of dealing with the pest has been found to save the seed from complete destruction by cutting open the husks after cleaning and slightly drying. If the seed is found to be weevil infested, but not yet quite destroyed, it can be cleaned and planted.

When the arrow of the sugar-cane falls, that is to say, when the life history of that particular stem is coming to an end, the proportion of sugar in it increases, and the cane is said to ripen. The energy of the cane is no longer wanted for the great function of the cane's growth, the formation of seed, and accumulates in the form of sugar to be used, if required, for the germination of the node-buds. Should the stem remain erect, the growth of young canes from these ceases when the stock of sugar is exhausted. Should the cane be of recumbent habit, so that the node rootlets have access to suitable soil, fresh and healthy cane result from the initial feeding of these buds with sugar. This is what occurs when canes are "planted." It happens, however, that the lowest joints of the cane are the richest in sugar, while the node-buds no longer have the power of germination. In this case the sugar is mainly wasted in feeding the life of decay, and partly is drawn upon by the roots for the production of a new "spring" from them.

WEST INDIA 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.

Generous Antigua.

Ordinance No. 1 of the present year increases the Governor's salary to £3,000 per annum, of which a third is payable from Antigua funds.

Wireless Stations for Bahamas.

The House of Assembly have passed a Bill providing for the deepening of Nassau harbour. The whole work is estimated to cost £250,000, of which amount half is authorised to be raised by loan. It is hoped that, when this too long delayed improvement is completed, larger steamers will patronise the port. Eleuthera's tomato season, which is now over, has not fulfilled crop expectations owing to drought and high winds. Mr. Willoughby Bullock, the new Attorney-General, was admitted to the Bar of the Colony on March 14th, on the motion of Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, O.B.E., K.C. On March 17th, the following Select Committee was appointed to consider the questions of providing a Government wireless station at Bimini, and of installing a wireless station at Inagua:—Mr. Russell, Mr. Moore, Dr. Johnson, Mr. Moseley, and Mr. Bowe. The exhibition and regatta at Harbour Island, which concluded on March 1st, was a great success, due to the initiative of Mr. E. H. McKinney, the Commissioner.

Barbados' Small Crop Yield.

The weather has continued to be extremely dry. Reaping operations were, by the beginning of March, fairly general, but the yield is small, and the *Advocate* does not expect more than one ton of sugar per acre in St. Michael, St. Philip, and Christchurch. There is, at present, a certain amount of enteric fever and other sickness prevalent in the island. Mr. Howard Humphreys, the sewerage expert, has been in Bridgetown in order to advise the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Michael's with a view to an improved drainage system in that parish.

Rice Control in British Guiana.

A Commission, consisting of Mr. W. C. Shankland (Chairman), Mr. W. M. B. Shields, and Mr. F. J. Seaford, has been appointed by the Governor to inquire into the adequacy of the measures adopted to extinguish the outbreak of fire at New Amsterdam on February 10th. The continuance of the control of rice is, it is claimed, having a most prejudicial effect on that local industry, and an agitation is on foot for its removal, war-time conditions being now at an end.

The death is reported of Mr. C. Hubbard, acting manager of Plantation Friends. Messrs. Booker Bros. are carrying out at their garage extensive tests of rum as a motor spirit, and it is stated that even in this early experimental stage the results are most satisfactory. A Coffee Growers' Association is to be formed in the Colony, says the *Argosy*, for the protection of the small growers, and to secure a remunerative market abroad.

The sum of \$12,000 has been voted by the Combined Court towards buildings for the Rupununi District. The Colonial Secretary stated that thirty years ago there was a single rancher in the district in the person of the Commissioner, Mr. Melville, who had accumulated a herd of cattle numbering 30,000, for which he had no market. Mr. Melville used his own house, but

with the opening of the cattle-trail, and his appointment as Managing Director of the Rupununi Development Co., a new Commissioner must be appointed, for whom a building must be provided. The track was in good order, and during January no less than 500 head of cattle had been driven over it. The Combined Court have approved of the payment of a special pension of £200 per annum from the date of his retirement from the Public Service of the Colony.

Dominica's Administrator Returns.

His Honour Robert Walter, C.M.G., returned to the Presidency on March 1st and resumed the administration of the Government. The importation of Johnson Grass (*holcus halepensis*), which has been found to be a nuisance in St. Lucia, has been prohibited.

Grenada Income Tax.

A correspondent, writing under date March 3rd, says that many appeals against Excess Profits Tax have been decided against the Government with costs, and that an Income Tax Bill is now being passed. Cacao is practically unsaleable, and cotton and nutmegs are also of little value. The weather has been exceptionally good, with the unusual experience of showers all through February. A serious fire which broke out at the Apothecaries' Hall in St. George's on the night of February 21st, and which involved the neighbouring house of Mr. Franco, would have caused widespread havoc in the town had it not been for the prompt aid given by Mr. C. V. C. Horne with the Colonial Bank's hose. Mr. F. H. Copland has accepted the appointment of provisional unofficial member of the Legislative Council in place of Mr. W. G. Lang, resigned. The *West Indian* believes that there is a possibility of the Dependency of Carriacou being linked up with Grenada by wireless telephony in the near future.

Writing on March 7th, Mr. H. Hudson Phillip reports great depression consequent on the slump in cacao. A member of a well-known West Indian family has passed away in Mr. Saville Garraway, a brother of the late Mr. David Garraway, once a high official in the British Guiana Civil Service, and of Mr. T. Garraway, founder of the firm of T. S. Garraway & Co., Barbados. Mr. Garraway was managing director of The Stores, Ltd., formerly Marrast & Co., and was the father of Mr. T. Garraway, barrister-at-law, Grenada, and of Dr. Gloster Garraway, who attained the rank of captain, R.A.M.C., in the war. Mr. L. G. E. Kytam Lewis, a son of the Hon. A. Wellesley Lewis, K.C., the acting Attorney-General, and an old boy of the Grenada Boys' Secondary School, has successfully passed his first examination for the M.B., London. He took the London Matriculation Examination in 1919, and is studying at the Middlesex Hospital.

The Hon. D. S. De Freitas, President of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, etc., left here on Saturday for Trinidad to take passage for England. He goes on a visit to his sons, Captain Julien De Freitas, M.A., O.B.E., and Lieutenant Dudley De Freitas, of the Indian Army. The *West Indian* voiced local sentiment when it stated that Mr. De Freitas' absence will be keenly felt on both the Executive and Legislative Councils, and in his other spheres of public activity. Among measures now being discussed by the Legislative Council are two bills to reduce the hours of work of shop assistants. On March 4th there began before Captain Coghlan an enquiry into the Halifax Street fire which took place on February 21st, and threatened to destroy a great part of the commercial section of Bay Town.

The *West Indian*, in a leading article, pleads for a West Indian Press Conference to decide on common action in matters affecting the West Indian Press as a whole, and with a view to establishing an Associated Press Service.

Jamaica Income Tax.

In the Legislative Council, Mr. Phillips was informed that to March 2nd the Income Tax collected was £22,830, estimated collection to the 31st March £62,170, estimated collection during 1921-22 of arrears from the present year £59,500, total £144,500. The *Gleaner* understands that a number of appeals against assessments under the Income Tax Law are pending. The appellants include the Jamaica Tobacco Co., Amity Hall Factory, Ltd., and D. O. Kelly Lawson.

In the Estimates for the coming financial year, provision is made for the creation of two offices—that of Solicitor-General to carry a salary of £500 per annum (private practice to be allowed), and that of Assistant Postmaster with a commencing salary of £600. As regards the first appointment, there is already an Acting Assistant to the Attorney-General in Mr. H. I. C. Brown, K.C., who will probably succeed to the proposed Solicitor-Generalship if the revival of that office is approved.

Sanitation in St. Kitts.

Owing to the resignation of Hon. Paitfield Mills, Mr. A. A. W. Gordon, of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Central Factory, has been appointed provisionally an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council and Mr. E. J. Shelford an Unofficial Member of the Executive Council. Mr. F. C. Clarkson has been appointed Assistant Superintendent of Public Works and Cotton Inspector in Nevis. His Honour Mr. J. A. Burden, C.M.G., in his address to the Legislative Council on February 10th, stated that the surplus funds of the Presidency had increased from £13,204 at the beginning of 1920, to an estimated £43,634 on December 31st. He mentioned that the Venereal Disease Commission, after inspecting the Cunningham Hospital, had compared it most favourably with similar institutions in other islands, and they were especially pleased with the Paying Patients' Wards. His Honour was also told by the Commission that the Presidency's syphilis campaign had been the only one which had met with any success in the West Indies. The efforts made by Mrs. Burden to obtain public support for the Baby Saving League had met with a very encouraging measure of support, and order was being evolved out of a chaos of ignorance and dirt. He entirely dissented from the view that the whole fight against infantile mortality should be carried out by the Government as a charge against revenue. Such a step would result in far less results at a far higher cost. The campaign against mosquitoes had proceeded satisfactorily, and for the greater part of the year these pests were almost non-existent in Basseterre. He felt positive that the October swarm had come to the town from the line of swamps from Greathead's Pond to Frigate Bay Pond, in spite of the eighteen-year-old report of Dr. Low that this was impossible.

The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was ratified by the Legislative Council on March 10th. The Treasurer and Collector of Customs has undertaken the duties of Honorary Trade Correspondent to the Department of Overseas Trade in the place of the Assistant Treasurer, whose post has been abolished.

Mr. E. J. Shelford, writing on March 14th, says that the Estimates for the year commencing April 1st which have been passed in the Legislative Council,

provide for a revenue of £92,352, and expenditure £105,734, the difference being met from surplus funds. It is believed to be the first time in the history of the Colony that the expenditure has exceeded £100,000. There will be considerable new outlay on public works during the current year, and notably towards such objects as the building of residences for officials, the alms house, cottage hospital at Anguilla, a water supply for New Castle Nevis, and improvements to the Alexandra Hospital, Nevis. The augmented salaries of officials also total a considerable sum.

The Factory Estates are reaping their crops, but one hears of disappointing weights of canes owing to immaturity and a consequent low yield at the Factory. Notwithstanding the pink cotton boll worm danger and poor market prospects, many planters are busy preparing lands and planting cotton.

St. Lucia's Offer for a Steamer Service.

At a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on February 28th, on the motion of Mr. G. M. Peter, it was unanimously resolved that it would be in the interest of the Colony for the Government to pay a subsidy to a British steamship company for a fortnightly Transatlantic service, and the Society would suggest the sum of £1,200 as St. Lucia's contribution, provided an Intercolonial service was included, or £400 towards the Transatlantic service only.

A Chamber of Commerce for St. Vincent.

It is too early to give a positive estimate of the cotton crop, but according to the *Times*, about 975 bales have been exported, and about 300 bales of quality cotton are believed to be still in the Colony. Heavy showers were experienced at the beginning of March. The reaping of the cane crop continues. The Administrator called together on February 10th a representative gathering of planters and proprietors with a view to devising means for bringing the administration into closer touch with the bulk of the population. As a result of the discussion it was unanimously resolved that a representative body should be formed, comprising all agricultural and commercial interests in the Colony, under the name of the "St. Vincent Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture," and a Committee, comprising members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, the Arrowroot Growers' Association, and delegates representing the minor industries was appointed to arrange for the formation of the Chamber.

An Ordinance amending the Income (Arrowroot) Tax Ordinance, 1920, has been passed to give effect to the undertaking of the Government that planters should be allowed to deduct their costs of production and all other costs up to the point of delivery on board ship in Kingstown Harbour. The export tax on white cotton has been reduced from 15s. per cwt., to which it was raised when high prices were ruling, to 5s. A similar reduction is foreshadowed in the case of the Marie Galante variety.

As a protest against the weights and prices fixed by the Government, several of the Kingstown bakeries stopped baking bread, but their attempt to gain their ends by this means was thwarted by the decisive action of the Administrator in using the prison bakery for supplying the public needs.

Mr. Archibald's Death in Tobago.

There will be fewer travellers by steamer this year unless prices recover shortly, says Mr. Robert S. Reid, writing under date February 27th. In Tobago the

crop is coming in "all of a heap," and will be practically over next month. An average crop is expected, but there will be no margin for carrying on from April to September, which is the earliest one may expect further important pickings. They who can will hold their produce in the hope of improvement—for a time at least. It is a sign of the times that even the peasant proprietors are "hiding away" part at least of their crops, expecting a rise in prices. Those who are careless in the preparation of their cacao will get a rude awakening when they do ship their mildewed produce, although most of them are acute enough to know how to avoid that. With the moist atmosphere in the country districts it is risky to store cacao on the estates even in the dry season.

After the first alarm at the drop in prices, the general opinion of planters is that the Agricultural College must proceed without delay, and the majority are pleased that the local Government is dealing energetically with the matter. It must ultimately prove of great value to cultivators in providing them with trained overseers and managers instead of being dependant on "rule of thumb" methods, which may be cheaper, but are not satisfactory.

We are getting almost daily showers, which is most tantalising after the frequent dry spells in the "wet season," which were so trying to the ripening crop. At Hermitage from 1st to 23rd the rainfall was 3.76 inches, and on the 4th inst. 1.07 inches was registered.

Of social happenings there is to record the formal opening of the "King's Bay" Tennis Court on the 19th inst., to which other clubs in the Island were invited. About forty ladies and gentlemen were present, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent and mutual "cheers" extended when the motors left with the visitors.

Of Mr. R. Bruce Archibald, J.P., whose death was recorded in last CIRCULAR, Mr. Reid says that he was one of the pioneers of the new Tobago. The fine cacao and coconut estate at Roxburgh is the best tribute to his ability and energy. It was a derelict sugar estate. The machinery, etc., was put in order in 1805-1809 to give that product a fair trial, but bounty-fed beet was too powerful a competitor, and the machinery was scrapped, and cacao and coconut growing, with nutmegs and timber in a small way, were tackled by Mr. Wm. Archibald, who was later on joined by his brother Bruce. It is worthy of note that they were the first to attempt stumping and ploughing before planting cacao. Unfortunately the labour question compelled them to follow customary methods of planting, but subsequent high cultivation, draining, manuring, etc., produced the finest estate in Tobago, and fit to compare with many in Trinidad. Mr. Archibald, who was sixty-eight years old, was a Scot of the good old type—keen, hard-working, knowing his own mind and sticking to it! A few weeks before his death he suffered from heart attacks, which developed into "angina pectoris," and he died on the 22nd inst. He was buried next afternoon in the private cemetery on the top of a ridge near Roxburgh "Great House," a place of many memories and of several nationalities, recalling the warlike times in the Island. Besides planters, officials, and other friends from every district in the Island, there was quite a number of East Indians and labourers, all of whom had great regard and respect for Mr. Archibald. Roxburgh House has been the headquarters for hospitality for many years, and is a "Great House" well worthy of the name. Mr. Archibald was twice married. By his first wife he had three sons—two killed in 1916 in the Great War, and the third son was wounded and gassed. He and his

sister are now in Vancouver, B.C. Mr. Archibald leaves a widow and two young children, and all join with them in mourning the loss of a worthy man.

Trinidad Refuses Subsidy for Mail Service.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing under date March 12th, says: The Trinidad branch of the National City Bank of New York has finally closed its doors, leaving the winding-up of its affairs to the Colonial Bank. To have given it privileges denied to British banks in the United States would have been an introduction of the bounty system into the Colonial banking world. In view of the excellent and regular service now enjoyed by Port of Spain, the Legislative Council and the Chamber of Commerce have turned down the latest proposal of the home Government with regard to a mail contract service. [The terms of the proposed invitation for tenders for a subsidised transatlantic service were published on page 80 of the CIRCULAR of March 3rd.]

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on March 8th, the decision of the Association of West Indian Transatlantic Steamship Lines to deny admission to their body of other lines was discussed, and it was resolved to call the attention of the Government to the matter as tending to restrict the number of ships calling at the port. It was further decided to request the West India Committee to take the matter up. At the same meeting Lieut. Colonel Ivan Dawson, O.B.E., delivered an interesting address on West Indian currency reform, which was favourably received by a large number of members, besides visitors, who included the Auditor and Receiver-General of the Colony and the acting Trade Commissioner, Mr. Milne.

The s.s. *Megantic*, with about 400 tourists, has again been in the harbour. The visitors were favoured with delightful weather, of which they took full advantage, and it is believed that they will take away with them very pleasant remembrances of Trinidad. His many old friends have been very glad to welcome back, after some twenty years' absence, Mr. P. N. H. Jones, who did such good service for this Colony before taking up his duties at Hong Kong and elsewhere.

The question of cacao claying has not been definitely settled. The Chamber of Commerce recommend that it should be allowed with plantation cacao, or else that the present conditions should continue, as the solution appears so hedged in with difficulties. It seems almost probable that in the end things will remain as they are, excepting that some penalty will be imposed in cases where heavy claying has been adopted with the evident view of hiding defective beans and unduly increasing the weight of the article sold.

Mr. D. Elliott Alves, who is visiting the Colony, has taken Mr. George Huggins's house for the period of his stay. His company have up to now only conducted active operations in the Montserrat district, where it is said they have the most powerful deep well plant in the Colony. They are already down about 1,500 feet, but expect that drilling for a further 1,000 feet will be necessary before striking oil. The Apex Company has again opened up the well at which the disastrous fire occurred some time ago, and it is said to be yielding very freely.

Under a bill which has been introduced to amend the law relating to the importation and re-exportation of cacao, it is provided that importers and purchasers of such cacao shall enter into a bond, to be forfeited if the country of origin is not truly declared on re-exportation. The Governor has invited an expression of the views of persons interested

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

No Empire Council.

The Prime Minister, replying to Sir J. Norton-Griffiths, on April 4th, said that no Imperial Conference was in contemplation for this year, and the question of the formation of an Empire Council was not on the agenda for the forthcoming Imperial Cabinet Meeting.

Price of Basic Slag.

Mr. Townyn Jones supplied to Lieut.-Colonel Sir J. Norton-Griffiths on April 6th the following table, showing the maximum selling prices of ground basic slag, 30 per cent., in the United Kingdom since the beginning of 1920, including cost of delivery to customer's nearest station or to British port. The figures apply to lots of four tons and over:—

January to May, 1920	June, 1920.	July, 1920.	August, 1920.	September, 1920 to May, 1921
Per ton s. d. 84 0	Per ton s. d. 120 0	Per ton s. d. 121 0	Per ton s. d. 122 0	Per ton s. d. 127 6

The above maximum prices are fixed by agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and the trade, and are operative until May 31st, 1921.

Preference at Work.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, in reply to Major Barnes, supplied the following table showing the quantities of various goods liable to Customs duties that were delivered for home consumption in the United Kingdom at preferential rates of duty, as compared with the corresponding quantities of goods delivered at the full rate of duty, together with the duties received from such goods during 1920.

	At preferntl. rate.		At full rate	
	Quantity	Net Duty	Quantity	Net Duty
		£		£
Cacao, cwts	769,000	1,315,000	65,000	137,000
Cacao butter, lbs.			2,286,000	43,000
Cacao preparations, cwts	8,000	5,000	273,000	410,000
Coffee, cwts	141,000	247,000	157,000	331,000
Spirits, imported, pf. galls.	2,868,000	312,000	2,568,000	8,621,000
Sugar, cwts	4,138,000	4,390,000	17,326,000	22,298,000
Molasses, cwts	179,000	105,000	1,860,000	1,211,000
Glucose, cwts	22,000	11,000	1,056,000	648,000
Sugar composite articles, cwts	119,000	66,000	3,012,000	1,404,000
Saccharin, ozs			14,000	6,000
Tobacco, lbs.	4,278,000	1,469,000	134,835,000	55,221,000

Dealings of the Sugar Commission.

Sir William Mitchell-Thomson informed Mr. Jesson, on March 23rd, that no conditions had been imposed by the Sugar Commission, previous to its coming to a close, which directly or indirectly prevented the refiners of this country purchasing supplies of Empire sugar during the next few months. Asked whether the sugar purchased from Mauritius by the Sugar Commission had been re-refined in this country, whether this had been done at the orders of or by reason of encouragement from the Sugar Commission, and whether the quality of the Mauritius sugar was that known as plantation white, which was entirely

suitable for direct consumption without further refining, Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson replied that while some plantations manufactured a sugar that could be, and was, used for manufacturing purposes, the great bulk of the sugar could not be disposed of for direct consumption. The Mauritius crop had been purchased for the express purpose of making the British refineries independent of Cuban sellers and thus helping to bring about a return to more normal prices. The remarkable fall in prices that had taken place in the Cuban market since the purchase was made seemed to indicate that that policy had been successful.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORTS.

British Guiana.

The annual report on British Guiana for 1919 shows that the revenue for the year was £862,491, as compared with £863,625 in 1918. The expenditure was £886,568, as compared with £774,481 in 1918, making a shortage of revenue of £24,077. The total value of imports (including transit trade) amounted to £3,590,812, a decrease of £245,014 on the figures of the preceding year, referable mainly to such items as cotton manufactures, grain, tea, and soap. Exports were valued at £4,240,832, of which the entrepôt trade accounted for £575,738. There was an increase of £408,876 in the value of sugar shipped during the year, although the quantity was less than that exported in 1918 by 10,762 tons, the figures being 83,140 and 93,902 tons respectively. 4,342,769 proof gallons of rum, valued at £491,359, were exported during 1919, as compared with 2,614,481 proof gallons the year before. 4,079,418 proof gallons went to the United Kingdom, which still took first place with 34 per cent. of the aggregate trade of the Colony, Canada coming second with 30 per cent., and the United States securing 17 per cent. Before the war, the distribution was more favourable to the home country, which had no less than 57 per cent. of the Colony's trade. This adverse effect of the war on the trend of trade is now to a great extent diminishing.

Of the subsidiary industries, rice was planted over an area of 61,044 acres, and the total yield was 74,650 tons of paddy, equal to 44,700 tons of rice; 6,940 tons of rice were exported. The acreage under cacao remains stationary at about 2,000 acres. At least 150,000 lbs. is produced annually, of which a very large proportion is used locally in the preparation of chocolate and confectionery. The planting of Para rubber materially decreased, and it is estimated that only 4,000 acres were planted with this product. The export of coffee during the year amounted to 8,355 cwt., as compared with 4,750 cwt. in 1918. Coconuts occupy 27,400 acres, and whilst by far the greater number of nuts grown, estimated at 17,052,000, were used locally, the export increased from 1,576,000 to 4,693,000, with 1,360 cwt. of copra and 9,120 gallons of coconut oil in addition. The erection of machinery at Plantation Providence, Berbice, and at Plantation Agatash, Essequibo, for the production of concentrated juice has given the lime industry a much-needed impetus. The operations of the Government lime juice factory at Ondenueming have been attended by marked success. Citrate, juice, and oil of limes equal to 11,450 standard barrels of the fruit were exported in the year under review.

The number of cattle in the Colony was estimated in 1919 at about 110,000, but it is certain that this is very far below the actual figure. The gold produced

during the twelve months was 16,216 ozs., a decrease on the previous year's production, due to fewer persons being engaged in mining. The output of diamonds during the period amounted to 16,706 carats, estimated to be worth £95,710. The stones averaged between five and six to the carat. 101,383 cubic feet of timber of all kinds were exported during the year.

The work of cutting the Cattle Trail from Takama, near the steamer terminus on the Berbice River, was completed during the year, but the several hundred oxen that have already been driven over the track have shown the need for much further improvement. The survey of the country traversed by the trail discloses that there are no serious difficulties along the route for either road or railway construction, although deviations from the cut track will be necessary in order to reduce mileage, bridges and embanking work across streams and swamps, and, in some cases, to ensure better grades.

St. Vincent's Record Cotton Crop.

The Annual General Report of St. Vincent for April to December, 1919, shows that the expenditure during these nine months was £35,361, and the revenue £31,119, the surplus being £5,357 on December 31st, as compared with £6,607 at the beginning of the period. The principal source of revenue consisted of import duties, which realised £13,084. Excise duties on rum amounted to £4,777, whilst the Income Tax only brought the sum of £849 into the Colony's coffers. The unexpended balance of £25,000 of the Eruption Relief Fund, made up of donations from the public in England and elsewhere at the time of the eruptions of the Soufrière Volcano in 1902, remains invested as a reserve or insurance fund against any future cataclysm.

The value of imports during the year totalled £185,128, as against £134,699 in 1918. The percentages of the United Kingdom, Canada, and United States, as countries of origin, are extremely close, being 31.11, 29.57, and 29.24 respectively. Exports of the Colony's produce were valued at £149,749, a decrease of £44,029 on the figures of 1918. The United Kingdom was the chief destination, with £87,523, Canada accounting for £13,068, and only produce to the value of £3,311 being marketed in the United States. Arrow-root exports were returned at £42,222, a reduction of £53,606 on the figures for the previous year, due to the decline in London prices of this commodity. Sea Island fetched £64,004, and Marie Galante £2,778. The Government bought all the Sea Island produced in the Colony, which led to the planting of 6,633 acres, the largest area ever planted in cotton in St. Vincent. The output in 1919 was 475,650 lbs., or 93 lbs. per acre. The sugar cane industry showed signs of again becoming an important one in the Colony, and 170,842 gallons of syrup and molasses, valued at £10,722, were exported during the year. There was a resumption also of the exportation of rum, although of the 27,211 proof gallons manufactured, only 56 gallons were shipped.

THE Jamaica Tourist Association has requested Steamship Companies visiting Jamaica to withdraw from their ship's libraries Mr. Franck's book on the West Indies since it gives an erroneous idea of conditions prevailing in the islands.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

Jamaica loses four Historic Figureheads.

Kingston, Jamaica,
March 11th, 1921.

SIR,—As you have ever been interested in the preservation of historic monuments in the West Indies, I venture to acquaint you with a sad event which has recently occurred at the Port Royal Dockyard.

Until quite lately one of its most interesting features was a series of four old figureheads, of the *Imaum* (port guardship from 1856 to 1862), the *Aboukir* (port guardship from 1862 to 1877), the *Urgent* (port guardship from 1877 to 1903), and the *Meggera*, which was wrecked on Bare Bush Cay in 1843.

While the Dockyard has been in the care of the War Office, the most interesting of the four figureheads—that of the *Aboukir*, which was long held to represent Nelson—was allowed to drop to pieces. Quite recently the three remaining have been removed by the Admiral to Bermuda.

Port Royal was in the past the haunt of buccaneers, but one hesitates to think that even the most hardened of them would have stooped to rob the Dockyard of relics which will not enrich Bermuda to any great extent, but will leave Port Royal poor indeed. One can almost picture Morgan turning in his grave on the Palisades hard by at the thought of it.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
FRANK CUNDALL.

The Vagaries of the Climate.

SIR,—That it would be an immense advantage to the agricultural interests of the British West Indies and British Guiana to have a reliable, or even a fairly reliable forecast as to the character of the coming wet season year by year is obvious.

I believe (I will give my reasons later) that there is an interconnection between the Northern summer and the West Indian wet season. A normal summer—normal, that is, as regards temperature and rainfall—results in good rains over the Islands and British Guiana. A cold, wet summer means a scanty rainfall, or even severe drought over the places named above. My idea is that a report on the weather over a wide area should be written up at the end of every month, beginning with December, emphasising temperature. The object of keeping such a record would be to find out what sequence of weather preceded a normal summer; or if there is no connection whatever between the weather experienced in December, January, February, March, and the summer temperature and rainfall. Figures kept by a solitary observer are of doubtful value. His outlook is too limited, and the weather in his area might be quite exceptional, and, therefore, not representative of the Northern summer as a whole. The Meteorological Office could give the required report.

The alternating seasons, wet and dry, in the West Indies and Guiana are caused by the movement of the equatorial belt of calms back and forth across the equator. Under normal conditions the area covered by the belt at any given time has an abundant rainfall. When the belt moves away the

weather changes to dry. The equatorial belt of calms is the meeting-place of the "trades," which blow into it from opposite sides, and its position at any given time is the outcome of a struggle between the trade winds. The dominant trade—the one which pushes the belt to the opposite side of the equator from which it blows—is always the trade blowing from the winter side of the equator. Somewhere about the end of March, or early in April, the belt reaches its southerly limit of travel, about five degrees south of the equator. With the beginning of winter at the South Pole and the beginning of the Northern summer it begins to return northward. In a normal year it reaches the coastal strip of British Guiana where the sugar estates are, about the middle of May, and about a fortnight later is nearing or has reached Barbados. Thence it proceeds on its northern limit of travel, about ten degrees north of the equator.

So far I have been making a rough statement of facts. From them I infer that since the northerly movement of the belt depends on winter conditions at the South and summer conditions at the North Pole, it is a fair inference that a cold, wet summer must interfere with the orderly movement of the belt northwards, and for such orderly advance we must suppose there is substituted a belated start and a slow, hesitating advance northward, which possibly does not reach to the full limit usual. The last two Northern summers have been cold and wet, and the last two years have been years of scanty rainfall in the West Indies. But after all, even a summer that does its best to resemble a mild winter is still a summer of a sort; and even if we explain the shortage in the rainfall of places near the northern limit of the belt by supposing that it does not reach them, no such explanation is possible in the case of places like British Guiana, Trinidad, and even Barbados, which lie further south. I think the explanation in their case is that there is a considerable difference in the temperature of the summer and winter trades, and that the summer trade, because of this difference enabling it to carry more moisture, and because it starts on its journey south more moist, contributes the greater part of the moisture which causes the heavy precipitation in the equatorial belt. But in a cold, wet summer the summer trade, because of a reduction in temperature, arrives at the meeting-place the bearer of considerably less moisture than in a normal year, and the customary rainfall is considerably reduced in consequence. Another possible reason may be that the power of the winter trade may weaken once it has pushed the belt to the northern side of the equator, whose position between the two trades may then become so delicately poised that there may, as the result of a specially cold spell in the wet, cold summer, be not only a check in its advance northward, but an actual retreat southward. The result of the belt starting late, advancing slowly and occasionally falling back, would be that the time it remained over any given place might be much reduced, and this, together with the fact that the lower temperature of the summer trade makes it much less capable of functioning as a bearer of moisture, may together explain the reduced rainfall.

In conclusion, let me add that it is not necessary to suppose that it must take a very long time to discover if there is anything in my idea or not. Three or four years during which the Northern summers were normal, and the West Indies had good rains, but during which years the weather in the preceding winter and spring months differed widely from year to year, would serve to show the impossibility of

forecasting the character of the coming summer from the character of the weather during the months preceding it. In spite of doubts, however, in view of the value to the West Indies and British Guiana of such a forecast, I plead for a trial. Finally, I am not the only person in the West Indies who believes in an interconnection between the character of the Northern summer and the West Indian wet season. There is a gentleman in Barbados who believes that a wet summer in England means dry weather in the West Indies—emphasising the rainfall, not the temperature, as I do—and there is someone in London who believes that a forecast as to the character of the summer of any given year can be made, based on the temperature records in the months preceding it, if one may judge from a paragraph in a recent issue of the *Morning Post*, headed "The Warm Winter," which predicts a spring slightly warmer than the average, and a summer exactly normal.

Yours faithfully,

FRED. C. S. BASCOM.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

		PRICES
		Apr. 12, 1921
4 1/2 %	Antigua	66 68
4 1/2 %	Barbados	62 64
4 1/2 %	British Guiana	74 77
4 1/2 %	British Guiana	59 61
4 1/2 %	Grenada	71 73
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	76 78
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	59 62
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	57 60
4 1/2 %	St. Lucia	69 71
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	73 75
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	58 60
10 %	The Colonial Bank	6 6 1/2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary	87 92
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference	67 2
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4% Debentures	68 71
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures	70 75
6 %	Angostura Bitters Part. Preference	5 1/2
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures	105 110
7 1/2 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.	7 3
—	St. Madeleine Sugar	9 7
—	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd.	48 6
—	Petroleum Options, Ltd., 10%	1 7
10 %	Trinidad Central Oilfields	65 5
—	Trinidad Dominion Oil Ltd., 10%	2 4
12 1/2 %	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (£1)	47 5
—	United British Oilfields of Trinidad Ltd.	17 6
4 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock	25 35
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Deep Pref.	95 100
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.	50 55
4 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures	55 60
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary	—
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum 1st Pref.	—
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd	—
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5% Debentures	—

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.

A PRACTICAL ENGINEER AND MILLWRIGHT, with ten years' locomotive and seven years' general millwrighting and constructional engineering experience, and possessing commercial and technical knowledge, desires a post in the British West Indies or British Guiana where ability and initiative will receive an adequate reward. Married, aged 31.—H. Booth, 356, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

COMMERCIAL CLERK, aged 21, requires situation Jamaica, previously travelled West Indies; excellent references.—Apply, CARTER, 14, Margery Park Road, Forest Gate, London. E. 7.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffe, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Coronado* March 28th (Commander W. T. Forrester):—
 Mr. H. E. Alwood. Mr. L. S. Nicholson.
 Mrs. E. C. Bedfordth and infant. Mr. T. Puxton.
 Mr. J. Bowie. Mr. D. Purrell.
 Mr. G. L. Carey. Mr. E. H. Quin.
 Mr. C. R. Clapperton. Mr. G. L. Rimmer.
 The Hon. Mrs. O. V. Daniell. Miss A. M. Roberts.
 Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Doweck and infant. Mr. J. Robinson.
 Captain R. F. Mitchell. Captain & Mrs. Gipsy Pat Smith.
 Mr. R. Neilson. Miss K. M. Smith.
 Mr. E. C. Wade.

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Mutagua*, Avonmouth, March 28th:—
 Mr. & Mrs. J. W. A. Binner. Mr. F. D. Mann.
 Rev. W. L. Brown. Mr. & Mrs. A. Moxsy.
 Mr. W. F. Copeland. Mr. H. Owen.
 Mr. P. Coyne. Mrs. & Miss F. Paz.
 Mr. & Mrs. T. P. Davis. Major & Mrs. J. Powell.
 Mr. & Mrs. A. F. G. Ellis. The Misses Powell (2).
 Mr. C. E. Espent. Major & Mrs. W. E. Stobart.
 Mrs. S. W. Husley. Mr. S. Ranim.

Home arrivals from Jamaica in R.M.S. *Patuca*, Avonmouth, April 4th:—
 Major & Mrs. D. D. Alexander.
 Mrs. G. Ackerley.
 Miss N. Ackerley.
 Mr. S. Bacarachi.
 Miss J. Brassey.
 Sr. William Christie, K.C.B.
 Mrs. Crum-Ewing.
 The Misses Crum Ewing (2).
 Mrs. G. C. Croucher.
 Mrs. M. B. Blundell.
 Lt.-Col. Buxton.
 Miss A. M. Bryant.
 Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Dawes.
 Miss E. M. Durrant.
 Mr. J. Escudante.
 Lady Ada Fitz-Williams.
 Miss E. S. Garrett.
 Miss Dorothy Gray.
 Lt. Col. & Mrs. A. Gardner.
 Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Grant.
 Mr. N. Hart.
 Mr. A. Herrero.
 Miss B. Hopper.
 Miss H. Montalegre.
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Crump and daughter.
 Mr. N. S. Hind.
 Mr. & Mrs. G. B. Harrup.
 Mrs. J. Hixley.
 Miss M. Kyle.
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 Capt. & Mrs. H. McMulan.
 Mrs. E. Nicoll.
 Miss T. O'Brien.
 Mr. & Mrs. S. O'Kell & son.
 Mr. E. M. Prince.
 Commander & Mrs. H. Swithinbank.
 Miss G. Swithinbank.
 Mrs. & Miss L. B. Thursfield.
 Mr. F. G. Wood.
 Mr. M. O. V. French Mullen.

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Specialist* (Captain R. Watson), April 7th:—
 Mr. H. Beacham. Mr. C. S. Pattison.
 Mr. C. Bullard. Mr. A. W. Saunders.
 Mr. W. D. Corso. Mr. S. Sloan.
 Mr. J. D. Fortuado. Mr. W. E. Steele.
 Mr. D. W. Gibson. Mr. C. E. Ward.
 Major Cochran Patrick, D.S.O., M.C., & Mrs. Patrick.

Home arrivals from West Indies in s.s. *Settler*, London, April 2nd:—
ANTIGUA.—Mr. & Mrs. William R. Forrest; Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Driver.
DOMINICA.—Mr. Peter Noble, Mrs. Elise Noble, Master Peter Noble.
GRENADA.—Mrs. Evangeline Morrison.
TRINIDAD.—Dr. John G. Graveley; Mr. James Fraser; Mr. Bernard Acham; Miss Irene O'Reilly.

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to Trinidad, from Dover, per s.s. *Jan Van Nassau*, April 9th:—
 Miss H. W. Clarke. Mr. & Mrs. Robiusion & infant.
 Mr. W. H. Knight.
 Mrs. Matthews & son.

Home arrivals from Trinidad, in s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, Plymouth, March 29th:—
 Mr. H. A. P. Anderson. Mr. & Mrs. D. W. Godden.
 Mrs. B. A. Ashmead. Mr. D. Gravesande.
 Mr. F. Bostwick. Mrs. F. Ince.
 Sir Hylton R. Brisco. Mr. A. Kidd.
 Mrs. H. Burgess & child. Mr. D. B. Kirke.
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Burton & three children. Mr. A. Mitchell.
 Mr. G. O. Case. Mr. & Mrs. F. E. Murray & two children.
 Mr. & Mrs. G. Croll. Mr. A. J. Pavitt.
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Darrell. Mrs. J. Smart.
 Mr. & Mrs. D. S. de Freitas. Mrs. M. B. Smith.
 Mr. A. Duncan. Mr. C. Stocken.
 Mr. G. Fletcher. Mr. F. Suere.
 Mrs. A. Fraser. Mr. W. Thomson.
 Mr. D. Fraser. Mr. J. Widdicombe.
 Mrs. D. Wilson.

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:—

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Mrs. S. Archer | Mr. H. P. Houghton-James |
| Mr. B. Honyun | Mr. L. M. Hobson |
| Mr. E. W. Bowen | Mr. T. W. Iouis |
| Mr. James Brown | Mr. L. J. Lee |
| Mr. R. Bryson | Mr. C. H. McClean |
| Capt. J. A. Burnside M.C. | Mr. W. McMillan |
| Mr. W. J. Cauty | Mr. T. Elton Miller |
| Mr. C. H. Chambers | Mr. James Miller |
| Mr. J. E. Corbin | Mr. C. V. Newton |
| Mr. H. S. Cox | Mr. G. O'Reilly |
| Hon. B. S. Davis | M. A. J. soitt |
| Hon. D. S. DeFreitas | Lieut. W. M. Richards |
| Mrs. A. G. Parnum | Dr. F. G. Rose |
| Mr. J. M. Fleming | Mr. H. Seedorf |
| Mr. Percy George | Hon. A. P. Shetlock |
| Dr. C. J. Gomez | Mr. James Sowray |
| Mr. L. A. Gomez | Mr. H. Blin Shyle |
| Mr. N. Macleod Dalden | West View, Milngavie, N.H. |
| Rev. J. B. Brindley | W.M.M.S., 24, Bishopsgate, E.C. |
| Mr. A. Sumner Cocks | 61, Queensborough Terrace, W.2. |
| Mr. Archibald Gordon | co John Leckie & Co., Ltd., 64, Fore Street, E.C. |
| Mr. Ronald I. Harvey | 5 Lower Canada, Chislehurst, Kent |

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Trinidad	... Dover	Van Rensselaer	... Apl. 15
Hermuda	... London	Tunmer	... .. 16
Jamaica	... Liverpool	Nicoya	... .. 18
Jamaica	... Bristol	Changuinola	... .. 19
West Indies	... Glasgow	Dictator	... .. 22
Jamaica	... Bristol	Camito	... .. 25
West Indies	... London	Ingoma	... .. 27

St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	Bordeaux	Puerto Rico	... May 2
H'mas, T'aca & R. H'ides	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	... .. 4
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	... .. 13

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
April 12th, 1921

The Produce Markets have received yet another set-back, the present labour dispute having intensified the distrust and depression which have existed for the past year.

BANK RATE, 7 per cent, as from April 15th, 1920

EXCHANGE on New York, \$3.91-#3.92.

SUGAR. As announced elsewhere, the London Terminal Sugar Market was reopened on April 4th, but quotations have, so far, been little more than nominal.

Crystallised is quoted 60/- to 65/-.

The American market has been falling, the latest quotations being 4.45 c. c.i.f.

The Board of Trade Returns for March give the quantity of sugar imported into the United Kingdom in that month as being 109,708 tons, making 252,478 tons for the three months, as compared with 321,321 tons for the first three months of last year. Of the March supply, 51,333 tons were "refined," of which 44,898 tons came from the Continent, including 18,005 tons from Holland, 10,431 tons from Belgium, 1,603 tons from France, 138 tons from Austria, 1 cwt. from Germany, and 11,718 tons from "other countries in Europe," excepting Russia; 5,410 tons came from Java. Of the "unrefined," 11,901 tons came from Cuba, 18,728 tons from Peru, 2,991 tons from Brazil, 18,590 tons from Mauritius, and 3,401 tons from the British West Indies. The amount liberated from the home refineries for consumption was 94,038 tons, making 257,177 tons for the three months. The total consumption for the month was 147,284 tons, making 334,361 tons for the three months, as against 332,000 tons for the same period of 1920. The stocks on hand on March 31st amounted to 323,830 tons, as against 260,000 tons at the same date last year.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on April 2nd were:—

	1921	1920	1919	
Imports	7,065	11,381	6,105	Tons.
Deliveries	11,876	8,225	7,895	
Stock	3,593	11,292	4,402	"

CACAO, on the spot, remains very quiet, and shipment offers—at a considerable decline on recent quotations—attract little attention. Fine plantation Trinidad is quoted at 55/- to 62/-, and fine Grenada at 48/- to 49/-. Mr. Edgar Tripp writes that of the 316,866 bags exported from Trinidad during 1920, the United States took 149,469 bags, Europe 183,120 bags, and Canada 14,277 bags. Venezuela weather conditions are reported to be favourable, and it is expected that a good crop will be harvested. At present a good portion of the output is being held back in the expectation of better prices. According to the Board of Trade Returns, 195,610 cwts. of cacao were imported for the month, making 467,003 cwts. for the three months. The bulk of the month's supply, 164,747 cwts., came from British West Africa, only 18,801 cwts. arriving from the British West Indies. The amount liberated for consumption during the month was 58,576 cwts., making 220,971 cwts. for the three months. The latter figure compares with 308,955 cwts. for the first quarter of last year. The exports of cacao for the month were 30,201 cwts., making 83,837 cwts. for the three months, as against 211,931 cwts. for the corresponding period of last year. The stocks on hand on March 31st were 1,170,000 cwts., as against 919,000 cwts. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on April 2nd were:—

	1921	1920	1919	
Trinidad	22,267	19,499	11,108	Bags.
Grenada	20,463	20,753	9,795	
Total of all kinds	190,872	151,663	132,102	"

RUM. With the exception of good export Jamaica, there are no buyers for any sort—arrival or spot. Stocks are increasing, and deliveries falling. It is quite impossible to give a correct idea as to values. The imports of rum for March, according to the Board of Trade Returns, amounted to 631,084 proof gallons, making 1,634,126 galls. for the three months. The amount liberated for consumption during the month was 172,040 proof gallons, making 616,249 galls. for the three months. The stocks on hand on March 31st were 12,475,000 galls., as against 11,986,000 galls. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on April 2nd were:—

	1921	1920	1919	
Jamaica	9,231	7,214	3,319	Puns
Demerara	16,315	12,333	11,032	
Total of all kinds	35,696	27,842	18,852	

ARROWROOT. There has been a little more enquiry during the last few days, with hand to mouth sales at previous rates. Quotations 2½d. to 7d.

BALATA is extremely dull, with prices unchanged. West Indian sheet spot, 3/9½ to 3/10; forward, 3/7½ to 3/8 c.i.f.

COFFEE. The market, with the exception of fine home-trade sorts, is lifeless, and the last nominal quotation for ordinary Jamaica (58/-) is unchanged.

The imports of coffee for March, according to the Board of Trade Returns, amounted to 131,302 cwts., totalling 262,519 cwts. for the quarter, as against 174,190 cwts. for the first three months of 1920. The amount liberated for consumption for the month was 24,447 cwts., making 72,740 cwts. for the quarter, as against 76,581 cwts. and 61,078 cwts. for the same periods in 1920 and 1919 respectively. Only 851 cwts. were imported from the British West Indies during the month, making 1,816 cwts. for the quarter. The stocks on hand on March 31st amounted to 11,000 cwts., as against 17,000 cwts. at the same date last year.

COPRA has been very firm, and prices for some kinds have recovered about £2 10s. West Indian f.m.s. is valued at £27 10s.

COTTON. The market continues quiet, and quotations generally are lower. There is nothing to report in West Indian Sea Island, with nominal quotations unchanged. (Medium 25d. fine 33d.). Imports in the 14 weeks ending April 24th, 997 hales.

HONEY. Owing to the complete absence of demand on the part of buyers, public sales are still suspended. Jamaica is quoted nominally at 35/- to 60/- per cwt., with foreign sorts about 5/- per cwt. below these figures.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed continues to meet a ready demand, and stocks are almost exhausted. Distilled is not enquired for. Raw Lime Juice is very quiet.

LOGWOOD remains neglected, and quoted nominally at £8 to £10 per ton.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet. There are sellers at 12/6, but no buyers. Bitter is not wanted.

PETROLEUM exports from Trinidad during February were, according to advices from Mr. Edgar Tripp, 6,637,357 galls., making 8,878,891 galls. for the two months.

RUBBER. As the result of the present labour crisis, prices have fallen, spot crepe being quoted at 10½d., and sheet 9½d. A settlement of the coal dispute should cause a general improvement in this market.

SPICES. Jamaica Ginger, as was anticipated, has declined in value, and a moderate business has been done at 95/- to 120/- for small middling to fairly hold bright. The American market is reported to be more active. Pimento is quiet. A few hundred bags have sold at 27/8, but owing to the withdrawal of buyers, to-day's value is not more than 2½d. per lb. Stock in London, 35,643 bags.

WAX. Only a very small enquiry. Jamaica is valued nominally at £6 10s.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: CENTRAL 6642
Telegrams: CARIB, LONDON.



15, BERTHING LANE,
LONDON, E. C. 3.
April 27th, 1921

Income Tax Legislation.

NO little credit is due to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the business-like dispatch with which, taking advantage of concessions offered by the Imperial Finance Act of last year, they framed a measure, the Tax on Incomes Ordinance, 1920, which would have the effect of adding appreciably to the Colony's revenue, without, as was hoped, increasing the burdens of those who would become subject to its incidence. It will be recalled that after representations had been made by THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and following the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Income Tax, of which Mr. H. A. TROTTER, then Deputy Chairman of the Committee, was a member, the Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced into his Budget provisions obviating double payment of income tax within the Empire, where one of the taxes was imposed in the United Kingdom. This he did by allowing relief in respect of a portion of the United Kingdom income tax to persons also liable to assessment in one of the British Possessions—an example which he hoped

would be followed by the Dominions and Colonies, so as to ensure that the total amount payable in any particular case would not exceed the larger of the two taxes. Those of the West Indian Colonies which have imposed taxes upon income had hitherto, however, exempted proprietors paying tax in the United Kingdom from the payment of the local tax, their action in this respect differing from that of Canada and Newfoundland. Consequently the generosity of the Imperial Government in foregoing one of its sources of revenue has meant a very real concession to those Colonies, enabling them, as it now does, to secure for their own treasuries a large proportion of the amount previously paid to Imperial funds in respect of income derived from the West Indies by Income Tax payers resident at home. It is, indeed, estimated that the benefit which will accrue to Trinidad under this new arrangement at the expense of the Imperial Exchequer will amount to no less than £70,000 per annum. In so promptly seizing the opportunity of amending its Income Tax regulations in response to the Imperial example, Trinidad has once again proved a pioneer, being the first of the West Indian Colonies, and indeed, as we believe, one of the first of the Dominions and Colonies, to do so. After examining the new Ordinance, however, one must confess to a feeling of disappointment that the request of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the assistance of an expert from Somerset House could not be acceded to, no official on either the active or retired list of the Inland Revenue Department being available for the purpose, for the local Ordinance in its present form would appear to leave several points in doubt and to require modification in several respects if it is to achieve fully its admirable objects. To make the incidence of an impost levied on incomes equitable, is in itself an intricate matter, and the question of double taxation within the Empire is not the least complex of the problems involved, as the report of the Royal Commission, which appointed a special sub-committee to deal with this aspect of the subject, testifies. The Trinidad Ordinance solves the problem, broadly speaking, by adapting without many modifications the Income Tax Ordinance already in force the successor to the temporary War Contribution Tax. It omits the clause exempting a person whose income is assessed for taxation in the United Kingdom, and inserts a new one giving relief in that case "from such part of the tax for which he

is liable in the Colony as will, together with the relief to which he may be entitled in the United Kingdom amount to the lower of the two taxes for which he is liable." This is admirable as far as it goes, but it does not allow for the relief of non-residents assessable to income tax in parts of the Empire other than the United Kingdom. Another objection to the Ordinance is that one section (7) provides for a flat rate of £5 per cent. on the premiums received by an Insurance Company, and on all receipts on outgoing business, whether in freight or passengers, by a Shipping Company. This can hardly be described as an income tax in the accepted sense of the term, and it would certainly seem to be unnecessary and undesirable to adopt a differential method of taxing insurance and shipping companies. Again, there is no provision to obviate the profits of a company undistributed but taxed in any one year being subjected to taxation a second time on distribution in a succeeding year, while exception must be taken to the arrangement foreshadowed whereby an attorney will have to submit a return of the income of his principal, wherever it may be derived from, or received. Another section open to grave objection is one (5 (2)) which, as it stands, would appear to involve companies operating in Trinidad, and having possibly a very large number of debenture holders and shareholders all over the world, in the responsibility of submitting a complete list of them to the authorities in Trinidad, which would place a most unnecessary burden on to officials of the company. Whilst regarding it as obviously most desirable that Trinidad should derive financial advantage from the concessions offered by the Imperial Finance Act of 1920, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE were anxious that the interests of taxpayers should be fully safeguarded. Consequently, they arranged a conference with MR. A. M. LATTER (a counsel particularly well versed in income tax law), at which the new Trinidad Ordinance was closely examined. As a result, a letter has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies making certain suggestions for the modification of the Ordinance which, it is hoped, will commend themselves to the local Government. No doubt the other West Indian Colonies which have Income Tax Acts and Ordinances on their Statute Books will take steps to secure for themselves the advantages of the concessions afforded by the Imperial Government in the Finance Act of 1920, which will similarly induce Colonies that have not yet adopted the principle of Income Tax to broaden the basis of taxation by doing so. In the circumstances, it is, we venture to think, eminently desirable that steps should be taken to secure uniformity in legislation on this subject, and to that end we venture to suggest that this subject might with advantage form the basis of one of those West Indian Inter-Colonial Conferences which have proved so successful, and that the services of an expert from the Inland Revenue Department might be secured so that he could attend and advise the West Indies collectively regarding this extremely difficult and complicated subject.

Chaulmoogra Oil and Leprosy.

WE are informed that the West Indian Inter-Colonial Medical Conference is to meet in British Guiana on June 27th, and that the London School of Tropical Medicine will be represented at it by PROFESSOR R. T. LEIPER, who, it may be recalled, is head of the Expedition which is at present investigating malaria in that Colony. It is hoped that among the many questions concerning the health of the inhabitants of the West Indian Colonies to be discussed will be that of the prevalence of leprosy, a disease which has been brought prominently before public notice recently in consequence of the proposals to transfer the Leper Settlement in Trinidad from the neighbourhood of Port of Spain to the island of Chacachacare. If we might be pardoned for perpetrating a bull in connection with a matter of such grave importance, we would venture to suggest that the real solution of the problem as to where the lepers are to be located lies in getting rid of the lepers altogether by abolishing leprosy. For many years this matter has been engaging the close attention of medical scientists, but no real and lasting remedy for this terrible disease has, as yet, been found. Optimistic reports have recently reached this country from Hawaii as to the success which has attended the treatment of lepers there with chaulmoogra oil. Statements to the effect that cures have been effected by this treatment should, however, be regarded with caution, to say the least of it, for no definite proof of such cures has, as yet, been forthcoming, and it would be cruel in the circumstances to buoy up sufferers with false hopes. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that experiments are being conducted with a new drug based on one of the active principles of chaulmoogra oil at Leper Settlements in different parts of the Empire. Chaulmoogra oil, it may be explained, is derived from the seeds of a tree known to botanists as *Taraktogenos kurzii*, which grows in India. So long ago as 1904, DR. F. B. POWER, the then Director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, discovered that this oil contained certain fatty acids previously unknown, which were found to have a remedial effect when applied in cases of skin disease. Since then many experiments have been conducted with a view to ascertaining the best means of administering these active constituents, notably by SIR LEONARD ROGERS, and it would appear that it is in the development of these that DR. MACDONALD and DR. DEAN have met with a measure of success in Hawaii. The Hawaiian experiments are being conducted with an improved and concentrated form of the oil, suitable for injection into the muscles. Trials have been in progress for about three years, and it is stated that a number of patients have recovered sufficiently to be passed for liberation from the leper establishment. Here again we must sound a note of warning. No proof of permanent cure has yet been furnished. One thing is certain, and that is that improvement does follow the use of gynocardate of soda, one of the active principles of chaulmoogra oil, just as it does with the oil itself, but we cannot claim it as a

specific in the sense that it will certainly free the patient from his infection and completely cure him. No doubt the time will come when the terrible disease of leprosy is conquered, as other diseases have been, but it would be premature to state that victory is yet in sight. Meanwhile, it will be interesting to learn whether the Inter-Colonial Conference, which will shortly be meeting in Georgetown, has any suggestion to make for stamping it out. At the close of last year it was stated that a well-known business man and philanthropist was contemplating the devotion of a large sum of money towards the equipment of an Expedition to rid the West Indian Colonies of tropical disease. His plans, however, were abandoned when it was learnt that the London School of Tropical Medicine itself proposed to take the work in hand. This philanthropist is, we believe, now in the West Indies, and we venture to suggest that he would, perhaps, be the means of conferring a lasting benefit on the British West Indies if he were to endow the London School of Tropical Medicine with a sufficient sum of money to enable it to carry out a vigorous policy in the direction of the investigation of leprosy on the spot in the West Indies and of devising means for its reduction, or, better still, for its eradication.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Banquet to the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, has accepted an invitation to be present at the Banquet to be given by the West India Committee to the Prince of Wales on June 24th next. It has now been definitely decided to hold the Banquet at the Hyde Park Hotel, and full particulars regarding the function will be posted to members of the West India Committee towards the middle of May.

Thirty-four New Members Elected.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, held on April 14th, Mr. R. Rutherford presiding, 34 candidates, whose names are given below, were elected members of the West India Committee, making the number elected this year ninety-nine.

Names	Proposers and Secondors
Rear-Admiral Sir Allan F. Everett, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B. (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. A. Aemilius Richards, J.P. (Grenada).	{ Mr. J. M. Gray, J.P. (Messrs. H. L. Ellis & Co.
Mr. P. E. Ryan (St. Kitts).	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. } Mr. W. A. Stephens.
The Agricultural & Commercial Society (Nevis).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. R. Radclyffe Hall, B.A. (Barbados).	{ Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. } Mr. L. T. Yearwood.
Mr. Edwin P. McCartney (Grenada).	{ Mr. John Barclay. } Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. Keith M. B. Simon, J.P. (British Honduras).	{ Mr. P. Stanley Woods. } Hon. F. W. Bidle, J.P.
His Honour Mr. G. O'D. Walton (Grenada).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Cyril Gurney.

Mr. W. T. Tout (British Guiana).	{ Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd. } Mr. W. A. Boyd.
Mr. F. E. Reid (St. Kitts).	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. } Mr. G. Goodall.
Mr. G. C. Cassels (London).	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. } Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. J. H. Stark (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. H. V. F. Jones (Toronto).	{ Mr. C. Cambie. } Canadian Bank of Commerce
Mr. W. N. Meeks (Jamaica).	{ Mr. A. W. Farquharson. } Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. E. W. Mann (London).	{ Mr. G. M. Frame. } Mr. C. A. Campbell.
Mr. G. J. A. Gloumeau (St. Lucia).	{ Mr. Arthur P. Skeat. } Mr. George Barnard.
Mr. J. D. Taylor (London).	{ Mr. G. M. Frame. } Mr. R. Rutherford.
Messrs. Mann, Little & Co., Ltd. (London).	{ Mr. G. M. Frame. } Mr. C. A. Campbell.
Mr. R. H. Curry (Bahamas).	{ Miss Mary Moseley, } M.B.E.
Mr. K. S. Lockhart (St. Kitts).	{ Capt. E. V. Solomon. } The Hon. G. C. Johnson.
Mr. H. H. Troop (Jamaica).	{ The Hon. B. Marshall. } Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. E. Haughton Sanguinetti (Jamaica).	{ Mr. W. Fawcett, R.Sc. } Mr. L. de Mercado.
Mr. S. W. Walter (British Guiana).	{ Mr. W. Baggett Gray. } Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. R. L. Watts (British Guiana).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. G. A. Bentall (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. Frank D. T. Alexander (Grenada).	{ Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. } Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. H. L. Gagnon (Guadeloupe).	{ Mr. A. Hayward. } Mr. J. Sydney Dash.
Mr. T. J. Redhead, M.C. (Country).	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. } Mr. W. C. Winston.
Mrs. MacGregor (Country).	{ Mr. W. A. Boyd. } Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. A. W. Davson, F.S.I. (London).	{ Mr. H. F. Previté. } Mr. P. M. Davson.
Mr. F. M. Gibson (Cuba).	{ Mr. F. I. Scard, F.I.C. } Mr. C. Cambie.
Mr. W. Robson (Montserrat).	{ Canadian Bank of Commerce, } Mr. C. Griffin.
Mr. H. F. Shand (Montserrat).	{ Mr. W. L. Wall. } Mr. C. Griffin.
Mr. L. A. Grant (Trinidad).	{ Mr. W. L. Wall. } Mr. W. G. Key. } Mr. C. A. Campbell.

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).

DEFERRED messages are now being accepted again for despatch "via Marconi" at cheap rates to the British West Indies and British Guiana, among other places. Such messages, which should be marked "Via Marconi-Bermuda," can be handed in at any P.O. Telegraph Office.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"TABLE napkin want to turn table-cloth."

THE Opposition in the Canadian Parliament claim that the Government Mercantile Marine is a losing venture, and have advocated the sale of its entire fleet.

THE few members who have not already paid their subscription to the West India Committee for the current year are asked to do so without delay.

THE cost of growing canes in Barbados rose from \$2.30-\$8.60 per acre before the war to \$4.50-\$6.00 in 1919. In 1920, owing to the drought and consequent short crop, it further advanced to \$15.00-\$16.00 per acre.

SUCCESSFUL candidates for the post of sub-inspector of constabulary in Jamaica, Trinidad, and British Guiana may in future be required to undergo a course of training at the Depot of the Royal Irish Constabulary in Dublin.

SIR FRANCIS WATTS left Barbados for England in the s.s. *Vauban* on April 18th. The principal object of his visit will be to discuss with the West Indian Agricultural College Committee the plans for the College buildings.

A FUND is being raised by the Rev. Lipscombe Orpwood, of St. Matthew's Vicarage, Fulham, to perpetuate the memory of Bishop Christopher Lipscombe, D.D., first Bishop of Jamaica, by renovating the Jamaica Cathedral. The treasurer is Countess de Rivas, of Bearsden, Camberley.

MR. R. RUTHERFORD, as Chairman of the Committee of the City of London Truss Society, proposed the health of the Lord Mayor of London at the annual festival of that body, which was held at the Great Eastern Railway Hotel on April 14th. Over £800 was collected for the charity in the room.

MR. D. ELLIOTT ALVES, who has been visiting Trinidad, has announced that the British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., of which he is President, proposes to drain the Oropouche Lagoon, and after reclaiming some 5,000 acres of land to drill for oil on it. The lagoon is an extensive swamp fed by the Oropouche River, through which the main road from San Fernando to La Brea passes.

CAPTAIN W. WIGHAM RICHARDSON, M.B.E., eldest son of Lt.-Colonel P. W. Richardson, of Weybridge, Surrey, and A.D.C. to the Governor of Barbados from September, 1918, to August, 1920, was married at St. John's Church, St. Leonard's, on April 20th to Miss K. Elizabeth Elphinstone, only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Howard

John Elphinstone, and niece of His Excellency Sir Charles O'Brien and Lady O'Brien, and of Mr. Launcelot Elphinstone, late Solicitor-General of Trinidad.

THOUGH the anniversary of Rodney's victory over de Grasse, on April 12th, 1782, in the glorious Battle of the Saints, which secured to England her West Indian colonies, passes almost, if not quite, unnoticed in the West Indies, it is not forgotten in the Old Country. On April 12th the Union Jack (in the absence of the flag of the West Indies, which has yet to be adopted) was flying over the West India Committee Rooms, and the day was commemorated by a dinner of the Royal Navy Clubs of 1765 and 1785, Admiral Sir Herbert G. King Hall presiding.

THE Board of Trade Returns in respect of sugar furnish much food for reflection as to the manner in which sugars are allocated to the heading of "Refined" and "Unrefined." Thus, during the last year, 142,894 tons of Mauritius sugar were imported, which were of the description known as plantation whites and were of high polarisation. These were entered under "unrefined," while 5,014 tons of a similar class of sugar from Java were entered under "refined." Now that white sugar possessing a polarisation of over 99 deg. is a recognised estates' manufacture, the old classification "refined" and "unrefined" should be given up, and headings more in keeping with modern conditions substituted. "For direct consumption" and "For indirect consumption" would be more suitable sub-divisions.

"PLUM" WARNER devotes a chapter in his new book, "My Cricketing Life," to the West Indies, where he was born. It was in Trinidad that he first saw the light, and his earliest recollection of cricket was of batting in a marble gallery to the bowling of a black boy called "Killebree" (humming bird). When playing clad only in a night shirt before seven o'clock, windows were often broken, which led the boots to console Mr. Charles William Warner, "Plum's" father, with the remark: "I tell you, sir, Mr. Pelham he make a fine bat, sir, when he grow big"! Again, "Plum" recalls that when his brother Raymond hit a single cricket stump when practising before a match at San Fernando, a black man remarked: "O Lard, Mr. Pelham, if your brudder do that wid one stump, what will he do wid three?" The author reminds us that the present Lord Harris was born at Government House in Trinidad, and remarks that it is curious that two men who subsequently had the honour of captaining England at cricket should have first seen the light of day in such a small outpost of Empire.

SWEET POTATO CAKES.—1 lb. sweet potatoes grated, 2 eggs, 1 lb. sugar, half pint milk, spice and nutmeg, tablespoonful of salt butter, and 1 tablespoonful lard. Drop in boiling lard and fry brown.

—MRS. HOBSON.

CANE GROWING ON THE ZAMBESI.

BY F. J. MORRIS.

Mr. F. J. Morris has had a wide experience of sugar-cane cultivation. In 1879 he went out to British Guiana and took up the appointment of overseer at Pln. Hampton Court, then the property of the Colonial Company, under Mr. Peter Abel. He continued on various estates belonging to the company and its successor, the New Colonial Company, Ltd., until 1905, when Pln. Peter's Hall, of which he was manager, was sold to the Demerara Company. At the close of the following year he took up the management of Forres Park, an estate in Trinidad belonging to the New Colonial Company, and remained there until 1913, when the property was sold to Messrs. Henderson. In 1916 Mr. Morris went out to the Zambesi to report on the Sena Sugar Company's factories, of which he was manager in 1917-1918.

Of the 40,000 tons of sugar manufactured in Portuguese East Africa, 30,000 to 35,000 tons come from three estates within a hundred miles of the mouth of the Zambesi River, one situated on the north bank, and two on the south bank, all now the property of Sena Sugar Estates, Ltd. Each of these estates turns out 10,000 or more tons in an average season.

With regard to the climate, the wet season usually starts at the end of November and continues till April, followed by showers and cool weather till June. From then to the end of November the weather is very hot and dry, the temperature sometimes reaching 115 degrees in the shade. The rainfall varies from 30 to 45 inches per annum, the heaviest fall being in the districts nearest the coast. In the hot and wet seasons there is a good deal of malaria.

The soil, which varies from a fairly stiff clay to a light sandy loam of good depth, enables deep tillage to be carried out, the land being flat and very suitable for mechanical work. The fields are mostly laid out in squares of 30 or more acres, with broad traces round them to enable the cultivator engines to work easily, and so that portable light lines may be laid to feed the main lines.

After the land has been cleared it is double-ploughed 18 to 24 inches deep by Fowler's Steam Cultivators, of which there are three double sets on each estate. Shallow drains are then constructed 40 to 50 feet apart by a special plough for surface drainage, whilst another plough ridges out the cane rows six feet apart. The land is then left fallow until the rains start, at the end of November or December, when the cane plant cuttings are put in by hand and lightly covered with earth. As soon as the plants are high enough they are weeded and moulded and kept clean until they are about six months old, from which time no more labour is expended on them, since the trash and leaves adhere so closely that it is almost impossible to clean them, until they are burnt and cut, when

eighteen to twenty months old. The yield is then 60 or more tons per acre, a large block often averaging 40 to 50 tons per acre. Henceforward the only tillage done is weeding and moulding for another six months, after which the canes are left to grow on their own. Each estate usually prepares some 1,500 acres every dry season for planting.

The Uba is the cane most generally grown. Other varieties have been tried, but not one has, so far, been found to compare with it. The Uba is a thin, greenish cane with long joints and hard rind, and has 14 to 20 per cent. fibre and 10 to 14 per cent. sucrose. Very hardy, it ratoons splendidly—so much so, that once it is established, no supplying is required, and it is run to third or fourth ratoons. When the soil is suitable, the roots are said to go down six to eight feet, this being probably in the dry season, when they follow the moisture. The ratoons are cut after about twelve months, and yield from 13 to 30 tons per acre. In Natal, where this cane is also largely grown, plants and ratoons are cut at 18 to 24 months.



VILLA FONTES SUGAR FACTORY ON THE ZAMBESI.

Two of the estates have large irrigation works, the water being pumped from the Zambesi, or some smaller river, by centrifugal pumps, which are driven by either light locomotive boilers or suction gas plants. The water has to be raised 20 to 30 feet to the flumes, which are made up of earth, conducted for miles through the plantations, and finally distributed by means of canals and small drills among the banks between the cane rows, one drill supplying two cane rows. The Zambesi is full of sand banks, which are continually shifting and blocking up, with the result that a pumping station, after being used a season or two may have to be moved. The cost of irrigation runs from 20s. to 30s. per ton of sugar. The other estate,

Marromeu, being nearer the sea, and within the main belt, has no irrigation works.

Labour is recruited from Portuguese Nyassaland, the Shire highlands, and Angoniland, on short period contracts—usually from six to nine months only. The men work on the plantations. The



A STERN WHEELER ON THE ZAMBESI.

Angonis provide the best class of labour, but are not nearly so good as the East Indian, a fact which may, perhaps, be accounted for by the short term of the contract, since by the time the labourer becomes useful the contract is up. Again, the man at his home does no work, since he has two or more wives, who do all that is necessary on the mealie patch.

Up to the present little trouble has been experienced with insect pests, partly, perhaps, owing to the hard surface of the Uba Cane rind, and to the leaves adhering so closely to the cane.

The three factories are well equipped with up-to-date milling plants, each having a Krajewski and four mills of three rollers, making fourteen rollers in all. They are also provided with Ramsey macerators, quadruple evaporators, vacuum pans, and centrifugals, etc.

Refining sugar of 96 to 98 test was usually made for the Lisbon market until recent years, when a large proportion of white sugar has been made. There are no distilleries, the molasses being worked down to as near 30 deg. purity as possible, and then thrown away.

The canes are taken from the fields in trucks carrying three to four tons each to the mills by locomotive engines on narrow gauge lines. The sugar, when made, is conveyed by stern-wheel steamers down the river to Chinde. There are quite a number of these steamers of about two

feet draught plying between the port of Chinde and Chindio, a distance of 110 miles, and each steamer takes one or two barges on either side. With good water, one of these barges carries 50 tons, but towards the end of the dry season it often can only take 10 tons. The river is some three miles wide, and the usual rise to flood period is about 17 feet, although early in 1918 it rose several feet higher on account of rains in the upper reaches; all the land was flooded, most of the canes being four to six feet under water for several weeks. In this way a large quantity of mature canes was destroyed, but the stools sprung up again, showing what the Uba cane can endure. The river is pretty well infested with crocodiles of large size, which makes bathing dangerous unless a considerable noise is kept up. A number of hippopotami are also to be seen.

No horses or mules are kept, and only a few cattle, owing to the tsetse fly, though the bush is mostly cleared and the haunts of this insect should have been destroyed. It is supposed to be brought back again by wild animals, especially the buffalo. In the dry season lions frequently come close to the estates, and every year several are killed. The natives have little fear of them, unless it be of the old ones, or man eaters, that are unable to hunt other game. Leopards are more feared. Now and again herds of buffalo are to be seen, and are dangerous to approach. An elephant sometimes strays on to the estate and does



MARROMEU FACTORY ON THE ZAMBESI.
This picture was taken during a flood in 1918.

considerable damage to the canes till it is either killed or driven off. Small game includes various kinds of deer and bucks; there is also very good duck shooting.

EAST INDIAN EMIGRATION.

The Indian Government's Policy.

BY THOMAS GREENWOOD.

Mr. Greenwood is an Hon. Treasurer and a member of the Executive of the West India Committee. It will be recalled that in 1919-20, as the representative of the Committee, he accompanied the delegation of the British Guiana Colonization Deputation to India to discuss with the Government and leaders of public opinion there the question of emigration to British Guiana, to which he has devoted much time and thought.

The Government of India have at last disclosed their policy regarding emigration. A Bill was laid before the Legislative Assembly at Delhi on March 21st last, which lays down the conditions upon which Indians will be allowed to emigrate from their mother country in search of happier conditions.

Those who have followed the subject will remember that an embargo was placed on emigration by the Defence of India Act, Rule 16 B, which runs as follows:—"No native of India shall depart by sea out of British India for the purpose of, or with the intention of labouring for hire in any country beyond the limits of India. Provided that the prohibition imposed by this rule shall not extend to any person permitted so to depart by general or special licence granted by such authority as the Governor-General may appoint in this behalf."

The new Act will supersede this rule and repeal the old Emigration Act, with the result that all the law on the subject will now be embodied in a single statute.

The new Act, which is entitled, "The Emigration Bill of 1921," was introduced by Mr. C. A. Innes, and dealt with very fully in a speech by Sir George Barnes, who explained that the Government did not wish to proceed with the Bill during the present session, but preferred to wait until the autumn, in order to allow ample time for the consideration of its provisions by the members of the Indian Legislature, and for free criticism by the public Press.

The clauses of the Bill which are of the greatest interest to the British West Indies are those numbered 7 and 8. Clause 7 provides that the Indian Government may, if the Colonial Government agrees, appoint agents overseas who shall be answerable to the Government of India alone. The agents would not only keep the Government of India informed of all matters affecting the welfare of the Indians living in the Colonies to which they are appointed, but would also be at the service of any Indian wishing to seek their advice.

Clause 8 prohibits the emigration of unskilled workers unless and until both Chambers of the Legislature approve the conditions prevailing in the Colonies to which they desire to proceed; whilst clause 10 prohibits the emigration of skilled workers also, unless they first obtain permission from the local Government, which permission will not be granted unless the local Government is satisfied as to the conditions.

These prohibitions apply only to workers who intend to avail themselves of assistance from the

country to which they wish to proceed. No prohibition or restriction is placed on the free emigration of any one, whether skilled or unskilled, provided he receives no assistance, either in the way of travelling expenses, or otherwise. In this connection Sir George Barnes said: "It will be very wrong to hamper or control free emigration. It would be an unjustifiable interference with the liberty of the subject."

As the Bill will not be proceeded with until the autumn, the British West Indian Colonies will have six months during which they may formulate what action, if any, shall be taken to bring about the immigration of Indians. It is quite clear that the resources of the Colonies offer the largest scope to Indians of the agricultural classes—indeed, unless agriculturists come as pioneers there will be little room for Indians of the commercial and educated classes. It is also plain that Indians of the Agricultural classes have not the money to travel, and that consequently they cannot emigrate without assistance. It is obvious, therefore, that it will be necessary to assist them, and in consequence the approval of both Houses of the Legislature must be obtained.

We are left in the dark as to the precise conditions which the two Houses will regard as being satisfactory; but it may be taken for granted that a *sine quâ non* will be absolute equality of political rights for the emigrant with the other inhabitants of the Colony to which he proceeds. Should the two Houses demand conditions which would lay a financial burden on the Colony greater than it can bear, the possibility of emigration of agricultural labourers is nil; but in view of Sir George Barnes' remarks at Delhi on March 21st, it is to be hoped that the demands of the two Houses will not be unreasonable. He said: "Those who would prohibit emigration of every kind are only a small minority, and I believe the views of that minority to be ill-founded and wrong. History tells us that no Nation has ever been really great in the world which tried to keep all its nationals within its own borders. No people will flourish who are content to shut themselves up in a ring fence. I should like also to put it on record that we think the policy ought to be not only to permit, but even to encourage Indian emigration to countries where they enjoy the same political rights as other classes of His Majesty's subjects. In this way we shall find an outlet for our surplus population and open up a more prosperous career for our depressed classes. In this way we shall extend our commercial and economic influence, and last, but not least, we shall give Indians a wider outlook on the world generally."

There is no evidence that the Indian Authorities will demand conditions in any way different from those already existing in a Colony such as, for example, British Guiana. But what they will be anxious about will be to prevent an Indian subject finding himself trapped in a distant country far away from which he cannot return owing to lack of means.

It may, I think, be assumed with some degree of certainty that the Indian Authorities will

approve any scheme which first provides equality of political rights; and, secondly, makes it possible (through the intervention of the agent of the Government of India, or otherwise) for any disappointed emigrant to return to India if he should so desire. Beyond these two important stipulations there is not likely to be any serious condition laid down by the Indian Authorities which cannot be fulfilled.

Registered Employers will be under an obligation to provide rations, etc., until the Colonist has "settled down," and proper living conditions afterwards; but I feel sure that a guaranteed wage and grant of land other than that available under existing Ordinances is unnecessary so long as a free return passage is available to any immigrant with a legitimate grievance.

DECONTROL OVERDUE.

Strangling Guiana's Rice Industry.

The West India Committee forwarded the following telegram, which they had received from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 5th, the Chamber, according to its covering message, having been unable to secure its transmission through the prescribed channel:

"Georgetown Chamber Commerce respectfully requests Secretary State urgent intervention respecting rice situation. Government refuses allow export limited quantity before October harvest notwithstanding abundance other foodstuffs and Indian rice offering at reduced values Chamber submit present stocks rice conservative estimate two hundred-thousand bags consumption estimate seven months hundred sixty-thousand bags if twenty thousand bags allowed export merchants offer guarantee import later if necessary replace quantity. Exported at price to be fixed at time of export. Available stocks accumulating last five months rapidly deteriorating. Merchants declining further financial assistance to East Indian farmers owing continuance necessary restrictions upsetting economic conditions and inflicting heavy losses on those interested rice industry. Government action compelling farmers store stocks will seriously affect future industry and colony's agricultural stability. Chamber submits with pre-war conditions now obtaining and world's markets steadily declining colonial Government policy controlling rice while all other products decontrolled should be immediately abandoned."

In passing, it may be noted that when the cablegram was delivered at the West India Committee Rooms, four words of material importance were missing, and it was not until ten days later that the message was completed. Enquiries elicited the fact that this extraordinary blunder was made over the West Indian cables. On April 16th the Committee received the following telegram from the British Guiana Rice Growers' Association, which they also forwarded to the Colonial Office:

"British Guiana Rice Growers' Association request you associate them Chamber of Commerce representation Secretary State rice industry approve action by Chamber earnestly request immediate action."

The question of the control of rice in British Guiana was raised at a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, April 14th, when it was decided to urge that the industry might be decontrolled, it appearing that the continuance of the present restrictions was having a most prejudicial effect. It was agreed that, hostilities having now ceased for over two years, the continuance of the control of industries could only be justified by the possibility of grave emergencies supervening decontrol, and it was gathered from several gentlemen closely interested in British Guiana who were present that such a contingency was most unlikely to arise. It was further pointed out that the estimates of rice consumption in the Colony had been placed unduly high, being based on the figures of a year or more ago, when imported foodstuffs, such as Canadian flour, were very dear, and that with such foodstuffs now very much cheaper, there was a distinct falling off in the demand for rice.

The Postmaster-General, whose attention was called to the remarkable mistake in the transmission of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce's telegram, referred to in the above article, has replied, through the Secretary to the Post Office, as follows:—

"I am directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that he has ascertained that the omissions from the telegram in question occurred in the wireless transmission between Demerara and Trinidad.

"The West India and Panama Telegraph Company's cable between these places being interrupted, all telegrams from Demerara are sent to Trinidad by means of wireless. Copies of telegrams so transmitted are forwarded by mail from Demerara and checked upon receipt at Trinidad. The omissions from the telegram to which your letter refers were detached on the receipt in Trinidad of the mailed copy, whereupon a correction was immediately forwarded. The inconvenience caused by the error is being brought to the notice of the Wireless Administrations."

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

All the West Indian Colonies, with the exception of Barbados (whose Legislature still has the matter under consideration), have now ratified the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of June, 1920. A Bill to give effect to the Agreement was introduced into the Canadian House of Commons on April 5th, and arrangements have been made for giving in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR a report of the proceedings whilst it is under discussion. Replying to a question, after the Bill had been introduced, as to whether political union had been considered, Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, said that it would be unwise to discuss that matter in view of the possible lack of unanimity regarding it.

SURVEYING FROM THE AIR.

Flying Boats for British Guiana.

Major Cochran Patrick, D.S.O., M.C., who left England by s.s. *Specialist* on April 7th, is to head an expedition, which will include two pilots, Mr. C. E. Ward and Mr. F. Bailey, and Mr. W. D. Corse, an experienced air photography officer, the object being an aerial survey of Venezuela and British Guiana. This expedition, which is under the direction of the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Co., Ltd., is being carried out at the instance of the British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., who have obtained from the Government of Venezuela certain oil concessions in the delta of the Orinoco. This delta, which is of very great extent, consists of a tangled area of mangrove swamps intersected by numerous streams, and is quite uncharted. To search on foot or by boats for the oil springs would be an almost hopeless task, for it would be quite easy to pass near by a spring in the forest without discovering it. Without a good map it would be difficult to make a start in any work in such a region, and to map it in the ordinary way would be a work of years, and vastly expensive. The concessionaires have therefore employed the Bermuda company to make a map and survey of part of the delta by aerial photography. From the air the oil springs ought to be easily discernible, as where the oil rises to the surface of the ground the vegetation near by withers and dies. For an aeroplane, it is not too pleasant to have to fly over a large forest, for if the engine were to fail the machine would have to come down on the tree tops. But the number of streams in the Orinoco delta put quite a different complexion on affairs. What would be dangerous for an aeroplane becomes quite simple for a flying boat, or seaplane. The former is preferable, as these sturdy craft can be moored out in a river when not at work, and take no harm, which obviates the necessity of erecting expensive sheds. In fact, the river forms the aerodrome, and the other streams provide emergency alighting places. These marine aircraft are the regular equipment of the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Co. at Hamilton.

Two Supermarine flying boats, one fitted with a 160 h.p. Beardmore engine, and the other with a 240 h.p. Puma, have been despatched to Venezuela, together with a motor-boat and two steel living barges, on which the members of the expedition will

live in one of the main mouths of the river, while the flying boats will be moored close by. The machines have an orifice for the camera in the bow, by which means, when the boat is flying, photographs can be taken of the ground immediately beneath it.

When the work on the Orinoco delta has been set going, Major Patrick intends to proceed to British Guiana, where the Government desires an aerial photographic survey of the Colony to be made as a preliminary to undertaking the development of the interior. As is well known, the rivers which flow through the forests of this Colony are so full of rapids that they cannot be navigated by steamers, and the best means of communication between the



LAUNCHING A SUPERMARINE FLYING BOAT AT BERMUDA.
The Hangar of the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Co., Ltd., is seen.

Savannahs and the coast would seem to be seaplanes flying along the course of the rivers and using them as bases and emergency alighting places. But nothing in the direction of developing the interior can be undertaken until a good map of the whole land has been made, and this can be best done by the aerial camera.

By the means of photographs it is possible to give accurate and detailed survey of ground, and the amount of time saved is enormous, for, subject to good weather, many hundreds of square miles can be covered in a day.

The attention of our readers is drawn to a description in our advertisement columns of a new form of manure prepared by Messrs. John Poynter, Son & Macdonalds. In this a prominent feature is the presence of a considerable percentage of carbon, the value of which for keeping open and disinfecting soils has not been sufficiently recognised in recent years. The manure contains, in addition, a high proportion of "soluble" phosphates, and is thus suitable for plants especially requiring phosphoric acid, and in soils where there is a shortage of this body in an available form.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENERGY.

Proposals for the Jamaica Railway.

Mr. H. Howard Humphreys, who undertook to investigate on behalf of the Government of Jamaica the possibilities of the development of hydro-electric power in the Island, and of the application of electricity to the Government railway, has now presented an interesting and comprehensive report, in the course of which he states that there is considerable water power in the island which can be relied upon even in dry seasons, and is at present running to waste. The development of the White, Black, and Roaring rivers is, Mr. Humphreys thinks, quite a simple engineering problem, and they will give sufficient power to operate the railways and leave a considerable margin for other purposes. By their development the island would be rendered practically independent of the supply of coal for power purposes, and to that extent would become self-supplying. There are risks owing to earthquakes and hurricanes, but these can be provided against to some extent by developing several sources and transmitting the power over different routes.

The electrification of the railways should bring about a considerable improvement in both the passenger and goods services, and so lead to an increase of traffic and a demand for extension of the system. The capital expenditure necessary for the provision of the power stations, main transmission lines, electrification of the whole of the railways, supply of electric locomotives, and the provision of about 2,000 kw. of power for general purposes is estimated at £1,970,240. The extra annual cost of working the railways if electrified in 1928-7 over the cost for steam operation is estimated at £4,500 after providing for interest at 6 per cent. on the capital expenditure and for sinking funds to accumulate at 5 per cent. and replace the capital expended on electrification at periods varying from 20 to 40 years. This extra cost would probably be met by the profit made on the sale of electrical energy for other purposes. A supply of electrical energy at reasonable rates should encourage the development of new industries and add to the general prosperity of the island. The estimates of cost and comparisons with steam working were made at a time when the prices of coal and materials were at the highest level, but as both will probably be lower in the near future the proportions should be maintained within reasonable limits.

Mr. Humphreys proposes that in the first instance three power stations should be provided, one of 5,000 h.p. or 2,800 kw. on the Roaring River, and one each of 4,000 h.p. or 2,240 kw. on the White and Black rivers. Allowing for a reserve unit, the total working plant capacity would be 5,880 kw. The three stations would supply into a common transmission line along the railway. At periods of light load it would be necessary to run only two, or possibly one, of the stations. In the event of further power being required later, the lower falls of the White River, Dunn's River, and other streams could be developed.

After the needs of the railways have been supplied, there should be about 2,000 kw. available for other purposes, such as operating sugar mills at present worked by wood-fired steam engines, and pumping water for irrigation.

The Jamaica Government Railway consists of 197½ miles of standard (4 ft. 8½ in.) track. The rails are rather light, and there are gradients of 1 in 88, with sharp curves, particularly on the hill section of the line to Montego Bay. It has never been financially prosperous either in the hands of a company or as a Government undertaking. The traffic conditions are somewhat peculiar. At present nearly all the trains are run during the hours of daylight. The banana and sugar traffic is seasonal, and in the case of the former it is necessary to move large quantities of fruit in a short space of time when the vessels in which the bananas are shipped are in port. The traffic load is, therefore, not at all well distributed over the 24 hours. It is considered that the direct current system would secure the most satisfactory and economical working of the railway, the pressure recommended being 1,500 volts.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND.

The total of the West India Committee Endowment Fund has now reached £22,980. The Hon. Treasurers have to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions since the last list was published in the CIRCULAR of March 31st:—

THIRTY-FIRST LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged	£22,945	10	10
The British Dycwood Co., Ltd. ...	25	0	0
T. W. Innes, Esq. ...	2	2	0
N. M. Balden, Esq. ...	1	1	0
G. C. May, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Hon. E. A. H. Schofield ...	1	1	0
N. D. Simpson, Esq. ...	1	1	0
H. Haynes, Esq. ...	1	0	10
His Hon. Major H. Peebles, D.S.O. ...	1	0	0
G. E. Anderson, Esq. ...	10	6	
F. F. Ross, Esq. ...	9	0	
J. K. French, Esq. ...	5	0	

In view especially of the fact that the minimum subscription to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE still remains at the pre-war rate, namely, £1 1s., it is hoped that every member will contribute towards the Endowment Fund. Contributions may be paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce, or forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3, and every amount will be acknowledged in the CIRCULAR.

Jamaican Shipping Dues.

The Jamaican Legislature has passed a resolution providing that vessels from New Zealand, Australia, and Tasmania, as also ships belonging to the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, coming to Jamaica during the period from 1921 to 1923 shall be exempt from tonnage and light dues.

A WORD ABOUT COFFEE.

So many of our gallant soldiers, having been initiated into the coffee cult in *estaminets* and *cafés* in France and Flanders during the war, it is reasonable to expect that now that they have returned to their homes they will continue to appreciate good coffee when they can get it. In connection with this beverage, our contemporary, the *Produce Market Summary*, writes:

"If coffee could be prepared for drinking so that its natural flavour and aroma were unimpaired, yet without retaining any detracting substances or flavours, a cup of coffee could well be considered a cup of a perfect beverage.

"In the United States, now that prohibition has arrived and attention has to be turned to non-alcoholic drinks, coffee is coming in for a very great share of the interest. Coffee is drunk all over the world and, therefore, seeing that its value is so widely recognised, it is to be deplored that, in a very large number of cases, in the home or in the restaurant, coffee is so prepared as to be lacking in that delectable flavour and aroma which it should possess.

"Numerous investigators have interested themselves in coffee, and it might be supposed that there would be little left to discover about it. It is apparent, however, that few have taken up the study of coffee from the most important standpoint, which surely must be that of the roasting and preparation of the beverage itself. The consumer's interests are, after all, the hinges on which turn the whole structure of the coffee trade and, unless the public can get good coffee, properly blended and roasted, and until they can be advised on the best method of its preparation, the consumption of coffee will not increase.

"The most characteristic component of coffee is caffeine, and it is to this that coffee owes much of its value. Although the percentage of caffeine is small, it being found in the bean only to the extent of 1 per cent. to 1½ per cent., it is the stimulating principle in the cup of coffee.

"It has been stated that caffeine is injurious to the human system, yet while this may be true in exceptional circumstances, thorough investigations have proved that caffeine is *not* generally harmful. There are people who cannot drink tea or even milk, but cases of personal idiosyncrasy must not be allowed to neutralise general conclusions. Scientific researches on caffeine indicate that it is stimulating, that it is not narcotic, and that it increases the ability of the consumer to do mental and physical work. Yet, unlike many other stimulants, it leaves no depression afterwards. Although caffeine, after much research, has been proved to be of a generally desirable character, some of the other ingredients have not been investigated so fully, and consequently the whole truth about coffee cannot yet be told. The changes which occur during its roasting will have to be more carefully looked into before the considered judgment of science is given on the best possible way of preparing it for drink-

ing. At the present moment it is generally accepted, in this country at least, that the berry should be roasted until its colour approximates to that of a ripe chestnut. The correct stage is only found, however, after much practice in the difficult art of roasting, and it is in attention to this important point that the coffee roaster can show the culmination of his experience.

"It is in the interests of the whole coffee trade for those engaged in it to endeavour to get the public to put such confidence in coffee that their enthusiasm for it may be kindled, and increased sales result thereby."

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following appointments, transfers, and promotions affecting the Colonial Civil Service of the British West Indies have been recently made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Appointments.

- CAPT. A. E. DELGADO, Assistant Medical Officer, British Guiana.
 DR. J. CLAVINA, Assistant Medical Officer, British Guiana.
 MR. H. E. JOHNSTONE-SMITH, Sub-Inspector of Police, British Guiana.
 MR. G. A. ELLIOTT, Topographical Surveyor, British Honduras.
 MR. S. A. MCKINSTRY, Sub-Inspector of Police, Leeward Islands.

Transfers and Promotions.

- LIEUT.-COLONEL F. JENKINS, C.M.C. (Colonial Secretary, Barbados), Secretary, Southern Provinces, Nigeria.
 MR. A. E. YOUNG (former Deputy Surveyor-General, Federated Malay States), Surveyor-General, Jamaica.
 DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER (Port Health Officer, Barbados), Sanitary Commissioner, Ceylon.
 MR. H. M. KING (Second Class Inspector of Police, Jamaica), Assistant Commissioner of Police, Nigeria.
 MR. P. M. MACKAY (Assistant Locomotive Superintendent, Cyprus Government Railway), Assistant Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Superintendent and Works Manager, Jamaica Government Railway.

THE British West African Colonies are considering the desirability of imposing an age limit on imported spirits, as is done in the United Kingdom under the Immature Spirits (Restriction) Act. Further, in anticipation of the ratification of the International Convention regarding the Liquor Traffic, steps are being taken to prohibit the importation of "Trade Spirits." These are defined in the Gold Coast Ordinance 31 of 1920 (§2) as "Spirits imported or of a kind previously imported for sale to natives and not generally consumed by Europeans," including "mixtures and compounds made with such spirits."

THE KELHAM FACTORY.

Still Asking for More.

The Minister of Agriculture has recently announced that the Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd., of which the Ministry of Agriculture holds half the share capital, has closed its list of contracts with farmers who have agreed to grow beets during the present year. The capacity of the factory is stated to be 60,000 tons of beet per crop season of 100 days; but it is announced that, acting on the advice of their French specialists, the management have limited the tonnage for the first year to 20,000 tons, "so as not to overload the factory at a time when the machinery is new and the English staff to be employed are being trained under the French specialists appointed to supervise each process." The statement goes on to say that there are 425 farmers growing beets for the factory on a total area of 2,365 acres. The price paid for the roots is to be £4 per ton, delivered at the factory, equivalent to £3 7s. 6d. delivered on rail. Further, that in spite of labour and other difficulties, the factory will be ready by the autumn.

It would appear, however, that the concern is not in such a satisfactory position as it might seem to be from the above. On April 19th the vote for the Board of Agriculture occupied the attention of the House of Commons, sitting in Committee on Supply, and among the items asked for was one for £125,000 for a loan to Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd. Sir A. Roscawen, who, it may be remarked, repeatedly referred to the Kelham factory as a sugar "mill," explained that the cost of the factory exceeded expectations, and that a further sum of £200,000 was required. Of this it was proposed to raise £75,000 from the public, to be secured by first mortgage on the company's property, and the balance, £125,000, it was proposed should be advanced by the Government, and secured by second mortgage. In other words, Parliament was asked to advance Government Funds to be secured on Government property. After considerable discussion, and the statement by Sir A. Roscawen that it would be impossible to complete the erection of the factory without the loan, the vote was passed by the Committee. The financial position of Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd., therefore, will be that it will have a share capital of £500,000, of which the Government holds £250,000, and a mortgage of £200,000, of which £125,000 is to the Government—surely a substantial figure for a factory of 8,000 tons.

CANADA'S total trade with the West Indies during 1920 was 35 per cent. greater than that for 1919, its value being reckoned at approximately 29,750,000 dollars. The trade with Cuba increased by 225 per cent. during the year, amounting to 40,750,000 dollars; as compared with 18,200,000 dollars, the increase being due to heavy imports and the high price of sugar.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 151).

Anxious Days for Arrowroot.

In search of enlightenment regarding the island's two staple industries, we first visited an arrowroot mill, a single-storeyed building just off a winding road which cuts across the lower slopes of the mountains to windward of the capital. Here we witnessed the process of manufacture of the nutritious starch known to the world as "arrowroot" in all its primitive simplicity. The roots of the plant, called by botanists *Maranta arundinacea*, are first crushed between two stone rollers, and the resulting pulp is washed in very pure water—an ample supply of which is one of the foremost essentials of the process—and then strained through very fine meshed sieves. The water with the arrowroot now in suspension is then allowed to flow slowly along a series of flat and shallow troughs, at the bottom of which the starch settles, the process being continuous. At the close of each day's work the arrowroot is dug out, dried on trays, and finally packed in barrels for export. The work, for the most part, was performed by women and girls, who seemed to take a most intelligent interest in it.

The Colony usually associated in the mind of the layman with arrowroot is Bermuda, and it is a fact that "Bermuda arrowroot" is retailed in chemists' shops at 9d. per ounce, or at the rate of 12/6 per lb., the St. Vincent variety similarly commanding 4d. per ounce. We were, however, told that the production of arrowroot in the Bermudas had practically ceased for some years, and, furthermore, that there was not sufficient of that product now made in those islands to ration the English chemists on the basis of two ounces per firm per annum—perhaps. In the circumstances, it would not be unreasonable to suspect that much of the article handled by the ingenuous pharmacist as "Bermuda arrowroot" is the St. Vincent variety, which is said to be offered by wholesale houses as "Bermuda kind."

But the chemist's trade in arrowroot is a very small affair, and really a negligible part of the business. He handles very little, and consequently expects a large profit on what he *does* sell—and it may be noted that at the time of writing arrowroot delivered from warehouse in London is only realising 2½d. to 7d. per lb., a figure well below the cost of production. It is chiefly used in the manufacture of "chocolate" and "cocoa," and as a basis of custard powders and similar culinary preparations. During the war the wholesale price of arrowroot rose to as high a figure as 1/9 per lb.; but this apparent stroke of good fortune proved the temporary (and let us hope that it will only be temporary) undoing of the St. Vincent industry, since it induced other countries to compete with her in starch-consuming circles in the United Kingdom which, in consequence, was soon over-supplied. Thus arrowroot, for the time being at any rate, is a drug on the market, and it remains to be seen

which of the producing countries will prove the fittest in the competition and will be able to hold out longest and survive. Until this year an admirable organisation called the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association, which was established in 1910, during the haleyon regime of Mr. Gideon Murray as Administrator, successfully managed to control prices, or at any rate to keep them just above the cost of production; but it has, perhaps wisely, decided to suspend its operations in this direction for the present, in view of the large stocks on the market which have to be disposed of.

The Association has also endeavoured to popularise arrowroot as a direct food, that is to say, for making blunccunge and similar palatable dishes of the kind which hail from the kitchen; but the competition of cornflour and other prepared articles which are more easily handled by the cook has been an obstacle. To make matters worse, arrowroot cannot hold its own as a starch with sago-flour, cornflour, and potato-flour, or farina, which are marketed at ridiculously low figures. As a last straw, the annual consumption of arrowroot in the United Kingdom has fallen from 13,000 barrels to 8,000 barrels, whilst those in touch with the markets look for a still further decline. In the circumstances it must be admitted that the outlook for St. Vincent in respect of this particular industry is not particularly rosy, though possibly salvation may be found in the development of other markets for a product which is both nourishing and wholesome.

The Din of the Ginnery.

Pondering over these matters, we descended the hill, and then turned in to the Kingstown Cotton Factory, on the outskirts of the capital, where we were privileged to see the finest cotton in the world being ginned—and it is an accepted fact that St. Vincent cotton is finer in texture and longer in staple, and that it commands an even higher price than cotton grown in the Sea Islands off the coast of Carolina, whose product formerly enjoyed supremacy in this respect.

While the arrowroot mill with its murmur of trickling water was soothing to the nerves, the same could not be said of the cotton ginnery. Anyone liable to headache would certainly do well to give a cotton gin a wide berth, for when in action it rattles incessantly with a noise resembling that made by a chain cable running through a hawse hole, and when a whole row of gins is working, as it was on this occasion, the din is indescribable. Indeed, it was so great that it was impossible to hear distinctly the description of the various processes which Mr. Edwin Richards and the Manager of the factory shouted into our ears. So far as one could gather, however, the work is conducted somewhat on these lines.

To begin with, the cotton on entering the factory is weighed and hoisted to the top floor or cotton loft. Here it is temporarily stored and spread out to dry; it is then passed to the aforesaid gins in the second storey by means of shoots passing through the floor, directly over the apparatus. The

labourers at work in the loft, filling the shoots, have also to pick out any motes or discoloured cotton that may have escaped the pickers and assorters. As soon as the gins are started, the feeders who tend them take the cotton from the shoots through a small hinged door. On the seed-cotton being fed to the gins, the lint is separated from the seed, pouring out like white foam on to the spotlessly clean floor, or on to an endless conveyor, while the seed falls through grids on to an inclined plane, and passes through the floor to the lowest storey. While the lint is on the conveyor, a sharp look out is kept for any motes or other impurities, which are carefully removed. From the conveyor the lint is taken to the baling-room, where it is baled under immense pressure. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Lancashire buyers always speak in terms of the highest praise of the admirable manner in which West Indian Sea Island cotton is baled, for while there is scarcely anything left of the packing material in the case of American cotton by the time it reaches Liverpool, the St. Vincent bales are as sound on arrival as they were when they left the island. In the lowest room the seed is stored for planting the next season's crop, for feeding the animals, or for making manure.

Here in St. Vincent, as in Barbados, the development of the Sea Island cotton industry has been largely due to the activities of Sir Daniel Morris and the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Bryan Edwards records that 761,880 lbs. of cotton were exported from the Colony in 1788, and statistics show that the cultivation of cotton in the island was stimulated during the American Civil War. But after that period it entirely dropped out (though the Marie Galante variety continued to be raised in the Dependencies of Union Island, Canouan and Mayreau) and it was not until 1903 that it was revived. In that year a successful experiment with Sea Island cotton seed was made by the Department, and it was proved that the soil of St. Vincent was peculiarly adaptable to the production of superfine cotton. The industry once started, went ahead by leaps and bounds, and from 43,392 lbs. in 1904 the exports of cotton rose to 475,650 lbs. last year. During the war, Vincentian—or should one say Vincelonian, for both terms have been used?—cotton was devoted to the manufacture of the coverings for the wings of aeroplanes and also for the outer cuticle of the "Blimps" or airships, which patrolled our coasts in search of submarines, but in peace times it is chiefly used for making fine counts of yarn in Lancashire and Lille which are devoted to the manufacture of lace, chiffon, and other fancy articles of the kind. St. Vincent Sea Island cotton has fetched as much as 90d. per lb. To-day it is quoted at 25d. to 83d., with American standing at 8½d.—a comparison which speaks volumes for its intrinsic merit.

(To be continued.)

The Hon. Willoughby Bullock, Attorney-General of the Bahamas, has been appointed Acting Chief Justice during the absence on leave of His Honour Sir Daniel Tudor.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Out of a total area of 220,000,000 acres under crops in British India and the Native States, over 1,000,000 acres are under tobacco. If the value of the crop per acre is taken as £5, the value of the trade is equal to £5,000,000, which brings this industry into the fifth or sixth place of importance in the agriculture of India.

The German Nitrogen Syndicate has recently made a proposal to the British Sulphate of Ammonia Federation of a somewhat startling nature. This is that the Federation should pay Germany a large sum in cash, in consideration of which Germany would agree to reduce her exports of nitrogenous manure products. It is perhaps unnecessary to state that this "child-like and bland" proposal was rejected by the Federation.

Coconut oil represents 95 per cent. of the total production of vegetable oils in the Dutch East Indies, the others being prepared from the seeds of the ground nuts, castor seed, kapok palm fruits, and, to a small extent, sesame, Hevea and tobacco. The *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute states that in order to produce the 380,000 tons of coconut oil which those islands are estimated to yield, from 600,000 to 650,000 tons of copra are required.

Attention is drawn in the *Agricultural Journal of India* to the necessity of continuing the trial of new varieties of canes for a series of years before condemning them, and "Fiji B," is instanced which for the first few years made a very poor show in one district, but which afterwards came to be considered the most promising cane in the locality. The same experience occurred with D 625, which was regarded of no account for several years, but which now constitutes more than half the cane cultivation of British Guiana.

A disease of tobacco hitherto not recognised has been found to exist in Maryland and Ohio. According to the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, the cause is a species of *Fusarium*, closely allied to *Fusarium omyzporum*, and the effect is that the leaves of the plant turn yellow and wilt, the death of the plant following. The fibro-vascular system of the infected plants is characteristically brown or black. When the disease threatens to become serious, growers are advised not to grow tobacco in the infected soils, and to avoid the danger of infected seed beds. No other system of control has yet been discovered.

Leaf-hoppers have again appeared in the rice fields of one of the divisions of the Central Provinces of India. These insects live by extracting the juice of the young plants and of the grain in the ear, exuding a sticky substance known as honey-dew, which, falling on the leaves, leads to the growth of a black fungus. An article on them in *Memoirs of the Department of Agriculture of India*, abstracted from the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute, gives

an account of their life history and of the measures of control adopted, one of which is by means of lantern traps, and another by collection, after rains, into large field bags, moistened on the inside with kerosene.

The nodule bacteria of leguminous plants have been made the subject of investigation by Messrs. Löhnis and Hansen, who have arrived at the conclusion that the nodule bacteria of leguminous plants may be divided into two groups, differing from each other both as regards their morphological as well as physiological characteristics. The first group shows all features characteristic of *Bacillus radicicola*, and produces nodules on the roots of clover, alfalfa, vetch, pea, and the navy bean. The second group is considered to be a new species, and its members have been found in the cow-pea, soya-bean, peanut, and acacia.

In harvesting the sugar beet the root is "topped," and the tops are retained by the farmer, and are used for feeding cattle. In order to preserve them they are "silod" and used as occasion requires. A normal crop of sugar beets gives from 40 to 50 per cent. of its weight in tops, which are consequently a valuable asset to the sugar beet farmer. During the last two or three years numerous instances have occurred in the United States of stock dying after feeding on the silod tops, and the cause has been investigated by Mr. R. E. Neidig, of the Idaho Experiment Station, who has arrived at the conclusion that the fatalities were due to improper silage. He accordingly recommends that the pit silos should be deep, the silage packed thoroughly, and covered sufficiently to exclude air, care also being taken to avoid excess of dirt.

The utilisation of bamboo for paper making is the subject of a useful and interesting article in the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. It is stated that a British firm has been granted a concession for cutting bamboo in Crown lands of Trinidad, and has already established a plantation there of 1,000 acres. Leases have been also granted or applied for for working bamboo forests in Burmah, Madras, and other parts of India, and in Indo-China two factories are actually manufacturing paper from bamboo. Paper prepared from bamboo pulp is stated to be of high-class quality, and suitable for the better grades of printing paper.

The Trinidad bamboo plantation is situated in the neighbourhood of St. Augustine, the site of the West Indian Agricultural College, a few miles from Port of Spain, and the giant grass is growing prolifically. One thing is certain, and that is that when the time comes for the bamboos to be cut care will have to be taken to prevent the stumps, which hold rain water, from becoming the breeding place of mosquitoes, and consequently a fruitful centre for the spread of malaria fevers. This point will, no doubt, receive the attention of the sanitary authorities.

WEST INDIA 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 and The Medical Conference.

The Peninsular & Occidental Steamship Company have submitted to the Government proposals for a weekly or bi-weekly service between Nassau and Miami by the s.s. *Mascot*. The Company asks for a subsidy, and alternately offers to operate the service at actual cost, giving all receipts over and above cost to the Government.

The *Nassau Guardian*, which has lately been published daily instead of twice a week, as before, finds that a "daily paper is not an indispensable institution" in the Bahamas. It will therefore appear bi-weekly for the present.

Lady Cordeaux, addressing the Bahamas branch of the Daughters of the Empire, of which she is Honorary President, said that in view of the great work to be undertaken, it seemed absolutely necessary that they should have local headquarters, with a convenient meeting-place and a library. She suggested as the Daughters' motto, "Patriotism, Progress, Prosperity."

The Attorney-General, Hon. Willoughby Bullock, who is acting as Chief Justice in the absence of Sir Daniel Tudor, intends, it is understood, to offer himself as a candidate for Andros in the House of Assembly. This body has authorised the payment of £449 towards the expenses of a representative to the West Indian Medical Conference, and £1,000 towards an anti-mosquito campaign.

Another Barbados Business Combine.

Reaping, writes Mr. Henry H. Baird, on March 2nd, is now in full swing, but the crop will be a very small one, the yield being estimated at thirty to thirty-five thousand tons of sugar, or its equivalent in sugar and molasses. Crop prospects for 1922 are not too bright. There have been occasional showers, just sufficient to keep the young canes green, but only good heavy rains from now on will ensure even an average yield. The protracted drought has also greatly affected the potato crop, which will be a very short one—a serious matter for the island, which depends so largely on this as an article of food. March weather started blustering and showery, but the month went out like a lamb. The young canes need rain.

After protracted discussion in Committee, the House of Assembly have resolved to accept the principle of contributing to the cost of a transatlantic service, but to await further particulars before determining the definite extent of such contribution.

The *Advocate* records a combination of the principal drug stores under the title of Knight, Ltd., with a capital of £40,000. The directors are Mr. J. C. Lynch, Mr. W. Bowring, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. E. A. Hinkson, and Mr. Julian Knight.

A Cayman Islands Association Established.

A difference has arisen between the Government of Jamaica and the Vestry Board, the latter complaining that its recommendations are not sufficiently attended to. The matter culminated in the refusal of the Vestry to vote £25 towards the Tropical School of Medicine on the ground that the Governor had shown discourtesy in another matter. The formation of a Cayman Association, the first steps of which have been taken in Grand Cayman, may bring about a better

state of affairs, and a branch in Jamaica will be able to hold a watching brief for the dependency's interests in that island. From Cayman Brac, says the *Jamaica Times*, comes the news that its coconuts are showing signs of recovering from the disease which for ten years has marred an industry that was once a source of wealth to the inhabitants.

British Honduras Harbour Board.

The new Harbour Board, which will control the improvement, lighting and regulation of Belize and other harbours in the Colony, is to consist of the Governor as Chairman, the Colonial Secretary, and Mr. R. K. Masson, the Harbour Master, and the following Unofficial Members: Hon. S. Wolffsohn, Hon. G. E. Grabham, Mr. J. H. Biddle, and Mr. B. Melhado. A Committee, of whom Mr. D. Blakely is acting as Chairman, have issued an appeal for funds to be issued in establishing a Public Library for the Corozal district.

A Rum Plough in British Guiana.

Considerable discussion is taking place in the *Argosy* as to the respective merits of petrol and rum for internal combustion engines. Experiments with a Cleveland tractor, which was set to plough an acre which had lain fallow for a year, showed that with Trinidad "gasolene," four gallons at 76 cents per gallon were used to plough a furrow 24 in wide and 5 to 9 in deep, the operation taking one hundred minutes. With spirit prepared at Plantation Uityhugt, 0.68 acre was ploughed under exactly similar conditions in 96 minutes. It is estimated that the use of rum spirit represents a saving of \$1.84 per acre. Used in motor-cars, it was found that the same car travelled 18 miles to one gallon of "gasolene" and 15 miles to one of spirit.

From a statement compiled by Mr. W. T. Tout, General Manager of the Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, Ltd., giving the yearly output of the three Guianas of balata for 1912-1919 (returns for 1920 not being yet available), it seems that Dutch Guiana leads with a total of 5,733 tons for the period in question, British Guiana being second with 4,728 tons.

The Kingston Chocolate Factory, the property of Dr. J. G. D'Aquino, who built it at a cost of \$100,000, has been sold to Mr. Evan Wong for about \$22,000.

The Georgetown Chamber of Commerce has received an intimation from the Colonial Secretary to the effect that the Government of Trinidad are willing to expedite mails for Demerara by transshipping them, when practicable, to a steamer sailing before the one on which they were brought. The Government of Barbados, however, state that the only alternative to a steamer sailing via the islands would be to entrust the mails to a schooner captain—a risk they are not always willing to run.

A Report on Dominica's Labour Supply.

The Committee, which has been sitting with Mr. A. Welby Solomon as Chairman, to inquire into the alleged shortage of labour in the Island, have presented their report, which is unanimous. The last witness called was Mr. Peter Noble, the Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General, who stated that the sale of Crown lands was proceeding steadily, 4,094 acres having been sold during the last eight years. Once the purchase money was paid, there was no attempt to see that the terms of the Crown grants were complied with—namely, that two-fifths of the land must be under cultivation within ten years. There was no policy for administering Crown lands, and there were no plans showing their position. The witness thought that if the Government guaranteed three years' con-

tinuous employment, the Island would get Barbadian labourers, who would be of great use to Dominica. Mr. Noble has been granted six months' well-deserved leave of absence.

Under the auspices of Mrs. Walter, the wife of the Administrator, and a number of Roseau ladies, it is proposed to start a crèche in the town, and already energetic steps are being taken to find a suitable house and organise the work on sound lines.

Jamaica Dye Wood Slump.

Mr. Newsome, of the United Fruit Co., and Mr. A. H. Stockley, of Elders & Fyfes, have paid a short visit to the Colony (according to a report of the Direct West India Cable Co.), proceeding afterwards to Honduras in continuation of their tour of inspection. A Grant-in-Aid for Civil Servants, involving an expenditure of £67,700, has been voted by the Legislative Council without a division.

There is great divergence of opinion as to the wisdom of the Government undertaking schemes that would, in the natural course of events, be carried out by commercial interests, even though some of these proposals—for instance, the Cement Factory—had not been previously investigated by private interests.

The *Gleaner* announces the approaching retirement of Mr. N. A. MacLeod, President of the Atlantic Fruit Company.

The Island's census was arranged for 25th April. The population is estimated at 900,000, but it is believed that the census will show figures more nearly approaching the million mark.

With the advent of the *Canadian Fisher* and the *Canadian Forester* it is encouraging to note a decided increase in the advertising of Canadian goods for the Jamaica market, and there is little doubt that the diversion of a great deal of trade which has recently unavoidably drifted into foreign channels can be restored to Canada and the Empire. Although otherwise very suitable, on the surface it would seem unfortunate that the *Canadian Fisher* and *Canadian Forester* are not fitted with refrigerating space for the fruit trade.

Sir J. A. Swettenham contributes to the *Gleaner* a letter, traversing the opinion that the Government Railway can never be made to pay, and pointing out that "prior to Sir J. Probyn's arrival, the new concern had a large surplus of revenue over working expenses annually, varying from £30,000 to £70,000." The writer goes on to state his belief that the proposal to establish a "renewal fund" is a mistaken policy.

The Jacovia Dye-woods factory was closed down on March 24th, and the big factory at Spanish Town ceased operations a week later. The action of these concerns is due to the receipt of advice from England that there is no demand there for the dyes. The Jamaica Tobacco Company's factory at Kingston, a steel and concrete building, was almost completely destroyed by fire on April 1st, the loss, which is covered by insurance, being estimated at £30,000. The cause of the outbreak is unknown.

Mr. A. Constantine Goffe, Chairman of the Bellas Shipping and Jamaica Trading Co., addressing meetings of banana cultivators at Guy's Hill and other districts, stated that owing to inordinate competition, exorbitant prices were being paid to the growers for the fruit. He complained also that too many immature bunches were being sold.

A meeting took place on March 31st between a deputation from the Jamaica Imperial Association and elected members of the Legislature, when Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Chairman of the Association, urged the

need of the most rigid economy, and said that an increase in the Income Tax in a year when the total exports of the Colony would not amount to more than three millions sterling would be striking a serious blow at the Island's industry.

Dr. Josiah Oldfield, in a letter to the *Jamaica Times*, announces his intention of returning to the Colony in the autumn "with the proud purpose of becoming a Jamaican."

"Montserrat Bay Rum."

Mr. W. Robson, under date March 12th, writes that the prospects of this little place would be brighter than ever before were it not for the dreaded presence of the pink boll worm of cotton, and no conclusion can at present be formed as to what will be the effect on the industry in the future. There is a prospect of establishing a bay rum industry in the very near future, and Mr. Robson is specially pleased about this, as the planting of bay trees has been entirely done on the initiative of the Botanic Station. Then in connection with cotton, it would be difficult to find in the whole world a better type of Sea Island cotton than that now grown in Montserrat under the name of Heaton 23-2-13, which is entirely the result of selection at the Experiment Station. The outlook for the lime industry has probably never been better in the last thirty years; so much can be said for the importation of new blood.

St. Kitts' Lamentable Mail Service.

Mr. E. J. Shelford, writing under date March 25th, reports that both cane weights and the yield of sugar have been abnormally low to date, owing to the immaturity of the canes cut. The Factory Estates are about commencing their crops.

Lieut.-Col. Davson gave a most interesting address to a representative gathering at the Agricultural and Commercial Society's room on March 10th. His Honour the Administrator was present. Lieut.-Col. Davson gave his audience a great deal to think about on Aviation, West Indian currency, the Trade Agreement with Canada, and the proposed West Indian Official Conferences, to which it was remarked that representative Unofficials might with advantage be summoned. The present lamentable condition of the mail and passenger service with England should be speedily remedied.

Tobago's Extraordinary Weather.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, writing under date March 24th, says that the weather continues most favourable for growth, with daily showers and sufficient sunshine, the cool Trade winds making even outdoor work comfortable and pleasant. Moderate pickings of cacao continue, but gatherings will soon be on a very small scale. The trees are again loading up for what promises to be an early autumn crop, subject, of course, to weather conditions. The coconut pickings—intended almost exclusively for the manufacture of copra—are on an increasing scale.

The fine weather is attracting visitors from Trinidad, and on every voyage the *Belize* brings a number of "round trippers," and all but the seasick enjoy the voyage and the scenery of this beautiful little island.

Writing on March 30th, Mr. Reid states that there has been a stir in the district over the preliminary survey of roads for the erection of a jetty and central shipping place at King's Bay, with a view to avoiding calls at Roxburgh and possibly elsewhere. As Roxburgh is the next port to Scarborough in importance, planters, large and small, and shopkeepers are protest-

ing against the delay and expense the change would mean to them, and dissatisfaction is expressed because local opinion has not been asked. The weather has been extraordinary. January is occasionally wet, but February and March are distinctly dry season months. This year King's Bay registered 4.31 inches rainfall in February and over 11 inches have fallen this month at Man of War Box. This rain would have been more welcome in the dry months of 1920, as unseasonable rains are seldom favourable for crops. Planters trust that 1921 may prove an exception and that these rains may give an early autumn crop, by which time surely the markets will be more favourable. Labourers are now enjoying their Easter holidays and looking after their gardens, while employers are glad to give their pay-sheets a rest. Work is being curtailed all round, and some reductions in wages, but on certain plantations an effort is being made to get better and steadier work, with slight increase in tasks.

Vigorous Oil Development in Trinidad.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on March 20th, says that the weather has been quite extraordinary. Rain has been falling very heavily and continues to fall, and unless there is a change shortly this may interfere with crop operations. Another unusual incident was the very strong northerly wind which occurred on the 23rd, contrary to all precedent, as wind from that direction has not been known to blow with any strength after the beginning of March for the past forty years at least. As a result, a large number of lighters and other small craft which happened to be caught on the lee shore at San Fernando were damaged or sunk, and heavy losses of cargo sustained.

Mr. Pringle, the special representative of the V.M.C.A., delivered a very interesting lecture at the Prince's Building the other night, entitled "Round the World." The Governor, who was present, gave expression to the cordial feeling existing towards the Association and the welcome that the Colony was prepared to extend to the new branch.

In accordance with the new Articles of Association of the Chamber of Commerce, which provide that no President can serve more than two years in succession, Mr. G. F. Huggins has retired after receiving the very hearty thanks of the Chamber for the excellent work which he has performed with so much judgment, tact, and ability during his term of office. The Hon. Alexander Fraser was elected President, Mr. Huggins taking his place as Vice-President, and the outgoing Committee were re-elected. The Chamber of Commerce has done very good work during the last few years, and the post either of President, Vice-President, or member of the Committee is no sinecure.

At the meeting of the chamber on March 22nd the letter addressed by the West India Committee to the Colonial Office with regard to the proposed Chacachacare Leper Settlement was read and much appreciated, and the thanks of the Chamber were accorded for the Committee's timely and valuable assistance.

Mr. D. Elliot Alves and Mr. Alexander Duckham are here giving attention to their respective large interests. The Trinidad Central Oilfields, with which Mr. Duckham is connected, continue their highly successful career. They have a considerable number of geologists and others engaged in prospecting the very large areas of land over which they have control or option, and there would seem to be no limit to the possibilities of this well-managed enterprise. British Controlled, of which Mr. Alves is President, is also proceeding vigorously in its schemes of development on this side of the world. Much interest is evinced

in the extensive drilling operations which they are now conducting in the district of Montserrat. It is understood that they have no expectation of striking before a considerable depth, but they are already well on towards the estimated distance. This Company is also pushing forward vigorously in the Venezuelan concessions on the Orinoco. Two powerful launches are expected here shortly under their own steam, and the barges which they will be employed to tow have already been landed here. These will be used for the purpose of conveying oil-well and other supplies which will be transhipped from here for the Orinoco. Aeroplanes will form another and speedy means of communication between headquarters here and the works in Venezuela.

Mr. Tripp, under date April 2nd, writes that on the motion of the Receiver-General an Ordinance has been passed in the Legislative Council authorising a loan of £200,000 to pay the cost of the Caroni Reclamation scheme. The enactment of this Ordinance was rather a form than otherwise, as the ample funds at present in hand will be applied for the purpose so long as they are not otherwise required, and it is anticipated that within two years the sale of the reclaimed land will yield about £140,000, so that the scheme, besides being of such great sanitary importance, will be practically self-supporting. Incidentally Hon. Denis Slyne announced that the public debt of the Colony is £2,747,763. The revenue for 1920 was £1,947,743, and the surplus on the 31st December last £471,886, or £10,000 more than was expected when the estimates for the year were passed.

A Bill is before the Council to provide additional space on the San Fernando Wharf and relieve the congestion due to all goods landed on the San Fernando Wharf having to be deposited on the space lying between the sea front and the railway. During the war the steamers ceased making San Fernando a port of call, but the companies have now notified their intention of resuming their calls here.

It is sad, says Mr. Tripp, writing on April 11th, to have to record the death of Mr. T. R. N. Laughlin, who was connected with the *Port of Spain Gazette* during about 45 years in the different capacities of manager, editor, and proprietor. From first to last he was a most conscientious and hard-working servant of that newspaper, which has now been established nearly 100 years—a record in the history of West Indian journalism. Mr. Laughlin did not write much himself, but he had a very faithful memory, and would reproduce a two-column interview almost verbatim. As a newspaper man he had the excellent faculty of being able to collect in some extraordinary way a record of every incident worth reproducing in the Colony. To those who know the difficulty attaching to reporting, printing, correcting proofs, etc., here, there can be no doubt as to the substantial claim on the goodwill of the Colony which the *Port of Spain Gazette* succeeded in obtaining during the long years of Mr. Laughlin's reign. As a husband and father, and in his private capacity, he was universally respected.

The Intercolonial Education Conference, which was opened last week by the Governor, included representatives of Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and British Guiana. The Hon. Gervase Bushe was elected Chairman, but owing to his illness early during the sittings, the chair had to be taken for the remainder of the session by Sir Francis Watts.

There has been trouble at San Fernando lately, three fires having broken out in the town during the last two months, the last of which was very serious, many buildings and most valuable property being destroyed.

THE WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half year ended December 31st last show a net profit of £80,236 (as against £80,265 for the same period in 1919), making, with the balance of profit from the previous half year brought forward, a total of £116,814 (as compared with £117,608 in 1919). Out of this the directors recommend that, after setting aside £22,800 for depreciation of investments, £10,000 to be carried to the Staff Pension Fund, and the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax, for the half-year ended December 31st last, which will absorb £45,000, leaving £39,014 to be carried forward. The directors, in their report, state during the period under review there was a rapid and severe fall in prices, and for some time produce generally was practically unsaleable, even at market quotations. The prices of Trinidad sugar and cacao fell respectively from £120 to £48 per ton, and £112 to £72 per ton. Since the turn of the year prices have had a further considerable fall. A sub-branch has been opened at Golden Grove, Jamaica.

Presiding at the half-yearly general meeting, on April 21st, Mr. C. A. Wood, the chairman, moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that in the West Indies the period under review was, generally speaking, one of prosperity, and it was not until the end of the half-year that the great slump began seriously to affect these Colonies. West Indian importers and retailers, in common with those in other countries, were overstocked with high priced goods, and the liquidation of these stocks would necessarily take some time and involve traders in heavy losses, which, however, they should well be able to meet, thanks to the good years which they had lately enjoyed. The increase of trade with Canada was noticeable, especially in the case of imported flour, for which Canada had almost entirely superseded the United States.

The arrangements which Demerara hoped to make with the Government of India regarding the immigration of labour had not been successful, and this important Colony's development was being seriously handicapped for want of adequate labour. Owing to the fact that last year so much rice was exported that there was a shortage in the Colony, all export this year was prohibited. It was hoped the prohibition would be modified, as the industry was almost at a standstill, and there are large stocks on hand. The past year had been an exceptionally dry one in Jamaica, and the banana crop was likely to be a small one. In Barbados and St. Kitts the sugar crop was expected to be below the average.

The question of West Indian currency reform was receiving a considerable amount of attention. It had been rumoured that a West Indian Currency Board might possibly be set up on the same lines as the West African Currency Board, which had been at work since 1912. If any more of this kind was contemplated, he thought it should be borne in mind that the two problems were, for several reasons, totally dissimilar, and what might be good and useful in one case was not necessarily so in the other. In West Africa there were Currency Board centres for the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria. Inter-communication was frequent and good, and currency could readily be moved to points where it was required, while the population of West Africa was at least 10 times greater than that of the whole of the West Indies, and it would for many years absorb large quantities of coin. On the other hand, communication between British Guiana, Jamaica, and the various islands of the West Indies was much more difficult and infrequent, and the total population was under 2,250,000, in widely scattered communities, the largest of which was Jamaica, with a population of about 850,000;

Trinidad, with 330,000 (including Tobago); British Guiana, with 310,000; and Barbados, with 196,000. Nigeria alone had a population of over 17,000,000. The Bank could, of course, always take an interest in any reform that would benefit the countries where it worked, but perhaps the present was hardly the time for experiments or for any alteration of a system which had worked successfully and economically for generations. Perhaps, he might add, that recent events in East Africa had not tended to inspire confidence in the unflinching wisdom of currency boards and committees.

Mr. Cyril Gurney (Deputy Chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. The retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, votes of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff concluded the proceedings.

IMPRESSIONS OF TRINIDAD.

Mr. Mitchell & Mr. Stocken interviewed

Mr. Albert Mitchell, Chairman, and Mr. C. B. Stocken, Director of the Kern Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., returned by Dutch Mail from Trinidad on March 29th, where they spent seven weeks inspecting the areas in which their company is interested, and making arrangements in connection with oil development.

To a representative of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, after their arrival in London, they stated that they were very favourably impressed by the island of Trinidad and its prospects in connection with the production of oil. They travelled out and home by the Dutch Mail, and had many nice things to say about the accommodation and arrangements on board, but, said Mr. Mitchell, with the concurrence of his colleague, "It does seem an anomalous state of affairs that passengers should be dependent on a foreign Company for reaching a British colony of such wealth and importance as Trinidad."

With regard to hotel accommodation they were not complimentary. They found it bad and inadequate at Port of Spain, but even worse at San Fernando, there being no hotel at all in that town, which struck them as remarkable, considering what an important centre it had become in connection with the oil industry. They added that there was no drainage whatever in San Fernando, and no gas or electric lighting either for the houses or streets, and they voiced the hope that the time might come when Trinidad's second town would not only be drained and lighted, but would have a modern hotel, which would undoubtedly attract tourists and accommodate those concerned in the oil industry.

With regard to the oil industry, another thing which struck them was that except in the Tabaquite District the Government Railways did not serve the local oilfields, with the consequence that the many thousands of tons of heavy material required had had and would have to be conveyed by road, an unexpected development being the belated discovery that the main roads in the Southern District of the island were incapable of carrying the heavy motor traffic which the development of the oilfields necessarily involved; but they hoped and believed that the Government would be able to cope with the difficulty and provide for improvement in this respect through the medium of the road authorities. Meanwhile, however, some little inconvenience had been caused by the cancellation of permits for lorries to ply on the roads.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

Sale of Government Sugar.

Sir P. Lloyd-Graeme informed Mr. Jesson, on April 12th, that on the winding-up of the Sugar Commission the Government's stocks of raw sugar had been sold to the refiners whose businesses had been controlled during the war, at prices determined week by week in relation to those ruling in the world's markets, and on the usual trade conditions. The Government's stocks of refined sugar were for sale at current prices to any trader who desired to purchase them.

Trade with Cuba.

Sir P. Lloyd-Graeme supplied Sir F. Hall, on April 16th, with the following statement showing the total values of the exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom and of foreign and colonial merchandise consigned from the United Kingdom to Cuba, registered during each of the years ended 31st March, 1914 to 1920:—

Year ended 31st March.	Produce and Manufactures of United Kingdom.	Foreign and Colonial Merchandise
1914	£ 2,153,917	£ 767,210
1915	1,525,998	943,715
1916	1,755,318	751,941
1917	2,196,351	658,704
1918	2,002,434	21,531
1919	1,868,031	18,254
1920	2,678,987	65,861

The Kelham Beet "Mill."

In Committee of Supply in the House of Commons, on the vote for the Board of Agriculture on April 16th, Sir A. Boscawen said that last year there was an item in the Vote of £250,000 subscription by the Government, by the taxpayer, towards the capital of a company called Home Sugar, Ltd. This company had acquired, under Government auspices, an estate at Kelham, in Nottinghamshire, and erected a sugar mill (1917). He hoped that this year they would be actually at work, producing sugar from sugar beet. They were growing a good deal of sugar beet on their own estate, and getting other from farmers in the neighbourhood. This year he was going to ask the House for a further sum of £125,000 to take the shape of a loan and as a second mortgage on the assets of the company, in order that they might complete their undertaking.

The cost of erecting the mill would be more than was anticipated owing to the cost of building, and so on. It was estimated at £300,000 with the railways, wharves, and all the necessary appurtenances, and it would cost nearly £500,000. Therefore £200,000 additional capital was required in order that the building of the mill might be completed. An arrangement had been made with the Treasury to provide capital. The company would raise £75,000 as a first mortgage, while the Treasury would lend £125,000 as a second mortgage. It was most important that this experiment should be carried through, and that the mill should be completed this year in time to deal with the crop. From what he had seen of the undertaking he was convinced that it was going to be a success. It was, of course, an experiment, and the Government was showing an example, or rather assisting a company to show an example, and if they found that they could successfully make sugar on commercial lines out

of sugar beet grown in this country, well and good. He thought it would introduce a big change here and one greatly to the advantage of the consumer generally, and it would also introduce a new crop which would be beneficial to the agricultural community and to the consumers as well.

Mr. Acland said that he hoped that the House of Commons would not be asked to approve of this loan without any further figures. No doubt the scheme was perfectly sound, and the nation would get its money back, but he suggested that the figures were not enough by themselves to justify the Committee in passing this loan. The right hon. Gentleman said, for instance, that the cost of the factory was £500,000, or thereabouts. During this year and last year, however, according to the figures on the Estimates, £385,000 would have been spent—£250,000 last year and £135,000 this year; and he thought that most ordinary business Members of the House would say that, if the taxpayers' money was wanted to give this industry a start and to help with the factory, it would be behaving very generously to lend on the pound for pound basis, and not in such a large proportion as £385,000 towards the £500,000 which the factory would cost. He admitted that the figures were given last year, but what was done then hardly justified a loan of another £100,000 without quite clear figures. He wished to know how the second mortgage was going to be secured.

Sir A. Boscawen said that it would be secured on the whole of the assets of the company, including, of course, the factory itself, and on the large property there was a farm of about 3,000 acres of freehold land so that he thought there was abundant security. £75,000 was on first mortgage and £125,000 on second mortgage, but there was a very large margin. The vote was eventually agreed to.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

			Apr. 1921.
4 1/2 %	Antigua	4 % Redeemable 1919-44	66 68
4 1/2 %	Bahamas	4 1/2 % Redeemable 1925-42	62 64
4 1/2 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1895	74 77
4 1/2 %	British Guiana	4 % Redeemable 1924-45	58 61
4 1/2 %	Grenada	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	69 71 & D
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1914	76 78
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1918-49	59 62
4 1/2 %	Jamaica	4 % Redeemable 1922-44	57-60
4 1/2 %	St. Lucia	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	69 71
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1917-42	73 75
4 1/2 %	Trinidad	4 % Redeemable 1922-44	58 60
10 %	The Colonial Bank		6 GA
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary		85-90
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference		68-73
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4% Debentures		88-71
4 1/2 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures		70-75
6 %	Angostura Bitters Parl. Preference		75-77
6 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debenture		105-110
7 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.		7 1/2
—	St. Madeleine Sugar		9 1/2
—	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.		54-55
—	Petroleum Options, Ltd. 10%		2-3
10 %	Trinidad Central Oilfields		57-58
—	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd. 10%		2-6
12 1/2 %	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (C)		52
—	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.		28-
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock		25-35
7 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.		95-100
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.		50-55
4 1/2 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures		55-60
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary		24-30
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.		28-31
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd		24-31
5 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5% Debentures		85-87

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

More Cable Delays!

Sir,—Some little while ago you voiced the general ground of complaint that existed in regard to West Indian cable delays and careless transmission, which frequently resulted in mutilated messages. Judging by my own experience, there has recently been some improvement in both respects, and messages sent to Trinidad marked "via Bermuda" have reached their destination fairly promptly. I cannot say whether the acceleration in service is due to designation of route, but it has the advantage of a direct connection between Halifax and Bermuda, as against the more devious route from New York via Key West and Hayti.

The system governing repetition of mutilated words, however, leaves room for much improvement. To cite one case: An important message reached me from Port of Spain on the 12th inst., consisting of two words, one of which was mutilated. The Western Union Company was instructed the same day to have it repeated, and the message as received by me was officially stamped "Repetition applied for 12th April." Notwithstanding frequent enquiries at the office,

the correct cable word was not repeated until the 19th inst. The irritating part of the affair was that the officials at 22, Great Winchester Street, kept informing me with an air of satisfaction that the mutilated word was O.K. at New York, implying that the fault lay probably with the West India and Panama Company, which, needless to say, did not interest me in the least. If such were the case, it would seem to point to faulty "liaison" between the two Companies.

Even more irritating was the knowledge that had I cabled to the sender in the ordinary way, asking him to repeat the mutilated word, I should probably have heard at least by the 21st inst. Pending any definite indication of reformation, it would seem advisable to make a point of repeating all important messages at quarter rates, though this would only be swelling the coffers of the cable companies, whose charges, I submit, are excessive for an unreliable service.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. HOWARD TRIPP

[There must be many of our readers who have suffered as Major Tripp has done from the intolerable delay in securing the repetition of words mutilated in transmission over the cables of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. We certainly think that this is a matter which the Governments contributing to the cable subsidy should take up, and that the Company should be warned immediately that it can hope for no renewal of the concession recently granted to it unless it is prepared to guarantee that mistakes in transmission of messages shall be rectified more rapidly.—ED., W.I.C.C.]

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti-gua To Feb. 28	Bar- bados To Feb. 28	British Guiana To Feb. 17	British Hondur- ras To Feb. 28	Domi- nica To Jan. 31	Grenada To Nov. 30	Jamaica To June 30	Mont- serrat.	St. Lucia To Feb. 28	St. Kitts Nevis To Dec. 31	St. Vincent To Dec. 31	Trinidad To Dec. 31
Arrowroot	lbs.											
Asphalt	tons										2 794 882	119 981
Balsam	lbs		292 700	54 016	151		4 354 927					6 778
Banana	bchs.											
Bauxite	tons.		8 260									
Bitters	galls											
Cacao	lbs											
Cassava Starch	lbs				64 512	8 998 418	4 439 568		598 752		168 594	54 786
Coco-nuts	No.										343 309	62 704 672
Coffee	lbs.		320 946	219 190	8 932	42 850	13 650 056		37 372			21 924 204
Copra	lbs.		5 285				2 891 744					79 101
Cotton, M. Galante	lbs.		20 277				581 084					1 234 570
Cotton, Sea Island	lbs.											
Cotton Seed	lbs	22 221										
Diamonds	carats						374 976			668 742	475 650	
Dyewoods	tons		16 570			864 432				606 160	31 926	
Ginger	lbs											
Gold	ozs.			234								
Ground Nuts	bg. & brs.						1 082 704					
Honey	lbs											
Lime Juice (raw)	galls						625 922			17	12 018	
oil (concd.)					11 114		12 083		5 376			16 214
oil					11 519	700	23 310		10 035			4 557
Lime (citrate of)	lbs.								364			
Logwood	tons				76 960							
Lumber	feet						19 316					
Mahoeany				2 627 057								3 087
Madjak	tons											
Molasses	galls	465 017	256 737									165
Oranges	lbs.	650					364 988		1 499	190 400	185 898	560 856
Essential Oils	lbs.						29 597					650 270
Peperum	galls				6 197							
Pimento	lbs											
Rice	lbs						4 797 184					32 576 524
Rubber	lbs.											
Rum	galls.		4 901	510 353								19 883
Shingles	No.			136 000			339 027					54 870
Sugar	tons	461	816	9 989								49 974
Timber	cu. ft.			29 538			30 667		469	10 625		49 985

No figures yet available.

The figures can be read easily with the items to which they relate by laying a sheet of paper below them across the page. To November, 30th, only

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Patuca*, April 9th:—
 Mr & Mrs H. D. Ackerley
 Mr I. J. Culverwell
 Mr M. O. V. French
 Miss G. Mulven
 Mr & Mrs M. Goicoechea & family
 Mr C. Hurst
 Dr T. Ireland
 Mr & Mrs W. H. Jarvis
 Miss E. Knight
 Mr K. Lawson
 Lieut & Mrs. A. McArthur & Son
 Mr & Mrs S. Mishan
 Capt J. Pratt
 Mr A. Stuart

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Matagu*, April 15th:—
 Miss E. N. L. Hiss
 Miss G. Ewart Levy
 Miss M. Farouharson
 Miss M. Johnson
 Mr A. Maclean
 Mr & Mrs H. W. Pedder
 Mr P. H. Slater

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Changuinola*, Avonmouth, April 11th:—
 Miss Hanson
 Mr A. J. Corelli
 Mr H. E. Digby
 Miss K. Dougall
 Capt Drysdale
 Mr & Mrs Ernest Kerr & Son
 Capt & Mrs E. Grimes
 Mr E. Hooton
 Miss M. Hooton
 Miss E. Howard
 Mrs F. Knight
 Mrs & Mrs G. Lindsay
 Lt. Comdr F. Lockhart
 Mr John Rayson
 Mr W. Robertson
 Mr G. Sheldon
 Miss I. Sheldon
 Mr. Stott
 Mr & Mrs Turnbull
 The Misses Usher (2)
 Lord & Lady Worsley

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Camito*, April 23rd:—
 Mr J. H. Betts
 Mr M. J. Bose
 Mr P. W. Crisp
 Mrs L. L. Doyle & 2 children
 Mr & Mrs G. A. Hawkins & family
 Mr J. W. Hill
 Col. G. H. Impey D.S.O.
 Mr P. E. Lephart
 Mr W. Millar
 Mr C. H. North
 Lt. J. F. Rathbone
 Rev & Mrs T. Kedpath
 Mrs E. Salashury

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Camito*, Avonmouth, April 20th:—
 Mr V. Anderson
 Mrs F. Adam
 Mrs E. Burrell
 Mr & Mrs H. O. Barratt
 Col. A. H. Barclay
 Miss M. Barclay
 Miss Bronie
 Miss R. Buxton
 Rev. F. Bridges
 Mr & Mrs E. R. Brown
 Miss C. Brown
 Admiral F. Burke
 Capt & Mrs G. Cave
 Mr & Mrs A. D. Carr
 Miss B. Dent
 Mrs G. Drewett
 Mr W. E. Everard
 Rev W. H. Evers
 Mrs M. Evers & family
 Mrs S. Hewitt
 Mr R. C. Hossack
 Mrs E. C. Hossack
 Miss A. M. Howard
 Mr T. J. Haxlett
 Mr & Mrs R. H. Haslam
 Mr F. Isaacson
 Mr L. James
 Mrs D. James
 Mr & Mrs F. W. Jenoure
 Rev. H. A. Llewellyn
 Miss A. E. Murray
 Mr McEwan
 Miss M. Ewan
 Mr & Mrs W. Morris
 Col & Mrs A. H. May
 Mr Parsons
 Mr J. Prentice
 Mr J. W. Ryan
 Mr C. R. Reiph
 Miss A. Rankine
 Mr & Mrs J. Robson
 Mr & Mrs C. F. Silvey
 Miss G. A. Silvey
 Miss C. Sandeman
 Mr A. Suenzer
 Maj. Gen. Sartorius
 The Misses Sartorius (2)
 Mr H. Schnack
 Mrs L. Schnack
 Mrs A. Walker
 Miss E. Walker
 Miss M. Wright
 Mr W. E. Wilson
 Mrs R. E. Wilson

Home arrivals, from Jamaica, in s.s. *Bayano*, Avonmouth, April 25th
 Miss S. Angell
 Mrs M. Beckwith
 Mr R. A. Bloxham
 Dr J. M. Bramwell
 Mrs E. F. Broderup
 Mr R. P. Cawling
 Lieut. Col. C. Clifford
 Miss H. Clifford
 Miss C. Coleman
 Mr & Mrs W. Cradwick
 Mr & Mrs J. T. Crosby
 Mr G. G. Dooan
 Mrs J. N. Ferguson
 The Misses Ferguson (2)
 Miss J. D. Forrester
 Miss E. W. Gordon
 Mr & Mrs T. C. Graham
 Mr A. Grant
 Mrs E. E. Greenhalgh
 The Misses Haden (2)
 Mr J. M. Harris
 Lady H. Hervey
 Miss D. Hudson
 Mr J. L. Huntington
 Capt. R. McClelland
 Mr G. C. McCormack
 Mr & Mrs F. H. Milson
 Mr M. H. Mizrahi
 Mr & Miss Newlin
 Lieut. Col. J. Oldfield
 Miss A. Palmer
 Mr Tom Phillips
 Mrs W. E. Powell
 Mr W. Roberts
 Mrs H. Scudamore
 Miss N. J. Sunderland
 Mr & Mrs F. H. Swanze
 Mr & Mrs H. P. Tigar
 Mr & Mrs R. Travers
 Mr A. Vinco
 Mr H. R. Wansborough
 Mrs Vernon Ward
 The Misses Ward (2)

Thos. & Jas. Harrison, Ltd.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Scientist*, April 15th:—
 Mr L. H. Alexander
 Mr A. B. Griffiths
 Mr & Mrs Lawrence and family
 Mr F. A. Newsam
 Rev J. V. and Mrs Rouse
 Miss Skeete

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Songster*, London, April 22nd:—

BARBADOS.	TRINIDAD.	DEMERARA.
Miss M. Birt	Mr E. P. Massou	Mr H. E. Anderson
Mr V. L. Briggs	Mr A. H. Massou	Mr G. T. Moody
Mr B. E. Knapp		Mr W. H. McTurk
Mr and Mrs. P. R. Wilson and Son		Miss C. W. Morris

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail

Sailings to Trinidad from Dover, in s.s. *Van Reusselaer*, April 23rd:—
 Mr H. Brown
 Mr A. B. Clarke
 Mrs M. D. Cooper
 Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Craigen
 Mr T. Elton-Miller
 Miss L. Fairbank
 Mr & Mrs P. S. Harris
 Mr Wm Hoalim
 Mrs Howard Stent
 and Son
 Mr A. J. Knights
 Mr E. A. Knapp
 Mrs Messervy
 Mr H. J. Rajjouth
 Dr. F. G. Rose
 Mrs. Slagter and infant
 Mrs A. Taggart & Son
 Mr. S. S. Webb-Powen

Home arrivals from Trinidad, in s.s. *Crynsen*, Plymouth, April 12th:—
 Mr. and Mrs. C. Archibald
 Mr. P. T. Baker
 Mr and Mrs Banks and family
 Miss Catherine Jordan
 Mr Sydney Hurton
 Mr John A. Carter
 Mrs Marion Daves
 Rev. Fred Ellis
 Mr Walter Ellis
 The Misses Ellis (2)
 Mr John K. Falconer
 Mr Juan Govoudona
 Mrs Levano Ground
 Mr & Mrs F. S. Hicks and family
 Mr P. W. Jarvis
 Mr T. D. Marriott
 Mr C. J. Milne
 Mr T. L. Moore
 Mrs Louise Phillips
 Mrs Margaret Rapsay
 The Misses Rapsay (2)
 Mr D. M. Reid
 Mr James Romanes
 Mrs Margaret Scott
 The Misses Scott (2)
 Mrs D. Slingsby
 Dr Sannell D. Stewart
 Miss Muriel Smith
 Mr G. W. Sutherland
 Mr Allen M. Walcott

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
West Indies	London	Ingoma	April
Jamaica	Liverpool	Pacuare	May 2
Jamaica	Bristol	Changuinola	" 3
B'idos & T'dad	Liverpool	Alexandrian	" 7
Trinidad	Dover	Crynsen	" 7
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	" 9
West Indies	London	Songster	" 11
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	Bordeaux	Puerto Rico	May 2
B'inas, J'ama & B. H'idas	Montreal	Canadian Forester	" 25
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	" 27

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:—

Mrs S. Archer
 Mr R. Bouyon
 Mr E. W. Bowen
 Mr James Brown
 Mr R. Buysen
 Capt J. A. Burusile M.C.
 Mr W. J. Cauty
 Mr C. H. Chambers
 Mr J. E. Corbin
 Mr H. S. Cox
 Hon. D. S. De Freitas
 Mrs A. G. Farnum
 Mr J. M. Fleming
 Mr Percy George
 Dr. C. J. Gomes
 Mr L. A. Gomb
 Mr F. P. Houghton James
 Mr L. M. Houston
 Mr T. W. H. J. H. H.
 Mr N. Macreed Holden, West View, Millingate, N.H.
 Rev J. R. Lindley, c/o W.M.M.S., 24, Bishopsgate, E.C.
 Mr Archibald Gordon, c/o John Leckie & Co., Ltd., 84, Fore Street, E.C.
 Mr Ronald I. Harvey, 5, Lower Camden, Chislehurst, Kent
 Mr L. J. Lee
 Mr C. H. McClean
 Mr W. McMillan
 Mr James Miller
 Mr F. E. Murray
 Mr C. V. Newson
 Mr F. Noble & M.L.C.E.
 Mr G. O'Reilly
 Mr A. J. Powell
 Lieut. W. M. Richards
 Dr. F. G. Rose
 Major Randolph Rust, V.D.
 Mr H. Seedorf
 Hon. A. P. Sherlock
 Mr James Soreby
 Mr H. Blin Stoyke
 His Hon. Chief Justice G. O'D. Walton
 Mr Percy R. Wilson

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegrams—
"Carib. London"



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

April 27th, 1921

BANK RATE, 7 per cent., as from April 15th, 1920

EXCHANGE on New York. \$3.94-33.95.

THE BUDGET. The Budget brought no surprises beyond the announcement regarding the funding of the various issues of National War Bonds by a 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan redeemable at par on or after April 1st, 1961. The Income Tax and Super Tax remain unchanged, the former at 6/- in the pound, and the latter varying from 1/6 to 6/- in the pound. The ad valorem duties on cigars and sparkling wines, which completely failed in their object, have been dropped. Otherwise, no change is the order of the day. The Chancellor's estimate of ordinary expenditure was £974,000,000, and the estimated revenue £1,508,150,000.

SUGAR. The miners' strike, which appropriately began on April 1st, is having its expected result, namely, the strangulation of the industries of the country. Consequently the sugar manufacturing trades are getting short of fuel, and the demand on their part for sugar has been reduced to vanishing point. Refiners have again lowered their prices, granulated being quoted 67/6, duty paid, while West Indian crystallised, which is in small supply, stands at 60/- to 64/-. The American market has gone from bad to worse, latest New York quotations being \$3.80 for May; \$3.97 July; \$4.02 September, and \$3.82 December. The Cuban Commission has sold 120,000 bags at \$4.78 c. and f. It is now stated that the Cuban crop will not exceed 8,000,000 tons, but, on the other hand, there appears to be more sugar in the island ready for shipment than can be absorbed at the moment owing to the general slump and consequent reduced demand. Rumours that the Cuban Commission is to be dissolved have been contradicted, though it is claimed in some quarters that that Corporation is illegal. The United States Emergency Tariff Bill will, it is understood, provide for a duty of 1 6 c. per lb. on Cuban and 2 c. per lb. on other foreign raw sugar, and will contain an Anti-Dumping Clause.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on April 16th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Imports	8,690	13,832	6,617 Tons.
Deliveries	13,307	9,311	8,122 "
Stock	3,787	12,657	4,687 "

CACAO, is steady, with rather more enquiry. Trinidad spot is quoted at 55/- to 60/-, or 47/- c.i.f. to arrive (equal to 52/- landed), at which figure a fair business has been done. Some sales of Grenada have been made at 49/- to 49/-.

The stocks in London on April 16th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Trinidad	22,691	17,419	14,098 Bags.
Grenada	28,139	20,131	8,624 "
Total of all kinds	198,604	151,782	121,817 "

RUM is lifeless. No sales have been reported during the past fortnight, although importers are willing to accept reasonable prices, and the statistical position is getting worse. The reduced consumption is attributed to the high rate of duty (which, according to the new Budget presented on Monday last, will not be altered during the present financial year), the mild winter, and labour troubles. Owing to the complete absence of demand, values are purely nominal.

The stocks in London on April 16th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Jamaica	9,869	7,162	5,203 Puns.
Demerara	16,322	12,343	11,371 "
Total of all kinds	36,411	28,303	16,574 "

ARROWROOT. Business continues quietly steady, with the quotations—23d.-7d.—unchanged.

BALATA remains very dull, and prices show an easier tendency for all grades. West Indian sheet is quoted at 3/6 c.i.f. for forward shipment, and 3/9-3/9½ spot (sellers).

COFFEE generally has been in better demand, and owing to increased export demand and the shortage of good liquoring descriptions, the prices of Costa Ricas and East Indian have advanced suddenly by 10/- to 15/-. Ordinary Jamaicas—the values of which are based on Santos and Brazilian quotations—however, remain almost unshakable, and are quoted nominally at 55/-.

COPRA is firm. West Indian f.i.m.s. is valued at £28 15s. c.i.f. London or Holland.

COTTON generally has been in fair demand, and quotations of most growths are higher. West Indian Sea Island has been neglected, but the nominal quotations—25d. for medium and 33d. for fine—are unchanged. Imports in the sixteen weeks ending April 21st, 1,530 bales.

HONEY. Public sales, which have been suspended for several months, will be resumed this week, but it is doubtful whether they will receive better support than the last few auctions did, as private enquiries are practically nil. Jamaica is difficult of sale, with the low grades quoted cheaply at 26/- to 35/-. Good to fine pale in small quantity should fetch about 55/- to 65/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed is firm, with small sales at 21/6, but there is no demand for Distilled. Raw Lime Juice has not been enquired for.

LOGWOOD remains dull and unchanged at £8 to £10 nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet and Bitter are quiet and unchanged.

PETROLEUM. The price of Pennsylvanian crude has been advanced to \$3.50.

RUBBER. There is no improvement to report in this market, as at present there seems very little disposition on the part of either dealers or consumers to operate. There is no doubt that until the coal trouble is settled there is very little prospect of the market improving. Spot crepe is still quoted at 10½d., and sheet at 9½d.

SPICES. There is still only a small enquiry, with occasional sales at 2½d to 2¼d. For c.i.f. terms, 29/- is quoted for Hamburg, and 27/- for Genoa. There is nothing to report in Nutmegs or Mace. Jamaica Ginger has been firmer, and is valued at 115/- to 145/-.

BIRTH.

BAYNES—On April 22nd, at the Manor House, Datchet, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baynes, a son.

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 Circular No. 565, of May 27th, 1920, also Nos. 532 and 572. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. each for unsoiled copies returned to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

Two YOUNG ENGLISHMEN, aged 20 and 21 respectively (friends), seek situations together in good West Indian concerns in same town or district. Both at present in original positions in London. Respective experiences: 23 years as Chartered Accountants' Clerk with Company Secretary training; 5 years with firm of Electrical and Mechanical engineers. Office and Workshop experience. Both ready for hard work.—Apply P. and W., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921.

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THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Estab. : circa 1750. Incorporated by Royal Charter.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the members of The West India Committee (Incorporated by Royal Charter) will be held at the Committee Rooms, No. 15, Seething Lane, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 26th 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, 1920, and the Balance Sheet.
- (2) To elect twelve 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:—E. R. Campbell, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Clifton, Harold de Pass, Esq., H. J. Freeman, Esq., Lieut.-Colonel G. A. O. Lane, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., A. J. McConnell, Esq., R. M. Parker, Esq., A. W. Rogers, Esq., J. H. Scrutton, Esq., F. H. Watson, Esq., and C. F. Wood, Esq.

By Order.

ALGERNON ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The West India Committee,
15, Seething Lane, E.C.

May 12th, 1921.

[The Report and Accounts for the year ended Decem-
ber 31st, 1920, will be found on p. 186.]

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642.

Telegrams:
CARD. LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E.C. 3

May 11th, 1921.

The West India Committee.

IN the present CIRCULAR we publish the Report and Accounts of the Executive of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE for 1920, which are to be presented to the General Meeting on May 26th. The Report covers a wide field, but we should remind our readers that it is by no means an exhaustive recital of the activities of the Committee, an important and rapidly-growing feature of whose work now consists in dealing with trade enquiries, and securing publicity for the British West Indies and their industries in the Press and elsewhere. Sufficient is, however, set out to indicate that the work of the Committee is being extended and developed in accordance with the promise which was made when the Endowment Fund was inaugurated in 1919. The Accounts still, unfortunately, show a balance on the wrong side, which is mainly attributable to the high cost of production of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR and to the conservative policy adopted by the Hon. Treasurers of debiting all costs of the collection of the Endowment Fund to general revenue. It was hoped that a Fund of £20,000 would enable the Committee to secure the improved premises, the need for which is so apparent to every visitor to the Committee Rooms, but unfortunately the collection of the minimum total synchronised with a sudden and alarming increase in rents in the City of London, which rose to as high as 25s. per square foot of space, a figure which the Executive very properly regarded as prohibitive. There are, however, indications that we are now over the peak of the boom in real property in the City of London, where the Committee Rooms must necessarily be located, and there is every reason to hope that with the continued support of the members towards the Endowment Fund, it may be possible to secure premises at once more convenient and more in keeping with the importance of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Grenada's Constitution.

ELSEWHERE we publish the reply of the Secretary of State to the Petition of the Grenada People to the King praying for the bestowal upon them of some measure of representative Government. It may be recalled that until 1875 Grenada enjoyed representative institutions. On October 1st in that year, however, a single

Legislative Assembly was substituted for the Council and Assembly, and on February 9th, 1876, that body, at its first meeting, passed a Bill providing for its own extinction and leaving it to the Queen's "wisdom and direction" to establish such form of Government for the Colony as Her Majesty might deem fit. An Imperial Act was accordingly passed empowering Her Majesty to comply with this Address, and in 1877 the system of Crown Colony Government, which prevails to this day, was set up in Grenada. For some years past there has been evidence of a growing desire on the part of the inhabitants of the Colony to have some voice in the conduct of their own affairs, and a few years ago a Representative Government Association was formed with the HON. W. S. COMMISSIONG, C.M.G., as President, the HON. D. S. DE FREITAS, Vice-President, and MR. T. ALBERT MARRYBROW as Secretary, in order to make it heard. Public meetings were organised throughout the Island, and on November 17th last the influentially signed Petition already referred to was sent to the King. We understand that the Petitioners did not look for the immediate re-establishment of Representative Institutions, but rather, as stated in their resolutions, for some measure of representation. This is now to be conceded, and the Secretary of State has announced that he is prepared to advise His Majesty to consent to four members of the Legislative Council being elected by the people, and a local Commission is to be appointed to report on the steps which should be taken to bring this about. It will be gathered from the interview with MR. DE FREITAS, which we publish in another column, that this decision will be received with much satisfaction by Grenadians, whose legitimate aspirations have been respected. With regard to the future, MR. DE FREITAS has some apposite remarks to make. He wisely points out that it is for the electorate to show that they are worthy of the trust which is now to be placed in them. A new electorate is necessarily lacking in experience, but we may feel sure that no racial prejudices or religious distinctions will prevent those who will now enjoy the franchise from working for the general good of Grenada, whose welfare must be placed before all other considerations.

Canada and the West Indies.

AS we go to press, we learn that THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE have received a cablegram from MR. ROBERT ANDERSON, their Hon. Correspondent in Montreal, stating that the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, which was signed at Ottawa on June 18 last year, has now become effective. From this we assume that the necessary Proclamation has been published in the *Canada Gazette* and the *Official Gazettes* of the Colonies concerned. The abstention of Bermuda, though to be regretted, is not regarded as a matter of serious importance, and the only participating Colony whose decision has still to be made known is Barbados, and it is improbable that she will go back on her delegates who signed the agreement from which we look for a still further increase in trade between the West Indies and Canada.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Over a Hundred New Members this Year.

At a meeting of the Executive on April 5th, twenty-seven candidates, whose names are given below, were elected members of the West India Committee, bringing the number admitted this year up to 126.

NAMES	PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES
Mr. E. H. Walters (Country).	{ Major A. G. Kent-Johnston. { Mr. H. F. Previté
Messrs. Grace, Ltd. (Jamaica).	{ Mr. L. de Mercado. { Mr. W. Morrison
Mr. W. Duncan Thompson (London).	{ Mr. H. J. Freeman { Mr. W. Gillespie
Mr. Timothy Roodal (Trinidad).	{ Mr. M. Hamel-Smith { Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith
Mr. H. G. Trew (London).	{ Mr. M. Hamel-Smith. { Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith.
Mr. O. L. Samuels (Jamaica).	{ Mr. W. Morrison. { Mr. Alfred H. D'Costa.
Mr. J. H. Haigh (Barbados).	{ Mr. J. Stanley Matthews. { Mr. John H. Wilkinson
Mr. R. M. Watson (Barbados).	{ Mr. E. R. Skeete. { Captain A. R. Fellowes.
Mr. A. R. S. McGrath (Jamaica).	{ Mr. L. de Mercado. { Mr. Archibald Spooner.
Mr. R. Nicholson (Trinidad).	{ Mr. Archibald Johnston. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. Andrew R. Vuille (Trinidad).	{ Mr. Archibald Johnston. { Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. J. A. Goellnicht (Trinidad).	{ Mr. Archibald Johnston. { Mr. W. Robertson.
Mr. A. J. Collier (Trinidad).	{ Mr. Archibald Johnston. { Mr. J. M. Ironside.
Mr. Eugene Delmas (Trinidad).	{ Mr. Archibald Johnston. { Mr. W. Robertson.
Mr. F. E. Wharton (Trinidad).	{ Mr. Archibald Johnston. { Mr. J. M. Ironside.
Mr. James T. Valladares (British Guiana).	{ Dr. C. J. Gomes. { Messrs. Pereira & Gonsalves
Mr. H. H. Humphreys, M.I.C.E. (London).	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. { Mr. H. F. Previté.
Mr. Alfred E. Young, F.C.G.I., A.M.I.C.E. (Jamaica).	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. { Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. Jack Culmer (Bahamas).	{ Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. { Mr. H. F. Previté.
Capt. W. F. Watson, O.B.E. (Trinidad).	{ Mr. W. Robertson { Mr. R. Poyntz Mackenzie.
Mr. C. T. Trechmann (Country).	{ Captain A. R. Fellowes. { Mr. R. Rutherford
Mr. R. D. O'Neale (Barbados).	{ Mr. J. Connell. { Mr. G. E. Sealy.
Mr. Wesley Bailey (London).	{ Mr. W. A. Boyd { Mr. H. A. Bligh
Mr. P. W. Verrall (St. Vincent).	{ Hon. J. M. Gray, J.P. { John H. Hazell, Sons & Co.
Mrs. M. A. Andrews (London).	{ Mr. Charles Hewett. { Mr. L. H. Miller.
Mr. John O'Connor, M.C. (Trinidad).	{ Dr. C. W. Daly. { Mr. H. F. Previté.
Mr. T. F. Burrows, C.B.E. (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. { Sir Edward Davson.

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. The minimum subscription is £1 1s., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Masquita often go a village fe syrup, but him no always get wha' him go for."

THE term of office of Sir George Haddon-Smith, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, has been extended for a period of two years.

CAPTAIN H. H. BATSON, the Newfoundland Trade Commissioner to the British West Indies, has arrived in Barbados, which he will make his headquarters.

MR. P. W. VERRALL, of the firm of John H. Hazell, Sons & Company, has been elected Hon. Correspondent to The West India Committee for St. Vincent.

COMMANDER W. H. OWEN, R.N., D.S.O., for some years marine superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. in Barbados, is retiring at the end of June, after forty years' service.

MR. A. D. C. ADAMSON, who was Hon. Correspondent to The West India Committee until he left St. Kitts a few years ago, has been re-appointed to act in that capacity with Mr. E. J. Shelford, now that he has returned to the island.

THE anti-dumping proposal of the United States' Emergency Tariff Bill, now before the Senate, is to levy an anti-dumping duty equal to the difference between the "foreign home value" of the goods and the actual "sales price."

MR. H. HOWARD HUMPHREYS informs us that Messrs. Preece, Cardew & Rider were responsible for the electrical part of the scheme outlined in his report on hydro-electric power for Jamaica which was published on page 170 of the last issue of the CIRCULAR.

MR. M. H. PATTINSON, who died very suddenly at Anerley, on April 28th, at the age of 73, was the managing director of the Pattinson Banana Fruit Foods, Ltd. He was a familiar figure at many exhibitions, and did much to popularise banana products in this country. He was for many years a member of The West India Committee.

MR. T. V. BEST, Colonial Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago, accompanied by his niece, Miss Best, left Dover for Port of Spain by the Dutch mail steamer on May 7th. It is understood that he will administer the government of the Colony after the departure of Sir John Chancellor, who leaves for England early in June, and will not be returning.

LIEUT.-COLONEL IVAN DAVSON, O.B.E., returned to London from the West Indies on April 20th. During a visit to those Colonies, extending over five months, he took the opportunity of discussing with the various Chambers of Commerce the questions of currency and aviation, with which he has so closely identified himself.

MR. A. E. YOUNG, F.C.G.I., A.M.I.C.E., who has been appointed Surveyor-General of Jamaica, leaves for the Colony with his wife on May 17th—Strike permitting. Mr. Young, who was formerly Deputy Surveyor-General of the Federated Malay States, succeeds Mr. C. Liddell, I.S.O., who died in 1916, since which year the position has not been filled.

THE West India Committee is indebted to Dr. W. Grieve Nichol, of Quebec, for an interesting addition to their library, namely, the "Ordeal of Free Labour in the British West Indies," by W. G. Sewell (New York, 1861), a treatise on the results of emancipation, dedicated to the late Sir Francis Hincks, K.C.B., who was Governor of Barbados from 1855 to 1862, and of British Guiana from 1862 to 1869.

MR. G. HUDSON, the newly appointed organist of St. Michael's Cathedral, left England for Barbados on April 8th, per s.s. *Antillian*. Mr. Hudson, who was a pupil of Sir Walter Parratt, Master of the King's Music at the Royal College of Music, London, received his first appointment at the age of 16, when he became organist and choirmaster at Liverpool Road Church, Southport. During the war he served as a pilot in the Royal Air Force.

MESSRS. WILLET AND GRAY estimate the world's 1920-21 crop as 16,475,632 tons, as against a realised crop of 15,194,215 tons in 1919-20. The cane crops total 11,828,024 tons, as against 11,921,278 tons; and the beet crops 4,647,609 tons, as against 3,272,937 tons. The European beet crop is estimated at 3,682,609 tons, as against 2,603,480 tons, the German crop being 1,200,000 tons, as against 739,548 tons; United States' beet is estimated at 935,000 tons, as against 652,957 tons reaped in 1919-20. The increase on last year's figures is due entirely to the Continental and American increase in beet production.

THE difficulty experienced last autumn in securing steamer passages to the West Indies is likely to be repeated this year in an accentuated form, judging from the many enquiries as to what accommodation will be available, which are already reaching the West India Committee. The Committee will gladly again do its best, as it did in 1920, to find accommodation for visitors from the West Indies desirous of returning, or for others wishing to proceed to the West Indies on business. Correspondence on this subject should be addressed to The Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3, and the letters marked "Ocean Passages."

CONKIES.—Break 2 eggs, add 4 tablespoonfuls white sugar, and 1 grated coconut. Crush in another bowl 1½ lbs. pumpkin, a mellow sweet potato with a full tablespoonful of butter, ½ lb. lard, and the water out of the coconut. Mix all together with 3 gills milk, a dessertspoonful of beaten spice, and last, ½ pint of Indian cornflour, and 1 teaspoonful of soda, which should be mixed in with the cornflour. —MRS. PAYNE.

RUM OR SUGAR?

Conditions in Guadeloupe.

The depression occasioned by the poor demand for rum and the low prices the spirit is fetching, is not confined to British rum-producing Colonies. Mr. J. Sydney Dash, B.S.A., Director of the Station Agronomique in Guadeloupe, points out in a recent letter that during the war and immediately after, rum became such a profitable product in France and her Colonies that it was manufactured at the expense of sugar, and hence to some extent the low sugar crops of Guadeloupe and Martinique during the past few years. At the present moment the exceedingly high prices have fallen and those who have large interests in rum and distilleries find themselves faced by a probable considerable loss. The fall in prices has been brought about partly by the heavy taxation recently imposed in France, which renders rum there a luxury, partly by over-production, and partly by the introduction of products which, though not really rum, resemble it very closely and are called *rhums de fantaisie*. Pressure is being brought to bear to have at least one of these factors, the heavy taxation, removed.

As a result partly of the rum situation and partly of delay in starting crops—a delay due to the drought—the financial outlook became rather dark, and the Banque de la Guadeloupe was forced to suspend for a few days the issuance of sight drafts. Practically all the usines are, however, now at work and, since the small distilleries which had sprung up like mushrooms during the rum boom are not working, practically all the cane in the Colony is finding its way to the usines proper. One may, therefore, expect a fairly average sugar output despite the drought.

Several of the factories have installed new and more up to date machinery, and they have also commenced to recognise the importance of better tillage methods, and the advantage of planting the newer seedlings, introduced by the Station Agronomique, which give high sugar yields per hectare. This was a principle which planters, always anxious to obtain the best agricultural yields without consideration of the industrial side, and prone to judge canes by appearance rather than by performance, found it hard to acquire. Thus at first there was a clashing of the interests of factory and field, which, however, are now being brought into closer harmony. There remains still the more difficult problem of effecting improvements among the large number of peasant proprietors and colons who cultivate nearly half of the Guadeloupe lands. The poor returns obtaining from this large area tends to keep the average production per hectare of the Colony at a relatively low figure.

Imports of sugar into India are rapidly diminishing. For the seven months ending October last year these only amounted to 115,870 tons, as against 204,783 tons for the same period in 1919. Before the war they were about 800,000 tons per annum.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

(Incorporated by Royal Charter).

The Report of the Executive Committee for the year 1920, to be laid before the Annual General Meeting on May 26th, 1921.

The Executive beg to present to the members of The West India Committee their Annual Report, the Statement of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1920, and the Balance Sheet.

MEMBERSHIP.—During the year, 419 new members were admitted to the West India Committee, the total membership of which on December 31st was 2,268, a figure constituting a fresh record. The Executive have to record with deep regret the deaths of two members of their body—namely, Mr. William Henry Alty and Mr. Charles Sandbach Parker, which took place on March 4th and May 9th respectively, of the Hon. E. Du Boulay, for many years Hon. Correspondent in St. Lucia, and of the undermentioned members of The West India Committee:—

His Honour A. W. Mahaffy	Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes
Mr. Justice A. Earnshaw	Mr. A. R. G. Hunter
Hon. J. V. Calder	Mr. P. Houghton James
Hon. G. Fitzpatrick	Mr. G. E. Jarvis
Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G.	Mr. J. Miller Lash
Hon. F. R. Jones	Mr. H. P. Lawson
Mr. W. H. Barnard	Miss C. Leacock
Mr. W. C. Browne	Capt. Ian McDonald, M.C.,
Mr. W. Burslem	D.F.C.
Mr. D. B. Callaghan	Mr. H. Cameron Menzies
Lieut. C. Forte Cave	Mr. Cecil Mocatta
Mr. F. N. A. Clairmonte	Mr. Joseph Moore
Dr. H. L. Clare	Mr. M. A. Pereira
Mr. C. Lister Clarke	Mr. R. P. Pile
Mr. I. S. Cranstoun	Dr. R. H. Rich
Mr. J. Cunningham	Mr. V. D. Rowe
Mr. A. N. Dixon	Mr. H. J. Rudolf
Mr. Edward Estridge	Mr. C. W. Scott
Mr. Leon Fuentes	Mr. J. F. Scully
Mr. V. A. Gale	&
Mr. M. S. Grace	Dr. D. M. Simpson

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S TOUR.—The outstanding feature of the year was the visit of the Prince of Wales to the British West Indies on his way to and from Australia. It having been decided that it would not be possible for His Royal Highness to visit British Guiana, the Committee urged that this matter might be reconsidered. Eventually Demerara was included in the itinerary of the tour, which was characterised throughout by the intense loyalty and enthusiasm with which the Prince was received.

MEETINGS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.—The Report and Accounts for the preceding year were adopted at the Annual General Meeting which was held on May 27th. At subsequent meetings of the Executive, held pursuant to Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, Mr. Robert Rutherford was elected Chairman and Mr. Cyril Gurney, Deputy-Chairman, Mr. Henry Alexander Trotter having expressed his inability to submit himself for re-election on this occasion owing to the arduous nature of his duties of Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England. Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. Eliot A. de Pass, and Mr. H. F. Previte were elected Hon. Treasurers for the ensuing year.

FINANCIAL POSITION.—For the fourth year in succession the Accounts show a debit balance, the deficit for the year being £598 6s 11d., and the surplus of assets over liabilities being consequently reduced to £1,360 6s. 2d. It may be noted, however, that the entire cost of the collection of contributions towards the Endowment Fund and of the Secretary's visit to the West Indies, to which reference is made below, was debited to the General Revenue Account. At the close of the year contracts were entered into for the publication of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and for the purchase of paper, on more favourable terms. Consequently, though the rent of the present Committee Rooms has been greatly increased, it is hoped to maintain the work of the West India Committee without raising the membership subscription, which remains at the pre-war figure of a minimum of £13s. or \$5.00 per annum, though every other Colonial body in London has found it necessary to make an increase.

THE SECRETARY'S TOUR.—With the object of acquainting himself with the trend of public opinion regarding West Indian affairs on the spot, and of enlisting support towards the Endowment Fund, the Secretary visited the West Indies from February to May. He made a short stay in Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica, and also visited St Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and Belize, British Honduras. It is to be regretted that, owing to difficulties of communication, he was unable on this occasion to re-visit British Guiana. The results of his mission are shown in the increase of membership and also in the support given to the Endowment Fund.

ENDOWMENT FUND.—During the year the total of the Endowment Fund was raised to the minimum figure originally aimed at—namely, £20,000. It became apparent, however, that, owing to the remarkable increase in the rents in the City of London which occurred during the year, necessitating the payment of three times the pre-war rent for the inadequate premises in which the Committee is at present accommodated, a considerably larger sum would be required if the full programme of the Committee were to be carried out effectively. At the close of the year the total of the Fund was £22,578 19s 7d. Included in this total were the following contributions from the Colonial Governments:—

	£	s.	d.
The Bahamas	32	10	0
Barbados	500	0	0
British Guiana	500	0	0
British Honduras	100	0	0
Jamaica	2,000	0	0
Turks and Caicos Islands	10	10	0

A list of contributions towards the Fund was published during the year and circulated to the members. The Executive desire to take this opportunity of again thanking those who have supported their efforts by contributing towards this Fund.

THE WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.—The Executive continued to carry on the outstanding work and to administer the funds of the West Indian Contingent Committee, which was disbanded in January. At the close of the year there remained a balance of £16 12s. 2d. 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 Committee was instituted, and under the sanction of the Charity Commissioners.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.—During the early months of the year there was an almost complete

breakdown of cable communication with and between the West Indian Colonies, Jamaica alone excepted. The Executive gave evidence to the Imperial Communications Committee which sat at the Colonial Office, and again emphasised the desirability of securing the amelioration of the existing state of affairs by the laying of new cables from Bermuda to Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, and by linking up the other islands by cables or wireless. This proposal commended itself to the Imperial Communication Committee, though doubts were expressed as to the efficacy of wireless telegraphy in the West Indies owing to atmospheric conditions, and the Delegates to the Conference which met at Ottawa in June to discuss the question of trade between the West Indies and Canada similarly appended to the Trade Agreement which was then signed a Declaration to the effect that they would 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 India and Panama Telegraph Co., to connect Bermuda with Barbados, Trinidad, British Guiana, the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, and Turks Islands or Jamaica. The Government of Canada further pledged itself to institute enquiries as soon as practicable as to the possibility of arranging for the laying of such cables and to communicate the results of these enquiries to the Governments of the Colonies. The Executive also continued to call attention to the delays in securing the repetition of mutilated words in West Indian cablegrams.

THE WEST INDIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—The Committee were represented by Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. H. A. Trotter, Sir Edward Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. G. Moody-Stuart, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G. (who acted as Hon. Secretary) on the Tropical Agricultural College Committee which was appointed by Lord Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to consider whether it would be desirable to establish an Agricultural College in the West Indies, and in the event of their decision being in the affirmative, to report on the subject generally. The Report of the Agricultural Committee favoured the establishment of a West Indian Agricultural College in Trinidad, and the views of the Committee on the subject were recorded in the following Resolution:—

"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."

The proposals having commended themselves to the majority of the West Indian Colonies, the Agricultural College Committee was called together again by Lord Milner in the autumn with a view to making the necessary arrangements for the incorporation of the proposed College and for carrying out the proposals generally.

TRANSATLANTIC STEAMER COMMUNICATION.—In June the temporary service which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. had been conducting with the steamers *Quillota*, *Arzila*, and *Quilpué* was terminated at short notice, with the result that considerable difficulty was experienced in securing passages for the many visitors from the West Indies desirous of returning, and of business men wishing to proceed to those Colonies. With a view to relieving the position, the West India Committee invoked the assistance of various shipping companies, and opened a register of intending passengers. The Royal Mail Company eventually agreed to allow four of their steamers to call at Barbados and Trinidad on their way to Ecuador, while the Harrison Line consented to berth a passenger steamer for the West Indian route, and the Royal Dutch Line provided accommodation for an increased number of passengers. It is believed that the action of the Committee in this connection was much appreciated. The Committee continued to impress upon the Colonial Office the desirability of securing a resumption of direct passenger steamer communication between the West Indies and the Mother Country, and also made representations to the Imperial Shipping Committee on the subject. The Imperial Government subsequently agreed to contribute two-thirds of the cost of a temporary service for three months if the West Indian Colonies would provide one-third; but this proposal was not acceptable to all of the West Indian Colonies, mainly because it was felt that the steamers which it was proposed to use were unsuitable.

THE SALE OF GROCERY SUGAR.—The interpretation of the Agreement arrived at at the close of the preceding year with the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply with regard to the marketing of West Indian Grocery Crystallised and Muscovado sugars in the United Kingdom was the subject of considerable correspondence and of repeated interviews with the Commission. It was understood, when the Commission gave permission for these sugars to be imported, that they were to be allotted to the trade by the Grading Committee. The Commission declared, however, that this had not been their intention, and they declined to permit the sugars to be allotted. Consequently it was found to be impossible to dispose of the large stocks of West Indian grocery sugars which had accumulated, the trade preferring to receive the supplies of white sugars which were allotted to them. Eventually the Executive invoked the assistance of the Ministry of Food, and at a Conference held on August 6th, over which the Right Hon. J. W. McCurdy, K.C., M.P., presided, a compromise was agreed to whereby the Royal Commission agreed to take up 10,000 tons of West Indian grocery sugars at the August agreed prices. This relieved the situation.

WEST INDIA SUGAR IN CANADA.—Towards the close of the year, consequent upon the collapse in sugar prices, the Canadian sugar refining industry was faced with a serious situation which it was feared would be reflected on the British West Indian sugar industry. The Canadian Government having rescinded an Order fixing the retail price of sugar at 21 cents per lb., the refiners, who had bought large stocks of sugar at high prices, were faced with the competition of American refined sugar which was marketed at 14 cents per lb. The Canadian refiners were consequently brought to a standstill, and there was some fear that they would not be able to carry out their obligations. The Executive accordingly addressed a cablegram to the Prime Minister of Canada, through the High Commissioner, representing that as the West

Indian producers could only sell sugar in Canada to the refiners owing to the maintenance of the Dutch Colour Standard of classification, they regarded it as most desirable that the refiners should be supported at this critical juncture in the interests of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. As a result of a Conference held at Ottawa on December 13th, between the refiners and the Government, arrangements were made whereby the danger of collapse was averted.

TERMS OF SALE OF SUGAR.—The terms of sale of sugar were discussed at a Conference with representatives of the Wholesale Sugar Dealers on November 3rd, and it was decided to revert to the pre-war conditions with regard to West Indian and Muscovado sugars, namely, 3 lbs. tare and 1 lb. strike, West Indian crystallised to be sold at landed weights and Muscovado at re-weights, the discount in both cases to be allowed at the pre-war rate of one per cent., and the "prompt" to be one month. It was further decided to agree to the above terms for syrup sugars subject, however, to syrups being sold on landed weights and not on re-weights.

ALLOWANCE FOR LOSS OF RUM.—Following representations made to them by the Committee, the Port of London Authority agreed to make allowances for losses of rum on the basis of the Customs Scale, provided the spirit was packed in good sound casks and not in packages made of chestnut.

COMMERCIAL ALCOHOL.—The question of the manufacture from West Indian molasses was the subject of a Conference between representatives of the Committee, and the Fuel Research Board. The possibilities of this industry were brought prominently before the notice of the West Indian proprietors, with the result that experiments in the manufacture of commercial alcohol were successfully conducted in British Guiana.

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNORS.—His Excellency the Hon. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, attended a meeting of the Executive on October 7th, when a discussion took place regarding the manner in which the West India Committee could best assist in the development of the Colony, and similarly Major (now Sir) H. E. S. Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G., Governor-elect of the Bahamas, attended a meeting held on October 21st.

THE OIL COMMITTEE.—The Standing Committee on Oil, whose activities had been suspended owing to the circumstances arising out of the war, resumed its meetings during the year with Mr. A. W. Rogers as chairman. Representations were made to the Government regarding the high rates for chartering tank steamers which had risen to as much as 240s. per ton, and the incidence of taxation on Empire Oil. The Colonial Office announced on March 9th that all the companies operating in Trinidad which were in a position to purchase oil, had then been able to make satisfactory arrangements for its shipment, and the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., announced in his Budget Statement that all motor fuel would be duty free as from the following January 1st.

EAST INDIA IMMIGRATION.—Mr. T. Greenwood represented the West India Committee on the Delegation of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation which visited India to discuss with the heads of the Government and the leaders of public opinion the question of the resumption of Indian emigration to British Guiana. The Delegation was favourably received and the Indian Government appointed a Committee of the Legislative Council to consider their

GRENADA'S CONSTITUTION.

A Concession to Public Opinion.

Mr. Churchill has forwarded to The West India Committee for their information a copy of an important despatch which has been addressed to the Governor of the Windward Islands on the subject of the Constitution of Grenada. It will be recalled that last year an influentially-signed Petition was sent to the King from that Colony praying that some system based on popular representation might be substituted in the Colony for Crown Colony Government. The covering letter was signed by the Hon. W. S. Commissiong, K.C., C.M.G., Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Mr. M. E. H. Martin and Mr. Albert T. Marryshow, Secretary of the Representative Government Association. The Secretary of State's despatch runs as follows :

Downing Street,
March 31st, 1921.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that the petition from the members of the Grenada Representative Government Association, praying for the abolition of Crown Colony Government and for the establishment in its place of a system of Government based on popular representation, has been laid before His Majesty the King, by whose command it has received my careful consideration.

2. While I am impressed with the representative character of the petition as an expression of public opinion in Grenada, I am unable to advise His Majesty to give effect to the wishes of the Petitioners in their entirety, since I am not satisfied that so complete a change in the system of Government would be calculated to promote the best interests of the Colony. Nevertheless, I consider that, in the case of Grenada, the time has now arrived for associating the people of the Colony more directly with the Government by extending to the Legislative Council the system of elected representation already operative throughout the Island in municipal affairs in the case of the District Boards. I am, however, of opinion that it is necessary in the public interests to retain the official majority, and also a proportion of nominated members. Subject to these conditions, which I regard as indispensable, I am prepared to recommend to His Majesty an amendment of the existing Constitution in order to provide for the inclusion of four elected members in the Legislative Council, which should then consist of

The Governor as President ;

Six Official members.

Three Unofficial members to be nominated by the Governor, and Four Elected members.

3. The steps necessary to give effect to this proposal should be considered either by a Commission or by a Committee (whichever body you may deem the more suitable), which should be instructed to report on the following questions :

(a) The qualifications and disqualifications of elected members ;

(b) the areas of the electoral districts ;

(c) the number of members of each electoral district ;

(d) the qualifications of electors ; and

(e) the duration of the Council.

The Constitution of Mauritius, as shown in the enclosed copies of the Letters Patent of that Colony, may afford some guidance to the Commission or Committee in their deliberations.

4. As regards the composition of the Commission or Committee, I would suggest that it should be composed of one unofficial member of the Executive Council, two unofficial members of the Legislative Council, a representative of the mercantile community, and three representatives drawn from the general public, with the Attorney-General as Chairman.

5. When the report of the Committee, together with any comments you may have to make upon it, has been received and considered, the next step would be to cause an Order-in-Council to be drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Imperial Act 39 and 40 Vict. Cap. 47.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) L. S. AMERY

(for the Secretary of State).

Hon. D. S. De Freitas Interviewed.

Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Grenada, who arrived in England recently by Dutch line steamer, expressed lively satisfaction when he was shown, by a representative of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Colonel Amery's despatch foreshadowing the introduction of the elective system into the Constitution of Grenada. Mr. De Freitas, it will be recalled, is the Vice-President of the Representative Government Association, which recently organised the petition to the King for the grant to the Colony of some measure of representative Government.

Asked whether the proposals now made would meet with the approval of the petitioners and the people of Grenada, Mr. De Freitas replied in the affirmative. "We did not," he said, "ask for representative institutions, but only some measure of self-government, which I am delighted to learn is now to be conceded." Proceeding, he said that he was not in favour of a wholly elective system at the present stage of the Colony's development. Reminded that Grenada once enjoyed representative institutions, he said that he appreciated that, but before the people could regain them they must show their fitness for them. It was best to make an entirely fresh start in the manner now suggested. The potential electorate must gain experience and realise that the object at which they had to aim was the good of the colony. "There must be sympathetic co-operation between all classes, who must work for the welfare of Grenada without any racial or religious distinctions or difference."

To a question as to whether the people enjoyed the privilege of the franchise in connection with the District Boards, Mr. De Freitas said that the electorate showed a keen interest in the elections, about 60 per cent. going to the poll. Personally he felt satisfied that the Grenadians would prove themselves worthy of the trust which was now to be put in them, and that they would soon gain the necessary experience to justify a further measure of representation.

"In building up our Constitution anew we have

now far better material than we had before," said Mr. De Freitas, and he instanced the patriotism and zeal of such local politicians as Mr. T. H. Lucas, Mr. T. Albert Marryshow, Mr. C. R. Fleming, Mr. W. V. G. Donovan, Mr. E. H. Martin, Mr. G. A. De Freitas, Mr. C. F. P. Renwick, and Mr. F. H. Copland, whom he regarded as towers of strength.

TRINIDAD'S LEPER SETTLEMENT.

Transfer to the Bocas Approved.

The West India Committee have been informed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that he has been in communication with the Government of Trinidad on the subject of the proposal to transfer the Trinidad Leper Asylum from Cocorite to Chacachacare in the Bocas, and that he has decided after full consideration of all the circumstances, not to intervene in the matter. His decision was conveyed to the Governor of the Colony in the following despatch:—

Colony's lepers to another Colony, nor is it proposed that Chacachacare be used for lepers from other Colonies. That the Island of Patos has been most carefully examined by the Governor and other representatives of the Colonial Government, that it does not contain more than two or three acres of cultivable land and no level ground suitable for the erection of buildings; that no other sites in the Colony have been suggested as possible; that the matter has been twice discussed in the Legislative Council, and that in each case a majority of unofficial members have voted for the Government's proposal (as is pointed out in the memorial from the petitioners). It should also be pointed out that serious objections would be raised to any other site, even if the Colonial Government could find one that appeared to be prima facie suitable; that in the interests of the lepers it is essential that a decision should be arrived at without further delay and that in the circumstances I am not prepared to intervene in the matter.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) L. S. AMERY.

GOVERNOR LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
SIR J. R. CHANCELLOR, K.C.M.G.,
D.S.O., R.E., &c.



A RESIDENCE ON CHACACHACARE.
The Islands of the Bocas are much resorted to for fishing, bathing and boating.

Downing Street,

9th April, 1921

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 71 of the 10th of February regarding the proposed transfer of the Leper Asylum from Cocorite to Chacachacare Island.

2. I have to request that the signatories of the petition enclosed in this despatch may be informed that I have received and carefully considered their petition. You should also inform the Chamber of Commerce that I have received the resolution contained in your despatch No. 619 of the 4th December.

3. You should reply in both cases that I observe that this question has been continuously under consideration in the Colony since the close of 1917; that the necessity for moving the present Asylum was cogently pointed out by the Committee which you appointed to investigate the matter; that the other possible sites suggested, the Grenadines, are not desirable or practicable; and that I cannot accept the suggestion that the proper course is to transfer the

No fewer than 234,456 diamonds, weighing 39,362 carats, were declared at the British Guiana Department of Lands and Mines during 1920. This large total is more than double the return for the preceding year.

The cultivation of the beet sugar industry of the Western States of America suffers severely from the attacks of a leaf-hopper, which produces a disease called the "curly-top" disease. No satisfactory control of the pest has been yet effected.

The Sea Island cottons from the West Indies are almost entirely consumed in Lancashire, and in Lille, where many of the finest mills work in close alliance with British firms.

OBITUARY.

MR. VIVIAN HOSKING.

We regret to state that Mr. Vivian Hosking died at Newlands, Chandlersford, Hampshire, on April 24th, at the age of 71.

Mr. Vivian Hosking was originally in the service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. He joined the Colonial Bank in 1874, and, after acting as cashier at the Jamaica Branch, went to Panama as Sub-Agent. When the Colonial Bank Agency in New York was opened in 1890, Mr. Hosking was its first agent; but on the retirement of Mr. Horne, General Superintendent for the Colonial Bank of their West Indian Branches, in 1904, Mr. Hosking succeeded to that position, which he held until 1911, when he retired from the Bank on pension, after thirty-seven years' service.

HEALTH AND WORK IN DOMINICA.

The Report (which is unanimous) of the Committee appointed by the Administrator of Dominica to enquire into the question of the labour supply for the Island's estates, is now published. It is signed by Mr. A. Welby Solomon (Chairman), Hon. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, Mr. Alex. Robinson, Mr. Jas. R. H. Bridgewater, Mr. Hubert W. Brinsley, M.C.; Mr. L. Lambert Bell, and Mr. Donald O. Riviere.

The committee find that a shortage of labour undoubtedly exists in the Presidency, comparatively few planters being able to collect the whole of their lime crop, even in years when the crop is not a heavy one. Conditions vary in different districts, and the personal equation must also be taken into account, "those planters who adopt the patriarchal system of dealing with labourers," attracting workers more easily than those who adopt a strictly commercial attitude. The Committee attribute the shortage to the following causes:—

- (1) The increase in the number of peasant proprietors.
- (2) Development of estates by proprietors recently returned from the war.
- (3) Cessation of labour supply from Montserrat owing to the success of that island's cotton industry.
- (4) Emigration to Cuba and the United States.
- (5) High death-rate among the young, of whom about one-fifth die in infancy, and less than one-half attain the age of fourteen.
- (6) The lowering of working capacity, due to the high cost of living, the insanitary conditions existing in most villages, and the disorganisation of the medical service.

(7) Vagrancy, "which is encouraged by gambling and supported by theft."

The Committee believe that "the soil and climate of Dominica could support a much larger and more prosperous agricultural community in which peasant proprietorship of the right sort could be judiciously extended without hampering the cultivation of the larger estates, and that this could be done, without recourse to the expensive and uncertain experiment of importing indentured labourers, if the necessary steps be taken to preserve infant life, improve the health of the labouring classes, diminish vagrancy and praedial larceny and encourage the immigration of a desirable class of settlers." As might be expected from their analysis of the causes of the present situation, the remedies that they propose lie largely in the direction of an improvement of the health of the population. They recommend:

- (1) That there should be a qualified midwife in each district, to be paid a small retaining fee.
- (2) The establishment of crèches in every town and village. (How necessary is such a course is shown by the fact that in some districts, as the Committee point out, it is assumed as a matter of course that yaws is a disease from which every child must suffer.)
- (3) That there should be a local Board of Health in every district that contains a populous village.
- (4) That when the finances of the Presidency permit, a properly qualified Sanitary Inspector should be appointed, whose jurisdiction would include the rural districts as well as the towns.

(5) Free treatment of venereal disease, of which notification should be made compulsory.

(6) Improvement of the medical service and extension of hospital facilities.

(7) Keeping medical stores on the estates for the benefit of the workers.

(8) Improvement in the quantity and quality of the milk supply.

In this connection, the Committee point out that there is no reason why dairy farming should not become a profitable industry in Dominica.

The Committee believe that the saving of life and increase in vigour and energy that must result from adopting the foregoing measures, would soon manifest themselves in bringing about a larger and more efficient supply of labour. As regards the problem of decreasing vagrancy, they attribute the present state of affairs largely to the character of the education provided, which they regard as too academic, and they recommend, as a measure of reform, attaching small farms to the schools, so as to interest the rising generation in agricultural pursuits—a system which has proved successful in Ceylon. They are further convinced of the necessity of passing a strict Vagrancy Law, in addition to enforcing the existing Produce Protection Law. The present system, or want of system, of granting Crown lands, requires overhauling, especially with a view to any proposals that may be made to attract settlers from neighbouring islands. They advocate an experiment in model colonization under Government auspices, and recommend that the Bassin Will district, adjoining the Imperial Road, where the shortage of labourers is most acutely felt, should be set aside for this purpose.

Much of the Report makes far from cheerful reading, especially having regard to the disquieting account it gives of the Island's health conditions, but the facts must be faced, and the realisation that all is not well with Dominica provides the best guarantee of an improvement being effected on the lines suggested. In this connection, the scheme set on foot by Mrs. Walters, the wife of the Administrator, for the establishment of a crèche in Roseau, as reported in last CIRCULAR, is a notable step in the right direction.

SIR EDWARD MEREWETHER, Governor of the Leeward Islands, will, it is understood, be retiring in the very near future, on the completion of his term of office as Governor of the Leeward Islands.

THE Jamaica Department of Agriculture claims to have discovered a method of extracting vanillin from pimento oil. Last year pimento oil was sold in England to manufacturers of vanillin at 10/- per lb. When the experiments have been completed, it is proposed to establish a factory in the island for the development of a vanillin industry. Experiments have since resulted in the conversion of pimento oil made at the Government Laboratory into vanillin, but the researches have not yet been completed, for the present yield is only 50 per cent. of what should be produced. It is confidently expected that this difficulty will be overcome.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Trade Agreement Ratified by Canada.

The Bill to ratify the trade agreement with the West Indies was read a second time, approved in Committee, and passed in the Canadian House of Commons on April 18th. Sir George Foster, in moving the second reading, reviewed the history of the development of closer trade between Canada and the West Indies, and outlined the main features of the agreement, with which readers of the CIRCULAR will be familiar.

The agreement would mean an extension of the degree of preference, and the co-operation of nearly all the British West India Islands was assured. It was approved by Trinidad, British Guiana, Windward Islands, Leeward Islands, Bahamas, and British Honduras. It had also received the consent and approval of the British Government. As yet the Barbados had neither accepted nor rejected the agreement. Bermuda had refused to join in the pact, but the door to that island was still open.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux asked if, during the conference on the trade treaty, the question of a union of these islands to Canada was discussed, and if any of the islands would join in such a union.

Sir George Foster replied that he did not think it advisable to mingle the two questions of union and trade. At the present time it was better to stick to the trade agreement, as a discussion of a possible union was not opportune.

In reply to Hon. A. K. Maclean (Halifax), Sir George explained that the preference granted to the West Indies under this Bill was a shade higher than that given by Great Britain. Obviously, the Canadian preference had to be close to or a shade better than the British preference to be of value to the West Indian planter.

Hon. W. S. Fielding thought the agreement would meet the general approval of the House, although there might be some desire for information in regard to detail. He was glad to see that Trinidad had accepted the agreement. He recalled that some years ago delegates from that island had come to Ottawa seeking an agreement; but that when it had been drawn up, it had been rejected on the advice of the Governor, who had told the delegates that they had no business to go to Ottawa.

He wished to know whether there was a reduction in the duties on raw sugar, and, on being answered in the affirmative by the Minister, asked whether there was any provision to secure lower-priced sugar for the consumer to counterbalance the reduction in the cost of the refiner's raw material.

Sir George Foster replied that that matter would have to be taken care of in the general revision of the tariff.

The preference on spirits met with some adverse criticism, Dr. Michael Clark objecting to the export of "diabolical fluids" to the poor people of the West Indies.

J. H. Sinclair (Antigonish) asked whether the Minister thought there was a prospect of doubling the business done on this steamship line. If the service were to be doubled, business should be increased on the same basis.

Sir George replied that it was not necessary to double the number of ships in order to double the service. Colonies of the West Indies interested in the

agreement paid a proportion of the subsidy to the steamship line.

Mr. Maclean (Halifax) questioned the policy of allowing Canadian Government Merchant Marine vessels to engage in trade in the West Indies when a private steamship line was also engaged in this trade under contract with the Government. He thought that the private and Government services would injure each other.

Hon. W. S. Fielding said he had recently visited the West Indies, and found that Canadian whiskey there cost much less than at home. Mr. Fielding thought there might be something prophetic in the humorous suggestions of members who had preceded him. Possibly a large business in exportation of Canadian whiskey to the West Indies would develop.

MANURES AND THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. Trade Commissioner Flood reports to the *Weekly Bulletin* of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, that from the latest published Blue-books, the value of the import of manures into the British West Indies, omitting the Bahamas, was £583,817 per annum. The biggest importer of manure was Barbados, whose manure bill was £284,569 for chemical and £36,612 for organic manure, British Guiana ranking next with £184,335 for chemical and £18,444 for organic manure, followed by Trinidad, £31,801 and £3,184; Jamaica £9,839 and £338; the Leeward Islands £9,422 and £135; St. Lucia £4,116, chemical manures only; Grenada, £67 for chemical and £807 for organic manure; and St. Vincent, £153 for chemical manure only. In Barbados, the various manures used were nitrate of soda, nitrate of potash, sulphate of ammonia, superphosphates, sulphate of potash, and a limited quantity of basic slag. Barbados soil requires but little phosphates, but a considerable amount of potash. The manures are either mixed by the planters or imported in a mixed condition.

In British Guiana the manures mostly used are sulphate of ammonia and basic slag, mainly the former.

In Trinidad, the manures were mostly imported mixed, but no details save that basic slag and sulphate of potash are used on a small number of cacao estates, and sulphate of potash and kainite on one or two coconut properties, are given.

On account of the larger herds of cattle owned in Jamaica, and to guano being available on some parts of the coast, the requirements for imported fertilisers in that island are small. The chief fertiliser imported is sulphate of ammonia, and in the next place potash. Phosphates are not required for the Jamaica soil.

The only fertilisers imported to any extent in the Leeward Islands are sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, and nitrate of lime in St. Kitts and Antigua, and organic manures rich in nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid. Mixed manures are imported into the Windward Islands. Potash and phosphates are wanted principally in Grenada; basic slag, sulphate of ammonia, superphosphates, and nitrate of soda in St. Lucia. In St. Vincent the chemical manure imported is chiefly potash.

TWO FIRES AT SEA.

Ingoma and Guiana's Experiences.

The s.s. *Ingoma*, of the Harrison Line, which sailed for Barbados and other West Indian Islands from the West India Docks early on May 3rd, put into Falmouth on the 5th with a fire in her No. 1 hold. The outbreak was discovered off the Lizard at night when the passengers were asleep, and the captain decided to put back to Falmouth. She is expected to resume her voyage on Saturday.

A somewhat similar experience befel the s.s. *Guiana*, of the Quebec Steamship Company, in West Indian waters on March 27th. According to Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, Hon. Correspondent of The West India Committee for St. Kitts, she anchored in Basseterre Roads on that day, and was to have left the same night. About half an hour before she was timed to sail, smoke was observed to be coming from one of the hatches, and it was found that the ship was on fire. Captain Carmichael landed the passengers, some of whom had to sleep under the shelter of boats on the Bay front—thus emphasising the need for hotel accommodation in the island. Monday was devoted to finding billets for the castaways, who were so hospitably treated that many hoped that their ship would be detained for several days. Meanwhile H.M.S. *Valerian* was called from Antigua to assist, and after some cargo had been jettisoned and some 300 bags of damaged cacao had been landed, *Guiana* resumed her voyage to New York at 5 p.m. on March 29th. Mr. E. S. Delisle, the Agent of the Line, was indefatigable in his efforts to provide for the comfort of the passengers during their enforced stay in the island, and they were duly grateful for his kindness.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

A Discussion in Surinam.

It would appear from the Trinidad *East Indian Herald* of March that the question of the resumption of Indian immigration into Dutch Guiana was recently discussed at a meeting of the East Indian National Society of Surinam, at Paramaribo. Amongst those present were the Government Immigration Agent-General, the ex-Agent-General, Mr. Hindolee Pundit; Mr. Syed Mohamed Hosein, Interpreter of the Supreme Court of Trinidad; and Mr. Seotal Parsad, the leader of Indian opinion in Surinam, who went to India and had several conferences with the Indian Government and representatives of the Indian people. According to the *Herald*, amongst those with whom Mr. Parsad discussed the Immigration Question were the late Mr. Bal Gangadar Tilak, the Pundit Madan Mahon Malaviya, of the Imperial Legislative Council of India; Mr. M. K. Gandhi, and other notables. The *Herald* learns that the people of India have favourably considered the colonisation idea of Dutch Guiana, and the Dutch Government itself is anxious for a renewal of Indian immigration on such reasonable terms as may be stipulated. Mr. Hindolee Pundit, an eminent scholar in English, Sanscrit, Urdu, and Parsee, was elected president for the next term. The entire business of the meeting was conducted in Hindi.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

"Facts about Sugar" states that the United States Department of Agriculture has developed a method of producing a syrup from sweet potatoes which is said to have a high sweetening power, and to give promise of being a good substitute in many respects for cane and corn syrups. The question of the relative value of the potato syrup as compared with these remains to be determined.

* * *

The presence of copper in food is supposed to be injurious to health; but it is not generally known that it is a constant constituent of food of a vegetable origin. The subject has recently been investigated by B. Guerilhault, who found copper in all the articles he examined, cereal grains and nuts being particularly rich in it. Details of the results are published in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Academy of Science of Paris.

* * *

The *Agricultural Journal of India* gives an account of a curious method of getting rid of insect pests which is practised in one district in India. A live beetle, or whatever the kind of insect may be, is caught and smeared with, or dipped in, a mixture made of asafœtida, cow dung, lemon juice, or some other substance disagreeable to it, and then let loose among its companions, who at once and inconspicuously clear out of the locality.

* * *

In the course of a lecture delivered recently at Aberdeen on the subject of scientific research in relation to agriculture, Sir Daniel Hall, F.R.S., stated that while no amount of science could take the place of experience, acumen and determination, the results of research could add largely to field returns. Diseases in animals and plants, he said, were being studied along lines which arrived at immunity rather than preventive methods, and he instanced the case of potatoes in which it was possible to obtain large healthy crops on the most heavily infected soil with certainty by growing selected varieties.

* * *

The Fiji disease of the sugar-cane has been present in the Philippines canefields for some years, and one account of it is given by Otto Reinking in the *Sugar News* of those islands. Severely attacked canes are characterised by the stunted and meagre growth of the canes, and patches of dead cane are scattered through them. Badly affected plants are small and stunted, with short internodes and have a bunched growth of leaves produced at the top. There is an excessive number of shoots developed, and the leaves produced are small and slender, are of a darker green than usual, and invariably have galls on them. The root system is small, hunched and rotten. Plasmodial bodies are found in the galls and in other parts of the canes, pointing to the disease being due to a fungus.

Efforts are being made in Sweden to utilise the potash of felspar and other minerals present in Swedish rocks for the purpose of manures. According to the *Italian Journal of Industrial Chemistry*, a process has been devised which consists in mixing leptite and eurite, which are potash-containing rocks, with carbon and granular iron, the mixture being subjected to a temperature of about 9,300 deg. Fahr. in an electric furnace with the use of carbon electrodes. The silicic acid of the silicates is partially reduced to silicon, which combines with the iron and forms ferrosilicon, a slag resulting which consists mainly of a silicate of potash and aluminium. The slag, which contains about 11 per cent. of potash, is finely ground and sifted. The agricultural results are stated to be not altogether favourable to the new product.

* * *

The Hawaiian Station Report for 1919 contains some useful information on the subject of preserving tropical fruits and products. Avocado pears and papaws can, it says, be preserved by placing the peeled fruit, cut into small cubes, in sterilized jars which are filled with "an ordinary commercial cocktail sauce" heated to boiling. Pineapples can be utilised in the preparation of jelly and vinegar. For the former equal parts of clarified pineapple juice are used, and boiled to a jelly. To prepare vinegar from pineapple juice, juice of a density of 11 Brix is taken, sterilised, cooled and inoculated with ordinary yeast. After five days the clear juice, which now contains 5 per cent. of alcohol, is decanted and mixed with a fairly active cider vinegar in the proportion of one part to six parts of the juice; a vinegar of fine quality is thus produced.

* * *

In connection with a sugar course given recently at the University of Hawaii, *Sugar* says that an interesting point in connection with the excessive use of fertilisers on sugar-cane and other crops was brought out by Professor Bergman, who established the fact that plants get their food from the elements that are in solution in the soil. Around each little particle of soil, he said, is a very fine film of water in which is dissolved the plant food. Inside of the fine plant roots there is also a solution of plant food. The roots take the food from the soil by simply letting it go through the root wall. It is possible also for the food inside the roots to be drawn out by the water in the soil. If the soil water has a more dilute solution of plant food in it than is inside the roots, the roots take up water from the soil and get the plant food with it. If, on the other hand, the solution of plant food in the soil is more concentrated than the solution that is already in the roots, the water will be drawn out of the roots into the soil more rapidly than it is drawn in. If a man puts an excessive dose of fertiliser on his soil, making the solution of the plant food outside more concentrated than the solution inside the roots, the plants can take up no water from the soil and will simply wilt and die from the lack of water. This is probably an entirely new idea to most agriculturists.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 173.)

The Story of Young's Island.

From the Cotton Factory we pursued our way along the windward coast road for a distance of about four miles, to Calliaqua, in order to gratify a desire to see Young's Island and Fort Duvernette, which figured so conspicuously in the struggles between the Caribs, aided by their French Republican allies, and the English in the closing years of the eighteenth century.

Calliaqua was once a town of some importance, but its glory has departed. Its harbour was strangled by an encircling coral reef, and it is now little more than a village of poor-looking houses. About two hundred yards from the shore on which it stands is the island dedicated to Sir William Young, the West Indian Estates' proprietor, and Colonial Governor. This little island is covered with vegetation down to its beach, where the white coral sand turns the deep blue of the surrounding sea to a paler tint. Near the beach is a group of simple buildings erected as a quarantine station, and one could imagine many a worse fate than to be marooned on this delectable spot, and to taste the delights of bathing, fishing, and languorous ease of which it holds promise.

Alongside Young's Island is an almost barren rock rising sheer out of the sea to a height of 300 feet, and resembling in shape the Diamond, off Martinique. Marked on old maps as "Young's Rock," it is now called Fort Duvernette, after the officer who conceived the idea of mounting cannon on its summit for the protection of the old capital. The ruins of the old fortifications, which had embrasures for eight 24 pounders and two 8-inch mortars, can still be seen, and credit is due to Mr. Gideon Murray for having put this historic monument in a state of repair whilst he was administrator of St. Vincent.

Young's Island has a romantic history. The story goes that Sir William Young, on arrival in St. Vincent, was visited by the Chief of the Caribs, who expressed unstinted admiration of a handsome black charger which he had brought out with him from England. Sir William, with the usual courtesy of those days, when Spanish manners and customs still prevailed in the West Indies, immediately said to the chief: "Sir, it is yours."

The Carib, taking Sir William at his word, immediately carried off the horse in triumph to his estate. In the following year Sir William Young, revisiting St. Vincent, was again met by the Chief, who owned the two small islands in the bay of Calliaqua, which were overlooked by the Governor's house. On this occasion Sir William got his own back. Waving his hand towards the island, he repeatedly praised it for its exquisite beauty and charm, whereupon the Carib chief, not to be outdone in the matter of courtesy, said, without hesitation: "Your Excellency, it is yours!" Sir William immediately accepted the gift, and from that day the island has been known as Young's.

The Romance of the Bread-fruit.

St. Vincent has an historic Botanical Garden. This garden, which is situated at the back of the town, about one mile from the landing-stage, was first established as far back as 1765, and though it cannot claim to have had a continuous existence, it is still in a very flourishing condition.

Probably few of those who now visit it are aware that it is closely associated with the Mutiny of the *Bounty* and the establishment of the British settlement on Pitcairn Island in the far distant South Seas. Let me, therefore, make a slight digression to show how this connection arose.

It was to supply the St. Vincent Garden with specimens of the Bread-fruit tree that the memorable voyage of the *Bounty* was undertaken. Anson, Dampier, and other travellers mention this tree in the narratives of their voyages, but Captain Cook, who came across it at Tahiti, is credited with having been the first to recommend its introduction into the West Indies. His suggestion appears to have impressed John Ellis, the Agent for Dominica, who devoted a treatise to the subject in 1775.* In that work Ellis expressed the belief, based on "the favourable sentiments of the Society of West India Merchants, and of the Agents of the West India Colonies" that very handsome premiums would be offered to such persons as should "bring over in a healthy growing state plants of the Mangostan, Bread-fruit, or any other valuable trees that may be of real use to these Colonies."

A reference to the old minute books of the West India Committee shows that at a meeting of that ancient body held on February 7th, 1775. Mr. Beeston Long presiding, a letter was read "from George Walker, Esq. to the Chairman, relative to the introduction into England of the Bread-fruit tree and Mangostan from the East Indies, in order for their being sent over and propagated in the West Indies." Whereupon it was agreed "that the West India Merchants are willing to be at any reasonable expense in endeavouring to introduce the above trees into the West India Colonies." It was, no doubt, this resolution that Ellis had in mind.

The minute was not confirmed, a more definite resolution being passed at the next meeting, held on March 7th, stating "that if the captain of an East India ship, or other person, shall bring to England from any part of the world, a plant of the true Bread-fruit tree in a thriving vegetation, properly certified to be of the best sort of that fruit, such person shall be entitled to receive the sum of one hundred pounds out of the general fund of this Society."

* "A Description of the Mangostan and the Bread-fruit: the first, esteemed one of the most delicious; the other the most useful of all the Fruits in the EAST INDIES." By John Ellis, Esq., London, 1775.

In the following year the Royal Society of Arts offered a prize to whoever should succeed in transplanting the Bread-fruit from the East to the West Indies. This, however, was evidently regarded as inadequate, for at a meeting of West India planters and merchants held at the London Tavern on February 18th, 1777, at which Mr. Ellis himself



THE BREAD-FRUIT.

This characteristic picture of the Bread-fruit is reproduced from the work of John Ellis, Agent for Dominica, which was published in London in 1775.

was present, it was resolved "to enter into subscription and to recommend it to all the gentlemen interested in the Sugar Colonies, for obtaining the different species of the Bread-fruit tree in a more ample manner than is provided for by a certain advertisement published by the Society of Arts and Manufacturers and Commerce, offering Premiums for that purpose, intended as a Fund towards rewarding such claimants (if more than one shall apply) as may be worthy of the Premiums offered by the said Society." //

The question was again considered on June 4th, 1776, when "several papers" from Mr. Ellis were laid before the meeting, and on July 2nd a special committee, comprising Mr. Long, Mr. Stephen Fuller, Mr. Bond, Mr. Neave, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Hankey, Mr. Menisic, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Gowland,

Mr. Lovell, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Purrier was appointed to deal with them.

Probably the "papers" consisted of the treatise already referred to. Ellis was emphatic as to the merits of the Bread-fruit, which "afforded a most necessary and pleasant article of subsistence to many." He believed that it might be easily cultivated in the West Indies, where it could be "made

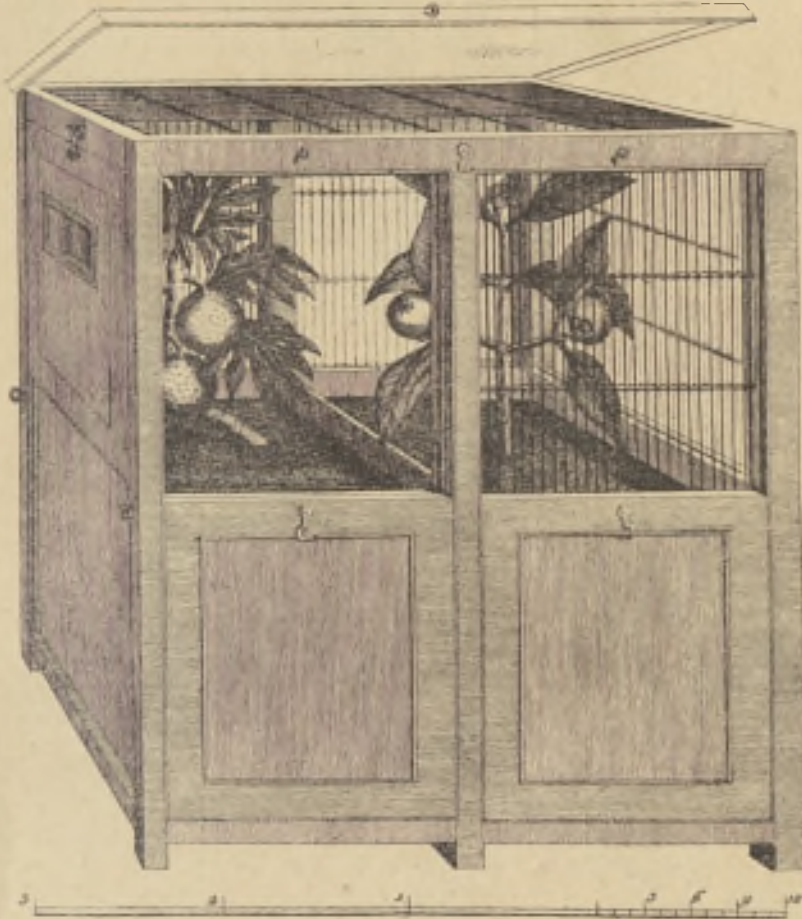
Bread-fruit tree. Captain William Bligh, who had been with Captain Cook as sailing-master in the *Resolution* during his second voyage round the world, was given command of the expedition, and all went well until the *Bounty* had started on her homeward voyage to England with a large cargo of Bread-fruit trees. The story of how the crew, under Fletcher Christian, then mutinied; and how, after setting Bligh adrift in an open boat with eighteen officers and men, they eventually sailed for Pitcairn Island, where their descendants remain to this day, has often been told. In his frail craft Bligh and his comrades, after a tempestuous voyage lasting forty-one days, during which they traversed 3,618 miles of sea, eventually reached Timor, and thence England.

"Bread-fruit Bligh."

For days the little party subsisted on the meagre daily ration of 1 oz. of bread, 1 pint of water, an occasional teaspoonful of rum, and 1 oz. of pork per head. Undismayed, however, by his terrible experiences, Bligh, who was known thereafter in the Royal Navy as "Bread-fruit Bligh," assumed the command of a second expedition, and, in January, 1793, he successfully landed from his ship, the *Providence*, and her tender, the *Assistant*, plants of the Bread-fruit, Mangostan, and other exotics which he had obtained at Tahiti. This valuable collection was planted out in the St. Vincent Botanic Garden, and it was soon proved that the soils of the West Indies were admirably suited to the Bread-fruit tree, which now grows prolifically throughout the islands. The tree yields an abundant supply of fruit, which you see the people cooking over charcoal fires outside their huts, much after the manner described by Captain Cook.

"The fruit," he wrote, "is gathered just before it is perfectly ripe, and, being laid in heaps, is closely covered with leaves: in this state it undergoes fermentation, and becomes disagreeably sweet; the core is then taken out entire, which is done by gently pulling the stalk, and the rest of the fruit is thrown into a hole which is dug for the purpose, generally in the houses, and neatly lined in the bottom and sides with grass: the whole is then covered with leaves, and heavy stones laid upon them. In this state it undergoes a second fermentation and becomes sour; after which it will suffer no change for many months. It is taken out of the hole as it is wanted for use, and being made into balls, it is wrapped up in leaves and baked: after it is dressed, it will keep five or six weeks."

The gratitude of The West India Committee to those who had been instrumental in providing such an important addition to the food supply of the West Indies was expressed in the following resolutions which were adopted at a meeting over which Lord Penrhyn presided at the London Tavern on March 18th, 1794.



A TRAVELLING CASE FOR BREAD-FRUIT PLANTS

This case was designed for bringing over Bread-fruit plants from the South Sea Islands to the West Indies. It had wire sides and shutters which could be slid up or down as required. The maker was "John Revans' Carpenter, opposite Bull and Gate, High Holborn."

to supply an important article of food towards all ranks to their inhabitants, especially the negroes."

After touching on early references made to the fruit by travellers, and to its botanical characteristics, he proceeded to give a detailed description of a box "found by experience capable of preserving very tender plants in great health and vigour during a very long and tedious voyage." This and two other boxes, which he also described, bear a very close resemblance to the Wardian cases used at the present day for transplanting rare and valuable plants from one part of the world to another.

The matter was at last warmly taken up by Sir Joseph Banks, the President of the Royal Society, who had accompanied Cook to Tahiti in 1769, and it was largely due to his exertions that in 1787 the *Bounty* was commissioned and despatched to the South Sea Islands in quest of specimens of the

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Sir Joseph Banks for his care and judicious regulations to which we are indebted for the introduction of the Bread-fruit tree and many other valuable plants into the West India Islands.

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Captain Bligh for his care and attention to the great object of bringing the Bread-fruit tree and many other useful plants to the West India Islands.

RESOLVED :

That Stephen Fuller, Esq., be requested to transmit the above Resolutions respectively to Sir Joseph Banks and Captain Bligh.

Meanwhile the Garden had been enriched by plants of the mango and cinnamon from Jamaica, where they had been introduced in 1782 by Sir George Rodney, who found specimens of them in a French ship which he captured on her way from Mauritius to the West Indies; by the clove from Martinique four years later, and by nutmeg trees from Cayenne in 1809.

At first the garden belonged to the Secretary for War, who at that time controlled the destinies of the Colonies, and it was blessed with a succession of most capable curators until at last one arose who found not favour in the eyes of the Government of the day. A disagreement arose, and it was decided to close the Garden and to hand over the grounds to the local Government. This was done. Many of the more valuable plants were transferred to Trinidad, where they formed the nucleus of the collection at St. Ann's which evoked the admiration of Charles Kingsley when he stayed at what he described as the "Cottage Ornée" as the guest of Sir Arthur Gordon (afterwards Lord Stanmore) in 1869. The St. Vincent Government endeavoured to maintain the Garden at Kingstown, and for some years a sum of money was voted annually by the Legislature for its upkeep; but this grant was suspended in 1828, and cultivation was abandoned in 1849. All that was done after that year was to collect the fruit and spices from the trees, most of which were, however, destroyed by a hurricane in 1886. The Garden then practically ceased to exist until 1890, when, at the instance of Sir Daniel Morris, it was re-established on an entirely new footing, its main object now being to propagate and distribute economic plants for cultivation by planter and peasant. This it has done, and is doing, most effectively, and it is not too much to say that the success which has attended the development of the system of peasant proprietorship in St. Vincent has been due to the care and devotion shown by successive Curators of the Botanic Station to the requirements of the people. The establishment of the system dates from 1897, and one remembers the howl of indignation with which its inception was received by the larger estates' proprietors; but none would, one ventures to assert, now deny that it has proved a conspicuous success.

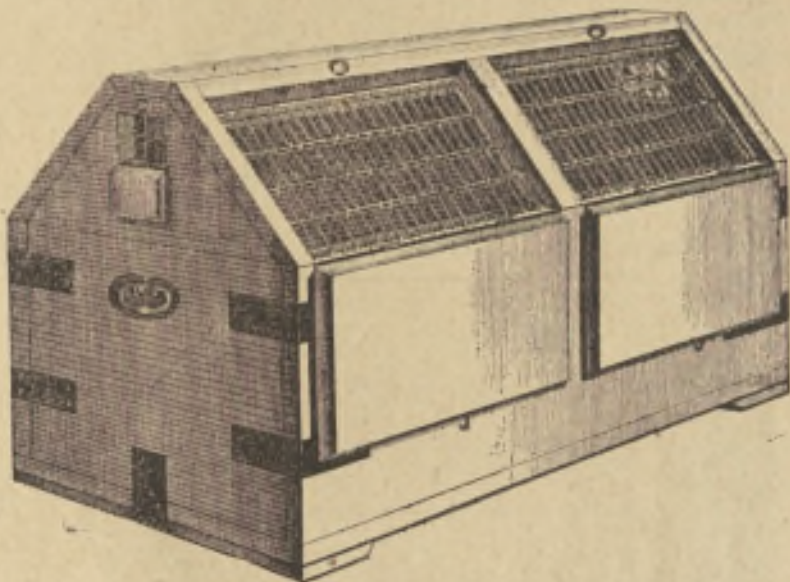
(To be continued.)

WEST INDIA 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 Ratifies Trade Agreement.

Hon. Donald McDonald, writing on April 2nd, says that His Honour Mr. A. K. Young, K.C., a brother of Sir Douglas Young, who was some years the popular and respected Administrator of Dominica, has arrived, and has been sworn in as Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands.



A CASE FOR YOUNG PLANTS.

Seeds of the Bread-fruit and Mangostan were to be sown in soil in a case like this. As soon as the plants growing from it were 6 inches in height they were to be shipped in the case overseas. Note the movable shutters which could be lowered when desired to enable the plants to get the benefit of rain or dew.

Lieut.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E., paid a visit to Antigua of a few hours only when passing in the Canadian steamer. A meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society had been arranged, but owing to the late hour of arrival it had to be abandoned. Mr. A. P. Cowley, M.B.E., Mr. Collens, Superintendent of Agriculture, and the writer were appointed a deputation to go on board and meet Colonel Davson, and an impromptu gathering was held at the New Club, at which Colonel Davson gave an interesting and informal talk on Aviation, West Indian Currency, Trade Agreement with the Mother Country, and a suggested General West Indian Official Council.

A Resolution ratifying the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was passed in the Legislative Council on April 1st.

Mr. E. D. L. Branch, the winner of the Leeward Island Scholarship in the Cambridge Local Examination, is a son of Dr. E. W. R. Branch, of St. John's, Antigua, thus adding one more triumph to the academic achievements of this family.

The War Memorial Committee are now taking definite steps to obtain a suitable memorial, to be erected probably at the east of the City, in memory of those of the Island who gave their lives, and for that purpose are inviting subscriptions (which are being received by the Colonial Bank and the Royal Bank)

from all interested, whether resident in Antigua or abroad.

The Bahamas Harbour Scheme.

Miss Moseley, writing on April 8th, states that the Bill for the deepening of the harbour of Nassau has now been passed by both houses of the Legislature. The sum of £250,000 has been voted for the work, this being the estimated cost of a channel and a basin for ships drawing 30 feet of water. It is expected that £125,000 can be provided from general revenue, and the Bill authorises the raising of a loan of £125,000 by the issue of debentures locally or in London. The dredging of the harbour will be the greatest work ever undertaken by the Bahamas Government, and it is to be hoped that British firms will secure the contract.

The tourist season which is about to close did not come up to expectations, owing chiefly to unsettled financial conditions in the United States and the lack of a regular steamship service from New York. Both of the large hotels were open this season, and several smaller ones, and it is estimated that nearly 3,000 tourists visited Nassau. There are several schemes in contemplation for the development of Nassau as a tourist resort. A large part of the valuable properties of the J. S. Johnson Co., which have been used as sisal plantations, has been bought by a syndicate, and it is proposed to put in golf links, polo grounds, etc., with an up-to-date country club house. There is also a magnificent bathing beach on the property, and it is anticipated that a number of bungalows will be eventually erected. One of our regular winter visitors from Canada, Mr. Charles L. Porteous, has acquired a large property in the same district, and is erecting a fine concrete residence, which promises to become one of the most beautiful houses in the Bahamas.

H.M.S. *Colcutta*, with Sir Allan Everett on board, has recently paid us a visit, and H.M.S. *Constance* is at present making a stay of a week here. An exciting football match took place on Friday, when the local team almost succeeded in breaking the record of the "Connies," which have not yet suffered a defeat in the West Indies. A return match to-morrow promises to provide much excitement.

A correspondent sends a stirring account of an accident that befell a seaplane, which was carrying the Acting Chief Justice and his wife, the Governor's A.D.C., and Miss Moseley, a short while ago. On the return flight from Bimini, whither the party had gone for the opening of the Rod and Gun Club, the engine burst, the propeller smashed, and the machine crashed from 1,200 ft. into the sea, quite away from land and out of the track of boats. The machine was badly knocked about. When, however, the passengers had quite given up all hope of being rescued, "a little hooze-boat came along" and picked them up.

Favourable Weather in Barbados.

The Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was debated in the House of Assembly early in April. Hon. C. P. Clarke stated that in the proposed new tariff, which had been approved by the Executive Committee, the endeavour had been to keep the duties as near the present level as the terms of the agreement would permit, any increase being imposed as far as possible on luxuries. It had been estimated by the Comptroller of Customs that so long as trade remained in the same channels as in 1918, and was of the same volume, there would be a gain to the revenue of some £10,000. The urgency of passing a new tariff was not due to an answer to the Canadian Government being required by a fixed time, but was owing to the fact that delay would mean entanglement of trade.

The weather for March was on the whole favourable, and the rainfall, which exceeded that for the same month in the two preceding years, was well distributed, although the seaboard parishes did not have as much as those further inland. In the first fortnight of April there were frequent showers, resulting in a recovery of vigour in the young canes, although a good soaking rain is still needed.

The *Advocate* records the sale of Newton Pln., Christ Church, 458 acres, to Mr. E. L. Ward and Mr. H. C. Manning for £40,000, which works out at about £87 per acre. This represents a welcome improvement on prices obtained a few months back.

The portrait of Colonel Henry Worsley, Governor of Barbados from 1722 to 1731, which, on being brought to the notice of the present Governor by the Secretary of the West India Committee, was subscribed for by Hon. Members of the Legislature, has now arrived in the island, and hangs in the Legislative Council Chamber. [For an account of the painting and its artist, see the CIRCULAR for March 17th, page 101.]

British Guiana Public Works.

Mr. H. Trounson, the newly-appointed Assistant Director of Public Works, has arrived in the Colony. It is proposed to amalgamate the offices of Director of Public Works and of Sea Defences, says the *Argosy*, the name of Hon. J. P. Auld being mentioned as likely to fill the dual position.

British Honduras's Mail Service.

The weekly mail service from Belize for the United States by the steamers of the United Fruit Company has been resumed.

Finance. Dominica's Problem.

Mr. D. O. Riviere presided over an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on March 17th, which was attended by Colonel Ivan Davson, and an interesting discussion took place on Aviation, Federation, a Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom, and Currency Reform, as far as these subjects affected the West Indies.

Addressing the Legislative Council on March 23rd, the President, His Honour R. Walter, C.M.G., said the keynote of the situation in the Island was finance, and if they were not to stand still, additional revenue must be found. At the same meeting the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement was ratified.

Grenada's Cacao Pests.

Mr. John Barclay has written to the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada expressing his regret at being unable to accept the office of Commercial Vice-President of that body, on the ground that the majority of the local merchants had decided to form a Chamber of Commerce, which would have his support in preference to a society embracing both agriculture and commerce. The office is meanwhile being kept vacant.

Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, was expected in Grenada in the middle of April to advise on the mealy bug and thrips pests in the Colony.

Of four appeals brought against assessments under the Excess Profits Ordinance, three have been decided wholly, and one partially, against the Government. The *West Indian* thinks it is time the Ordinance should cease to act.

This enterprising newspaper announces its intention of publishing in the near future a London edition from the Metropolis.

Dr. G. C. Payne, who is associated with the Rockefeller Research Foundation, has arrived in Grenada,

his visit being said to be connected with a revival of that institution's valuable efforts for the amelioration of disease in the Colony.

Jamaica's Medical Service.

A Bill has been introduced into the Legislature providing for a payment to the Imperial Treasury of £50,000 a year for forty years as the Island's contribution to the United Kingdom's war debt. The first payment is by the terms of the Bill to be reckoned as from March 31st of the present year. Further proposed legislation has for its object the prevention of immature and unfit fruit being exported. This it is sought to bring about by empowering the Governor in Privy Council to prescribe the ports at which alone fruit may be shipped and to provide generally for its inspection.

Another serious fire broke out in Kingston on April 12th, involving the premises of the West India Electric Company in Upper Orange Street. The damage is estimated at £10,000. As on similar occasions recently, the cause of the outbreak is unknown.

The Commission appointed by the Governor in July last to inquire into the working of the Island Medical Service have now presented an exhaustive report. They recommend increases of medical officers' salaries, the extension of the Dental Branch, additional hospital space with increased facilities for out-patients, and the establishment of a special infirmary for the treatment of children. They also believe that the development and management of the mineral springs at Milk River in Clarendon and at Bath in St. Thomas should be under the direct control of the Government—a step which would benefit the health of the Island and the development of its natural resources. The additional cost involved through putting their recommendations into force the Commissioners estimate at approximately £22,000 a year. A minority report is signed by Hon. Guy Ewen.

At Sav-la-Mar, on April 9th, Mr. Hugh Clarke was sworn in as Custos Rotulorum for the parish of Westmoreland.

A Development Commission has been appointed by His Excellency, with Colonel Bryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., as Chairman. Its terms of reference include the co-ordination of all the larger schemes of reform and improvement under contemplation, especially in connection with the financial aspect. Water supply, road and harbour improvements, new bridges, the improvement of Kingston and the urban part of St. Andrew, irrigation, the potential use of the island's rivers for power purposes, and the development of Bath and Milk River as watering-places—all these topics will come under the review of the Commission, who will be required to secure that the Colony is not committed to greater expenditure than it can afford, and to enable careful choice to be made between competing schemes which cannot all be afforded.

St. Kitts' Promising Cane Crop.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, writing on April 8th, says that the preceding month was the wettest March for many years, in the Sandy Point neighbourhood over six inches being recorded on one estate. The young cane crop looks most promising, and there has been a good spring of cotton.

Captain C. O. Pearce, Queen's Bays, until lately A.D.C. to the Governor, was married on April 7th at the Roman Catholic Church to Miss Veronica Delisle, youngest daughter of the late Gustave Dapenne Delisle.

St. Lucia and Representation.

The death on March 23rd of Mr. Justin Devaux, at the age of 71, deprives St. Lucia of a prominent and

much respected member of one of its oldest French families.

Mr. L. T. A. McVane presided over a largely attended public meeting on March 16th, at which a resolution in favour of Representative Government was proposed by Mr. C. Brice, seconded by Mr. T. G. Westall, and enthusiastically carried.

St. Vincent Regulates Cotton Sales.

Mr. G. R. Corea has been elected Chairman of the Agricultural and Commercial Society in succession to the late Mr. P. F. Huggins.

During the absence of His Honour R. Popham Lobb, C.M.G., at the Intercolonial Education Conference, the Colony is being administered by His Honour S. J. Thomas, the Chief Justice.

By an Ordinance amending the Agricultural Products Protection Ordinance, 1906, sales of less than 100 lbs. of cotton may now only be made to the Government ginners. The restriction does not, however, apply to cotton seed, nor to stained cotton when the ginner is not buying the latter.

Tobago's Cacao Crop.

The cacao crop is turning out more favourably than expected so far as output is concerned, says Mr. Robert S. Reid, writing on April 4th. The bulk has already been shipped to Trinidad, and only small supplies are expected in the next few months. The weather has been extraordinary for this season—rain almost every day, and heavy showers at that. In the King's Bay district the rainfall for March ranged from 7 to 11 inches, which is more than double the average for that month. The soil is now in good order for planting, and ground provisions ought to be plentiful at an earlier date than usual.

Education Conference in Trinidad.

Hon. A. G. Bell, C.M.G., Director of Public Works, in moving the adoption by the Legislature of amendments to the regulations under the Roads Ordinance, 1917, on April 1st, said that the new proposals aimed at getting better control of drivers of heavy vehicles. The whole road policy of the Government in the past had been based on the assumption of agricultural needs. The great oil activity of the past year had largely contributed to the existing condition of the highways, notably in the southern part of the Colony. It was impossible to obtain sufficient suitable material for improving the roads at present. The only alternative was to limit the speed of lorries to 10 miles an hour. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Intercolonial Education Conference, which has been sitting in the Council Chamber, has passed a resolution strongly recommending the passing of an Ordinance in each West Indian Colony for the purpose of enforcing compulsory education, and suggesting that compulsion be gradually enforced, starting with the urban districts. As regards child labour, the Conference resolved that this is undesirable, and should be made the subject of legislation.

In being admitted, on April 5th, to practise as a solicitor in the Colony, Mr. Cyril Hobson, late Staff Officer of the Local Forces, is following in the footsteps of his father and uncle.

Miss Kathleen Huggins, eldest daughter of Mr. George F. Huggins, O.B.E., was married on April 12th to Mr. Peter McGlade, of Galveston, Texas. The ceremony, which took place in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinidad, was performed by the Dean, the blessing being pronounced by the Bishop of Trinidad. The bride's sister and cousin, Miss May Huggins and Miss Alma Wight, acted as her bridesmaids.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

St. Vincent's Sea Island Cotton.

Dear Sir,—I notice in your interesting account of your visit to the West Indies contained in the CIRCULAR of April 28th, that you quote St. Vincent cotton as having fetched as high as 90d. per lb. I want to correct this for you, because last year we sold a fair quantity of the very finest at 70s. per lb., and the ordinary St. Vincent seed realised up to 100d. per lb.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES M. WOLSTENHOLME.

The Etymology of Arrowroot.

Sir,—Apropos of Mr. Aspinall's account of his visit to an Arrowroot Mill published in your last issue, it may be of interest to your readers to know that Dr. Alfred Nicholls, in his text book of Tropical Agriculture, states that the name "Arrowroot" is derived from the fact that the white, fleshy rhizomes—sometimes called tubers—of the reed-like herbaceous plant, *Maranta arundinacea*, were used by Indians as an application to wounds inflicted by poisoned arrows. He adds that even now in Dominica the starch and the pounded tubers are used by the people to make poultices for the healing of wounds and ulcers.

Could not our medical and agricultural scientists find some new uses for this starch?

Yours obediently, "TUBER."

The demand for Jamaica Coffee.

DEAR SIR,—It occurs to me that, having regard to the preferential duty on British-grown coffee, which benefits Jamaica coffee, some effort should be made to encourage and establish the use of Jamaica coffee in England. I have been astonished to find that outside of the Blue Mountain variety, Jamaica coffee is not consumed in this country, and that the importations are all re-exported to other parts. With a hope that something might be done to encourage a demand for Jamaica coffee here, I recently addressed a letter to the Editor of the *Jamaica Daily Gleaner* advising him of the conditions and suggesting that the growers and others interested in this product in Jamaica should come together and embark upon some form of advertising in England so as to create a demand for their coffees.

When one considers that France, with its cultivated taste for coffee, in normal times used to pay a premium to secure Jamaica coffee, it seems inexplicable that this country does not recognise its value and use it. The truth of the matter is, the art of coffee blending is not understood in England, whilst on the Continent it is carried out to perfection, with the result that by employing the low grades of Jamaica coffee with the more pungent South American varieties they are able to secure at a much lower cost just as good a beverage as the expensive varieties that are used "straight" in England.

I have suggested that the Jamaica Imperial Association might take up the matter, although I understand that this organisation only functions where the powerful interests, like sugar, are concerned. If, however, some concerted action were taken in Jamaica it would not be difficult to create and extend a demand in England.

Yours faithfully,

CYRIL C. HENRIQUES.

[The question of popularising Jamaica coffee in this

country has not been lost sight of. Though the Blue Mountain variety is well known and appreciated in the United Kingdom, the British public does not favour ordinary Jamaican, which the trade claims is not a good liquoring coffee. In France, Jamaicas are blended with South American sorts and burned up with raw sugar, which produces a thick, syrupy coffee with the best flavours destroyed, but the English public has not yet acquired the taste for this. Effectively to bring about a change in public taste would require a larger appropriation for advertising than would be made good by the increased sale of Jamaican coffee. It is hardly necessary, however, to assure Mr. Henriques that the services of The West India Committee will be at the disposal of the Jamaica planters in carrying out any effective scheme which may be devised for popularising Jamaica coffee; but it is obviously the growers who should make the first move, and many considerations are involved. For instance, it would be useless to establish a market for Jamaica coffee here if the planters, tempted by occasional better prices, were to ship their product to the United States. With regard to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Henriques' letter, we consider that he does the Jamaica Imperial Association an injustice, for we have always found that important organisation ready and willing to consider any matter affecting the welfare of Jamaica, and not only sugar—EDITOR, W.I.C.C.]

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

East Indians in Fiji.

Mr Wood informed Mr. Ormsby-Core, on April 28th, that on the north-west coast of Fiji there had been a strike of the labourers of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for increased wages. The Colonial Government had had to deport one Sadhu Bisbit Muni, who was endeavouring to incite the Indians against the Fijians. There had been no disorder.

Sugar from Czecho-Slovakia.

Replying to Mr. Ralfan, on April 28th, Mr. Young said that he was not aware of complaint by the Czecho-Slovaks as to the effect of the German Reparation (Recovery) Act on their sugar trade. The requirement of a certificate of origin extended to sugar consigned from any European country, including Holland, and there was no ground for waiving it in the case of sugar from Czecho-Slovakia, which usually passed through Germany, a sugar-producing country.

Price of Sulphate of Ammonia.

Sir A. Boscawen informed Sir H. Hope, on May 4th, that the net cash price for sulphate of ammonia delivered to the consumers' nearest railway station or wharf in Great Britain, for delivery during the period March to May, 1921, was £24 11s. per ton, for quantities of not less than four tons, additional charges being authorised for quantities of less than four tons. The maximum selling price previously fixed by arrangement between the Ministry and the makers for deliveries during the March-May period had been £27 13s. 6d. per ton, but owing to a decline in the world price of nitrogenous fertilisers the makers had agreed to reduce their prices. The Ministry was informed that sulphate of ammonia is being exported on old contracts ranging from £25 to £40 per ton. Contracts for forward delivery abroad were being made at from £16 to £18 per ton, and it was anticipated that the prices for home consumption next season would be reduced to conform to the world price of nitrogenous fertilisers.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in *R.M.S. Bayano*, May 7th:—

Mr R. M. Alston	Mr and Mrs. F. R. Farnier	Miss M. Kudds
Mr R. Calderon	Mr and Mrs. A. E. Grice	Mr L. H. Ower
Mr R. A. Calderon	Mr J. O. Hall	Mrs. G. E. Reardon and Family
Mr F. Calderon	Mrs. H. List & Sons	Mr. R. S. Claville
Dr W. Marley-Cass	Mrs. E. Livermore	Mr. P. Sarrell
Mr A. Castro	Mr. W. Marshall	Mr J. Sullivan
Mrs. Lafosse Castro	Mr. A. G. H. Mayhew	Mr R. H. Thomas
Mr W. J. Cooper	Miss B. A. Mennig	Miss M. A. Young
Mr P. Deuver	Miss E. D. Mitchell	
Mr and Mrs. R. Esshaw and Family	Mr. J. Muirie	

Home arrivals from Jamaica in *s.s. Coronado*, Avonmouth, May 6th:—

Mr E. F. Broderip	Mrs L. W. Hutchins	Miss K. Nicholson
Miss V. Brown	Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Howesou	Mr. L. S. Nicholson
Mr W. R. Cheshire	Mr G. G. Hussey	Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Pierterz
Mrs J. de Cordova	Mrs. Eyre Hutson	Mr J. O. Pierterz
Mr and Mrs. R. Craig	Mr. E. P. Houghtou	Mr and Mrs. W. H. Picketing
Miss V. de Costa	Mr and Mrs. A. H. de Costa	Col and Mrs E. J. Pomeroy
Mr and Mrs. A. H. de Costa	Hon. Mrs. O. V. Dauffell and Son	Rev. and Mrs. T. R. Prentice and Son
Miss H. F. Fea	Miss F. W. Ferdinando	Miss M. A. Riley
Miss G. Gardner	Mrs A. Gruchly	Miss A. M. Roberts
Mrs P. M. Hamilton	Miss P. M. Hamilton	Miss M. Rose
Mrs & Miss S. A. Heath	Mr & Mrs. G. F. Hobson	Miss G. Samuel
Mr & Mrs. G. F. Hobson	Miss V. Morrison	Miss U. V. Townsend
Miss Holson	Mr P. H. Nicholson	Miss I. M. Whitlock
		Lieut.-Col. F. E. Walkie

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West India, from London, in *s.s. Inyoma*, May 3rd:—

Mr & Mrs R. Brysons	Mr & Mrs W. J. Gilchrist	Miss M. Mignon
Mr C. C. Carmichael and two children	Mr & Mrs. Carlos Gomes	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Moore and family
Mr A. Chadwick	Mr L. A. Gomez	Rev. C. W. Rogers
Mrs. E. A. Clarke	Mr D. Gravesaude	Mr. W. M. Ross
Mrs. C. Clementi and three children	Mrs C. Henszell and child	Miss K. E. Smith and family
Mr. G. H. Craig	Rev. I. A. Kelso	Mr J. Sowray
Mr. F. de Gale	Mrs C. Kitching and child	Mr F. Stewart
Miss Olga de Gale	Mr. F. Kwall	Miss F. Tringhamam
Mr H. de Moudouca	Mrs F. & Mrs. Lake and child	Mr A. J. Tripp
Mrs & Miss Dingley	Major E. G. D. Lardner	Mrs H. E. Turnell
Mrs J. Dunbellau and three children	Miss V. M. Law	Mrs F. G. Villa and family
Mrs F. S. Elwin	Mr & Mrs A. Lyles and family	Rev. & Mrs. S. Watson and family
Mrs M. F. Flanagan	Mr J. A. Marr	Mr & Mrs. J. D. Watson
Mrs. Matthews French		Mr J. H. Weuham
Mr & Mrs. J. Gaubee and family		Mr. W. Young

Home arrivals, from West Indies, in *s.s. Counsellor*, London, April 28th:—

St. Kitts.	TRINIDAD.
Miss O. Biden	Miss Dorothy Greig
Mr D. F. Delany & fam	
Mr A. M. Reid	
Mr & Mrs Hugh Wildy	
Home arrivals from West Indies, in <i>s.s. Speaker</i> , London May 3rd:—	
GRENADE.	TRINIDAD.
Mrs & Mrs Cameron	Mr & Mrs. Doory
	Mrs Pottersson & son
	Mrs. Wilson, & son
DEMERARA.	
Mr. Baker	
Miss Dowder	
Mr Maciute	
Mr L. Whittou	

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to Trinidad, from Dover, in *s.s. Crijnsen*, May 7th:—

Mr. G. E. Arkinson and Son	Mr. A. B. E. Carpenter	The Misses Greenhalgh (2)
Hon T A V. Rest	Mr C. F. Cartwright	Mr D. M. McOwie
Miss Rest	Mr T. L. Dunsire	Mr & Mrs. R. L. Nunn
Mrs. M. J. de Boisserie	Mr J. D. Eggiak	Mr H. P. G. Weber
	Mr E. Evans	Mr G. E. Willis

Home Arrivals from Trinidad, in *s.s. Oranje Nassau*, Plymouth, April 25th:—

Mr and Mrs Rowland Allen	Mr William Humphrey	Mr Rochford H. Sperling
Mr & Mrs. Frederick Carpenter	Mr & Mrs. John William Lachlan	Mr James Scott
Mr Robt. Campbell	Mr G. McLeod	Mrs Annie J. Thomas
Mrs. Alice Clough	Mr. Fred H. Robertson	Mr & Mrs Edwin R. Twose
Mrs. Sofia de Eickhorn	Miss Leonora M. Rodriquer	Mrs Elizabeth von Ehrenberg
Mr. Alexander Buckham	Mr. Randolph P. Rust	Mr Archibald Wallace
Mr. Howard Hardy		

The White Star Line.

Home arrivals from Barbados, per *s.s. Megantic*, via New York:—

Miss Arthur	Mrs & Miss Evelyn	Miss Manning
Sir Henry & Lady Hovell	Mrs. Fenwick	Miss Medford
Mr. Bovell	Mrs. Gale	Rev & Mrs Murray
Dr J. E. & Mrs Bridger	The Misses Haynes	Dr & Mrs O'Neal
Mr Joseph and Mrs Connell	Mr H. H. Huan	Captain K. Peto
Mr. D. C. C. Da Costa	The Misses Ince	Mr & Mrs G. E. Sealy
Miss Devaux	Mrs & Miss Jackman	Mrs Sealy
Mr & Mrs A. J. Drexel and Family	Miss Jupe	Miss Schacke
Mr and Mrs G. S. Evelyn	Colonel G. A. O. Lane	Mr. Howard Smith
	Colonel Lees	Mrs Stanton
	Miss Leese	The Misses Stauton
	Miss Mann	

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings:

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Barranca	May 16
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Alexandrian	.. 20
Trinidad	Dover	Oranje Nassau	.. 21
Jamaica	Bristol	Coronado	.. 23
West Indies	London	Speaker	.. 25
West Indies	Liverpool	Electrician	.. 31

St Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	Bordeaux	Martinique	.. May 23
Jamaica	New York	Sixaola	.. 31
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	.. June 10
B'inas, Jaca & B H'das	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	.. 15

WEST INDIAN VISITORS LIST.

Visitors from the West India are invited to register their addresses at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Beetham Lane, London, E.C. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

Mr S. Archer	Mr C. H. McClean
Sir Henry A. Bovell	Mr W. McMillan
Mr E. W. Rowell	Mr James Miller
Mr James Brown	Mr W. Morrison
Mr C. H. Chambers	Mr. E. E. Murray
Mr Joseph Connell, Junr	Mr C. V. Newton
Mr J. E. Corbio	Mr P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E.
Mr H. S. Cox	Mr. A. J. Pavitt
Mr Robert Craig	Mr G. O'Reilly
Mr Jack Culmer	Lieut. W. M. Richards
Mr D. C. C. Da Costa	Hon. Hon. Sir Robert Roden
Mr A. H. D'Costa	Dr F. G. Rose
Mr A. F. G. Ellis	Major Randolph Rust, V.D
Hon. D. S. De Freitas	Mr G. Elliott Sealy
Mr J. M. Fleming	Mr. H. Seedorf
Mr James Fraser	Hon. A. P. Sherlock
Mr Percy George	Mr M. Howard Smith
Mr C. J. Gomes	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G
Mr E. J. Houghton-James	Hon. Hon. Chief Justice G. O'D. Walton
Mr L. M. Holson	
Mr E. F. C. Hosack	Mr Hugh F. Wildy
Mr T. W. Innis	Mr Percy R. Wilson
Mr I. J. Lee	Mr Alfred E. Young F.C.G.I.

Mr. N. Macleod Balden, West View, Milngavie, N.R.
 Rev. J. R. Brindley, c/o W.M.M.S., 24, Bishopsgate, E.C.
 Mr. J. F. E. Bridger, c/o West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
 Mr. W. J. Canty, 12, Farquharson Road, Croydon
 Mr. E. W. C. Dunlop, 13, Esmond Road, Bedford Park, W.
 Mr. George B. Evelyn, 112, Northbury Court Road, Northbury, S.W.
 Mr. Archibald Gordon, c/o John Leslie & Co., Ltd., 84, Fom Street, E.C.
 Mr. James Miller, 17, Grasschurch Street, E.C.
 Dr. R. D. O'Neale, c/o Mrs. Salmon, Mass Len, Colinton, Midlothian
 Mr. A. M. Reid, South Cemeiy, Citicestee, Clus
 Mr. H. Blin Stoyle, Crediton, Devon

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6602.

Telegrams—
"Carib. London."



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

May 10th, 1921

THE PRODUCE MARKETS. The labour situation continues to dominate the markets. The coal strike enters its seventh week to-morrow, and unofficial "sympathetic" strikes have been breaking out. Many manufacturing industries are working on short time, and British trade is being rapidly strangled. The struggle cannot be continued much longer, but it will take weeks, if not months, to make up the ground lost through the insensate folly of the miners in trying to hold the Nation up to ransom.

THE BANK RATE was lowered on April 28th to 6½ per cent., after having remained at 7 per cent. ~~xx~~ from April 15th, 1920.

EXCHANGE Value of the £ sterling

In U.S.A.	0 16 4½	In Holland	0 18 5½
France	1 17 2	Germany	12 6 5½
Belgium	1 17 2	Austria	69 12 7½
Italy	3 15 4½	Spain	1 2 9½

SUGAR. The United Kingdom market has been dull, reflecting the lower prices prevailing in America, where the most has been made of the coal strike. Refiners have reduced their quotations for yellows, and West Indian crystallised has similarly fallen to 56/-—59/-.

After extreme depression the New York market shows a slight recovery, sales having been resumed. Cuban 96 deg. have been purchased at 3.89 cents, equivalent to a landed duty-paid price of 4.91 cents. Futures are quoted: July, 4.12 c.; Sept., 4.17 c.; and December, 3.83 c., for sugar landed and bonded.

Twenty thousand tons of Cuban sugars have been sold to the United Kingdom for May-June shipment, at 26/6 c. & f., a decline of 1/2 on the previous price. Messrs. Willett & Gray's latest estimate of the Cuban crop is 3,723,000 tons.

The Cuban Sugar Finance and Export Corporation has secured a loan which, it is claimed, will place the financing of the Cuban crop beyond doubt.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on April 30th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	9,583	19,447	7,301 Tons
Deliveries	14,103	10,740	8,841 "
Stock	3,584	16,843	4,652 "

CACAO is steady and in quiet demand. Trinidad spot is quoted at 55/- to 63/-, and Grenada at 52/-, with small sales at these figures. The arrival market is distinctly firmer, Trinidad being now quoted at 51/-—52/-.

Mr. Tripp, writing from Trinidad under date March 31st, said that crop prospects were favourable, and excellent weather had prevailed during the month. Our correspondent reports that the shipments from Trinidad during March were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	11,911,394 lbs.
Shipped previously	6,959,401 "
Total from 1st January	18,870,795 "
To same date 1920	30,861,630 "
" " 1919	13,818,683 "
" " 1918	16,863,202 "
" " 1917	31,512,350 "
" " 1916	20,062,561 "

The stocks in London on April 30th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	21,089	21,058	14,067 Bags.
Grenada	28,605	26,021	7,706 "
Total of all kinds	191,978	175,811	115,770 "

RUM. The market is dead. Buyers, for the time being, have completely withdrawn, and values are nominal.

The concession to rum expires on May 19th, after which date the bonding period will, presumably, be three years, unless any Order to the contrary is promulgated. With the market overloaded and lifeless, it is felt that it would be better not to press for a shorter warehousing period, which would only increase the difficulties of the situation under present conditions.

The stocks in London on April 30th were:—

	1921.	1920	1919
Jamaica	10,661	7,779	3,122 Puds.
Demerara	16,409	12,768	12,051 "
Total of all kinds	36,963	29,018	19,555 "

The Trade, who have been asking for an increased allowance for excessive obscuration, have agreed to a scale of allowances suggested on behalf of proprietors of proof rums. The scale is based on the in-bond price of rum, and allowed per shilling of the in-bond price per proof gallon for every degree of obscuration in excess of 2 deg. The Trade, however, intimate that should the price of rum fall to such an extent as to be out of all proportion to the rate of duty, they reserve themselves the right of re-opening the matter.

ARROWROOT. The market is quiet but steady; quotations unchanged—2jd.-7d.

BALATA continues very dull, with prices mostly nominal. West Indian sheet is easier, with spot sellers at 3/8½, and forward shipments quoted at 3/6 c.i.f. Venezuela block is quoted at 3/2, 3/2½ spot, but no business doing.

COFFEE. Home trade qualities are steady, but export kinds are slow of sale. There is nothing doing in ordinary Jamaicas, which are quoted nominally at 50/-—53/-. At the time of writing there is no Blue Mountain offering. Total stocks in London on April 30th, 21,588 tons.

COPRA is unsettled, but undertone steady. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted nominally at £30 c.i.f. London, Holland, or Hamburg.

COTTON generally is quiet, but prices are steady. Small sales of West Indian Sea Island have been made at recent prices—medium, 25d.; fine, 30d.; and extra fine, 41d. Imports in the 18 weeks ending May 5th, 2,540 bales.

HONEY. Only a small business has been passing privately, and the auctions (arranged for last week) have not yet been held. Some sales of fermented Jamaica have been made at 25/-. Dark liquid to pale is quoted at 30/- to 60/- per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed quiet and steady, but Distilled remains neglected. There has been some enquiry for low-priced Raw Lime Juice at under 2/- per gallon.

LOGWOOD remains dull and unchanged at £8 to £10 nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Nothing further to report in Sweet or Bitter.

RUBBER. At the beginning of last week fresh low records were broken, spot crepe being sold down to 8d., and sheet at 8d. From this level there has been some recovery, spot crepe being quoted at 9½d. and spot sheet at 8½d. The production at the moment is estimated at about 250,000 tons, but the consumption is little more than 175,000 tons.

SPICES. There are sellers of Pimento on the spot at 2½d., but no demand for parcels. A small business has been done to Hamburg at 23/- per cwt. c.i.f. There is rather more enquiry for Jamaica Ginger especially for the better qualities, at fairly steady prices. There is nothing to report in Nutmegs or Mace.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone: CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams: CARIB. LONDON



15, SEETHING LANE,

LONDON, E. C. 3.

May 25th, 1921

The Education Conference.

THE Intercolonial Conference on Education, which was held in the Council Chamber in Port of Spain from April 2nd to 9th, should be productive of an immense amount of good if effect is given to many resolutions passed at it. The most important of these may be summarised by stating that they favoured compulsory education, the inclusion of hand-work, agriculture, domestic economy and hygiene in the curricula of the schools—a point on which special stress was laid—the establishment of a Central Training College for Teachers in Trinidad, and the appointment of a Travelling Educational Adviser for the West Indies, to be selected by the Ministry of Education and paid by Colonial funds. Another resolution of importance was one advocating the use of the cinematograph for the improvement of the mind and morals of the West Indian population, which, as it is hardly necessary to remind our readers, is peculiarly susceptible to outward impressions. To this end it is suggested that the grant of licences to cinemas should be conditioned upon the regular

exhibition of films of educational value, and that the showing of pictures calculated to weaken the moral sense should be prohibited—two admirable suggestions which should be immediately adopted. But the resolutions should, we venture to think, commend themselves to the Lesser Antilles, Trinidad, and British Guiana, the Colonies represented at the Conference. In countries like the West Indies, whose prosperity is almost entirely dependent on agriculture, it is obviously useless to impart to the rising generation the three R's and book-learning only. Such a policy inevitably leads to discontent and emigration, there being insufficient openings at home in the mercantile and clerical professions for the many aspirants for employment resulting from the existing system of education. For agriculturists there must, on the other hand, be ample opportunities as long as there remain Crown lands to be opened up, and we can envisage in the scheme for agricultural education now proposed the creation of lists of candidates for higher learning in agriculture at the West Indian Agricultural College, which will be open to all classes of the communities. Equally pregnant with possibilities are the proposals for the dissemination of knowledge of hygiene, and it is hardly necessary to emphasise what an important bearing this has on such matters as sanitation and the prevention of infantile mortality. The Conference has shown a very proper appreciation of the manner in which these two subjects should be handled, and it is obvious that it will be easier to spread the knowledge and practice of sanitation and hygiene by teaching the children before they have had time to develop bad habits, which, when once formed, are not easily lost. MR. R. G. BUSHE presided over the earlier meetings of the Conference, but on the third day he was, unfortunately, unable to attend owing to illness, and his place was taken by SIR FRANCIS WATTS. We have to congratulate both these gentlemen and the delegates upon the success which attended their deliberations.

A "Sea Island" Substitute.

THE ravages of the pink boll-weevil have been so severe in the Sea Island cotton plantations in the United States, that it is extremely probable that that industry will be non-existent in the course of a year or two. In 1917, 92,619 bales of this high-class cotton were produced in the United States. In 1919, the output was only 6,916 bales, the diminution being entirely due to the operations of the pest. The United States Department of Agriculture has had

under consideration the question of a substitute for this valuable variety of cotton for some years, and now states that in the Meade cotton, developed during 1912 and subsequent years, such a substitute has been found. The cultivation of this variety has now, it is said, been established on a commercial basis, and the Department fully believes that its successful production in place of Sea Island cotton is assured. Meade cotton is a long staple upland variety, capable of yielding a fibre $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches long, of the fine texture characteristic of the Sea Island which it resembles very closely. Its seeds are nearly smooth and the cotton can be handled in roller gins. Comparative spinning tests have shown that the waste with the Meade cotton is only 3.5 per cent. more than with the Sea Island, this result being based on three seasons' work. In the breaking strength of the yarn, there was a difference of 17.2 lbs. on the lowest grade, and 1.68 lbs. on the highest grade, in favour of the Sea Island variety. In view of the appearance of the boll-weevil in St. Kitts and Montserrat, to which we referred recently in these columns, the Imperial Department of Agriculture will no doubt take steps to investigate the possibilities of the Meade variety of cotton as a stand-by when and if the cultivation of Sea Island cotton is jeopardised by the dreaded boll-weevil.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND.

The total of The West India Committee Endowment Fund is now £23,024 14s. 2d., the following additional contributions having been received since the last list was published. As already stated, it has not yet been possible to acquire more convenient premises, which was one of the objects for which the Fund was opened, owing to the remarkable increase in rents in the City of London, where the Committee Rooms must necessarily be located. The need for further contributions towards the fund is, therefore, still great.

THIRTY-SECOND LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged...	£22,980	2	2
Hon. D. S. De Freitas	10	0	0
Mrs. D. A. W. Simpson	10	0	0
R. A. Lightbourne, Esq.	5	5	0
F. J. Larrouy, Esq.	5	0	0
Rear-Admiral Sir Allan F. Everett, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.R.	3	0	0
T. F. Burrowes, Esq., C.B.E.	2	2	0
His Honour Major H. Peebles, D.S.O.	2	0	0
R. Arthur, Esq. (2nd Donation)	1	1	0
G. W. Hutchinson, Esq.	1	1	0
T. J. Redhead, Esq., M.C.	1	1	0
H. G. Trew, Esq.	1	1	0
W. Duncan Thompson, Esq.	1	1	0
O. P. Challenger, Esq.	1	0	0
Alfred E. Young, Esq., F.C.G.I., A.M.I.C.E.	1	0	0

It is hoped that every member will contribute towards The West India Committee Endowment Fund, having regard especially to the fact that the minimum annual subscription to the Committee is so low, remaining as it does at the pre-war figure of £1 1s. 0d.

INDIAN EMIGRANTS.

Many Awaiting Leave to Embark.

A Committee has been formed in Calcutta, with Mr. W. R. Gourlay, C.I.E., as Chairman, to render friendly service to Indians returned from the Colonies who have collected in Calcutta and desire to return to their Colonial homes. The other members of the Committee are Sir A. Chaudhuri, Pundit Hanarsi Das, Dr. Crake, and Lieut.-Colonel Moses, of the Indian Medical Service.

Mr. M. L. Khan, who recently returned to British Guiana from India, to which country he went in September last with 900 returned immigrants, stated in an interview, published in the *Daily Argosy* of April 9th, that there were about 2,000 Indians in Calcutta willing to return to the Colony. Besides these there were about 3,000 expected to arrive in India from Fiji, many of whom had already reached India from Fiji and were willing to go to British Guiana.

In the same issue there appears a letter received by Dr. W. Hewley Wharton, who, it will be recalled, was Chairman of the East Indian Section of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation of 1920, from Mr. K. T. Paul, the general secretary of the Y.M.C.A.'s of India. Mr. Paul wrote on January 31st: "The situation in India is still tense, and we are more concerned about national honour than anything else, such as emigration, but I feel that before long we shall quiet down sufficiently to see that it is always good for people to go abroad, and in that case you may be sure that our eyes will be first turned to British Guiana where, by now, we are convinced the situation is best for our people."

DUTCH LINE AND BARBADOS.

Steamers to Call at Bridgetown.

The West India Committee, who recently asked the Directors of the Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail Service if they would allow their fortnightly steamers to call at Barbados on their way to Trinidad, have received a favourable reply. The Dutch steamers will in future call at Bridgetown, and this will no doubt prove a great convenience to passengers for that port, besides giving Barbados a regular fortnightly mail service. The fares will be the same as those in force for Trinidad—namely, £70 per berth.

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. (\$50.00).

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN cloud-shudder come, sun no set."

* * *

MAJOR RANDOLPH RUST, V.D., Mayor of Port of Spain, is paying a flying visit to London on important oil business.

* * *

THE rules of Golf, as amended in 1920, have been published in a neat little brochure by the Royal Insurance Company, Ltd.

* * *

THE American Sugar Company operating in Cuba sustained a loss of \$10,686,281 in 1920, as against a profit of \$13,250,619 in 1919. The capital of the company is \$90,000,000.

* * *

THE Inter-Colonial Medical Conference is to meet at Georgetown, British Guiana, on June 22nd, and it is hoped that the London School of Tropical Medicine will be represented at it by Professor R. T. Leiper.

* * *

THE Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., has informed his constituents that he does not propose to seek re-election to Parliament at the next General Election. Mr. Murray, it may be recalled, is heir to his father, the first Viscount Eltham.

* * *

THE light cruiser *Calcutta*, until recently the flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Allan Everett, left Philadelphia on May 23rd for Portsmouth, where she will be re-commissioned, and after undergoing a long refit will return to the North America and West Indies Station.

* * *

THE British West Indies will not be represented at the forthcoming Tropical Products Exhibition, after all, the Governments of Trinidad and Dominica, which had arranged to participate, having now decided not to do so. This change of plan is probably attributable to the slump and difficulties of transatlantic steamer communication.

* * *

THE engagement is announced of Violette Gladys, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. D'Costa, of "Asgarth," Jamaica, and 2, Montagu Mansions, Portman Square, W.1, to Flight Lieutenant Vincent Buxton, O.B.E., Royal Air Force, late the Leicestershire Regiment, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Buxton, of "Bryn Coed," St. Asaph, North Wales.

* * *

MISS A. CLEMENTE, who is shortly to be married to His Honour Mr. Willoughby Bullock, Acting Chief Justice of the Bahamas, is leaving England in the s.s. *Comito* on June 6th, via Kingston. Miss Clemente rendered valuable service in the administration of military hospitals during the war, and was twice mentioned in despatches, receiving also the War Service Badge.

* * *

THE Postmaster-General announced on May 14th that letter mails for Barbados, Grenada, British,

French, and Dutch Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Tobago, Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Ciudad Bolivar, dated April 27th to May 1st, and parcel mails for the same destination, except French Guiana, the Leeward Islands, and Ciudad Bolivar, dated April 26th to 29th, were seriously damaged and in some cases destroyed by a fire on the s.s. *Ingoma*.

* * *

THE British Guiana planters have gone back to the old Metayer system of payment for farmers' canes, having decided to give 50 per cent. of the sugar extracted to the former, either in kind or the money equivalent, if grown on estates' lands, and 55 per cent. if grown on the farmers' lands. It will be remembered that the metayer system of payment was half the sugar in kind, the canes being grown on the estates' lands entirely by the labourers.

* * *

LARGE quantities of alcohol are produced in India from the flowers of the Mahua tree. A plant capable of turning out 360,000 galls. per annum of 96 per cent. alcohol is being installed in the Central Provinces, together with an ether plant to produce 100,000 galls. of ether annually for the purpose of admixture with the alcohol for power purposes. The flowers of the Mahua tree contain from 40 to 60 per cent. of fermentable sugar. It would be interesting to know whether there is any corresponding flower in the British West Indies.

* * *

AN experimental consignment of the new patent alcohol fuel "Natalite" has arrived in London from South Africa. "Natalite" has been manufactured and has been in general use in South Africa for four years, and is now being produced in East Africa, India, and Australia, but this is the first consignment to reach this country, and is being imported under special permit given by the Excise and Customs authorities. The whole of the first consignment will be used exclusively for demonstration and experimental purposes. It is stated that tests by the leading engineers, scientists, and by the principal automobile clubs in the Empire have shown that "Natalite" will give as good mileage as petrol, and in many other respects is superior as a fuel for motor-cars, aviation engines, and motor-boats.

BANANAS FRIED IN EGG AND CRUMBS.—Remove skins from 10 or 12 bananas, brush egg over each, cover with bread-crumbs, and fry in hot fat. This may be served as a savoury or sweet. For Sweet: Serve with sugar, lemon syrup, or jam sauce. For a Savoury: Sift the following mixture over the banana before coating with eggs and crumbs, and also before serving: 1 teaspoonful of salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonful of dry mustard, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoonful of pepper, a little cayenne, and 1 teaspoonful of red or brown crumbs. Mix well together and shake over the bananas.—"THE BANANA," by William Fawcett, B.Sc., Second Edition (just published, under the auspices of The West India Committee, 15/- net).

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

By LEWELYN JONES, M.I.E.S.

Mr. Lewelyn Jones, who has had considerable experience of sugar production in our sugar-growing Colonies, kindly prepared the following article on the sugar industry of Mauritius at the request of the Editor of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, who believes that it will be of interest to readers in the West Indies and elsewhere.

Mauritius, which may be regarded as a French Colony under British Government, is one of the three Mascarene Islands, and the great Southern Indian Ocean, in which it is placed, stretches uninterruptedly on the east to Australia, on the south to the Antarctic Ocean, and on the north to India and the southern seaboard of Asia. It is just within the Tropic of Capricorn, at a distance of some 670 miles east of Madagascar. Its distance E.N.E. from Durban, Natal, is about 1,570 miles; from Colombo, Ceylon, 2,200 miles; from Bombay, 2,500 miles; from Melbourne, Australia, 4,570 miles; and from London, via the Suez Canal, 7,500 miles; and its more precise geographical position lies between latitude $19^{\circ} 50'$ and $20^{\circ} 31'$ south, and longitude $57^{\circ} 18'$ and $57^{\circ} 48'$ east of Greenwich.

Its total length is reckoned at 39 miles, and its breadth at 29 miles, the area of the main island being about 716 square miles, and of the small islets round the coast about four square miles, giving a total area of 720 square miles, or, say, 460,800 acres.

The Mauritius equivalent term for an acre is the "arpent," which is equal to 1,043 acres, and the island may thus be estimated at an alternative area of 441,800 arpents.

In general shape, Mauritius assumes the form of an irregular ellipse, with a comparatively flat coastal plain running nearly the whole way around it. A central plateau, usually rising gradually, sometimes rather abruptly, from this coastal plain, and varying in elevation from about 800 to 2,000 feet above sea-level, diversified with miniature mountain ranges containing characteristic peaks up to a height of 2,711 feet, occupies more than half the total island area; and it is on the coastal plain and the less elevated portions of the central plateau that the sugar-cane is cultivated. Attempts have been made to utilise the higher portions of the plateau for the purposes of cane-cultivation, but they have, generally speaking, proved unprofitable and, with but comparatively few exceptions, the bulk of the cultivation is confined below the lower level of some 1,400 feet. The very interesting mountain peaks just mentioned are not to be despised by mountaineers, for the successful ascent of either of the two most difficult peaks, Pieter Both and Mont du Rempart, qualifies for admission to the Alpine Club.

There are numerous rivers, together with many smaller streams, which are available for the various requirements of the cultivation and the sugar factories, and important advances are being made in the direction of a complete system of irrigation for the supply of water to such estates as are situated in the more arid localities, the household require-

ments of the bulk of the inhabitants having already been provided for by a large reservoir conservancy situated at Mare-aux-Vacoas, near the summit of the central plateau.

The annual rainfall varies in a somewhat astonishing manner in the different districts of even so strictly circumscribed an island of this limited size, such acute and remarkable variations being no doubt due to the relative positions of these localities with regard to the mountain ranges. The rainfall averages from below 30 inches on the coastal plains in the north and west to 152 inches on the plateau where, within certain areas, in the years of maximum rainfall it exceeds 200 inches. Fortunately, with but very few exceptions, the necessary opportunities for excellent natural drainage are found throughout the island, the porous nature of the volcanic soil likewise minimising any danger of water-logged conditions in the cane-fields. Artificial drainage, through the agency of centrifugal pumps, seems never to have been seriously considered, although there are a few estates which would probably derive great and profitable benefit, both as regards sanitation and cultivation, by its adoption.

Cyclones are of very frequent occurrence in the Indian Ocean, south of the Equator, where the ocean area so tremendously predominates, and they have been known to occur throughout this region in every month of the year except August and September, and during the Mauritius summer months, from December to April, inclusive, they are liable to strike the island and cause considerable damage to the cane cultivation, the sugar factories, and estates' property in general. Nevertheless, it is these cyclones that are more or less relied upon to provide the major portion of the rainfall of Mauritius. Indeed, it is probable that the coastal plains of the north and the west would receive hardly any rain whatever were it not for their seasonable visitations. According to the planters, the beau-ideal system of cyclonic action would be that in which there are a sufficient number of cyclones far enough away from the island to preclude damage, yet near enough to cause a rainfall ample enough to meet their fullest requirements. The results are disastrous when the centre of a violent cyclone passes right over the island, but beneficent when only the fringe of the storm reaches the land while the centre disports itself over the ocean waves. Mauritius would probably cease to prosper without cyclonic patronage of the less injurious type, though it justly dreads frequent possible repetitions of the more serious "central" visitations it has too often experienced, and to which it is undoubtedly liable at any time during the anxious cyclone season. As a veritable summary, it may be remarked that were over-frequent and violent cyclones of great intensity annually to visit the island it is pretty certain that the cultivation of the sugar-cane would most probably cease to be either a safe or a profitable undertaking; while, on the other hand, without their beneficent assistance in the form of an approximate yet not too intimate approach, cultivation of every descrip-

tion would be most seriously prejudiced. This climatic liability, coupled with all its uncertainties and probabilities, constitutes the Grand Mauritius Lottery that has yearly to be drawn, and upon the hazardous conditions of which the fate and fortunes of the planters are at stake. Furthermore, it should be observed that it would be preferable that severe cyclonic visitations, if they must be encountered, should take place at the end of December, after the close of the crop, or at the beginning of the year, while the majority of the canes are in the earlier stages of their growth, and less likely to be broken and up-rooted. Later on, the maturing crops furnish increased target-areas, coupled with an increased vulnerability to the vicious action of all hurricanes. They are likewise in greater danger almost of complete destruction and less able, both from want of a sufficient margin of time, and on account of the more serious damage they have incurred, to recover themselves from tempestuous shocks before the crop is reaped, from August to December. Unfortunately, March is a very dangerous month, and the worst and most disastrous of all these cyclonic visitations occurred as late as April 20th. The rain falls in tremendous quantities during cyclones. On the coastal plain, 20 inches in 24 hours have been recorded, and on the plateau 50 inches have fallen during the same period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing remarks concerning cyclones, it is a fact that more serious and far-reaching damage has been caused by a prolonged drought, the less sensational effects of which, so far as the cultivation is concerned, are more to be feared than the less permanent results of a reasonable number of ordinary though disagreeable cyclones.

Mauritius is of volcanic origin, and its rocks consist chiefly of basalt and its varieties, and it lies just within the southern boundary of the active earthquake area, which includes Seychelles and Ceylon. Between 1899 and 1907, twenty-three large earthquakes were recorded as originating in this area. Nevertheless, the island has, so far, escaped any approach to alarming consequences, the centres of action having been sufficiently distant to preclude any manifestation of their unneighbourly behaviour and remote presence without scientific and instrumental aids to indication.

Throughout the island there is abundant evidence of volcanic activity of much more recent date than that which caused its original formation, such manifestations being most particularly in evidence in the northern localities, and the nomenclature of this district—including Plaines-des-Roches—provides eloquent testimony to one of the very characteristic features of the local conditions under which cane-cultivation has to be effected in some districts. In the north, rock-stones of every imaginable size and shape abound, more or less embedded in the sub and surface soils. In the south, east and west they are, to a less extent sufficiently in evidence to impede the employment of mechanical labour-saving implements of husbandry. Building operations are facilitated, cultivation is handicapped.

A West Indian planter, doubtless, has his own pet stock of grievances against Nature's prolific provision of a copious mixture of things both good and bad, but he would probably be more inclined towards an energetic submission to the task of coping with his own difficulties if he could realise those of his confrères in other parts of the world. A sight of the foregoing basaltic rocklets disposed between the cane-rows like so much trash in a West Indian canefield, or stacked in enormous cairns wherever suitable space and position can be found, would cause him to think furiously about comparative labour difficulties and the cost of the preparation of land for cane growing, with its subsequent cultivation, and he would probably return to his own sphere of labour with an increased spirit of thankfulness that his lot was cast in a land where basaltic rocklets trouble not and cyclonic storms are in comparative scarcity. Nevertheless, the obtrusive rockstones, more or less, serve the soil as a protection from the sun and wind, and conserve some of the moisture which would otherwise be dispersed to the four winds of heaven. Although Mauritius lies within the tropics, its climate may be regarded as reasonably mild and equable. On the coastal plain, which is the hottest part of the island, the maximum temperature of the air has very rarely exceeded 95 deg. Fahr., and in the more elevated districts on the plateau it seldom reaches 81 deg. Fahr.; but the high relative humidity, which in different parts of the island ranges from about 70 per cent. to 87 per cent., renders the heat very oppressive at certain seasons of the year and causes considerable discomfort in the lowlands. For the same reason the winter weather on the plateau is disagreeably cold, although the temperature rarely falls below 44 deg. Fahr. Cases of sunstroke and similar injurious results due to exposure to the sun, which are said to be pretty frequent on tropical continents in similar latitudes, are almost unknown in Mauritius; but, all the same, Europeans do not, and probably could not, perform the manual field work required on the sugar estates, and native and Indian labour is universally employed. In the town offices and sugar factories the above temperatures are, of course, exceeded by a considerable and varying amount, such excess depending upon location and construction, and some of the older, low-lying factories have been almost insufferably hot, rendering it difficult to man them and to maintain the health and efficiency of the staff throughout the manufacturing season.

(To be continued.)

THE *Indian Trade Journal* gives the estimates for the Indian 1920-21 sugar crop, expressed in terms of gñr, as 2,465,000 tons. The 1919-20 crop realised 3,036,000 tons. The area under cultivation is 2,553,000 acres, as compared with 2,686,000 acres in the 1919-20 season. The imports of sugar for the ten months of 1920-21 were 203,037 tons, as against 408,376 tons for the corresponding period of 1919-20.

“THE BANANA.”

A West India Committee Publication.

First published under the auspices of The West India Committee in 1913, Mr. W. Fawcett's standard work on the Banana* ran rapidly through a large edition, and it was only circumstances arising from the war that prevented the issue of a second impression several years ago. To meet, however, the insistent demand for copies, The West India Committee have now brought out a new and enlarged edition. Mr. Fawcett has carefully revised the text, and has added a valuable appendix regarding the much dreaded Panama Disease, its causes, dissemination, and control. Director of Public Gardens and Plantations in Jamaica, Mr. Fawcett was brought very closely into touch with the cultivation of the banana in the country more closely identified with it than any other, and his qualification to write with authority on the subject is unassailable, but the book is not a technical treatise. It should make a strong appeal to the layman as well as to the botanist and agriculturist, for it deals with the whole story of the fruit, how it is grown, how shipped, how marketed, and how consumed, several tempting recipes for cooking bananas being added. The book has eighteen illustrations, two of which are reproduced in the present CIRCULAR. Sir Daniel Morris, in a "Foreword," refers to the phenomenal growth of the banana industry, the value in the exports of fruit having risen in Jamaica alone from £728 half a century ago to more than £1,500,000. A book such as this, in which a mass of information relating to bananas is brought together and presented to the reader in a most clear and attractive manner, should serve to stimulate the production and consumption of one of our most popular fruits still further. Bananas could be produced in great quantities in other islands besides Jamaica. Lack of the suitable steamship communication alone precludes development in this direction.

The cultivation of the beet sugar industry of the Western States of America suffers severely from the attacks of a leaf-hopper, which produces a disease called the "curly-top" disease. No satisfactory control of the pest has been yet effected.

* "The Banana: Its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses." By William Fawcett, B.Sc. (London). Second and enlarged edition; pp. 299 + xii.; 6¼ x 8¾; 18 illustrations. Published under the auspices of The West India Committee, and obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms, 15/- net; post free 15/9.

THE FORTHCOMING BANQUET.

Particulars regarding the arrangements for the banquet to be given to the Prince of Wales by The West India Committee on Friday, June 24th, were posted to members of that body on May 18th. As already stated, Mr. Winston Churchill, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, will be present on this occasion, and the company will also include Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada; Rear-Admiral Sir Allan Everett, Sir Malcolm Seton, of the India Office, Sir George Fiddes, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Sir Herbert Read.



A BANANA PLANT.

Drawing of a banana plant, showing the large ovaries of the female flowers, the small ovaries of the neuter flowers, and the bracts covering the male flowers. From an engraving by G. D. Elret in "The Natural History of Barbados," by the Rev. Mr. Griffith Hughes, A.M., London MDCCCL.

EXTRACTION IN SUGAR WORK.

Forty Years of Progress.

BY F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

Forty years ago, when the writer first went to the West Indies, British Guiana was regarded as being in the front rank of cane sugar producing countries as regards progress in the production of sugar. The manufacturing results then and there obtained, therefore, may be looked upon as indicative of those existing generally in the cane sugar industry, and thus form a basis for the calculation of the advance that has been made since then in the matter of the extraction of sugar from the cane.

The cane grown was the Bourbon, then in its prime; it was easily milled, and the juice was excellent for manufacture. The fibre was somewhere in the neighbourhood of 11 and 12 per cent., and the juice contained on the average 1.65 lbs. of sugar per gallon, possessing a quotient of purity of 84 or 85.

With the exception of an isolated instance, only single three roll mills were used. These extracted on the average 73 per cent. of the sugar in the cane, it being markedly noticeable that the older fast-running mills gave better results, both in quantity and quality than the slow-running mills which had then been recently introduced.

In the clarification department, juice heaters were only being introduced, the clarification being generally conducted in rectangular clarifiers fitted with tubes and trunnions for heating purposes. There was no filtration of the bottoms of the contents of the clarifiers, these only being heated and re-subsided, the mud from these operations going to the distillery. This represented 4 per cent. of the juice. Only one multiple effect was in the Colony, the concentration elsewhere being effected in "copper walls," where also the further cleansing of the juice by "brushing" and "skimming" was carried out, the "skimmings" and "brushings" being re-subsided with the clarifier "bottoms." The juice was concentrated in the copper wall to a density of from 21 deg. to 26 deg. Be., according to the vacuum pan power available, which was in every instance very low in the light of modern manufacture. Their discharge outlets, also, were so small as effectually to preclude the high boiling of massecuite. There were, of course, no crystallisers. Little or no second sugar was made, this manufacture being so shrouded in mystery, that in one instance in the personal knowledge of the writer, the pan-boiler received a premium for every ton of second sugar he made, at the expense, it may be remarked, of the yield of first sugar.

The centrifugals were almost entirely of the under-driven type, those of Weston just being introduced, and were not conducive to high extraction.

Putting on one side the half-a-dozen estates which still turned out muscovado sugar, the sugar made was either yellow "Demerara" crystals for the home market or a 94 deg. polarisation sugar of low Dutch standard for the United States. The extraction of sugar on

the sugar in the juice was from 66 to 70 per cent., and 68 per cent. may be taken as the average figure.

The following figures give the comparison of the extraction of sugar in British Guiana in 1881, which, as already mentioned, may be taken as representing general colonial work at that time, with that which can be obtained by modern work with the manufacture of 96 deg. crystals.

Sugar extracted from every 100 tons of sugar in the cane as juice:—

British Guiana in 1881 ...	73 per cent.
Possible in 1921 ...	94 per cent.

Sugar extracted from every 100 tons of sugar in the juice as merchantable sugar:—

British Guiana in 1881 ...	68 per cent.
Possible in 1921 ...	90 per cent.

Sugar, merchantable, extracted from every 100 tons of sugar in the cane:—

British Guiana in 1881 ...	49.6 per cent.
Possible in 1921 ...	84.6 per cent.

Increased extraction in 1921, 70.5 per cent.

As regards the boiler work, the consumption of one ton of coal for one ton of sugar was looked upon as being quite normal. Megass was air-dried in "logies" before being burnt, the sugar in it being lost by fermentation. The possibility of burning green megass economically in furnaces was denied. Now no outside fuel need be used, and the megass is fed to the furnaces straight from the mills.

Labour was a heavy item. Not only were large numbers of highly paid men employed at the copper walls in cleaning the juice and transferring it from copper to copper, but a small army of carriers was necessary to handle the megass. The manufacture of sugar hogsheads also required the constant services of coopers.

There were only two chemists in the Colony; the one, the late E. E. H. Francis, who filled the recently instituted post of Government chemist, and the other the late Mr. Charles Williams, whose presence at Belair was due to the late Mr. Quintin Hogg's advanced ideas. In fact, chemists in connection with sugar work were looked upon as curiosities. On one occasion a prominent leader of society, after enquiring of the writer the nature of his occupation, called to her husband to come and see "another Charles Williams"! Reference to this subject would, however, be incomplete without mentioning that a third polariscope was at work in the Colony at Plantation Hampton Court, having been procured at the instance of Mr. Peter Abel, who left the estate for Trinidad early in 1881, leaving behind him a factory more in accordance with modern views than any then in the Colony. Now, no factory is fully equipped without the services of a chemist or chemists.

British Guiana was then seeing palmy days as regards sugar. The cost of production was from £20 to £25 per ton, but as "Demerara" sugar of high class was selling in the home market, with no duty to pay, at £33 per ton, and as the 94 deg. crystals, on account of the low duty paid on them in the United States by reason of their heavy colouring, were eagerly purchased by the American refiners, large profits were being made.

AGRICULTURE IN BARBADOS.

The Report of the Department of Agriculture of Barbados for the financial year 1919-20 is now to hand. A separate report dealing with the seedling cane and sugar manurial experiments was recently issued, consequently the Report under review treats only with the other activities of the Department.

As regards cotton, it is stated that experiments for improving the quality and increasing the quantity of lint from the varieties of Sea Island cotton grown in Barbados were continued, and endeavours were being made, by the selection of the best-formed and most vigorous plants giving heavy yields of good quality lint, to improve the strain of the Sea Island cotton originally obtained from the "Sea Islands," which had undergone some deterioration. An effort was also being made on the same lines to improve native cotton, which so far had been found to be immune to all the insect pests, with the exception of the cotton caterpillar (*Alabama argillucea*), and to all the fungoid diseases. The improvement in this native variety is steadily going on.

Experiments with various minor crops, such as cassava, eddoes, beans, and onions, were also continued, and the distribution of grafted mango plants was continued.

The major part of the Report is devoted to the account of the work done in connection with insect and fungoid pests, and it is mentioned, incidentally, that the root-borer of the sugar-cane had been observed to cause the destruction of many cotton plants in fields formerly used for growing sugar-cane. Special attention, with full details as to life history, etc., is given to the most serious pest, the brown hard-back, *Phytalus Smithii*, which has caused so much damage to the sugar-cane in Mauritius. It is stated that the loss from this cause in Barbados in the year 1920 amounted to 7,945 tons of sugar-cane, valued at \$167,003.

As regards the agricultural products of Barbados, it is stated that for the crop of 1919, 39,252 tons of manure from crystals, 11,560 tons of muscovado sugar, and 8,569,830 wine gallons of molasses, equal to 77,908 puncheons of molasses, were exported.

The values of these were:—

White Sugar	...	...	53 tons valued at £	1,867
Yellow Crystals	...	...	125 " "	3,766
Dark Crystals	...	...	39,074 " "	937,783
Muscovado	...	...	11,560 " "	288,999
			56,812	£1,232,415
Fancy Molasses	...	...	7,149,958 gals. valued at	£744,617
Choice Molasses	...	...	1,299,579 " "	129,960
Vacuum Pan	...	...	120,273 " "	9,020
			8,569,830	£883,597

If no fancy molasses had been made, the sugar crop of the island would have been 69,628 tons.

The quantity of cotton exported for the "cotton year" dating from October 1st, 1918, to September 30th, 1919, was 223 bales of lint, weighing

114,444 lbs., of the value of £22,888; nine bales of linters, weighing 6,866 lbs., of the value of £177. In addition, there were 281,556 lbs. of seed, of the estimated value of £2,143, manufactured locally into oil and undecorticated cotton seed meal. The area reaped was 1,445 acres, slightly in excess of the previous year.

THE ORIGIN OF PETROLEUM.

Trinidad as a Field for Research.

A paper on "Trinidad as a Field for the Study of the Origin of Petroleum" was read by Professor Carmody, F.I.C., the late Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry, Trinidad, at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on the 10th ult.

Speaking of the Pitch Lake, the author described it as being the residue of liquid petroleum after a prolonged process of natural evaporation. Although a mixture of asphalt, sand, and water, its composition is remarkably uniform, and has been described as an emulsion with colloidal properties. The crude asphalt is found in two forms, the "soft" variety occurring towards the centre of the lake, occupying a circle with a radius of about 100 feet, and which is in slow but constant motion from below, upwards and outwards; and the "hard" variety surrounding the centre, with no motion of its own, but moving in the direction of least resistance under pressure, and occupying an area of over 130 acres.

The borders of the Pitch Lake are fairly well defined, but at one point there has been a comparatively large and steady downward movement of asphalt towards the sea, this deposit being known as "land" asphalt. Land asphalt is, apparently, a bituminous mixture which may have been, at one time, of the same uniform composition as "lake asphalt," but which has mechanically carried with it, in its downward course, some of the loose earthy matter through, or over, which it has passed.

The liquid petroleum found recently in the island in commercial quantities occurs mainly in the southern half. The deposits are far from being uniform in their character. There are light oils as fluid as kerosene, others heavy and thick and semi-solid; some have a paraffin base, some an asphaltic base, while some are practically free from asphalt or paraffin.

Professor Carmody dwelt at length on the vexed question of the origin of the various petroleum deposits, and on the causes of the phenomena noticed in connection with the Trinidad deposits. "Any revelation," he said, "as to the origin of petroleum would be a great triumph to science, and of immense value to recent developments in industry," and went on to say that in no country in the world could evidence on the subject be better studied than in Trinidad, on account of the variety of deposits occurring in a comparatively small area.

A large number of analyses of the various products were given in the paper.

THE HISTORY OF CAMPHOR.

The *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute contains an interesting and useful article on the present position of the camphor industry, in which a brief account of the history of this valuable product is given.* Originally, the European supply came from China, where it has long been in request for medicine, in a crude form to Bombay, where it was refined, but of late years the crude camphor has come to Europe from China, Formosa, and Japan, and refined there. The process of refining was at the end of the 17th century, a Dutch secret. It then became a Venetian monopoly, and is now carried on in England, Hamburg, Paris, New York, and Philadelphia, as well as in Japan. Camphor, it is stated, was at one time employed in the manufacture of smokeless powder, but by far the greatest impetus that the demand has ever received has been for the manufacture of celluloid. In 1912 it was estimated that 70 per cent. of the 11,000,000 lbs. of the world's production was used for this purpose. Now it is much greater. The balance is employed for disinfecting, deodorising, and for medical purposes.

All the natural camphor of commerce has been prepared by the destructive distillation of the wood of mature trees, which has a tendency to diminish the supply, and the value of the product has led to attempts to grow the trees in other countries than those of its original source. In the British Empire, in Burma, the cultivation has not proved a success, but in the Federated Malay States and Ceylon there are better prospects of success. The evidence points to the fact that the camphor tree can be grown successfully in many parts of the Empire, provided care be taken to secure the true form. The trees growing in the West Indies, the author states, show at least three distinct forms, and obviously the inferior varieties should not be allowed to hybridise with the true variety, and should, as far as possible, be eliminated. As regards the cost of production, that in Formosa permits of an export price of six-pence a pound.

As the world's supply of natural camphor appears to be on the down grade, considerable attention is now being given to the manufacture of synthetic camphor in America. True synthetic camphor can be made by preparing borneol or isoborneol from pinene hydrochloride or hydrobromide, and subsequently oxidizing the product obtained. This product resembles true camphor in most respects, but differs from it in being optically inactive, and containing impurities.

The effect of the Japanese monopoly has been to encourage the production of natural camphor in various countries, and has stimulated the efforts to solve the problem of the profitable production of synthetic camphor. The camphor difficulty is not merely a question of the high price of Japanese camphor, but of the almost complete absence of this product from the free markets of the world. "Strenuous efforts," the author concludes by saying, "should be made to obtain supplies within the British Empire by the cultivation of the camphor

tree in those countries suitable for its growth, and by undertaking the manufacture of synthetic camphor in the United Kingdom."

BRITISH GUIANA.

Interview with Mr. Mewburn Garnett.

Mr. Mewburn Garnett, a member of the Executive of The West India Committee, has just returned to England by Dutch Mail from British Guiana. Asked by a representative of the CIRCULAR for his views on the rice question, he said that, in his opinion, the continued control of the rice industry was a mistaken policy. However necessary control might have been during the period of shortage of shipping, it could no longer be justified. Formerly the Colony used to supply Surinam with rice. That trade, which was estimated to him by one closely connected with that Colony at a valuation of some \$1,000,000 a year, was now dead. So, too, was the growing trade with the West Indian islands, with the result that large sums of money, which would have proved of immense benefit in the present period of depression, were withheld from circulation. The effect of this action of the Authorities as regards rice might be compared to the disastrous results of Bolshevik rule in Russia, where the farmers, unable to dispose advantageously of their surplus crops, are restricting their efforts by only growing sufficient to supply their immediate requirements. The restriction in rice is also having a disheartening effect on such East Indians who are disinclined to work on sugar plantations, but are quite prepared to extend their efforts in rice farming, the land available for such cultivation being practically limitless. Should the present state of things be permitted to continue, one of the chief attractions to East Indian labourers to migrate to the Colony—where they are sadly wanted—would be removed.

"The health of the Colony leaves much to be desired. It is true that in Georgetown malarial fevers are not so prevalent, typhoid having taken their place, but filaria, which existed when I last visited the Colony in 1915, has increased alarmingly. Much was hoped for from the investigations now being conducted by Professor Leiper and his staff, who regarded Georgetown as an ideal centre for research, owing, alas! to the great variety of ailments represented by cases under treatment in the hospital. Is it possible that the concrete drains (effective in an undulating country, where they can be frequently scoured out, but unworkable in a city like Georgetown, placed as it is below sea level, where sufficient flushing is impracticable) are responsible for an increase in disease? These drains at present are a slimy mass of fungus and filth, a ready hot-bed for every passing germ."

Asked for his views as to the future, Mr. Garnett said that much depended upon the question of immigration. If Indian colonisation could be established the Colony would prosper. Failing that, the outlook was not encouraging, and it would be disastrous if the newly established sugar companies were unable to tide over the present period of low prices.

POTASH FROM LEES.

In the production of alcohol from the waste molasses of the sugar-cane, a product of considerable value from a manurial point of view exists in the "lees"—the product left after the distillation of the alcohol. Unfortunately, lees cannot be applied at once to the cultivation on account of their acidity, and it was the custom on estates in British Guiana to store them in ponds close to the factory, where evaporation and chemical change took place, the ponds ultimately drying up and their contents being dug out and conveyed to the fields to be used as manure.

Unfortunately, the lees ponds gave off a sickening odour, due mainly to sulphuretted hydrogen, which contaminated the surrounding atmosphere, and with the introduction of hygienic methods the system had to be abandoned, the lees being discharged into the sea through the estates' "sidelines."

In this way a valuable constituent of the lees, the potash, is lost. It is estimated by Deerr that one average crop of canes in British Guiana extracts 80 lbs. of potash from the soil per acre; almost the whole of which collects in the molasses and finds its way into the lees. Various processes have been evolved from time to time with the object of recovering the potash from cane molasses, and now Mr. Maurice Bird, of British Guiana, has written to the Louisiana planters to say that he has patented a process by which flue gases are utilised for the drying and charring of the lees, and the product obtained can be at once utilised for manuring purposes. Although in this process the nitrogenous organic matter of the soil is lost, there is a useful feature about Mr. Bird's product which, to some extent, compensates for the loss, and to which Mr. Bird has not referred. This is that the carbon produced in the process of charring constitutes a valuable agent for "sweetening" the soil.

The potash in the lees of British Guiana amounts to over 2,000 tons per annum, which can be cheaply utilised if Mr. Bird's process becomes a working proposition. This is equivalent to nearly 4,000 tons of the chloride, the present value of which is £38 per ton in the home market.

It is as well to caution West Indian buyers of basic slag phosphates against buying imitation or slag phosphates adulterated with other kinds of useless slags, of which there are a good many in the market. The great feature of slag phosphate and the one which gives it its peculiar value as a phosphate is the presence of large quantities of lime over and above that regarded as being capable of combination with the phosphoric acid. It is customary to express this as "free lime"; but there is no doubt but that it is in combination with the phosphoric acid, the term basic meaning a preponderance of the basic or metal over the acid constituent. Basic phosphate is, indeed, exactly the opposite of "dissolved" phosphate in which the acid of the phosphoric acid is in the free form.

TO PREVENT DUMPING.

In a memorandum which they have addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on May 10th, on the subject of legislation for safeguarding British trade, the British Empire Producers' Organisation point out that it is of the greatest importance that in any legislation designed to prevent dumping, such products of the British Empire as are produced Overseas and sold in this country should enjoy a defence from undue or unfair competition from foreign sources. They call his attention to the case of sugar, and point out that under the resolutions recently introduced into Parliament, the Government would have no powers to defend Empire sugar against the dumping of foreign sugars in this market, it being a necessary condition precedent to action that employment in any industry in the United Kingdom is being, or is likely to be seriously affected.

It is, further, of the most urgent importance that the supply to this country of commodities of the kind which sugar may be taken as exemplifying should be from Empire sources, as by that means alone can it be assured as continuous and of a reasonable price. They therefore suggest that after the words "employment in any industry" the expression "in the British Empire" be substituted for the words "in the United Kingdom."

Where the United Kingdom cannot produce its own requirements, but must depend upon external sources, it is, the organisation submits, most essential that every encouragement should be given to sources within the British Empire, and a preferential treatment of those sources consistently pursued.

JAVA SUGAR.

The following figures, taken from the *Board of Trade Journal*, give the total production of sugar in Java in recent years:—

1918	1,799,500 tons.
1919	1,264,800 "
1920	1,509,200 "

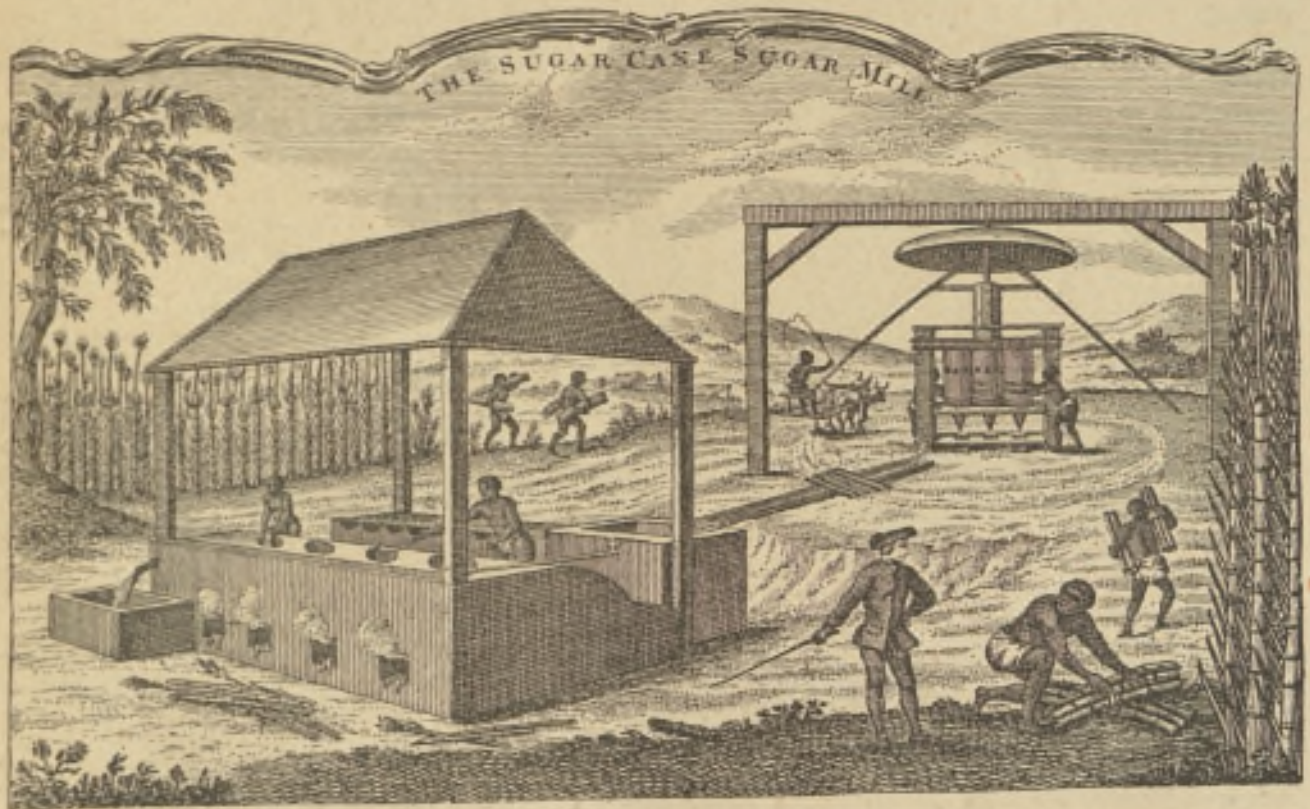
The distribution of the sugar for the respective years was as follows:—

	1918	1919	1920	
British India	364,880	298,440	262,905	tons
Japan	328,745	249,661	119,108	
Hongkong	299,935	170,176	155,474	
Singapore	158,650	58,988	35,084	
England	67,307	121,245	50,236	
Norway	22,311	50,955	27,195	
France	23,635	18,398	11,830	
Australia	265	73,144	80,795	
Suez	34,732	10,822	16,463	
Italy	2,950	33,937	23,047	
China	24,810	8,370	780	
Holland	—	21,624	9,042	
Greece	9,025	8,371	—	
Turkey	—	23,694	—	
Sweden	—	11,565	30,964	
Spain	—	7,020	3,011	
Roumania	—	3,984	—	
Denmark	—	2,408	—	
Siam	1,636	—	110	
Russia	—	1,437	10,908	
United States	500	—	209,199	
Belgium	—	—	50	
			5,557	

A SUGAR MILL OF 1795.

The West India Committee continues to add to its collection of books and engravings relating to, and descriptive of, the West Indies, which will be shown to great advantage in the Library which it is hoped to establish when the new premises are acquired. Among the latest additions are two old Bill files ("printed for and sold by Bowles and Carver, No. 69 in St. Paul's Churchyard, London," January, 1795), embellished with engravings of a sugar-cane mill, a tobacco plantation, and various

allegorical figures. The illustration of the sugar-cane mill, which is reproduced on this page, is of particular interest as giving a good idea of an early sugar factory in a country where wind was not a motive power. A good deal of poetic licence has been exercised as regards the representation of the sugar-cane, as will be appreciated by those who know it; unless a variety has been delineated which has not survived. In the latter case we suggest that the West India Departments of Agriculture might endeavour to reproduce it, as no possible pest would be equal to tackling such a sturdy plant!



A SUGAR FACTORY OF 1795.

This quaint picture is reproduced from an old engraving in the possession of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE. It will be noticed that the horned cattle in their endless walk had repeatedly to traverse the conduit, which conveyed the juice to the boiling house—hardly a hygienic arrangement. Note the orderly alignment of sugar canes.

British Drillers for British Fields.

It is a regrettable fact that England has to look too often to Russia and Galicia for expert drillers to operate the oilfields in British territory. To remedy this, Mr. Alan W. Davson, in a paper read before the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, on April 19th, proposed the establishment of a School of Drilling in this country for adults of from twenty-two to twenty-three years of age prior to their passing to the field.

The objects of such a scheme would be:—

(a) In conjunction with education and on the lines previously indicated to make a preliminary selection of men likely to be suitable as drillers.

- (b) To give the applicant some insight into a driller's life.
- (c) To make him conversant with the principal types of plant and tools in use, together with the details of joints, etc., their uses, advantages and disadvantages.
- (d) To imbue certain fundamental principles and practices common to all rigs and drilling work.
- (e) To point out and develop interest in contingent problems in connection with drilling operations.
- (f) Carefully to observe characteristics and qualifications of the applicant in relation to the work upon which he is engaged throughout the whole period.

THE WEST INDIAN SOLDIER.

An Appreciation.

By MAJOR CHARLES WOOD HILL, D.S.O.

It will be hardly necessary to remind readers of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR that Major Charles Wood Hill was, during the war, Lieutenant Colonel commanding the First British West Indies Regiment. It was mainly through his persistence that the Regiment was given the opportunity of showing its prowess in the front-line trenches in Palestine, which it did in such brilliant fashion.

Soon after the great War started, individual West Indians began to pay their own passages to England to enlist, and in 1915 the British West



BADGE OF THE B.W.I.R.

Indies Regiment came into being, under practically the same conditions as our New Army battalions. The majority of the men of this Regiment were employed in France, and attached to the Heavy Artillery for shell carrying duties; two battalions were with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force under General Allenby, and behaved magnificently in action. Had these two units been tested and tried under modern war conditions earlier in the War, undoubtedly one or more West Indian Brigades would have been formed, thus releasing white troops for France when they were so urgently needed.

I have served for many years in the West India Regiment—a Regiment whose long and distinguished record is almost unknown to the majority of West Indians throughout the West Indies—and know the “Westie” intimately under peace conditions of soldiering. I was attached to a battalion of the British West Indies Regiment during the War, and have seen the “Westie” under active service conditions and in action.

Australians and New Zealanders—veterans from Gallipoli—who were in the same Division during the final operation in the Jordan Valley, never tired of praising the “Westie’s” courage and fighting qualities, and surely no praise could be higher.

For over a hundred years there has been no fighting in the West Indies, and many of those in authority were a little doubtful of the fighting qualities of West Indians, and considered that they were, perhaps, better fitted for shell carrying and labour duties. Happily, and most providentially for West Indian manhood, the record of the 1st and 2nd Battalions in Palestine has once and for all dissipated this unkind and unfair assumption. In these two battalions a very fair standard of education existed, and I cannot remember a case of a man being unable to read and write. The majority had never handled a rifle in their lives, but with the makeshift arrangements that existed under active service conditions for teaching musketry, the men turned out keen, efficient, and in many cases good shots.

The modern soldier has to learn a good deal more than to march and shoot. He must know how to work and handle a Lewis gun; must be an adept in bombing and trench warfare; he may be called upon to specialise in signalling, machine gun, and Stokes gun. The soldier of to-day must be a bit of a mechanic. The “Westie” was especially good at these technical sideshows, and given good instructors can be turned into a good soldier in six months.

No unit in Palestine had a better turnout by way of battalion transport than the “B.W.I.’s.” At one period a battalion had a hundred and twenty horses and mules, as well as thirty-six camels, attached to it. After six weeks in the line in the Jordan Valley, followed by a week’s fighting and heavy marching into the Hills of Moab, the regimental transport returned to Jerusalem fit and well, and this was due to the men’s own fondness and extreme care of their animals. From boyhood, many of the men have learnt to handle mules on the plantations, and this early training stood them in good stead.

In the field of sport, the “Westies” more than held their own with the Australian, New Zealand, Scotch, Welsh, and English divisions in the F.E.F. There were a few black sheep—bad hats—which are to be found in every regiment, who brought shame and disgrace on their Island homes; but with these few exceptions the vast majority were well disciplined and easy to handle and control.

Born and bred in the Tropics, accustomed to a hot sun, and plenty of it, they most certainly are not fitted to withstand the rigours of a European winter, and easily succumbed to chest troubles, like their brothers-in-arms, the Indians. Perhaps a few are too prone to “swing the lead,” but the extent to which they practise that art depends on the platoon commander and the personality of the regimental doctor. Then, again, there are some who are addicted to that horrible, pernicious, and somewhat prevalent West Indian habit of anonymous letter writing. If these fanciful ebullitions are thrown into the waste paper basket, and no notice taken, the writer soon loses heart and the practice ceases. They all have that priceless gift, a sense of humour, love, understand, and thoroughly enjoy a joke.

In writing this short article on the West Indian soldier, I have tried to give a faithful picture of his good and bad qualities. When the sun shines and things are going well, the worst of us can be fine fellows, but it takes a stout heart and a good fellow to stomach, say, two years of disappointment, kicking one's heels about in the back areas, guarding ammunition and supply dumps, constant fatigue work. It is to the everlasting credit of the "Westie" that he behaved so well under such heartbreaking and trying conditions, and that neither his morale nor discipline suffered. No one was more pleased and prouder than the writer that when the "Westie," at long last, got his chance, he took it and made good.

Lieut.-General Sir Edwin Rulfin, their Corps Commander, always liked the soldierly appearance of the men, had faith in them, and was convinced that they would do well in the fighting line.

The men are now scattered amongst the various West Indian Islands, civilians once more, busy in

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 199.)

The West Indies' "Thousand Islands."

On the passage from St. Vincent to Grenada, sixty miles away to the south-west, steamers are never out of sight of land, unless the journey is made at night or in dirty weather. Their course lies through that exquisite archipelago known as the Grenadines, that rivals for beauty the famous "Thousand Islands" on the St. Lawrence below Lake Ontario, to which it seemed to me to bear some resemblance, owing, perhaps, to the great variety and charm of its units.

The Grenadines comprise upwards of a hundred islands, some bearing evidence of cultivation, some covered, to all outward appearance, with primeval forest and bush, others just huge rocks of fantastic shape heaved up from the depths of a sapphire sea. There was a time when many of these scattered islands had their plantocracy like the rest of the West Indies, and it is recorded that such was their prosperity that an ambitious planter brought out to Myera, one of the group, Bath stone already fashioned in England, wherewith to build a mansion for himself, the substantial ruins of which still remained some years ago. Now, however, the white inhabitants could probably be counted upon the fingers of one's two hands, so greatly have the fortunes of the islands changed.

Even here, among these small islands, the problem of federation has not been solved, for though most of the Grenadines are dependencies of St. Vincent, the remainder owe allegiance to Grenada, and an attempt to weld the whole with their parent Colonies into one political group in 1905 met with such determined opposition that it had to be abandoned.

The people of Grenada, it is only fair to add, did not object to federation *per se*, but felt that if there was to be union it should be with Trinidad, with the inhabitants of which Colony they had much in common, rather than with St. Vincent.

Of St. Vincent's island dependencies, the principal are Bequia, lying nine miles only from Kingstown, with a commodious harbour known as Admiralty Bay, Mustique, Balliceaux—so called from the *belsoiseaux* which abound in its solitudes, there being no predatory mongooses in the island; Battawia, to which the recalcitrant Caribs were removed prior to their deportation after their defeat by General Abercromby, in 1797; Canouan, Mayreau, and Union Island. Grenada, on the other hand, possesses Carriacou, and a number of smaller islands, including Islet Ronde, Levera, Green Sandy, Bird, Conference—the list is too long to remember. The origin of the names would be an interesting study. One island, Petit Martinique,



A HAPPY GROUP OF B.W.I.'S

the sugar plantations, or elsewhere, and settled down again to their normal activities; but it is hoped that they will read these lines, which, after all, are merely a message of thanks for good services rendered, and to let one and all know that they are not forgotten.

Unrest and agitation are world wide, but it is to be hoped that those who wore the King's uniform will never allow themselves to be evilly influenced by political agitators, and that they will always be soldiers in spirit, and loyal to their King and Country. Perhaps in the near future a West Indian Defence Force may come into being, when all fit and able-bodied young "Westies" will enrol and prepare themselves to defend their Islands—if ever such a necessity should arise. Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa have years since seen the necessity of their sons being trained to defend their own country, and there seems to be no valid reason why the West Indies should lag behind.

was, it is said, so called because the French found upon it venomous snakes similar to those existing in Martinique, though no trace of them now exists; but how did Jack Adam Island come by its name?

In Bryan Edwards's day cotton was the principal staple of those of the Grenadines whose soil was cultivable, and Carriacou is the only island in the West Indies where this crop has continued to be grown without interruption. The variety produced is that known as Marie Galante, and the producers of it are mainly, if not solely, peasant proprietors. Sugar was also produced, Bequia having nine sugar estates, cultivated by 1,273 slaves, and even little Mustique two on its 203 acres. Balliceaux and Battawia were the stock islands.

Contented Peasant Proprietors.

Carriacou affords a striking example of the advantages of settling the people on the land. Towards the close of last century the island was reduced to the depths of depression and misery through the collapse of its sugar industry, due to the economic causes to which reference has already been made. Complete ruin appeared inevitable, when the local Government, in its wisdom, decided to purchase the abandoned sugar estates and to cut them up and distribute them among small holders. In 1803, 1,510 acres of land were disposed of in this way, and so popular was the movement that nine years later Mr. Edward Drayton, the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, was able to state in his Annual Report that by it Carriacou had been brought from desolation to comparative affluence. The success which has attended this particular land settlement scheme was largely due to the skill with which it was carried out by Mr. G. Whitfield Smith, who was Commissioner of Carriacou from 1904 to 1913—a critical period in the history of the dependency. By 1912 the total expenditure on the scheme only amounted to £8,450, against which actual cash receipts totalled £7,979, and, bearing in mind that £692 still remained due from allottees of land, and that the value of land held in reserve, and other Government property acquired, was valued at £3,873, it will be appreciated that the transaction has been a complete success from the financial point of view. Even if it had been otherwise, it would, however, have been more than justified by the prosperity which it has brought to the dependency, and it is not too much to say that the Carriacou land settlement scheme stands out prominently as an example which deserves to be more generally followed in the West Indies. Another factor which has contributed towards the welfare of Carriacou has been the enterprise of Mr. Tom Archer, an enlightened proprietor who, not content with cotton alone, has established a flourishing lime industry, with factory complete, besides planting some hundreds of acres under coconuts. As the result of these developments, 3,189 acres, out of a total of 8,467 acres, are now under beneficial cultivation in the island. In 1912 a further estate of 488 acres was acquired for land settlement purposes, and when this is fully developed it will further add to the island's prosperity.

At luncheon aboard the *Chaudiere* we had the

opportunity of hearing much about the Windward Islands, their industries, and the aspirations of their people, from Sir George Haddon Smith, whose keen interest in their welfare was so marked that one has been glad to learn that his term of office has been extended. Then we returned to the deck for a wonderful afternoon.

For hour after hour these fascinating Grenadine islands, cays and rocks passed before our eyes in an almost endless panorama. It was not easy to identify them, but their names mattered little. One island, at any rate, was easily recognisable, the famous "Kick-'em-Jenny," a miniature "Diamond Rock" that earned its nickname by the reputation of the surrounding water for a certain liveliness, which makes it anathema to those who go down to the Caribbean Sea in sloops, this being the *Cay qu'on gêne*—the cay which bothers one. Others say that the name is derived from the rock being the *Cay que j'aime* in the local patois.

Then at last the rugged mass of Grenada itself came in sight. From a distance there was little to differentiate it from St. Vincent, but as we drew nearer our attention was riveted on the lower hills which were aflame with the brick-red blossoms of the Bois Immortel, a tree which the Spaniards called "*madre del cacao*"—the mother of cacao—because they used it in their cacao walks to protect the young cacao trees from the fierce rays of the sun. One had always heard that shade trees were not generally used in Grenada, but here was evidence that by some planters their value was still appreciated. We feasted our eyes on the scene, which recalled the masses of colour in the hanging gardens of Lake Como when the azaleas are in bloom.

Coasting along we recognised Victoria, and then Gouyave, now another centre of a contented peasant proprietary, recalling that it was there that, at the outbreak of the insurrection in 1795, the luckless Governor, Ninian Home, when returning from his estate, Paraclete, to St. George's, round the north end of the island, fell into a trap. Noticing suspicious craft about he landed, and was immediately made prisoner by the rebel, Jules Fèdon, who marched him off to his camp, ominously called *Le Champ de la Mort*, where, with forty-seven other victims, he was eventually massacred.

This was also the scene of one of the adventures of the notorious Lord Camellord, who in 1797 was in command of His Majesty's sloop of war *Favourite*. In that year the people of Grenada were in constant expectation of a descent by the French upon their shores, and one night Captain McDonald, of the 2nd West India Regiment, who was in command of a battery at Gouyave, seeing a suspicious vessel in the offing, showing no lights, fired a gun across her bows. The stranger replied with a vigorous broadside. The battery returned the fire as fast as its single gun could be loaded, and the inhabitants, panic stricken, evacuated the town. The sound of gunfire was heard in St. George's, the capital, which was hastily put in a position of defence. There was little sleep for the inhabitants that night, but when day dawned they were reassured by seeing the *Favourite* lying

placidity at anchor in the Carenage. Lord Camelford came ashore, and it was then learnt that it was he who had been responsible for the night's disturbance. Indignant at his ship being mistaken for a Frenchman, he determined to teach the over-zealous battery at Gouyave a lesson, and himself returned the fire of its big gun. Recriminations between Camelford and the Governor, Colonel Charles Green, ensued, when one may be sure some hot words were spoken before the episode was brought to a close.

(To be continued.)

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The deterioration of Cuban raw sugars, which leads to a lowering of polarisation, may, according to Messrs. Kopeloff, Perkins & Welcome, in the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, be prevented by the use of superheated steam in the centrifugals. The two factors producing the deterioration are bacterial organisms and moisture, the latter condition being necessary for the development of the bacteria.

The United States Department of Agriculture has been experimenting with arsenate of lime as a substitute for the more costly arsenate of lead. The best way of preparing calcium arsenate is from commercial lime and arsenic. The product may be prepared by taking 50 lbs. of quick lime, slaking it with 18 gallons of water. This is then mixed with 45 gallons of a solution containing 1 lb. of arsenic acid per gallon.

Latham Island, situated to the south-east of Zanzibar, possesses a central plateau which is covered with a guano deposit. This deposit is quite 12 inches deep, and a sample recently analysed at the Imperial Institute was found to contain 29.52 per cent. of phosphoric acid, of which 19.1 per cent. was soluble in citric acid, 0.33 per cent. of potash and 35.36 per cent. of lime. The guano differs from Peruvian guano, in that it contains more phosphate and less nitrogen.

Before the discovery of the German potash mines, seaweed was an important source of potash. Recently, says the *Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Journal*, the kelps of the Pacific coast have attracted a great deal of attention in this respect on account of the larger amount of potash they contain, which averages 25 per cent. of potassium chloride calculated on the dry material, and of the ease with which they can be gathered directly from the sea. The potash promises to be of cheap production on account of the by-products yielded in the way of ammonia, iodine and decolourising carbon, which, by the way, is making its periodical re-appearance in connection with cane sugar manufacture.

The General Superintendent of the Bureau of Australian Sugar Experiment Stations has received a satisfactory report from the entomologist as to the value of arsenic for the treatment of cane grubs. All the plots of canes treated with this insecticide were doing well, especially the one which received 200 lbs. to the acre, this large amount being added with the view of seeing if a heavy dressing would hinder growth. Grubs are doing great injury to the canes in some parts of Queensland, notably in the Cairns district, where on one estate, out of an estimate of 12,000 tons of canes, only 2,400 tons were fit to be reaped.

In the Report of the Louisiana Agricultural Station for 1920 it is stated that the juice from the L 511 seedling contained 14.75 per cent. of sucrose, as compared with 12 per cent. for D 74, and 11.75 per cent. for the "purple" cane, and also showed a marked resistance to the Mosaic disease of the sugar-cane. It must be remembered that, on account of the short period possible for growth—only nine months in Louisiana—Louisiana cane juice always has a comparatively low sugar content. Should L 511 continue its promise, it should prove of great benefit to the Louisiana industry.

The *Australian Sugar Journal* speaks of the remarkable success of the beetle borer parasite flies in clearing the beetles out from the Babinda Sugar District, and their success is considered to be due to the fact that stand-over canes were available for the flies to breed in when the fields were normally bare. These flies have a life history of about five weeks, so if they can find no borers in standing cane for that length of time, they naturally die out. Their rate of propagation is tremendous, each female being capable of producing five hundred or more during her five weeks of life.

One of the most interesting developments in Scottish agriculture, says the *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, has been in progress for some years in connection with the breeding of pedigree pigs. White breeds of pigs have always been regarded with great appreciation by the Scotch, but these, when exported to the tropics, are liable to suffer from sun-blister. There is much that is human about the pig, and it has been found that the black breeds stand hot climates better than white. A breed of "Large Blacks" has, however, been evolved which thrives in Scotland as well as the tropics, and the colour prejudice is consequently disappearing in the "Land of Cakes."

A United States Consular Report states that chicle producing trees have been discovered in British Guiana, a prospecting expedition having returned to Georgetown from the interior with 600 lbs. of the gum. The discoverer holds a concessionary right over 6,200 square miles of territory and expects an annual output of 200,000 lbs. of gum. Chicle is obtained from the sapodilla tree, which is well known in British Guiana by reason of its fruit, which is much esteemed by those who like a luscious sweetness.

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.

Aviation in the Bahamas.

Miss Moseley, M.B.E., writing on April 28th, stated that Majbr Hemming, of the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Company, was in Nassau for the purpose of making the preliminary arrangements for establishing a flying base there, it being probable that the Bahamas Government would grant a subsidy of £5,000 for a regular mail service to Florida and between the Islands. It is anticipated that the Governor and officials will in future travel by air between the Islands almost entirely, and it is hoped that in the not very far distant future a regular flying route will be established between North and South America, via the West Indies, with the Bahamas and Trinidad as bases.

Public opinion in the Bahamas has been deeply stirred by the methods employed by the Police Department in connection with two apparently unwarranted arrests lately. The first case was quashed in the Magistrate's Court, and in the second a *nolle prosequi* was entered in the Supreme Court owing to lack of corroborative evidence. The indignation of the community has found expression in a resolution which the House of Assembly passed unanimously requesting the Governor to cause an immediate and full enquiry to be made into the conduct of the Commandant and the Acting Stipendiary and Circuit Magistrate, and any other public servant connected with the arrests.

Barbados and the Trade Agreement.

The weather at the beginning of April was fair, but the closing days of the month were practically dry. Compared with April, 1920, when only one shower fell, the month was more favourable, and the condition of crops during it better than at the same time last year, which is all that can be said. The *Agricultural Reporter* states, under date April 30th:—

"The young canes in general are holding out nicely, and only in St. Philip and in certain parts of St. George and St. Peter have we, so far, seen any fields of plant canes which have grown badly. The ratoons are in excellent condition; hardly a dead hole can be seen in any of the fields that we have come across. The B. H. 10 (12) are ratooning with great vigour, and the bunches are rapidly thickening. The B. a. 6032 ratoons are also doing well. Many fields have already had a first application of nitrate of potash, or of sulphate of ammonia. The effect of these chemicals cannot yet be seen, because there has not been sufficient rain to further this. With such weather only well cultivated and manured fields can show any real signs of progress; planters are without any doubt tested by such existing weather conditions. Unless we soon get good soaking rains which we do require now, provisions recently planted will be checked in their development. The earth, particularly in the red soils, is parched and dry; the thin soils are chiefly affected and the sea board districts are in a better condition but are becoming very dry."

Presiding at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on April 7th, Mr. H. B. G. Austin said that he thought Barbados should make such contribution as she could afford for the Canada-West Indies steamer service, not only as an earnest of appreciation of the value of the trade relations set up, but also the mani-

fest advantages of having regular and efficient steamship communication. The sum to be contributed by Barbados under the agreement was £5,000 per annum. The Legislature had agreed to contribute £4,000, and he hoped that the Canadian Government would accept that sum, which appeared to be a fair and equitable contribution.

H.M.S. *Calcutta*, under the command of Captain Walter Crompton, visited Barbados on April 26th, with Vice-Admiral Sir W. Pakenham on board. The House continues to consider the Colonial estimates.

British Guiana Rice Situation.

The refusal of the Government to decontrol rice continues to form the subject of adverse comment in the Press, it being regarded as little short of a scandal that two and a half years after the cessation of hostilities an important industry should still be hampered by control.

It is stated that the East Indian farmers are beginning to get it into their heads that there is a conspiracy between the sugar planters and the Government to ruin the rice industry, and this is causing some anger. A body of rice farmers and millers from the East and West Coast, numbering about 300 in all, waited on the Governor at the Public Buildings, on April 11th, to represent to him their views. When told that the Governor would not be there, they then proceeded to Government House, where they informed the Private Secretary that they had come to appeal to His Excellency for the protection of the rice industry, with special reference to Professor Harrison's statement that it cost at present \$11.50 to manufacture a bag of rice of 120lbs., whereas they could not get purchasers to buy at even \$8 per bag. They subsequently visited their representatives in the Legislature.

Mr. Alves's promised visit to the Colony never materialised, but that oil magnate has announced that he will return to the West Indies next January for a prolonged tour, which will include a stay in British Guiana, where he is desirous of discussing important matters which may have far reaching effects in connection with the welfare of the Colony.

Professor R. T. Leiper and his colleagues of the London School of Tropical Medicine have arrived. In an interview published in the Press, he has urged the paramount necessity of securing the co-operation of all members of the community if success in stamping out disease is to be achieved.

British Honduras Debenture Issue.

An issue of 6 per cent Debentures, free of Income Tax, will be made on May 1st, in order to raise \$50,000 for the improvement of the streets of Belize. Speaking in the Legislative Council, the Hon. Eyre Hutson said that unless public spirit was forthcoming and interest was shown by the community in the loan, and funds thereby subscribed, it was likely that the streets of the capital of the Colony would remain for an indefinite time in their present very undesirable condition.

Sir Frederick Maxwell, K.C., has arrived in the Colony with the intention of practising at the Bar, and it is hoped that his able advice will materially assist the task of reconstruction now before the Colony. The erection of a modern bandstand is receiving attention, the proposed site being the old Botanic Garden. The new Government Printing Office at Church Street has now been completed.

The question of the rate at which foreign currencies should be taken in assessing ad valorem customs duties on imported goods was before the Legislative

Council at its last meeting, when the Bill to amend the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance came up for its second reading. It is claimed that the arrangement, as laid down by the existing law, of taking the pound sterling at four dollars and all other currencies at their fixed or constant exchange value, has worked remarkably well, and as the incidence of the duty falls on all alike there have been no real grounds for complaint.

Dominica.

The response to invitations for exhibits for the Tropical Products Exhibition has been meagre, and this and other difficulties will prevent the Presidency participating in the show, after all. Mr. William B. Robertson, of Barb Estate, died at Barbados on April 22, from dysentery. The *Dominica Chronicle* learns that a brewery is shortly to be opened at Fort-de-France, Martinique.

A crèche is to be established at Roseau, the Government contributing £100 a year towards its maintenance.

Pink Boll Worm in Montserrat.

Owing to the appearance of the Pink Boll Worm, the outlook is bad. It is thought that that disease was introduced into the island in June last, and by October it had spread all over the island. Insect pests and drought have treated the lime trees very badly for some years, but some improvement is now noticeable. Mr. Fred Driver, who has now returned to England after a short stay, when he acted as Attorney to the Montserrat Company, will be much missed.

Jamaica's Financial Position.

The financial position of the Colony is causing considerable anxiety, and it has become apparent that there is real and urgent need for retrenchment. With many kinds of island produce almost unsaleable, it is felt that development schemes involving the expenditure of public money must be suspended until conditions are more favourable, as otherwise there will be danger of a serious financial crisis. A Development Commission has been appointed to consider what curtailment of expenditure can be effected, but the introduction of a Bill to provide for an extension of the railway from Chapelton to Frankfield does not indicate a real appreciation on the part of the Government of the gravity of the situation. Meanwhile Jamaica is rapidly drifting into the position it was in when Sir David Barbour was sent out to investigate and report on the finances of the Colony.

Lt.-Colonel Ogilvie, now Clerk of the Courts for St. Ann, was entertained at luncheon at St. Ann's Bay, at which Brigadier-General Moulton-Barret presided, on April 28th, on the occasion of his departure for Trelawney to take up the position of Resident Magistrate. The premises of Messrs. Grace, Ltd., at Harbour Street, Montego Bay, were destroyed by fire on April 24th.

The cane farmers and planters of St. Thomas In The Vale have been protesting against the high rates charged by the Jamaica Railway for holding canes. "Lord Bedward," with his chiefs and many of his followers, have been arrested. The "Lord and Master," who blasphemously claimed himself to be the Son of God, had intended leading a band of his white-robed followers into Kingston on the following day, but his plans went "agley."

St. Kitts News.

The weather has been dry, writes Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, on April 30th, though local rains fell

on 27th, Brotherson's recording 6.20 in., Cranston's 1.89 in., and Sandy Point got nothing.

The offer of 27 cents for syrups has been increased to 33 cents, but no sales have been effected. Practically all estates are at work, though shortage of water has stopped operations at Sandy Point, whence some estates are shipping canes to the Basseterre Factory. The Customs and Excise duties on rum have been increased to 7/- per proof gallon.

Land Clearing in St. Lucia.

The *Voice of St. Lucia* sees in the clearing of the waste land at Union for cultivation a solution of three of the most pressing and vexatious problems that envisage St. Lucia to-day—Compulsory Education, Agricultural and Industrial Training, and Experimental Management of Seedling Canes. Our contemporary would also like to see a Reformatory established whose inmates might carry on the work and at the same time secure sound and scientific training. The wharves at Castries would also be rid of the swarm of vagrants if this policy were adopted.

Central Proposed for St. Vincent.

Mr. R. Popham Lobb returned to the Colony on April 11th, from Trinidad, where he attended the Intercolonial Education Conference. The St. Vincent Races were held on the 19th, when an ideal day's sport was enjoyed. A requisition by the British Cotton Growing Association for a return of a portion of the money advanced on account of sales owing to the lower prices at which the crop is likely to be sold, has created consternation among the growers, and there is talk of the local Government being asked to raise a loan of £50,000 to assist the growers and to hold St. Vincent cotton for 48d. per lb. The *Vincentian* expresses the opinion that sugar is about the only industry that will benefit the Colony as a whole, and advocates the formation of a syndicate to erect a central sugar factory at Cane Grove or Arno's Vale.

Little Tobago Sold.

In a letter dated April 20th, Mr. Robert S. Reid states that the crop is practically at an end, and most estates report very satisfactory cacao and coconut crops. The trees are blooming freely and barring setbacks from the weather, next crop ought to start in September, but in the "bare months," from July to that month, there may be hard times, if the market prospects do not improve.

Mr. Ingram has sold "Little Tobago" and its Birds of Paradise to a wealthy American, who is keen on ornithology and intends to make experiments with aviaries. No doubt he will bring friends from the U.S.A. to inspect his purchase and Tobago may benefit thereby. Few visitors leave the island without being tempted to invest—and we have already a big coconut plantation owned by United States and Canadian capitalists.

Writing again on April 25th, Mr. Reid says that the weather continues very suitable for field work, and the occasional showers keep everything green. The natives are busy at their gardens and seem really keen on planting ground provisions, no doubt to secure the means of living later on if the prices of cacao make it not worth while to gather it. The local shops buy at 4d. per lb., and last account sales of ordinary cacao from Port of Spain wont leave much profit even at that low figure. Progressive planters regret most of all the necessity for curtailing improvements of cultivation.

Trinidad and Steamship Communication.

Heavy rains have been falling, and the Savannah has not assumed its usual dry season coat of brown.

Writing on April 26th, Mr. Tripp stated that Trinidad was ready now, as she always had been, to contribute liberally to a subsidy for an efficient and suitable Transatlantic mail service, but the Colony could not be expected to consider a contract which it was believed would involve the use of steamers in which it was a misery to travel, especially as there were indications of better facilities being offered by lines other than that which held the last contract. In any case, Trinidad enjoyed the service of the Dutch Line, upon whose comfortable vessels they could fall back when all auxiliary British steamers were filled up.

The Gordon Presentation Clock at Queen's Park Royal College has been in the limelight again, its bells having been mysteriously muffled. The Hon. E. Lavare referred to the matter in the Legislative Council, asking if the bells had been muffled with His Excellency's sanction. The reply was to the effect that this action had been taken without the authority of His Excellency, who had ordered that they should be demuffled.

The railway goes from bad to worse, and it is stated that Mr. Marwood, the General Manager, has asked for a Commission to enquire into the circumstances which had led to this state of affairs being brought about. The railway was undoubtedly starved prior to the outbreak of war, after which it was impossible to feed it with material.

The Granada Income Tax.

The new Income Tax Ordinance was brought before the Legislative Council on April 15th, and passed through all its stages. In reply to Mr. Harford, who moved the rejection of the Bill on the ground that the planting community was being asked to pay both export duty and income tax, the Government pointed out the urgent necessity of fresh taxation, the first three months of the year frankly having been bad ones. The rates of taxation, which are contained in the schedule to the Ordinance, are as follows:—

- (a) On the first £150 of the income, nil.
- (b) On every £ of the income beyond £150, and up to £400, threepence.
- (c) On every £ beyond £400, and up to £600, sixpence.
- (d) On every £ beyond £600, and up to £800, ninepence.
- (e) On every £ beyond £800, and up to £1,000, one shilling.
- (f) On every £ beyond £1,000, and up to £1,200, one shilling and threepence.
- (g) On every £ beyond £1,200, and up to £1,400, one shilling and sixpence.
- (h) On every £ beyond £1,400, and up to £1,600, one shilling and ninepence.
- (i) On every £ beyond £1,600, and up to £1,800, two shillings.
- (j) On every £ beyond £1,800, and up to £2,000, two shillings and threepence.
- (k) On every £ beyond £2,000, two shillings and sixpence.

Assessment under the Ordinance will be made by a body of Government Officials, provision being made for a Committee of Appeal, with the further right of appeal to the Chief Justice, and in the last resort to the West Indian Court of Appeal.

Mr. Arnold E. Gay, of the Brothers cacao estate, has been appointed an acting member of the Agricultural Board during the absence of Hon. D. S. De Freitas.

WEST INDIAN COMPANIES.

Angostura Bitters (Dr. J. G. B. Siegert & Sons)

The directors have drawn up a scheme for transferring the company to Trinidad—a step which has long been desired by the local shareholders. Substantial inducements are to be offered to the Preference shareholders, the bulk of whom reside in the United Kingdom, to obtain their support for the proposal. The Preference shares are now entitled to a cumulative dividend of 6 per cent., with participating rights to a further 1 per cent. It is proposed that a new company be formed, having the same capital as the present—£170,000—half being in Participating Preference and half in Ordinary shares. The existing concern will then be wound up, and shareholders will have their shares exchanged, on a par basis, for shares in the new concern, but the fixed cumulative interest on the new Preference will be 6 per cent., and the participating rights will give an additional 2 per cent. The present directors, with the exception of Mr. A. G. Siegert, who will be on the Board of the new company, will receive £1,000 as compensation for loss of office. Shareholders not assenting to the arrangement retain their statutory right to have their interests bought out.

Trinidad Esmeralda Estate.

The Directors, in their first report for period to December 31st last, state the company was registered on December 10th, 1919, as a private company, with an authorised capital of £55,000, in 55,000 shares of £1 each. In October last it was converted into a public company, and the authorised capital was increased to £100,000, in 100,000 shares of £1 each. The issued capital at December 31st last was £55,000, of which £46,000 was subscribed for in cash, the balance, £9,000, being issued as fully-paid to the vendors in part payment for the Esmeralda property, which is held by a local company known as the Trinidad Esmeralda Estates (Trinidad Branch), Ltd., in which this company holds the whole of the shares.

Boring commenced on No. 1 well in October last. Oil sands have been passed through at 60 ft., 470 ft., 620 ft., and 805 ft. At the latter depth a test as to capacity was made, and the well from this sand produced 10 barrels of oil per day, which on analysis gave 40 per cent. petrol. The well is now down 1,700 ft., the formation continuing quite satisfactory.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

Subject to audit of the accounts for the year 1920, the Court of Directors recommend the payment of a balance dividend of 4½ per cent., less income tax, on the Ordinary stock, making together with the interim dividend paid in October last a total of 7 per cent. for the year.

The annual report of the Directors contains the following references to the West Indian trade:—

"The communication maintained by the company for many years between Southampton and New York by way of the West Indies has come to an end, but a direct service between Southampton, the Continent, and New York has been substituted. This service was inaugurated by s.s. *Orbita*, which sailed from Southampton on May 3rd, and is being conducted in harmony with other lines engaged in the trade.

"The sailings for the conveyance of emigrants between Spain and Cuba have been resumed.

"The term of the contract with the Canadian Government for a steamship service between Canada and the West Indies has expired, but the service is being continued for the present, the Government paying the company the same subsidy per voyage as was received under the contract.

"As foreshadowed in the last report, the passenger service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies has been suspended in view of the heavy losses involved."

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.

The report for the period from August 30th, 1919, to September 30th, 1920, and the balance sheet show that the share capital authorised and issued was at the latter date £400,000, and the areas over which the company held freehold, leasehold, and oil rights comprised about 800 acres in the Pызahad District. Owing to labour troubles and the railway strike in the U.S.A. considerable delay was experienced in obtaining delivery of plant and materials, but the property is now well equipped. Dr. F. C. P. Mueller-Carlson, who was engaged to make a geological survey, arrived in Trinidad in July, 1920, and remained there until the end of October. Early in October, Messrs George R. Airth and Walter Muclachlan, the managing directors, visited the property, and, in conference with Mr. T. Geddes Grant, the local director, Lieut.-Col. H. C. B. Hickling, the general manager, and Dr. Mueller-Carlson authorised a carefully considered and extensive drilling programme. Wells No. 1 and No. 2 had already been drilled, and the programme provided for drilling nine further wells during the current financial year to Sept 30th, 1921.

No. 3 well came in about November 6th, and gave an initial flow of about 100,000 barrels in a few hours, when the flow was stopped by the well sanding up. This large production exceeded all expectations, the dam which had been constructed for the storage of 50,000 barrels was washed out, the oil was lost, and considerable damage to plant and property was caused by fire, the actual loss, exclusive of the value of the oil, amounted approximately to £20,000, and development operations were seriously retarded. The reorganisation of the work and restoration of plant and material, however, was carried out with great energy, and the drilling programme was restarted during December. The various wells have given a total production to date of 94,000 barrels, equal to, approximately, 13,400 tons. An arrangement has been made for the sale of the oil production to Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., under which about 80,000 barrels have already been delivered.

The company's production for April was 39,241 barrels, or approximately 5,600 tons.

Amalgamated Oilfields of Trinidad.

At a meeting held on May 20th, it was decided to wind this company up voluntarily, with a view to its amalgamation with the General Petroleum Company of Trinidad, Ltd., and the San Francisco Oil Co., Ltd. Mr. W. B. Mitford, presiding, said that the new board of the General Petroleum Company would include Sir Clifford Cory, Mr. F. W. Barker, and Mr. Herbert Guedalla, and Mr. Ernest Leatham. The resolutions approving the liquidation and amalgamation were seconded by Mr. E. Blackwood Wright.

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following appointments and transfer affecting the Colonial Civil Service of the British West Indies have been recently made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Appointments:

MR. F. R. LAMBERT, Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, Trinidad.

MISS M. JACOBS, Nurse Matron, Colonial Hospital, St. Vincent.

Transfer:

MR. A. DE FREITAS, O.B.E. (Chief Justice, St. Lucia), Puisne Judge, Jamaica.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

The Demand for Jamaica Coffee.

SIR,—Your editorial comments upon my letter that appeared in your journal of May 15th with respect to the popularising of Jamaica coffee have been noted, and whilst I quite appreciate that some effort has been, in the past, made by The West India Committee, I am afraid it has not been in the direction whereby the result I have in mind could be obtained.

I think you are mistaken with regard to the manner in which the French people prepare their coffee, for although I have on several occasions visited France, I have never had served to me anywhere that "thick syrupy coffee" to which you refer, and the coffees I have always enjoyed in cases there remind me forcibly of what I am accustomed to get in Jamaica, and I am positive we do not have our coffees "burned up with raw sugar."

From what you write, it would appear that the average English taste for coffee has been already formed, and would be difficult to change. I do not agree with you. One can always rely upon success when changing from bad to good.

I do not favour embarking upon any scheme of advertising that would necessitate a large financial appropriation. By "advertising" I did not mean general "newspaper advertising," but such forms of drawing public attention as, for instance, special exhibits in the grocery departments of Harrod's, Whiteley's, Selfridge's, and others, which could be arranged after satisfying them of the economy in price and the merits of using these Jamaica coffees.

I am in entire agreement with you that we must have the co-operation of the shippers of coffee from Jamaica; but in this respect I may point out to you that with few exceptions in the Blue Mountain Valley the coffee industry in Jamaica is almost entirely in the hands of peasant proprietors or small settlers, and the term "shippers" or "exporters" might well be substituted for "planters." Neither the growers nor the shippers are at present organised to deal with the matter, and it was in this respect that I considered the Jamaica Imperial Association might have been useful. I regret that any remarks I may have made in my previous letter should have conveyed a sense of injustice to this Association, and I am pleased to hear from you that I quite misunderstood the motive of their existence.

A start should, however, be made at this end, and I will be quite willing to formulate a simple and effective scheme of advertising if you could get the principal importers of Jamaica coffee sufficiently interested to come together and discuss with you the ways and means of a small appropriation to be raised both in England and in Jamaica among those engaged in the trade that would be sufficient to, at any rate, test the validity of the scheme I have in mind.

Yours faithfully,

CYRIL C. HENRIQUES.

[We fear that Mr. Henriques, in his enthusiasm, does not quite appreciate the difficulty of advertising without an appropriation for that purpose.—Ed. W.I.C.C.]

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

The Secretary of State.

The Prime Minister, replying to Sir N. Moore and Commander Bellairs, on April 28th, stated that the suggestion that the title of Secretary of State for the Colonies should be changed, was now under consideration.

Costa Rica and Panama.

Major C. Lowther, who asked, on April 28th, whether by Article 16 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, Costa Rica and Panama were by their rupture *ipso facto* deemed to have committed an act of war against all the other members of the League, was informed by Mr. C. Harmsworth that there seemed to have been no breach of the obligations assumed by the two countries as members of the League, and the question of action by other members did not arise.

Hydro-Electric Energy in Guiana.

Lieut.-Colonel Amery, who was asked by Lieut.-Colonel Croft, on March 16th, whether he would take steps to obtain, without delay, from the Governor of British Guiana a report as to whether he took any steps to obtain the services of a British engineer to report on the hydro-electric possibilities of the Colony, replied that the occurrence had taken place two years ago, and he saw no reason to make any further enquiries with regard to it.

Home Grown Sugar.

Replying on May 13th to Lieut.-Colonel Nall, Mr. Young said in 1920 the Government took up 250,000 ordinary £1 shares in Home Grown Sugar, Limited, at par. It was now proposed, subject to certain conditions, to make an advance to the company on second mortgage of the sum of £125,000 which had recently been voted by Parliament for the purpose on the Estimate of the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition the Government had undertaken to ask Parliament, if necessary, to provide in each of the ten years ending March 31st, 1930, such sum as with the divisible profits of the company for that year was equal to interest at 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital of £250,000 issued to the public. These advances were repayable out of future profits. He hoped that the arrangements would not prove to have involved any subsidy, but in any case he did not think that it was now possible to reconsider the agreements already made between the Government and the company.

The Anti-Dumping Resolutions.

Resolutions regarding the safeguarding of industries were moved in the House of Commons in Committee, on May 9th, 10th and 11th. The first of these as passed provides for an *ad valorem* duty of 33½ per cent. upon a number of specified articles, notably scientific apparatus and instruments, accessories for electric and incandescent gas lighting, high-class chemicals and synthetic dyes, the object being to safeguard key industries established since the outbreak of war. Mr. Baldwin stated definitely that food and drink were specifically excluded from that schedule.

The second resolution dealt with anti-dumping measures. As passed, it provides for a surtax of 22½ per cent. *ad valorem* on articles in respect of which an Order of the Board of Trade has been, or may be, made under any Act of the present Session, "on the ground that articles of the class or description in question are being sold or offered for sale in the United Kingdom—

- (a) At prices below the cost of production thereof; or
- (b) At prices which, by reason of depreciation in the value in relation to sterling of the currency of the country in which the goods are manufactured, are below the prices at which similar goods can be profitably manufactured in the United Kingdom;

and that by reason thereof employment in any industry in the United Kingdom is being or is likely to be seriously affected.

For the purpose of this Resolution, 'cost of production' in relation to goods of any class or description means the current sterling equivalent of—

- (a) The whole price at the works charged for goods of the class or description for consumption in the country of manufacture; or
- (b) If no such goods are sold for consumption in that country, the price which, having regard to the prices charged for goods as near as may be similar when so sold or when sold for exportation to other countries, would be so charged if the goods were sold in that country."

An amendment moved by Mr. Lyle-Samuel to exempt food, raw materials and semi-manufactured articles from the operations of this Resolution, was defeated by 146 votes to 49.

It will be noted that these Resolutions are purely domestic in character and an Order under the second Resolution is only issuable where an industry in the United Kingdom is affected. It is very obvious that the home-grown beet industry would be prejudicially affected by the dumping of Continental beet sugar, and in the circumstances it is to be assumed that in the event of any resumption of the dumping of foreign sugar on the English market, steps would be taken to prevent it. A Bill will now have to be passed to give effect to the Resolutions, and until this is published it will not be possible to gauge the full extent of the Government's proposals.

It is of interest to compare the United Kingdom's anti-dumping proposals with the Dumping Clause in the Canadian Tariff, the main clause of which runs as follows:—

"In the case of articles exported to Canada of a class or kind made or produced in Canada, if the export or actual selling price to an importer in Canada be less than the fair market value of the same article when sold for home consumption in the usual and ordinary course in the country whence exported to Canada at the time of its exportation to Canada, there shall, in addition to the duties otherwise established, be levied, collected and paid on such article, on its importation to Canada, a special duty (or dumping duty) equal to the difference between the said selling price of the article for export and the said fair market value thereof for home consumption; and such special duty (or dumping duty) shall be levied, collected and paid on such article although it is not otherwise dutiable.

"Provided that the said special duty shall not exceed fifteen per cent. *ad valorem* in any case."

No fewer than 234,456 diamonds, weighing 39,362 carats, were declared at the British Guiana Department of Lands and Mines during 1920. This large total is more than double the return for the preceding year, and it looks very much as if, after many years of search, the diamond industry of that country will fulfil its early promise, especially as diamonds of much larger size are being found than heretofore.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Caranada*, May 21st:—

Major J. S. Biscoe	Mr and Mrs W. J. McKenna	Mr and Mrs N. A. Sinclair
Mr C. H. Cooper	Mr N. McGowan	Mr and Mrs H. K. M. Sisnett
Mr H. Deighton	Mr G. S. y Mendoza	Mr T. A. Stenhouse
Mrs. C. M. Harding	Miss A. Newmou	Mr J. H. Stevhus
Rev. F. S. Harrisou	Mr W. Nicholls	Miss C. Walker
Mr. F. C. Johnson	Rev. and Mrs Q. R. Noble	Mr G. F. White
Col & Mrs C. E. Lembecke	Mrs J. M. Plummer	Mr L. L. White
Miss E. R. Lembecke	Mrs. E. Post	Mr. A. Young
Mr G. G. C. McCormack	Mr T. Rumney	Mr & Mrs. A. P. Young

Home arrivals from Jamaica in R.M.S. *Patna*, Avonmouth, May 2nd:—

Mr. Ralph Carman	Mr. C. E. Isaacs	Mr and Mrs Spencer
Mr F. R. Cobbold	Mr and Mrs W. H. Jarvis	Thompson
Mr L. J. Culverwell	Miss M. Jones	Mr J. R. Thurnsheld
Mr T. J. Culverwell	Mr & Mrs W. Mason	Mrs J. Tomlinson
Mrs O. A. Forester	Miss A. M. McGrath	and Family
The Misses Hanley	Mrs. Any L. Morais	Miss L. M. Verley
Miss I. Modelin	Capt. Geo. Muncey	Mr and Mrs John D. Winder
Mr W. P. Hodgson	Mr James Peel	Mr & Mrs W. W. Woolfolk and Family
Mr Ernest Horskins	Mrs. R. Raukine	
Miss E. Howell	Mrs. G. Roots	

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to Trinidad from Dover, in s.s. *Oranje Nassau* May 21st:—

Mr. R. C. Boulter	Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Harvey	Mr. A. R. W. Scott
Mr. C. Docwra	Mr. J. W. L. Hesett	Mr and Mrs. Semple
Miss J. Evans	Mr. A. G. Hislop	and Child
Mr. G. Falconer	Mr. D. B. Martin	Mr. W. Spalding
Mrs & Miss Farnon	Dr & Mrs. A. McLean	Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Sterling
Mr. A. J. H. Giddard	Mrs. O. Moderate	Miss Spiering
Mr. J. T. Gray	Mr. C. L. Reed	Mrs. E. A. Tucker

Home Arrivals from Trinidad, in s.s. *Stuyvesant*, Plymouth, May 10th:—

Mr. H. S. Adams	Mrs and Miss Alleyne Haynes	Mrs Elizabeth M. Phillips
Mr. A. W. Aldson	Mr & Mrs. W. A. Littell	Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sidnett
Mr. Wm Davidson	Mr McDougall	
Mr & Mrs. José de Freitas	Mr J. D. Morgan	Mr Edwin Scott
Mrs Kathleen Edmonds and Family	Mr W. E. Mowatt	Mr Frank Smith
Mr Alexander Francis	Mrs Alice Nind	Mr. C. C. B. Storey
Mr Newburn Garnet	Mr J. R. Hamlyn Nott	Mr H. D. Tarver
Mr Percy Glendinning	Messrs. O Dowd	Mr and Mrs. John H. Wall
Mr. Mandel Gomes	Mr H. J. Paul	
	Mr. José M. Pereira	

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies from London, in s.s. *Songster*, May 14th:—

Mrs M. Bailey	Mr C. G. Carlsson	Mr L. M. Hobson
Mr and Mrs F. W. Beltz	Mr and Mrs A. Clark and Child	Mr A. N. Morgan
Mrs W. A. Boyd and Daughter		Mr J. M. Richards

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
West Indies	Liverpool	Navigator	June 3
T'ad & W'os...	Dover	Stuyvesant	4
Jamaica	Bristol	Camito	6
Jamaica	Bristol	Motagua	7
West Indies	London	Senator	8
St. Lucia, T'rad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Haiti	June 6
Jamaica	New York	Carrillo	14

West Indies	Halifax	Caracquet	June 24
B' mas, J'aca & Barbados	Montreal	Canadian Forester	July 5
	New York	Vestris	6

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:

Mrs S. Archer	Mr W. McMillan
Mr Bruce Austin	Mr W. Morrison
Sir Henry A. Bovell	Mr F. B. Murray
Mr F. W. Bowen	Mr C. V. Newton
Mr James Brown	Mr P. Noble A.M.I.C.E.
Mr Gerald O. Case	Mr A. J. Pavitt
Mr C. H. Chambers	Mr G. O. Reilly
Mr Joseph Connell Jnr.	Mr J. M. Richards
Mr J. E. Corbin	Lieut. W. M. Richards
Mr H. S. Cox	Hon. Sir Robert Ruden
Mr Robert Craig	Dr. F. G. Rose
Mr Jack Culver	Majr Randolph Rust, V.D.
Mr D. C. C. Da Costa	Mr O. L. Samuel
Mr A. H. D. Costa	Mr G. Elliott Sealy
Mr A. F. G. Ellis	Mr H. Seedorf
Hon. D. S. De Freitas	Hon. A. P. Sherlock
Mr James Fraser	Mr M. Howard Smith
Mr Percy George	Mr Thomas Thoruton
Dr C. J. Gomes	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
Mr D. M. Hahn	Hon. Hon. Chief Justice G. O. D. Walton
Mr E. P. Houghton James	
Mr I. M. Hobson	Mr Hugh P. Wilby
Mr E. F. C. Hoxack	Mr Percy R. Wilson
Mr T. W. Jamis	Mr Alfred B. Young F.C.C.I.
Mr C. H. Mc Cleau	A.M.I.C.E.
Mr N. Macleod Baiden	West View, Milngavie, N.B.
Rev. J. B. Brindley	c/o W. M. S., 24, Hishousgate, E.C.
Dr. J. F. E. Bridger	c/o West Ind an Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.
Mr W. J. Canty	12, Farquharson Road, Croydon
Mr E. W. C. Dunlop	13, Esmond Road, Bedford Park, W.
Mr George D. Evelyn	112, Norbury Court Road, Norbury, S.W.
Mr John M. Fleming	The Hermitage, Hadlow, Kent
Mr Archibald Gordon	c/o John Leckie & Co., Ltd., 84, Gore Street, E.C.
Mr James Miller	17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Dr R. D. O'Neale	c/o Mrs. Salmon, Moss Lea, Colinton, Midlothian
Mr A. M. Reid	South Cerney, Cirencester, Glos
Mr H. Blin Stoyale	Crediton, Devon

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Div.	Antigua	4	Redeemable 1918-44	66 5/8
4 1/2%	Barbados	4 1/2	Redeemable 1925-42	62-64
4 1/2%	British Guiana	4	Redeemable 1985	74 7/8
4 1/2%	British Guiana	4	Redeemable 1923-45	59 1/4
4 1/2%	Grenada	4	Redeemable 1917-42	69 7/8 x D
4 1/2%	Jamaica	4	Redeemable 1974	78 80
4 1/2%	Jamaica	4	Redeemable 1919-49	64-66
4 1/2%	Jamaica	4	Redeemable 1822-44	59 1/4
4 1/2%	St. Lucia	4	Redeemable 1918-44	68 7/8
4 1/2%	Trinidad	4	Redeemable 1917-42	73-75
4 1/2%	Trinidad	4	Redeemable 1922-44	59 1/4
10%	The Colonial Bank			52 1/4
8%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary			85 90
8 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference			88-78
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures			70-78
5%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures			71 7/8
6%	Angostura Bitters Part Preference			105-110
6 1/2%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures			7-3
7%	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref			8-6
	St. Madeleine Sugar			45-6
	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd			1-7 1/2
	Petroleum Options, Ltd. 10%			88-
10%	Trinidad Central Oilfields			2-3
12 1/2%	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd. 10%			53-
	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (L)			24-
	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.			
4	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock			27-37
7	Demerara Railway Company 7% Pref			95-100
4	Demerara Railway Company 4 1/2% Ex. Pref			53-58
4	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures			55-60
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary			24 3/4
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum. Int. Pref			24-34
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5% Debentures			85-87

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegrams—
"Carib. London"



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

May 24th, 1921.

BANK RATE, $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on April 28th.

EXCHANGE Value of the £ sterling

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
In U.S.A.	0	16	$1\frac{1}{2}$	In Holland	0	18	5
" France	1	17	$4\frac{1}{2}$	" Germany	11	17	4
" Belgium	1	17	$5\frac{1}{2}$	" Austria	66	12	0
" Italy	2	18	7	" Spain	1	3	7

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 4s. 6d (paper).

SUGAR. There is no particular change in the Sugar market. West Indian is steady, at from 52/- to 56/- for crystallised, and 44/- to 47/- for muscovado. Spot sales of American granulated have been made at 67.6. The terminal market (96 deg.) is steady, at values for June-July 21/9, August 20/3, October 14/9, December sold at 17.9.

New York prices show a slight improvement on the last West India Committee Circular's quotations, Cubans, landed duty paid, being quoted at 5.02 cents per lb. Futures, however, show a decline, the closing prices being for landed in bond: July 3.43, September 3.48 cents, and December 3.18 cents.

The Tariff Emergency Bill has passed the Senate of the United States, and only awaits the President's signature. As already mentioned in the summary, the effect of the Bill when it becomes law will be to raise the preference on Cuban sugar from 0.25 cents to 0.40 cents per lb.

Messrs. Willett and Gray have reduced their estimate of the Cuban crop to 3,650,000 tons.

The Board of Trade Returns for April show that the amount of sugar imported for the month was 210,077 tons, making 462,233 tons for the four months. Of the former quantity, 48,682 tons were entered as refined, of which 39,191 tons came from Europe, including 17,122 tons from Holland and 5,560 tons from Belgium; 7,130 tons came from the United States. Of the 161,394 tons of "unrefined," 75,956 tons came from Cuba, 44,996 tons from Mauritius, and 42,790 tons from the British West Indies. The quantity of sugar entered for home consumption for the month was 128,834 tons, of which 58,981 tons came from home refineries. This makes 462,233 tons for the four months, as against 421,378 tons for the same period last year.

The stocks on hand on April 30th were 402,550 tons, no less than 379,150 tons of which were unrefined. Last year, at the same period, the stocks were 357,250 tons, of which 265,750 tons were raw. During the quarter ending March 31st, 1,033 tons of home-grown beet sugar paid duty on going into consumption.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on May 14th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Imports	14,097	20,395	11,698 Tons.
Deliveries	15,361	12,134	10,270 "
Stock	7,140	16,397	7,620 "

CA CAO is firm, but quiet. Fine Grenada is quoted at 53/- to 54/- spot, and fine plantation Trinidad at 58/- to 64/-, or to arrive, 58/6 c.i.f.

The imports of cacao for April were, according to the Board of Trade Returns, 185,674 cwts., making 633,437 cwts. for the four months. 71,828 cwts. went into consumption during the month, and 292,761 cwts. for the four months. The quantity which came from the British West Indies was 16,553 cwts. for the month, and 55,479 cwts. for the four months. The exports were 32,607 cwts., bringing the figure for the four months to 116,444 cwts., a considerable diminution on the amount exported for the corresponding period of last year, which was 275,260 cwts.

The stocks on hand on the 30th were 1,229,000 cwts., as against 1,031,000 cwts. at the same period last year.

The stocks in London on May 14th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Trinidad	22,352	23,780	16,015 Bags.
Grenada	28,402	26,169	7,743 "
Total of all kinds	192,261	198,503	111,112 "

RUM. No sales have been reported during the last month, and there is a complete absence of enquiries. In the meantime the statistical position is rapidly getting worse. Values are quite nominal. The imports of rum for April, according to the Board of Trade Returns, amounted to 527,239 proof gallons, making 2,361,365 gallons for the four months. The consumption was 141,423 proof gallons, bringing the consumption for the four months to 757,672 proof gallons. The consumption for the corresponding four months of last year was 1,210,546 proof gallons. The stocks on hand on April 30th were 13,019,000 galls., as compared with 12,091,600 galls. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on May 14th were:

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Jamaica	10,778	7,721	3,613 Pons.
Demerara	16,755	13,103	12,332 "
Total of all kinds	37,400	30,251	20,428 "

ARROWROOT continues quiet and steady, with the quotations 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 7d. unchanged.

BALATA. The market continues very flat, and values are nominal. Spot parcels have been sold at 3/6 per lb. landed terms, with forward shipments quoted according to positions.

COFFEE is about steady. Fine home-trade sorts are in good demand, but export kinds are rather easier. No Jamaica coffee has been offered at auction since our last report. Total stocks in London on May 14th, 21,573 tons.

According to the Board of Trade Returns, the imports for the month were 75,511 cwts., of which 68 cwts. came from the British West Indies. The four months' imports are thus brought up to 336,390 cwts., of which 1,881 cwts. came from the British West Indies. The amount entered for home consumption for the four months was 101,913 cwts., as against 102,406 cwts. for the corresponding period last year. The stocks on hand on April 30th were 737,000 cwts., as against 713,000 cwts. at the same period last year.

COPRA is quietly steady. West Indian fms. is unchanged at £30 nominal c.i.f. Holland or Hamburg.

COTTON has been only in limited demand, and quotations are generally lower. No business has been reported in West Indian Sea Island, and quotations are unchanged—medium 25d., fine 33d., and extra fine 33d. Imports in the twenty weeks ending May 19th, 2,844 bales.

HONEY. There is only a very small demand, with prices tending lower. Public auctions are postponed for a further month, and there is an absence of any encouragement to offer.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed is quiet and steady, with sellers asking 22.6 per lb., but Distilled is still neglected. There has been a small enquiry for low-priced Raw Lime Juice.

LOGWOOD is dull, with quotations nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Some business has been done in Sweet at 10/3 per lb., but there is nothing doing in Bitter.

PETROLEUM. Trinidad exports to March 31st were 9,107,151 galls., as compared with 9,251,424 galls. and 12,316,793 galls. to same date in 1920 and 1919 respectively.

RUBBER. The market has been affected by the Whitson holidays since our last report. Very little business has been done, and prices are again easier. America is still dull and holding off, and up till now there is no indication of improvement. Spot crepe 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., sheet 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

SPICES. Pimento is flat, with spot sellers at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or at 21.6 per cwt. on c.i.f. terms. Jamaica Ginger is steady and quoted at 115/- to 155/- per cwt.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642.



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

Telegrams:
CARIB. LONDON.

June 8th, 1921

British News or . . . ?

WE have been astonished to learn from one of our readers of the receipt of a cablegram from a correspondent in the West Indies announcing his intention to cancel a proposed visit to England because he had heard that the Old Country was on the verge of a revolution. From this and from letters which we ourselves have received, it is very evident that our labour troubles, which no doubt form the basis for loose talk of this sort, serious though they may be, have been grossly exaggerated, and we can assure our friends in the West Indies that the red flag is not flying over St. Stephen's, and that there has never been a remote prospect of its doing so. Extremists there may be among the ranks of the workers; but that they "cut no ice" has been demonstrated by the collapse of the "Triple Alliance," for which they were responsible, and more recently the removal of the embargo on imported coal. We doubt whether any prolonged strike has been accompanied by so little disorder as is the one which we are now enduring. Indeed, it would not be too much to say that

the upheaval has tended to demonstrate that among the labouring classes there exists as large a proportion of well-balanced sanity as among any others. But when we remember that the comparatively orderly strike in Trinidad in 1919 was described by a section of the London Press as a "Rising" and a "Rebellion," and so forth, we might, perhaps, incur the charge of being a "pot" and "calling the kettle black" if we were to protest too forcibly against the distortion of English news in the British West Indies. It is not, however, so much a distortion as an absence of British news which gives rise to the ridiculous rumours like that referred to above, and we are particularly glad, therefore, to learn that the need for a better cable news service for the British West Indies was one of the matters which a deputation of the Empire Press Union, introduced by LORD BURNHAM, brought forcibly before the notice of MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, at the Colonial Office, on May 25th. On that occasion, MR. PERCY HURD, M.P., pointed out that much of the news now supplied to the Colonies had the appearance of being drawn from American sources, and it will not be forgotten that in October last, while great prominence was given to the episode of the hurley match at Dublin, when civilians lost their lives, not a word was sent over the lines regarding the ruthless massacre of British officers which preceded it. The present Press rate for cablegrams, being 8½d. per word to Jamaica, and 1s. 0½d. to the rest of the West Indies, is altogether beyond the means of the West Indian Press, which has, therefore, to depend on the news bulletins provided for under the cable contract for their news from the outside world; and we are not satisfied that clause 10 of the contract, which insists that "preference shall be given in the bulletins to matters chiefly affecting British and Colonial interests" is being faithfully carried out. In the circumstances we welcome the intervention of the Empire Press Union, and we also appreciate the interest which the many distinguished journalists who comprised their deputation evinced in the proposal to secure the laying of new cables from Bermuda to the West Indies, which they warmly supported. Whilst MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL has recognised the need for a cheaper and more effective Empire news service, his colleague, MR. KELLEWAY, has announced his intention of immediately increasing by 100 per cent. the postage rate for newspapers and printed matter sent overseas to

make good the loss incurred by the telegraph and telephone departments of the Post Office. This decision has very naturally given rise to a storm of protest. It is generally believed that it will defeat its own object, and that the volume of printed matter sent by post will fall off to such an extent that the revenue will suffer. Apart from this, the proposed increase is much to be deplored coming at a time when the business community is doing its utmost to develop our trade, and when there is more need than there ever was before for meeting foreign propaganda in the British Empire with the distribution of British news and periodicals. Perhaps, however, the persistent demand which is now being voiced that the Post Office may be run on the lines of a business concern may yet carry the day, and the ridiculous proposals for making that department pay by reducing its turnover may be defeated.

Power Alcohol.

POWER alcohol in the United Kingdom is referred to in section 10 of the Finance Bill, 1921, now before the House of Commons. This section empowers the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to formulate regulations in respect of, *inter alia*, the denaturing of spirit in order that it may, in a duty free form, be used for power and other industrial purposes in this country and of the importation of spirits used in the manufacture of such spirit. This is a distinct, if tardy, advance in this important matter; but, unfortunately, the Bill leaves the question of the importation of Colonial alcohol already denatured for direct consumption and for other industrial purposes in the same position as it has been in heretofore. Such spirit cannot be admitted into the United Kingdom except on the practically prohibitive condition of the payment of the duty on potable spirit plus the surtax imposed on all imported spirits to compensate the home distillers for the disadvantages to which they claim to be subject owing to the incidence of the excise restrictions. As before, to avoid the payment of the duty, spirit must be denatured in bond in this country, although even then the surtax remains payable. Spirit imported from the Colonies for power or other industrial purposes would, therefore, after payment of the 5d. per proof gallon surtax, have to pass into the hands of a licensed denaturer by whom, after it had been denatured in the manner to be set forth by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, it would be issued for consumption, and to whom a payment of 3d. would be made by the Government for every proof gallon issued—the subsidy for the denatured spirit industry which has existed for several years. It would appear, therefore, that in the event of the problem of cheap shipping facilities being solved, the course for West Indian producers desirous of establishing a market for power alcohol in the United Kingdom to pursue would be to establish a denaturing centre for themselves in this country, and thus recover, in the form of the 3d. per proof gallon Government bonus, two fifths of the 8d. per liquid gallon, which spirit strong enough for the purpose has to pay in the way of surtax on importation.

The question, however, of the substitution of alcohol for petrol for power purposes is a matter of so much importance to the United Kingdom that the continued existence of Customs' restrictions, which hamper the supplying of Colonial spirit in this connection is unthinkable. It is a recognised fact that the materials from which power alcohol can be produced on a commercial basis do not exist in this country, and to import them from the Colonies for conversion into alcohol here would raise the cost of production to an unworkable figure. The power alcohol clause in the Finance Bill referred to above shows that the minds of our legislators are working in the direction of removing difficulties in the way of the new industry, and it looks as if the continued representations of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, dating back, indeed, to almost prehistoric times, coupled with the creation of an industrial want in this country, will have the effect of justice at last being done to Colonial distillers. This being the case, it is hardly necessary to say that preparation should be made in the British West Indies for "the day." It must be remembered that molasses is not the only pebble on the beach of alcohol producing possibilities, vegetable products of many descriptions existing in the West Indies as to which enquiry should be made in this connection. Then, again, the question of stills has to be taken up. At the present moment it is doubtful if half-a-dozen stills exist in the British West Indies capable of turning out spirit of the necessary strength. The question of the installation of central distilleries, therefore, fitted with modern high-strength-spirit stills, requires attention. Another matter, also, which has to be gone into is that of the treatment of the spirit, as even if the freeing of Colonial spirit in the Customs' Tariff of the United Kingdom only goes so far as plain spirit, there are the Canadian and local markets to be considered. Alcohol, on account of its comparatively high vaporizing point, is not a perfect fuel for motor work. It requires admixture with some body with a lower vaporization temperature. This problem has been solved in Natal by the conversion of a moiety of the alcohol into ether, which is mixed with the balance of the alcohol. This has been found to give a most satisfactory product for the purpose. At the temperature, however, of the West Indies, the process of manufacture of ether is attended with difficulty on account of its low boiling point, which necessitates special means of condensation. But in the petroleum products of Trinidad very suitable materials exist for supplying what is wanting in the alcohol, a mixture of 5 to 10 per cent. of petrol with alcohol of 66 deg. over proof and over making, we understand, an admirable motor spirit, which possesses the further advantage of not requiring additional treatment to render it im potable. There is, indeed, every prospect of a future for a new industry in the British West Indies, which would more than compensate for the failing rum market, in connection with the sugar industry, and also be the means of utilising advantageously other vegetable products in those Colonies.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"NO-MIND mek ship run ashore."

HON. DONALD McDONALD has been appointed an additional Honorary Correspondent of The West India Committee for Antigua.

ONE of the effects of the war has been the practical abolition of the gold standard in the coinage of this country, the intrinsic value of the sovereign being now about £1 5s.

ONE pound shares in Home Grown Sugar, Ltd., the proprietors of the Kelham Factory, are being offered at 14/- . These carry a Government guarantee of 5 per cent. interest.

THE 1920 production of rice in the United States is estimated at 50,854,000 bushels, from an area of 1,341,163 acres. There is a steady increase in production and yield going on in that country.

MR. A. BERRY THOMPSON, O.B.E., oil engineer, who only recently returned from Egypt and the Sudan, where he reported on the oil and water situation for the Government, left for Barbados by the Dutch Line last Saturday.

OIL represented 35 per cent. of the commodities carried through the Panama Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific in March. Manufactured goods come next with 16 per cent. of the total, then coal (6 per cent.) and sugar (2 per cent.).

THE recent financial crisis in Cuba is reflected by the passing of the dividend on the Ordinary stock of the United Railways of Havana. The Directors, in their report, attribute their action to the difficulty experienced in collecting freight accounts.

AMONG the successful candidates at the recent Final Examination for the Bar was Mr. P. E. F. G. Cressall, M.C. Mr. Cressall, who is the son of Mr. Paul Cressall, of Demerara, only came over from British Guiana in October last, and thus "floored the examiners" after six months' study.

THE imports of cacao into the United States for the nine months ending March 31st, 1921, amounted to 220,012,327 lbs., as against 323,655,899 lbs., and 220,012,325 lbs. for the corresponding periods of 1920 and 1919. For the 1919 period 8,985,416 lbs. were imported from the British West Indies, 34,505,906 lbs. for the 1920 period, and 30,137,601 lbs. for the 1921 period.

ONE of the great problems that agitate the minds of sugar producers at the present moment is what to do with molasses. A solution has been afforded by events in a West Virginia city, where, the *Louisiana Planter* states, a meeting of the City Fathers was delayed recently for twenty-four hours

by some sacrilegious miscreants anointing the seats in the council chamber with molasses. This suggests great possibilities.

SOME novel information about the West Indies is given in *The Times* Empire Day number. From this we learn that the Panama Canal is fifty miles south of Jamaica, that Dominica has two lakes, "one of which is constantly boiling," that Barbados was settled in 1623, that St. Kitts has a dependency called Aquilla (sic), and that the "streets of Bridgetown are well laid out"! We live and learn.

THE marriage of Hon. G. Whitfield Smith, Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and Miss Jessie Rigby, youngest daughter of the late Simon F. Rigby (for many years French Consul of the Dependency), was solemnised at St. Thomas Church, Grand Turk, Tuesday, April 19th, Rev. Mr. Reeves, rector of the parish, officiating. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Annis Rigby, while the Hon. William Scholesfield was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride, which was largely attended.

MISS EDIE HARRAGIN made her debut on the concert platform at the Aeolian Hall on June 4th, and achieved a remarkable success, the songs which she contributed to the programme being encored. Miss Harragin is a daughter of the late Mr. Harris Harragin, for many years a Warden in Arima and San Fernando. Her mother having died while she was a child, she has lived with her aunt, Mrs. Thornton Warner. She came over last year to study at the Guildhall School of Music, and hopes to take up singing as a profession.

MR. JUSTICE H. K. M. SINNETT, who left for Jamaica on May 21st, to assume the duties of Puisne Judge there, is an old boy of Harrison College, Barbados. He will be no stranger to Jamaica, having practised at the Bar there from 1898 to 1907, and having been Private Secretary to Sir Augustus Hemming and Mr. (now Sir Sydney) Olivier, successively. He also acted on various occasions as Resident Magistrate. Recently he has been a Stipendiary Magistrate in British Guiana, and acted as Attorney-General for the last year and eight months of his service there. Previous to going to British Guiana he served in British Honduras for six years, during practically the whole of which period he acted as Attorney-General, and twice as Chief Justice.

CHUTNEY.—2 pints of cut up nearly-ripe mangoes, 6 ozs. best raisins, 2 ozs. brown sugar, 1½ ozs. powdered ginger, 2 ozs. mustard seeds, ½ oz. cayenne, 1 oz. garlic, ¼ pint of vinegar. The mangoes should be run through a cullender, the raisins and garlic stewed and chopped fine. Mix all together well, add the vinegar by degrees, keep the jar near the fire covered closely for a week, stirring daily. The longer this is done the better it keeps.—MISS G. RICHARDS.

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

BY LEWELYN JONES, M.I.E.S.

(Continued from page 209.)

We are now pretty fully in presence of most of the leading natural conditions under which cane-cultivation and sugar-manufacture have to be prosecuted, and it is desirable to note some particulars regarding those sections of the community of Mauritius who have to make the most and the best of such conditions.

In round numbers, the total population of the island may be taken as amounting to about 370,000 souls, or about 520 inhabitants per square mile; and when allowance is made for the comparatively large tracts of unoccupied land, only about one-half of the island being available for profitable cultivation, it will be seen that, for a tropical agricultural Colony, the population is very dense. In Port Louis, the administrative and business centre of the island, the number of residential inhabitants is about 40,000, who live within an area of little more than two square miles, and there are several other populous residential centres on the plateau.

There are not many persons of strictly British origin in the island, and they—about 800 in number—and the military are, as far as birth and education are concerned, the sole representatives of the United Kingdom. Many of them, from the Governor downwards, are Government officials; some of them are bankers and merchants, and others supervise and operate the few British-owned sugar estates which have not yet passed into the hands of Mauritians. There are also a few consulting and constructional engineers connected with engineering works that do a considerable business with the shipping and the sugar estates.

The other white inhabitants of Mauritius, about 10,000 in number, are of French blood, and the men of this section form the chief portion of the influential body which represents the proprietorship of nearly the entire sugar industry. Whether as estates' owners, estates' managers, lawyers, merchants, chemists, engineers, or employees of various descriptions, they are, one and all, directly or indirectly engrossed in the task of promoting to the best of their abilities the success of their chief industry, and with but comparatively few exceptions they are all, more or less, interested in the same, either as proprietors or shareholders, or as the future successors to the present holders of the principal positions on estates. Many of them are the descendants of the aristocracy of old France. They are well educated, and conduct business with great courtesy and efficiency, and show generous hospitality to all their business friends with whom they are brought into contact in connection with their sugar estates and factories. They pay the most serious attention to the supervision of the latter, and may be said, in this respect, to present a sound example to many other sugar communities in which absent proprietorship sometimes tends towards a spirit of discouragement and general slackness. In Mauritius the eyes of the proprietors

are ever-present and constantly directed upon the up-keep, improvement and general welfare of their properties. Through the agency of the numerous meetings of the respective boards of directors, supplemented by frequent visits to the estates, a firm control is exercised over their business affairs, and the additional fact that the leading estates and factory officials are themselves often pecuniarily interested in the properties, promotes a system of close and efficient supervision that cannot easily be surpassed.

Many of the younger members of this section of the community, no matter how well placed they may be in the social scale, seriously and enthusiastically enter upon the acquirement of a thorough knowledge of the business, and in both town and country take up posts as clerks, employees, chemists and engineers, so that in their turn they will be competent efficiently to supervise the general and special business details of an estate or factory in the future. There is thus a good supply of useful men available for the practical and scientific supervision of the various branches of the industry.

Chemical control is well established in the factories, and in each and every concern there are usually two or three assistants under the supervision of a fully qualified member of the Society of Chemists of Mauritius, who is often the possessor of a European diploma, and they are continuously and fully employed in the collection and collation of the factory statistics. It is thus practically unnecessary to look for chemical assistance outside the island, and the effective performance of these scientific duties which, in the West Indies, has been and still is, more or less hedged round with disadvantages, has in Mauritius become a natural and matter of course adjunct to its sugar industry without the assistance of which no estates' manager would dream of operating.

The weight of canes manipulated is, in the first place, most carefully ascertained, and the subsequent stages of manufacture are likewise kept under close chemical observation, and careful records are entered of all the manufacturing details of the entire process, and the sugar manufacturers of Mauritius are thus in possession of a fairly sound knowledge of their own proceedings.

The local Society of Chemists not only watches over their native industry, but simultaneously keeps an eye on the progress of similar industries in other countries, holding monthly meetings, which are ably conducted, for the full discussion of their own difficulties and investigations, as well as for the examination of outside information, which comes regularly to hand from other sugar manufacturing countries in all parts of the world. The bulletins of this society, which are published at suitable intervals, are worthy of a place on the desks of sugar manufacturers.

The general interests of the industry, commercial, agricultural, and manufacturing, are supervised in their entirety by the Board of Agriculture, a very influential body comprising the majority of all those interested in sugar. Its president is always one of the leaders of the community, and the Government is represented by the Director of

the Department of Agriculture, who also has a seat as one of the Government officials in the Legislative Council. His headquarters are at Reduit, where the Government laboratory is located, and in which general and special researches and investigations are conducted. Here many young Mauritians are trained for future employment on the estates, and examinations are held and certificates given qualifying them as practitioners in the various chemical industries of the island.

It will thus be seen how seriously the sugar industry of Mauritius is regarded by those most deeply interested in it, and under such auspices it is not surprising to find that a spirit of go-aheadativeness pervades the sugar factories. The managers and their staffs are always ready to discuss advances and general ameliorations, and though a spirit of insular prejudice and conservatism has undoubtedly to be encountered in many cases, there are few countries in which progressive proposals are more favourably entertained.

The above section of the total population are ably supported and augmented by the somewhat limited class of the well-educated coloured gentry, for the most part of an intellectual culture equal to that of the generality of the members of the white population, and they generally share the above positions and responsibilities with their fellow colonists, and fully contribute towards the successful prosecution of the sugar industry.

The assistant and more subordinate positions on a sugar estate are usually filled by members of the coloured middle-class, who frequently prove to be very valuable men; while the artisans, such as pan-boilers, factory headmen, mechanics, joiners, etc., are drawn chiefly from the better-class coloured working-classes, as well as from amongst the better-class Indians. The Malagassy, African, and Indian workmen supply the rest of the labour employed throughout the island. The Mauritius workmen are clever and skilful, and when well-handled by competent men they ensure results fully equal to those effected by their coloured confrères in the West Indies.

The sugar estates' general field and factory labour is drawn from a body of some 50,000 blacks and 200,000 Indians, who, since the stoppage of emigration from India, are, practically speaking, the sole source of supply for this important requirement, the great majority of these blacks and Indians having been born in Mauritius.

Almost the entire island was originally under forests, which from various causes have been gradually disappearing, until only about one-seventh of the island area can now be classed as forest land. This process of de-forestation has been permitted for commercial purposes, for the supply of extra fuel to the estates, and with a view to the systematic extension of cane cultivation, which dates from the days of the French occupation of one hundred years ago, though the Dutch were the earlier settlers who first introduced the sugar-cane into Mauritius; and at the present time about one-third of the island is under cane cultivation.

(To be continued)

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Annual General Meeting.

Presiding at the annual meeting of The West India Committee on May 26th, Mr. R. Rutherford referred to the gratifying increase in the Committee's membership, which now exceeded three thousand, or nearly ten times the total of twenty-three years ago, when the Committee was reorganised.

Coming to the question of cable and steamship communication, the Chairman said that the scheme advocated by the Committee for so many years, for laying new cables from Bermuda to Barbados, Trinidad and British Guiana, had now been definitely approved by the various Governments concerned. Owing, however, to the present cost of labour, materials and capital, the Secretary of State for the Colonies had decided to postpone any definite steps in the direction of laying new cables for six months, in the hope that by then it would be possible to effect a reduction in the subsidy which it would be necessary to offer to any company undertaking this service. As regards steamship facilities, they were considerably worse off than they had been a quarter of a century ago. Grateful though they were to the Dutch Line for maintaining fortnightly communication with Trinidad, and in compliance with the Committee's request, with Barbados also, it was deplorable that they should be dependent upon a foreign company for their services.

Continuing, he said that the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement having now come into force, the development of trade which should result from it would be viewed with the greatest satisfaction.

With regard to the West Indian Agricultural College, he thought that its inauguration was a notable development which should prove of immense value to the British West Indies, and he hoped that it might be possible to secure the co-operation even of those West Indian Colonies, such as Jamaica and British Honduras, which were necessarily rather remote from the headquarters of the Institution.

In conclusion, Mr. Rutherford moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and the re-election of the following eleven members of the Executive Committee, who were due to retire in rotation by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation:— Mr. E. R. Campbell, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Clifton, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. H. J. Freeman, Lieut.-Colonel G. A. O. Lane, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., Mr. R. M. Parker, Mr. A. W. Rogers, Mr. J. H. Scrutton, Mr. F. H. Watson and Mr. C. F. Wood; Mr. A. J. McConnell having expressed a desire not to seek re-election. These resolutions having been seconded by the Deputy Chairman (Mr. Cyril Gurney), and passed unanimously, a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman for the energy he had devoted to, and the trouble he had taken in, the work of the Committee, was proposed by Sir Edward Davson, seconded by Mr. G. Macgregor Frame, and unanimously carried. Mr. Rutherford replied briefly, and the proceedings terminated.

Mr. R. Rutherford presided, and the members present included Mr. Cyril Gurney (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Wesley Bailey, Mr. W. A. Boyd, Mr. H. M. Carey, Mr. C. Cary-Elwes, Lieut.-Col. J. H. Clifton, Sir Edward Davson, Mr. A. H. D'Costa, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. W. Fawcett, B.Sc., Representative of George Fletcher & Co., Ltd., Mr. G. Macgregor Frame, Mr. H. J. J. Freeman, Mr. C. H. B. Fryer, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. G. Russell Garnett, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Lionel Harvey, Mr. E. A.

W. Hughes, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., Mr. Norman Malcolmson, O.B.E., Mr. A. G. Marks, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mr. William Morrison, Captain Montgomery Parker, Mr. George Parrott, Mr. J. W. Pearl, Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P., Mr. Frederic I. Scard, F.I.C., Mr. A. P. Sherlock (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), Sir William Trollope, Bart., Mr. F. H. Watson, Mr. C. E. Woodhouse, Mr. Rowland Woodhouse, Mr. C. F. Worters, Mr. Algernon Aspinal, C.M.G. (Secretary), and Captain Gilfred N. Knight (Assistant Secretary).

EMPIRE PRESS AND THE CABLES.

Deputation to Mr. Winston Churchill.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, which was recently admitted to membership of the Empire Press Union, was represented on the occasion of the deputation which waited on Mr. Winston Churchill at the Colonial Office, on May 25th, to urge that greater facilities might be provided for the distribution of British news by telegraph within the Empire.

The deputation, which was introduced by Lord Burnham, President of the Union, included Lord Riddell, Mr. Robert Donald, Mr. Percy Hurd, M.P., Sir Stanley Reed (Indian Section), Mr. G. E. Fairfax (Australian Section), Mr. N. K. Kerney (South Africa), Sir Roderick Jones (Reuter's), Mr. Ray Knight (the *Statesman*, India), Mr. J. A. Sandbrook (the *Englishman*, India), Mr. T. T. Champion (the Canadian Associated Press), Mr. W. Le Groy (Canada), Mr. Taylor Darbyshire (Australian Press Association), and Mr. H. E. Turner, secretary.

The speakers warmly advocated the completion of the Imperial wireless chain, with the lowest rates consistent with efficiency, and the provision for research and adoption of improved apparatus. The establishment of deferred Press rates was urged, and attention was called to the urgent necessity for improvement in telegraphic communication with and between the West Indian Colonies. The pressing need for new cables from Bermuda to Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, as recommended in a declaration appended to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1920, was strongly emphasized, and it was pointed out by Mr. Hurd, M.P., that this would give the British West Indies direct communication with Canada, and ensure all messages passing through British territories instead of through Cuba and other foreign islands, as at present. Another desideratum in connection with the West Indian Colonies to which reference was made was the improvement of the cabled news service supply under the existing cable contract, too much of the news at present bearing the appearance of being derived from American newspapers instead of from British sources.

In the last instalment of Mr. Llewelyn Jones's article on the Mauritius Sugar Industry, the equivalent of "arpent" was given incorrectly. It should read 1.043 acres.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Banquet to the Prince of Wales.

No further applications for tickets for The West India Committee's Banquet to the Prince of Wales can be entertained after June 22nd next, when the list will be finally closed so that the seating arrangements can be made. Any members of the Committee from overseas who have not yet received particulars regarding the Banquet are requested to forward their address to the Secretary without delay.

Membership Exceeds 2,300.

At a meeting of the Executive on May 26th, twenty-two candidates whose names are given below, were admitted to membership of the West India Committee. This brings the number elected this year to 148, the total membership of the Committee being now 2,312.

Names	Proposers and Secondors
British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd. (London).	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. R. A. Northey (London).	Mr. N. Malcolmson, O.B.E.
Lever Bros., Ltd. (D.E.X. Export Dept.) (Liverpool).	Mr. W. A. Stephens.
Captain D. A. De Freitas (London).	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. Frank C. Hutson, G.I. Mech. E. (British Guiana).	Mr. A. E. Perkins, J.P.
Mr. Reuben R. Gomes (British Guiana).	Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques (London).	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. M. Panday (British Guiana).	The Hon. D. S. De Freitas.
Mr. Burleigh (Dominica).	Mr. W. H. Parrott.
Mr. R. B. Woodhouse (London).	M.I. Mech. E.
Lieut. C. S. B. Swinley, R.N. (Barbados).	Mr. J. Gardner McLean.
Mr. Percy A. Hurd, M.P. (London).	Mr. A. S. Rohman.
The Manager, the Royal Bank of Canada (Barbados).	Mr. H. B. Gajraj.
Mr. V. L. Levy (Jamaica).	D. Q. Henriques & Co.
Mr. Laurence A. Acheng (Trinidad).	Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. P. R. Stephenson (London).	Mr. H. B. Gajraj.
Mr. F. Carpenter (London).	Mr. A. S. Rohman.
Mr. W. P. Humphrey (British Guiana).	Mr. John T. Greg.
Mr. A. Moody Stuart, M.C., B.A. (Country).	Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Mr. E. A. W. Hughes (London).	Mr. Arthur H. Dix, O.B.E.
Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd. (London).	Mr. C. L. Dumas, M.C.
Mr. H. G. Seaford (London).	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Sir William Trollope, Bart.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Sir Edward Davson.
	Mr. G. M. Frame.
	Mr. E. A. de Pass.
	Mr. W. Morrison.
	Mr. O. L. Samuel.
	Mr. M. Hamel-Smith.
	Mr. A. H. Hamel-Smith.
	Dr. C. W. Duly.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Sir Edward Davson.
	Mr. M. Garnett.
	Sir Edward Davson.
	Mr. M. Garnett.
	Mr. G. Moody Stuart.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. R. Rutherford.
	Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
	Lieut. Col. H. A. Clifton.
	Capt. G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E.
	Mr. G. R. Garnett.
	Mr. C. Algernon Campbell.

INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

A New Continuous Still.

The probability of the extensive manufacture of alcohol for motor and other industrial purposes brings prominently forward the question of the kind of still best adapted to the purpose. It is essential that the spirit be distilled at a high strength, at least 95 per cent. by volume, of spirit, equivalent to 66 deg. over proof, and consequently a still of very high rectifying power is required.

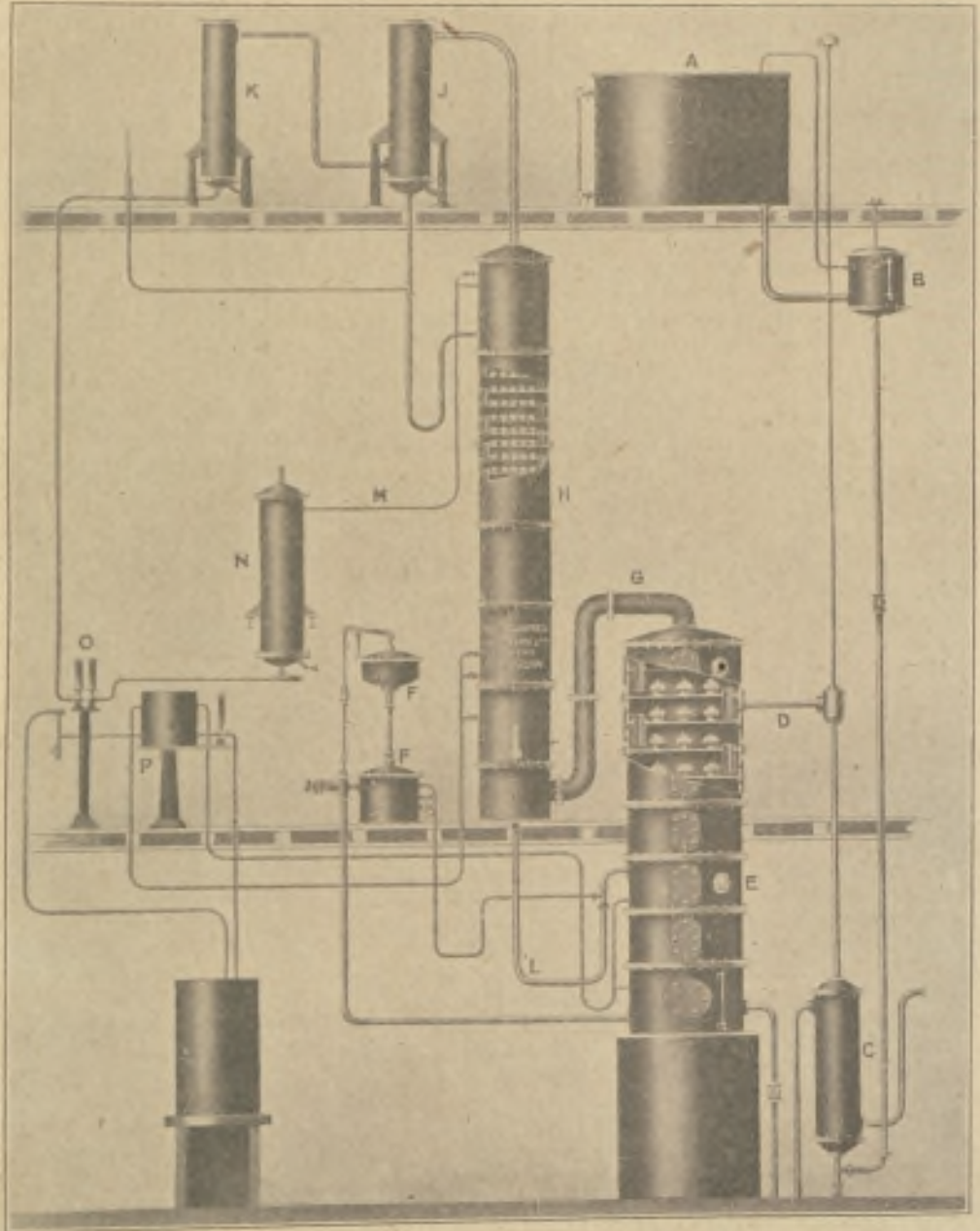
The accompanying illustration shows an improved type of Double Column Continuous Rectifying Still which is in considerable use, producing alcohol in sugar-growing countries from molasses. It yields a nearly pure neutral spirit of about 95 to 97 per cent. strength in one operation.

The apparatus is manufactured by Messrs. Blair, Campbell & McLean, Ltd., of Govan, Glasgow, and consists of a number of circular sections containing the concentrating plates. The ascending steam which enters at the lowest section of the boiling column passes through a number of circular holes in the plates, over which are mounted inverted cups or "bells," which are arranged so that the steam is distributed evenly in a fine spray through the liquid, which, entering at the top of the boiling column, descends and is collected on each concentrating tray. A tubular overflow is provided for the liquor in each section, the upper edge being arranged to ensure the correct mixing and flow of the steam and liquid. The overflow is carried down into the next section and sealed by the liquid to prevent any steam rising through the column without passing through the liquid.

The disposition of the concentrating plates and the design of the distributing bells have been arranged so that the maximum transmission of heat is obtained by the intimate contact of the steam

with the liquid, and the indirect heating through the plates, while a rapid circulation of the liquid through the apparatus is effected.

The ability to clean a still is a great desideratum. Special attention has been paid to this point, so that the distributing bells and overflow pipes can be quickly inspected and cleaned through hand-



A New Double Column Continuous Still

Used in the Manufacture of Commercial Alcohol from Sugar-Cane Products.

holes arranged on the side of the column.

In order to obtain the maximum heat economy a Preheater is supplied, arranged so that the incoming liquor is raised in temperature by means of the exhausted hot wash from the boiling column, which arrangement effects considerable economy in

the steam consumption. A Steam Regulator operating on a float principle is also supplied, and this, together with a liquor-controlling device, ensures a steady and constant supply of steam and liquor, thus rendering the plant practically automatic in operation and calling for a minimum of attention and labour.

In working the Still, the fermented wash is taken to supply tank "A," where it runs by gravity through the float regulating tank "B," which maintains, by means of a regulating device, a constant head and a regular flow of wash to the Still. It is then fed into the preheater "C," where it is heated by means of the exhausted hot waste liquor and is then carried on through pipe "D" into the top portion of the boiling column "E," where it flows down from plate to plate until it passes out as waste liquor at the foot of the column and into the preheater.

The steam is admitted into the boiling column "E" by means of the automatic steam regulator "F." The steam vapours rise through the descending wash and remove the alcohol in the form of vapour, which passes out at the top of the boiling column "E" through the vapour pipe "G" into the foot of the rectifying column "H." The alcohol-bearing vapour is further concentrated in the rectifying column "H" and is purified by having to pass through the returning pure alcohol, which is condensed in the overhead rectifier "J" and condenser "K." The impure alcohol which collects on the plates in the Rectifying column "H" is returned to the boiling column "E" through pipe "L" to be re-distilled. The purified alcohol at the required strength passes over from the top of the Rectifying column "H" through pipe "M" into the cooler "N," and is drawn off through observation glass "O" and run to receiver. The alcohol flow at this point is in view all the time and is tested at this point by hydrometers.

The lighter vapours containing a small percentage of alcohol are run off from condenser "K" through a Separating Tester, whence a portion is returned to the top of the rectifying column; the remainder being passed through an observation glass, tested, and run to a receiving tank.

The heavier fusel oils, which carry with them some spirit and water, are collected in the condensing tank "P" and are then run to a receiving vat, where they separate out, and are drawn off and returned to the Boiling Column with the wash.

DEATH.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines and 1/ for each additional line. Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed "Colonial Bank."

Perez.—On Thursday, June 2nd, 1921, at Bathurst, West Africa, of pneumonia, while on his way to England on leave, George Ralph Perez, Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture in Nigeria, second son of George Edmund Perez, M.D., late Principal Medical Officer at Antigua, B.W.I., and of Mrs. Perez, of 47, Queen's Road, Finsbury Park, N. (By cable.)

AMERICA'S WEST INDIAN TRADE

The British Colonies' Share.

An article in the *Board of Trade Journal* of May 19th is devoted to the trade of the United States with "Latin America." In it it is stated that, so far as the West India Islands are concerned, the largest increase in trade is with the British West Indies. In 1919 the value of the imports from those islands (including Bermuda) was \$17,459,039, and that of the exports to them, \$24,671,030. In 1920, the figures were, respectively, \$29,856,024 and \$50,580,360, showing an increase of \$12,396,983 in the imports, and of \$25,909,330 in the exports. The value of the imports into the United States from British Guiana, which was \$399,110 in 1919, rose to \$4,817,126 in 1920; while the exports to that country increased from \$5,124,213 to \$6,991,951. In 1919 the trade of the United States with British Honduras comprised \$2,279,479, imports, and \$2,918,392, exports; in 1920, the corresponding figures were \$3,683,056 and \$3,398,335.

The trade of the United States with the British West Indies, using that term in its widest sense, was, therefore, in 1919: imports, \$20,649,938; exports, \$33,480,301; in all, \$54,130,239. In 1920, the imports were \$37,898,512, and the exports \$60,970,649. The total trade rose, therefore, from \$54,130,239 in 1919, to \$98,869,191 in 1920.

The increase of trade of the following countries with the West Indies in 1920 on that of 1919 was—

	Imports	Exports	Total
Canada	28%	8%	18%
United Kingdom	33%	17%	58%
United States	83%	82%	82%

THE AUDUBON SUGAR SCHOOL.

Location to be changed.

The Louisiana Sugar Experiment Station is to be moved from Audubon Park to another site owing to the present land on which it stands being required by the Commission. The *Louisiana Planter* states that an arrangement has, however, been made whereby the station will continue on its present site for another year so as to enable the planters to make the necessary arrangements for its removal. The Louisiana Planters' Association, recognising the gravity of the situation, raised the necessary funds for the purchase of, and the removal of the station to, a site recently purchased near Harahan, and a deed of free gift to the State of Louisiana, or the Louisiana University has been made of it.

The Sugar Experiment Station at Audubon, says our contemporary, is essentially a creation of the sugar planters of Louisiana. In 1885, they raised among themselves \$60,000 to establish the station, and employed Dr. W. C. Stubbs as director. The station was first conducted on the old Holloway tract near Kenner, but was transferred to Audubon Park in 1889, when the planters made a further contribution of \$30,000 to erect the present buildings and equipment.

SUGAR IN AUSTRALIA.

Statistics for Nineteen Years.

The thirteenth annual report of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association gives the following details as to sugar in Australia for the years 1901-1920.

	Production Tons.	Imports Tons.	Exports. Tons.
1901		98,519	4,738
1902	98,795	93,444	3,336
1903	111,659	91,615	2,365
1904	164,670	38,086	2,944
1905	172,242	24,965	11,158
1906	205,576	42,025	9,253
1907	214,244	6,201	18,260
1908	165,715	19,598	14,741
1909	146,470	99,774	8,051
1910	229,584	34,060	6,583
1912	129,882	98,541	2,256
1913	266,267	74,001	3,419
1914	246,408	17,125	13,091
1915	159,681	22,510	7,181
1916	192,831	125,047	1,071
1917	324,260	63,936	1,347
1918	209,853	6,436	2,239
1919	162,298	103,337	2,314
1920	164,220	99,067	2,546

The 1920 production figures are only estimated and do not include the figures for New South Wales, nor for the Victorian beet, which were not available.

In his address at the meeting to which the report was presented, the president, Mr. Senator Crawford, spoke strongly on the question of infantile mortality in regard to the sugar industry, which in children under twelve months of age was as high as 75.10 per 1,000 in Brisbane and 81.82 per 1,000 in Hobart. "It was," he said, "generally admitted that if we do not settle the tropical areas (of Australia) we shall find it very difficult to maintain our claim to that portion of Australia."

OBITUARY.

HON. EDWIN GEORGE BENNETT, K.C.

It is with deep regret that we have learned that Mr. Edwin George Bennett, K.C., died at Bexhill on March 25th last.

Mr. Bennett was born at Castries, St. Lucia, in 1851, his father being Dr. Charles Bennett, whilst his mother came of an old French St. Lucian family. After completing his education at the Mico School in Castries, and in England, he joined the Government Service during the administration of Sir G. W. DesVoeux, but after a few years he left to read for the Bar, to which he was called in Castries on January 17th, 1877. He soon enjoyed a considerable practice, and, acquiring several estates, became one of the principal planters in the island. He was twice married, first to Miss Elizabeth Saunders, and secondly, in 1864, to Miss Fanny Dix. In 1898, with Mr. Charles Chastanet and Mr. Trophime Du Boulay, he acquired the Cul de Sac Factory, becoming Managing Director of the Company, a position which he retained until about a year before his death, when the factory was sold. In 1899 he became Attorney-General and an ex-officio member of the Executive and Legislative Councils. His death is properly regarded as a great loss to the Colony.

THE N.Z.S. CO. AND ST. LUCIA.

A Possible Call at Port Castries.

There is a possibility that the mail and passenger steamers of the New Zealand Shipping Company may call at St. Lucia on their voyage from Southampton and Panama. The matter is under consideration, but an enquiry at the company's office has elicited the reply that no decision has been arrived at as yet. Much depends upon adequate bunker supplies being available for the voyage of 3,600 miles. Meanwhile, owing to the difficulty of securing sufficient coal to enable her to steam across the Atlantic, the company's *Paparoa*, which sailed on May 26th from Southampton, proceeded to Panama by way of the Azores, thus adding some 500 miles to the normal voyage.

JAMAICA'S SCHOOL BOOKS.

Some Hints to the Local Teachers.

Readers will be gratified to learn that energetic steps are being taken to prevent the use in future in British Colonies of school books bearing the patriotic emblems of foreign countries. It will be recalled that attention was directed to the issue of American exercise books in Jamaica schools by THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, which, in its issue of February 3rd, published an illustration depicting the cover of one of these books embellished with the Stars and Stripes, described thereon as "Freedom's Emblem." In this connection it will be of interest to give the following extract from a circular issued by the Jamaica Director of Education to Managers and Teachers of Public Elementary Schools in the island, in which, after stating that books used in the Colony's schools were found to be freely embellished with the flags of countries other than our own, he continues:

"This may be unavoidable, but it is to be deprecated, and in their addresses teachers and others should lay stress on the fact that while, owing to geographical conditions, the influence of a great and friendly power is spreading through the land, and often is much in evidence, it does not alter the fact that Jamaica is an old and loyal, if small, part of the Empire. The Premier's recent and to-be-historic words, 'The British Empire is not for sale,' might be enlarged on."

His Excellency Sir Leslie Probyn, in a memorandum dealing with this subject, says that on enquiry it was found that the foreign books had been imported by local dealers when great difficulty was experienced in obtaining English books in the island, even at prohibitive prices, but this was not likely to recur, especially now that it was known that their sale had been restricted. The Governor adds that a map of England and Wales, with the outline of Jamaica superimposed, is being supplied, for educational purposes, to each Public Elementary School, Training College, and Secondary School throughout the island.

BRITISH GROWN COTTON.

The B.C.G.A.'s Annual Report.

The Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, in their sixteenth annual report, which covers the year 1920, record a surplus on the year's working of £56,468 18s. 4d., after making full provision for depreciation, taxation, etc. As a result, the deficit on income and expenditure account has been turned into a surplus of £9,811 3s. 4d. They properly regard this as especially satisfactory having regard to the fact that though very large sums of money have been expended over many years in pioneer and propaganda work, the Capital of the Association remains intact.

The estimated amount of cotton grown in new fields in the British Empire during the last six years, stated in hales of 400 lbs., has been as follows :—

1915	75,200	bales.
1916	78,800	"
1917	72,600	"
1918	54,900	"
1919	79,600	"
1920	105,800	"

It will, therefore, be noticed that the production of cotton grown under the auspices of this Association has surpassed 100,000 bales.

Dealing specifically with the West Indies, the Council state : " The arrangements by which His Majesty's Government took over all the Sea Island cotton produced in the West Indian Islands lapsed with the completion of the 1918-19 crop, and the 1919-20 crop was sold in the open market. During the greater part of the year very high prices were realised for West Indian cotton, as much as 10/- per lb. being paid for a few lots of Extra Superfine St. Vincent cotton. With the rapid change which was experienced in the cotton trade, from a state of great prosperity to deep depression, the demand for Sea Island cotton fell off completely, and failing improvement in trade, the outlook for planters in the West Indies is by no means reassuring. Goods made from Sea Island cotton are largely used for luxury purposes, and will probably be the last to feel any advance, in view of the general poverty of the nations.

" The Pink Boll Worm has, unfortunately, made its appearance in the islands of Montserrat and St. Kitts, and although every precaution has promptly been taken by the Imperial Department of Agriculture to stamp out the pest in these islands, and especially to prevent its spread to the other islands, it is to be feared that the outbreak will result for a time in some curtailment in the area under cotton cultivation.

" It has been decided to establish a Tropical Agricultural College in the Island of Trinidad, the Government of the Colony having arranged to raise funds for the erection of the building, while other West Indian Islands have promised to make contributions towards the upkeep. The Association have also promised to contribute, as the work to

be carried on by this Tropical Agricultural College will be of considerable value in connection with cotton cultivation in all tropical countries. Arrangements are being made for the transfer of the headquarters of the Imperial Department of Agriculture from Barbados to Trinidad as the first step towards the establishment of this College."

The Empire Cotton Growing Committee, with which the Association works in close co-operation, have appointed Mr. D. P. Montague, B.Sc., as Acting Assistant for Cotton Research in the West Indies, in place of Dr. Harland, who resigned to take up a position under the Cotton Research Association.

It is clear from the report that the need for stimulating the production of cotton within the Empire is as great, if not greater, than ever, for it is shown that the United States' consumption of cotton is now 50 per cent. of their total production, as against 33.5 per cent. 20 years ago.

TO COMBAT PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

Vigilance Committees to be Formed.

A new society has been started in Jamaica, called "Society of Protection against Praedial Larceny." The President of the Society is Mr. J. Roy Johnson, of the Atlantic Fruit Co., Annotto Bay, and the Vice-President is Mr. E. B. Hopkins, Half-way Tree P.O., while the Secretary is the Rev. F. Wilson Coore, Clonmel P.O.

The aims and objects are as follows :—

" To check and suppress the evil of praedial larceny, and to this end to create generally a higher standard of morality among the people, and to apply means for their social, industrial, and domestic advancement.

Commenting on this new movement, the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society writes : " Any agency that can help in suppressing this evil will be useful, and if the people of any community will only take earnestly to the formation of Vigilance Committees that will really act, a great deal more could be done; but the general feeling is that the first move lies with the Government to enforce the Vagrancy Laws and therefore see that every member of the community has some visible means of living, because it is well known that large numbers exist without working. These are to be found at almost every corner in the day time, lounging about, chattering, gambling, and generally making themselves a nuisance to decent people around. These are the chief robbers of crops; they are on the prowl every night, and it is difficult to get evidence against them of their depredations—they are experienced at the job; but if they were rounded up so that they would either have to go to work or be relegated to a Land Settlement, the diminution of Praedial Larceny would probably be around 75 per cent. immediately."

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Debate in Parliament at Ottawa.

Through the courtesy of the Department of Trade and Commerce the CIRCULAR has now received a copy of the Canadian Hansard giving a verbatim report of the debate at Ottawa on the second reading of the Bill (No. 59) to give effect to the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. The salient points in the discussion have already been summarised in the CIRCULAR of May 12th. Some further extracts from the speeches are now given.

Sir George Foster, in moving the second reading of the Bill, referred to the history of closer trade, a movement which he said began shortly after confederation, and gave a summary of proceedings of last year's Conference and of the terms of the trade agreements of 1912 and 1920.

Mr. Lemieux then read a letter which he had received from Mr. J. M. Fortier, a tobacco grower and manufacturer, complaining of the omission of tobacco and Canadian spirits (in the case of the Bahamas) from the articles to receive preferential treatment. Both were products of Canada and could be sold in the West Indies and Canadians would be glad to receive Jamaica tobacco, which was of good quality and could be substituted for Havana. The writer added:—"I worked this tobacco many years during the Spanish-American War when we could not get any Havana tobacco, and a preference should be given in exchange of at least 20 to 40 per cent. on the regular tariff, as the Government may choose."

A gentleman from Toronto, very much interested in the fuller development of commercial and political relations between Canada and the West Indies, had also written urging him and his friends in the House to advocate the union of the West Indies with Canada. Of course this was a big question, and he simply wished to ask if it was mooted at the Conference and if his right hon. friend was aware that resolutions in favour of such union had already been passed by some of the legislative bodies in the West Indies. He did not express any view on the subject. He felt they had enough problems and enough questions to deal with without entangling themselves with other annexations. But the question was interesting from more than one point of view. Besides this gentleman from Toronto, they had in Montreal a gentleman who was at the head of one of the strongest financial institutions in the land—the president of the Sun Life Insurance Company, Mr. Macaulay—who had been advocating for years the union of the West Indies with Canada.

Mr. Fielding: Commercially only.

Mr. Lemieux proceeded that he thought that of late he had taken a strong stand in favour of political union. But be that as it may, Mr. Harry Crowe, of Toronto, was deeply interested in the project; he was in favour of that union, as were many others. Had the Government any policy in the matter?

Sir George Foster: "I do not want to abridge any of my hon. friend's rights, but I suggest that he consider whether we should discuss the question of political union between the West Indies and Canada on this trade agreement. For my own part I would rather that we put our minds to this agreement, discuss its merits and come to conclusions upon it rather than bring in any other question. The question of this trade agreement is not a dangerous one in any respect; there is complete unanimity with regard to it. There might not be the same unanimity with reference to political union and a discussion of the matter at this

stage might not be opportune. The conference was called to consider trade relations and nothing else. As regards my hon. friend's question why tobaccos were not included, he knows that these are generally left out of any arrangement respecting trade relations between countries because they are subjects of internal revenue as well as of customs taxation. It was not considered expedient to depart from that general rule which has been followed in such negotiations, so far as Canada is concerned, since I became connected with public affairs."

Replying to Mr. Maclean (Halifax), Sir George Foster said: "My hon. friend is aware that the British Government gave a preference upon the sugars of the British Colonies about a year and a half ago and in taking up the sugar schedule we had to bear that preference in mind. That consideration had its share in our determination of the preference we should give to West Indian sugars. Obviously a preference would be of little use to the British West Indies unless it came close to or a little bit in advance of the preference which was offered by the Old Country, and, as a matter of fact, as regards the first item of sugar, the extended list of preference for each degree of polarisation is a little shade higher than the preference which has been given by Great Britain for the same degree of polarisation on the importation of West India sugars into the Old Country."

The Preference on Yellow Crystals.

"Then there arose the question as to a grade of sugars which are made in some of the West India islands, which are partly refined and which are known as 'yellow crystals.' Those are above No. 16 Dutch standard in colour—and the Dutch standard is used in our tariff as a dividing line between refinery sugars, so to speak, and sugars of a higher grade, or refined sugars. Trinidad, for instance, in her products, makes about half and half of yellow crystals which come above No. 16 Dutch standard, and gray crystals which come up to or are below No. 16 Dutch standard. The other Colonies make chiefly the gray crystals which do not come above No. 16 Dutch standard. Only about 10 per cent. of the product of Demerara is yellow crystals, and in Antigua and St. Kitts mainly, the whole product is gray crystals rather than yellow. Thus Trinidad, which is a large producer of sugar, in order to get the most benefit for her trade, pressed very strongly for a preference rate on yellow crystals, which would allow those to come into Canada and compete in the general market for table use.

"On yellow crystals which are imported for general consumption and not as refining sugars, the preference is to be not less than 25 per cent., and after going over the matter carefully, we felt that 25 per cent. would be a fair preference to give them and that under that preference they could possibly make some way in our market."

Mr. Fielding said that he thought the general purpose of the agreement which the right hon. gentleman was presenting would commend itself to the House and the country. There had for many years been a large and important trade between Canada, chiefly the Maritime provinces, and the West Indies, and those who came from the eastern provinces were aware how large a part the West India trade had played in the upbuilding of some of their ports, notably Halifax, where great fortunes had been made.

"As regards the steamship service between Canada and the West Indies, we should get the West Indies to take part in the steamship subsidies. To say that these islands are poor, is hardly correct; but from a revenue point of view they are all more or less poor,

and any proposition made to them which means a reduction of their revenue becomes a very grave and serious matter, so that I have no doubt it was necessary in this instance to deal gently and moderately with them, in a mildly persuasive manner. Let us hope now that they have come to us, that in later years there will be larger developments. In conclusion he asked whether there was any reduction in the duties on sugar."

Sir George Foster said that there would be a reduction in the duty on raw sugar.

Asked whether there was any corresponding reduction in the duty on refined sugar, Sir George Foster said: "That is a matter which must be taken care of in the general tariff. This is an agreement which goes into effect when it shall be proclaimed. It makes certain arrangements with reference to sugar, for example between the West Indies and Canada. Then in the general tariff the adaptations that are necessary to prevent too large a protection or otherwise will have to be made."

When the Sugar Duties fall.

Mr. Fielding: "The arrangement for a specific reduction in the duty per hundred pounds of sugar may have been necessary, I presume it was, for the purpose, but my hon. friend will see the effect of this. If we wanted to take our duty off sugar altogether, we would not be free to do so under this agreement. Suppose we want to reduce the duty on sugar. A reduction which amounts in some cases to say 50 or 60 cents per hundred pounds would be a very large reduction if the duty were only a little more than that. Where you get away from percentages in these matters you are apt to land in trouble. I suppose there is no likelihood of hon. gentlemen opposite bringing about reduction in the duty, though some of us on this side might hope for that, but when you make a specific duty of so much per hundred pounds, you are more or less crippling yourself if you want to make a reduction. Your reduction in the fixed duty may be out of all proportion to the general duty. However, that has to be dealt with when the tariff discussion comes on. At present I would simply draw my right hon. friend's attention to the fact that under this agreement he is giving the refiner cheaper raw material but he is not giving the consumer any cheaper sugar."

Sir George Foster: That has to be taken care of afterwards.

Mr. Rowell said he believed that this agreement was in the interests of both the parties to it, and he shared entirely in the belief expressed that it would result in increased trade between Canada and the West India Islands. The provision of the steamship service should tend not only to the increase of trade, but to the increase of communication between these islands and Canada, and with the better understanding and the larger knowledge that comes.

Sir George Foster: "The steamship service, passenger, mail and freight combined, is to my mind absolutely essential to the proper development of trade between ourselves and the British West Indies. The element of personal communication is almost as important as the exchange of commodities. We have had a fortnightly service between the ports of Canada and those of the West India Islands on this steamship route. It is the best service that we have ever had, in point of vessels, in point of their speed, and more particularly in point of the regularity with which they have made their trips, which is a factor that we cannot make too much of in our communications with the

islands. The company at present carrying on the service has made its trips almost with the regularity of a railway service. People have known exactly when the vessel would sail, and exactly when she would arrive at each port on her route, and that has been a very strong element in the satisfaction that has been manifested over this service. The vessels, while of a superior type, are not the finest in the world, nor are they the speediest, but they are an improvement on anything we have had before. The result has been shown in an increased passenger traffic. Within the last year or two, and perhaps longer, it has been impossible to get passages on board these vessels unless reservations were made a long time ahead. I have had numerous letters from people in the different ports in the islands, Bermuda and others, saying how impossible it was for them to get away, and asking the reason why we did not have a better steamship service, better vessels, and more accommodation. We have now a fortnightly service with that class of vessel, with the accommodation limited to about 30 first-class passengers. It is proposed to give weekly sailings now, with vessels having fully twice the accommodation. They will carry 100 first-class passengers, 50 second-class passengers, and 100 deck passengers. This deck accommodation is necessary for carrying people from island to island. They can be carried very well on deck in these short passages from one port to another, and a large number of people are accommodated in that way. The accommodation, then, will be twice as great, with larger vessels, and fully twice the present accommodation, and the service will be weekly instead of fortnightly.

"As to the speed of the vessels, a great many people used to have the idea that vessels were of no service unless they had a speed of at least 16 knots. I used to have that idea myself, but I have since come to a different conclusion. I think that what we want is a good, square, honest passenger service, not too luxurious, but comfortable, and if possible sufficiently large for the demand. Combined with that they should have a good freight accommodation, and a line of speed running up to about 12 knots per hour. The saving is immense between 15 or 16 knots and 12 knots, and really what I do want is accommodation for what you might call first-class freights, and good reasonable accommodation for passengers.

"The steamship service of which I have been speaking is that of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. There are vessels in the Canadian Mercantile Marine plying between ports here and West Indian ports, but they have no passenger accommodation; they are for freights only."

Mr. Maclean said that the list of Canadian exports which might receive special treatment in the British West Indies, comprised only three articles, including spirituous liquors, such as brandy, gin, rum, whisky, wine and beer. He was never aware that Canada produced any large quantities of these liquors, and it was a surprise that these articles should appear in this list for preferential treatment. Would the export of gin, brandy, etc., to the West Indies help Canada's trade very much?

Mr. Clark (Red Deer) said that here they had ex-Cabinet ministers and Cabinet ministers taking part in a great meeting in Toronto to cut the people of Ontario down to buttermilk, and the very next day, almost, they were considering means, which must be almost diabolical to these gentlemen, to increase the export of rum, and whisky, and gin, and all these frightful fluids to the poor people of the West Indies.

Mr. Power: Shame!

Sir George Foster: So far as I am concerned, I shall have to let my years and my character do battle for my consistency. I do not think I can waste any time in attempting to prove myself consistent if my hon. friend thinks I am not. I fear I shall not make an impression on him; but I wondered, when he was speaking, whether, if he were a resident of the Bahamas, and not of Red Deer, Canada, he would have any objection to these articles going to the Bahamas if he wished to import them for his own use.

Mr. Clark: I should then speak as a West Indian.

Sir George Foster: Geography would, no doubt, change the tone of his argument. I thought that my hon. friend from Halifax rather found fault with the paucity of the list, in that it contained only these three articles, and wanted to know why it was not larger. Of course, he knows that if an article is not in that special list, it comes under the general preference arranged for.

"I do not know what quantities we shall export, but I do know that the people of the West Indies import these articles, and as they were anxious to get shall I say—a better brand from Canada—if there is anything good about the old thing at all it was thought advisable to include these products in the list. The West Indies import quite a considerable quantity of them. For my part, I would rather see the thing out of the country than in it.

Mr. Clark: Can the minister give a guarantee that this stuff which will be taken in the ships he is going to subsidise will be carefully guarded against any marauders from Canada who happen to travel on those ships?

Sir George Foster: We shall take the precaution of sending it by ships of the Mercantile Marine on which no Canadian passengers shall be found.

(To be concluded.)

SIR JOHN B. HARRISON, C.M.G.

A well deserved Knighthood.

It was announced on June 3rd that the King had approved of the honour of knighthood being conferred upon Mr. John Burchmore Harrison, C.M.G., Director of the Department of Science and Agriculture of British Guiana, and Government Analyst to that Colony. In congratulating Sir John Harrison on the well deserved honour now conferred upon him, the CIRCULAR will, it is certain, receive the support of its many readers in every part of the world, and especially those connected with tropical agriculture, who must be alive to the great value of the services rendered in this respect during a career extending over 42 years. In a sense, Sir John has been rather buried in British Guiana, for he has been so long in that Colony, namely from 1889 to the present day, that his work with Mr. J. R. Bovell in connection with the seedling-cane experiments and his geological research might be overlooked but for its excellence and value. For the latter he was awarded the balance of the Wollaston Donation Fund in 1899 by the Geological Society of London, while he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George as far back as 1901 in recognition of his scientific services in connection with West Indian Colonies. Sir John Harrison is the author of many scientific works and treatises, the practical value of which has been recognised by scientists throughout the world.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.
(Continued from page 219.)

Grenada's Picturesque Carenage.

The harbour of St. George's—and one must never say "St. George," for the apostrophe s has become an integral part of the name—is one of the most perfectly sheltered havens in the West Indies. It occupies what would appear to be an old volcanic crater, one side of which has been broken down in the course of ages, forming the narrow, bottle-necked entrance. This entrance is so well concealed by Nature that until you are quite close, it is almost impossible to detect it. It is protected by a rocky promontory, at the extremity of which is perched the inevitable fort, whose weather-beaten stones are almost black with age. Over this promontory straggles the picturesque little town of St. George's with a very English looking church tower, and its white and red roofed houses peeping from the midst of palm trees, to the green of which they form a pleasant contrast.

The old fort was originally built as far back as 1705-6, from the designs and under the direction of M. de Caillus, "Engineer-General of the Islands and Terra Firma of America." Originally constructed for offensive purposes, it survives to save life, having been used since the withdrawal of the Imperial Garrison as the Colonial Hospital.

The first glimpse one gets of St. George's is this venerable fort and a rambling group of white houses on the seaward side of the promontory. These constitute the "Bay town," as distinct from "Carenage town," on the harbour side, two parts of the capital now connected by a tunnel pierced in 1895 at the instance of Sir Walter Sendall, the then Governor of the Windward Islands.

Rounding the promontory, you then enter the harbour, or Carenage. The harbour is not large. It is not one of those whose proud and doubtful-boast it is that they could accommodate all the navies of the world; but it certainly makes up in beauty what it lacks in size, and the view of it from the heights beyond is unsurpassed in the West Indies. It has, indeed, become as popular among photographers as that of Naples from the Vomero, a tall cabbage palm taking the place of the familiar and more austere stone pine of Italy in the foreground.

Overlooking the harbour, on a plateau some four hundred feet above the sea level, are the old Hospital Hill Forts. One regarded them with veneration, for it was here that Sir George, afterwards Lord Macartney, with 540 men, made a brilliant stand against the Count D'Estaing, who attacked him with a force of 3,000 in July, 1779. Three hundred Frenchmen were killed or wounded before the English were compelled to withdraw to Fort St. George, where they were bombarded by the guns from Hospital Hill, which they had, unfortunately, omitted to spike, and were compelled to surrender. Higher up still is another range of forts, those of Richmond Hill, which are now devoted to the use of various Government

Institutions, such as the Lunatic Asylum and Poor House.

Here in the harbour of St. George's, in the days before steam, the old sailing ships were careened and refitted after their long voyage from Europe. During the dread hurricane months, when many vessels resorted to the harbour for protection, the scene which it presented must have been most animated.

Across the harbour is an arm of the sea called the Lagoon, which, as will be seen from the plan reproduced on this page from Père Labat's work,* was once a lake that periodically emptied itself into the sea. It was here that the original town of Fort Louis was established by the settlers sent from Martinique by Sieur du Parquet, who in 1650 pur-



An Old Plan of the Carenage.

Reproduced from Père Labat's "Nouveau Voyage aux Isles de l'Amérique," published in 1722.

chased the island from the Caribs, in whose undisputed possession it had hitherto remained. Before half a century had elapsed the town was transferred to the neighbourhood of the fort for the better protection of its inhabitants, and thus formed the beginning of the prosperous St. George's of the present day.

We were reminded that in this now peaceful harbour a somewhat alarming occurrence took place in 1867, which furnished evidence of the volcanic origin of Grenada. On November 18th in that year, between 5 and 5.20 p.m., the water suddenly subsided, the sea falling about five feet and exposing a reef in front of the Lagoon. Within a few seconds the water over a spot called the "Green Hole" began to bubble and to emit a sulphurous vapour. This part of the harbour, in the days of the old French settlement, was regarded as a good anchorage; but after this disturbance there re-

mained barely three feet of water over it, thus pointing to an upheaval of land in the vicinity. Immediately after this manifestation at the "Green Hole," the sea rose rapidly to about four feet above the normal high-water mark and rushed violently up to the head of the Carenage. This phenomenon was repeated about three or four times, and the harbour then, to use the familiar phrase, "resumed normal conditions." Fortunately there has been no recurrence of this alarming episode, which was accompanied by a slight shock of earthquake, and synchronised with a similar convulsion and a tidal wave of fifty feet in height in St. Thomas, and a slight volcanic outbreak in the island of Little Saba.

On the occasion of our visit the Carenage was on its best behaviour, and it was difficult to believe that it could ever have been otherwise, or to conjure up in one's mind the scene which it must have presented when these islands were being formed by violent upheavals from the sea, and by the agency of volcanic eruptions and seismic disturbances which must have been far more terrible than any experienced in modern times. Now not a ripple disturbed the surface of the deep blue water except where a number of row-boats were putting off to take ashore those passengers destined for Grenada, or who were inclined to climb the steep street of St. George's.

The first business of the afternoon was the reception of His Excellency the Governor, who was accorded a royal welcome after his brief absence from the island, a remarkably well turned out Guard of Honour of the local Defence Force being paraded in spotless white uniforms. The buildings on the wharf were decked with bunting, and an excellent band added to the gaiety of the occasion. We then strolled through the town, noting how very little it had changed since an earlier visit many years before, and learning with regret that proposals to erect a modern hotel for tourists had not materialised, the old "Home" looking just as uninviting under a new name as it did before, though one knew that one could count upon receiving cordial hospitality within its walls. Then we found ourselves outside the offices of the *West Indian*, and poked our noses inside to ascertain the views of its Editor, Mr. T. Albert Marryshow, regarding the political situation, of which one had heard a good deal in transit.

*"Nouveau Voyage aux Isles de l'Amérique," by Père Labat, Vol. IV, page 120.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK. By "Agronomist."

The effect of an excess of nitrogen on the manuring of the tobacco plant is to produce a stronger, heavier, and darker tobacco. Although the plant requires potash, it should not be given in the form of the chloride, as the burning qualities of the tobacco are prejudicially affected by chlorides. Phosphoric acid gives an early maturity, and a highly coloured leaf.

The *Australian Sugar Journal* states that endeavours are being made to establish a sugar industry in New Zealand. Soil and climate are suitable, but the fact that New Zealanders are one-crop agriculturists is against its success. Official encouragement is being given to the new industry, and it is worthy of note that the official calculation of the profits are based on an assumption that the sugar produced will realise £40 a ton.

Dairy farmers throughout the world will be interested in the astonishing feat of Segis Pieterje Prospect, the aristocratic super-cow of the famous herd of Holsteins maintained at the Carnation Stock Farms in the State of Washington. This patrician animal, says *The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, has just beaten the world's record in the production of milk and butter, having given in 365 consecutive days, 17,520 quarts of milk, containing 1,448 lbs. of butter. The daily average was 48 quarts.

One of the richest flavoured and most nourishing varieties of cacao is met with in the State of Tabasco, in Mexico, which produced 3,300,000 lbs. in 1920. Besides being of superior quality, Mexican cacao is far less bitter than other varieties, and, as the United States' Consul at Frontera observes, consequently requires less sugar in the manufacture of chocolates and chocolate sweetmeats. It is also extremely rich in fats and oils. Only manual labour is employed in the cleaning and curing processes.

The manufacture of alcohol from the sap of the nipa palm is a well-established industry in the Philippines. The natives have for many years manufactured a spirit containing about 25 per cent. of alcohol, which is used as a beverage, and of late their crude stills have been replaced, to a large extent, by distilleries on modern lines, which, according to the United States Consul-General at Singapore, produce about 2,500,000 galls. of strong spirit. Of this 98 per cent. is diluted for potable purposes, and the balance utilised as fuel for lamps, stoves, and motors. It is stated that the cost of production does not exceed 20 cents a gallon.

Carnauba wax, which is obtained from the Carnauba palm, was used until quite recently for candle-making, and also as a basis for the manufacture of such articles as boot polishes. But there is now a great demand for it for the purpose of making phonograph and gramophone records.

According to the *Farmers' Journal*, about 2,000 tons of the wax are exported from Brazil annually, of a value of between £100 and £200 per ton. The Carnauba palm exists in the West Indies, and its cultivation is worth consideration as a minor industry. The wax which is obtainable from the sugar-cane greatly resembles Carnauba wax, and could probably be substituted for it in the manufacture of records.

It is no uncommon thing for writers of travels in tropical or semi-tropical countries to speak of "wild" sugar-canes. But has a really genuine wild cane, that is to say, a cane possessing all the characteristic features of the sugar-cane as we know it, ever been found? It is probable that what has been come across has been a grass containing a sweet juice, such as sorghum, and that such a plant was the "sugar reed" spoken of by Herodotus. It may, it is believed, be stated that an indigenous true sugar-cane has never been discovered, and this suggests that the sugar-cane is not a natural produce, but the result of the cultivation of some other form of sugar yielding grass, such as the *Saccharum spontaneum* of the Philippines.

Speaking of the tobacco plant, Mr. Scherffius, in the *Journal of the Department of Agriculture of South Africa*, says that during the growth, curing, and fermentation of a crop of tobacco there are complex chemical changes constantly going on; starches are converted into sugars, alkaloidal poisons are built up and broken down, nitrogen being used up in this process, and again liberated in the fermentation process. This continuous chemical change is illustrated by the varying amounts of nicotine found in tobacco at different stages. As the plant develops there is a gradual increase in the nicotine; seedlings at transplanting time will contain, approximately, 0.25 per cent.; at full maturity 4 per cent. If the plant is allowed to become over-ripe, it will show a slight falling in the nicotine content, a change which also occurs during fermentation, ammonia being one of the bodies generated in the fermenting room.

R. S. Woglum has recently been experimenting as to the causes which do injury to citrus plants as the result of fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas, and his results show that the chief pre-fumigation factor which causes injury is sunshine, the influence being greater at high temperatures than at low. Sunshine is also the most important of the post-fumigation factors, and is most destructive to plants immediately after fumigation; and also affects them prejudicially for two hours after treatment. The fumigation of citrus plants, says Mr. Woglum, is most safely performed at temperatures below 80 degrees F., and diffused light exerts no special deleterious effect. Moisture on citrus plants does not increase the degree of injury. The physical and chemical conditions of the soil are also factors in the subject, plants on a wet soil being more seriously injured than those on a dry soil. Irrigation should follow fumigation, and not precede it.

WEST INDIA 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 Police.

A most important step was taken by the representative branch of the Legislature on May 12th, when, by a unanimous vote, it passed the third reading of the Air Service Bill. The Bill provides for a subsidy for a regular mail service to Florida and between the out islands.

The Bahamas Air Service will be operated by a British Company formed by British Officers; ex-service men will be employed, and only British-built machines will be used.

In obedience to the wishes of the House of Assembly, the Speaker said that he had attended the Police Enquiry being held in connection with certain recent arrests, and had been given the right of audience. Mr. Gamblin, with the unanimous consent of the House, obtained leave to move a resolution authorising the Speaker to employ professional assistance during the Enquiry, which was agreed to.

The completed Census returns for New Providence show a population of 12,974. This is a decrease on the 1911 returns of 580.

The death of Captain Noel Minns, D.S.O., M.C., who was killed in a motor accident in England, was learned with much regret. He rendered distinguished service during the war.

Good Showers in Barbados.

The *Barbados Advocate* of May 10th reports that the terrible drought continued. The springs at Bowmanston were now so low that the pumps had hardly any water to draw on. The locking off of the supply to plantations and factories had been seriously considered, but as this would very disastrously affect the factories, and the reaping was rapidly drawing to a close, it had been decided to continue the supply a little longer. [A cablegram dated May 31st reports that good showers have fallen, but more rain is wanted.]

The House of Assembly has voted £8,500 for the maintenance of the Railway, including £500 for a manager.

Mrs. David Stonewall Payne, of Accra, West Africa, has purchased Canewood Plantation (comprising 115 acres) from Mr. R. A. Dear. The purchase price was £9,000, and includes the present crop. All of the Harts properties situate at Hastings, the City and elsewhere, which formed the subject of a recent suit in the Court of Chancery, have been sold *en bloc* to a syndicate consisting of Messrs. T. E. King, H. L. King, A. Edwards, and W. S. Patterson, for the sum of £22,000.

The obituary includes Mr. Ashley Bovell, of Messrs. Bovell & Skeete, and auditor of the Vestry of St. Michael, and Mr. Gordon Stroude, Barbados Scholar, 1917, student at St. John's, Cambridge.

Bermuda Bans Motor Cars.

By a majority of 4 (17 to 13) votes the House of Assembly on May 9th again refused to entertain a proposal to sanction the use of motor-cars in the Ber-

mudas. The question was revived by the suggested substitution of motor- for horse-buses.

British Guiana's Rice Industry.

It has been suggested that the continued control of rice is attributable to an unholy alliance between the Government and the sugar planters, who, it is alleged, are anxious to encompass the ruin of the rice industry so that they may get more labour. When it is known that the principal sugar estates proprietors have themselves been urging The West India Committee to press for decontrol, which it has now done, it should dispose of this ridiculous rumour, which is altogether unworthy of those who first put it about.

H.M.S. *Calcutta* has been again visiting the port, and her officers and men have been competing with British Guiana at the rifle range, where they were defeated by the Infantry Sports Club 652 to 503, and on the cricket field they also "took the knock" from the Georgetown Cricket Club, being defeated by 3 wickets and 25 runs in the first innings, and also at football, when they were again laid out at Bourda by a United team by 2 goals to nil.

Professor Lieper's expedition has a fine field for its activities, it being many years since mosquitoes were as plentiful as they are now in Berbice.

Oil in British Honduras.

The *Clarion* of May 12th devotes an interesting article to the dredging of the bar of the Belize River and the raising of the promontory known as "The Fort," which is to be undertaken. Forty years ago a hand dredger, manned by prisoners, started on the work, then a Menge dredger was used in building up the present foreshore, of which there was 16 feet of water, now reduced to 2 feet. Next a Priestman dredger came on the scene and laid the foundation of The Fort causeway. Finally a suction dredger accomplished the final filling in of The Fort. After dealing with the historical aspect of the "harbour," our contemporary proceeds to make various suggestions for improvement, which is admittedly much needed. By publishing the opinion of a resident in Nicaragua that "the existence of ice in Hades is much more probable than that of oil in any quantity in Nicaragua or anywhere else in Central America, with the possible exception of Northern Guatemala or Belize" it has raised the hopes of the believers that there is oil under British Honduras high, and the forthcoming geological survey is awaited with interest.

Dominica and Her Babies.

A flurry in the green lime market resulted in the picking of much immature fruit, which is much to be regretted. Prices fell rapidly from 24s. to 12s. per barrel.

Mr. A. W. Solomon, Registrar-General, in his annual report, estimates the total population of the island on December 31st last as 40,688. The birth-rate was 41.12 per 1,000 and the death rate 27.62. The percentage of illegitimate births was 56.54. Infantile mortality is still terribly prevalent. 53 males and 20 females survived the age of 5 and died before reaching 14 years, while the deaths under 5 years of age numbered 056 out of 1,124.

This points to the need for supporting the crèche movement, in aid of which a very successful fête was held in Roseau on April 21st. No fewer than 800 persons were present and £118 14s. 6d. was raised for the good cause. The stall-holders and entertainers included: Miss Macintyre, Mrs. Sutcliffe, Mrs. W. S.

Archer, Miss May Riviere, Miss Bellot, Mrs. Shand, Miss Emanuel, Mrs. Dupigny, Mr. Welby-Solomon, Mr. D. O. Riviere, Mr. Aird, Major Hughes Chamberlain, Mrs. Didier, Miss Porter, Mrs. A. Rose, Dr. Sutcliffe, Mr. Ferreira, Miss Whitechurch, the Hon. Cools-Lartigue, Miss Fanny Lartigue, Mr. F. Woolward, Mr. S. Sands, Mrs. Robertson, Mr. I. Rose, the Hon. R. Sharpe, Mr. W. S. Archer, and Mr. F. J. Harnet, while Mrs. Walters, the Administrator's wife, was the moving spirit of the entertainment.

Grenada and Representation.

The despatch of the Secretary of State conceding some measure of representative Government to the people of Grenada, which has naturally given rise to many expressions of satisfaction, will not deter the Representative Government Association from carrying out their plan to send a delegation to London to submit their views to the Colonial Office and Mr. T. A. Marryshow, Mr. G. A. De Freitas, Mr. W. G. Donovan, and Mr. C. F. P. Renwick have been appointed accordingly. A local Chamber of Commerce is shortly to be inaugurated: Mr. R. M. Otway has been the recipient of many messages of sympathy on the occasion of the death of his wife (who was a daughter of Mr. G. W. Smith) on May 5th.

The *West Indian* records that 317 passengers were booked to sail from Cuba, on May 5th, in search of work. Mr. Ballou is to arrive shortly to organise a campaign against mealy bugs and thrips.

Anti-Waste in Jamaica.

The *dénouement* of the Bedward episode has been the internment of the "Lord and Master" of August Town in a lunatic asylum and the release of his misguided followers.

Evidence is accumulating that the people of Jamaica are beginning to realise the financial crisis into which they are drifting, and on the grounds of the need for economy the Legislative Council has rejected a vote of £2,000 for the expenses of the Development Commission, which was appointed to decide what could be afforded, by 15 votes to 4. Mr. Phillipps urged the Government to call a halt in respect of expenditure, and not to land them on the rocks for which they were now making dead. The President said that one of the objects was to co-ordinate development schemes under contemplation and to determine whether the resources of the colony were sufficient to carry them out.

The Colonial Secretary, replying to Mr. Nash on May 10th, gave the following approximate figures regarding the Jamaica Government Railway for the year ended March 21st, 1921:—Revenue, £401,912; expenditure, £406,900; average earnings per mile of railway, £2,037.57; average expenditure per mile of railway, £2,062.86; total engine miles run, 632,522. The deficit, he said, was due to large sums paid during the year as compensation for personal injuries in the Marlie Race collision and Old Harbour collision. For instance, in the March accounts this year £7,683 was paid to settle one claim.

The Commission appointed to consider the matter has favoured the fusion of the Mayor and Council and the Kingston General Commissioners. If this proposal is adopted it may be the prelude to the cleaning up of Kingston, which has the unenviable distinction of being the dustiest and worst paved town in the West Indies.

Mr. Baggett Gray, on behalf of the Government, visited Port Morant on May 7th to discuss with the

cane planters the contract for the supply of caues to the proposed St. Thomas Central Factory. Though a manager has been appointed, the order for machinery has not yet been placed, and the United Fruit Company, which was regarded as one of the foremost potential suppliers, has not signed a contract for the supply of caues.

The obituary of the colony includes Father John A. Pfister, S.J., for many years a member of the Roman Catholic Mission, who died on Friday, May 14th.

The well-known preacher, Gipsy Pat Smith, is in the island, and has been attracting large congregations at Montego Bay.

Trinidad Governor's Flight.

An enquiry is being held by Mr. W. H. Harris regarding the fire which destroyed the St. Augustine rice mills on April 16th. The property was insured for £43,000.

The Agricultural Society, on May 12th, passed a resolution favouring the establishment of a reciprocal trade agreement with the Mother Country for a period of ten years. All the other West Indian Chambers, whose views were invited by Mr. Tripp on behalf of the Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce, have similarly favoured this proposal with the exception of that of St. Vincent, which does not favour granting a preference to Great Britain because that country "is wedded to Free Trade." [Great Britain is now giving a substantial preference in the duties on sugar, rum, cacao, coffee and other produce from the British West Indies.] The seaplanes which are to survey the Venezuelan properties of the British Controlled Oilfields, have arrived, and His Excellency the Governor has enjoyed a flight with Major Cochran Patrick and Captain Bailey at the wheel.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing under date May 7th, speaks of an extraordinary series of frauds committed by school teachers at the Education Office. A large number of forged vouchers, principally in connection with bonus payments, have been presented and paid at the Treasury, amounting altogether to several hundred pounds. Three arrests have been made, the accused being granted bail. Two of them took advantage of the opportunity to disappear. The other is standing his trial.

The extreme congestion on the wharves and warehouses has been somewhat relieved of late, but the urgent necessity for enlarged wharf space is very apparent. For the first time, after many years' disagreement, the Chamber of Commerce and the Governor are agreed as to the best direction for the needed extension. Only the sanction of the Secretary of State is now waited for.

H.M.S. *Calcutta* has been again visiting the Colony, this time commanded by Captain M. Compton, with Vice-Admiral Sir William Pakenham on board. There is also in the harbour the Italian cruiser, *Libia*, 4,500 tons.

The occurrence of unlooked for rain throughout the dry season has led to much difficulty and unusual delay in harvesting, and serious fears are now entertained that it will be impossible to reap the full crop before the wet season begins in earnest. Should this fear be realised, it would be most unfortunate, especially if among the canes left over were any substantial quantity grown by the cane farmers, in whom it is so desirable that confidence should be established as to the ability of the factories to deal with any increasing cultivation, weather conditions notwithstanding.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.

British Controlled Oilfields.

In an interim report, published on May 30th, the Directors state that drilling operations are being conducted on the company's St. Lucia and San Jose estates. Drilling of Wells Nos. 1 and 2 at a depth of 1,580 ft. and 1,146 ft. have been temporarily stopped, and are awaiting the arrival of further "Rotary" material. The indications of striking oil on Well No. 2 were very marked; powerful gas pressure having been evident between 1,100 ft. and 1,200 ft. Wells 3 and 4 are now in course of drilling. Reports to date advise that Well No. 3 is down 679 ft. Well No. 4 commenced drilling on May 23rd. Arrangements have been made and organisation provided for other Wells 5 and 6. The opinion is gaining strength locally that the Oropouche Lagoon area may develop into one of the most important oil centres in the Colony. It is crossed from a direction somewhat east of north by a series of structure lines which ultimately emerge on the coast between Point Fortin and La Brea. As a result, the northern end of the lagoon is underlain by the southern half of an anticlinorium or group of anticlines, while somewhat south of the middle of the lagoon sharp anticlinal structures appear.

The differences which had arisen in connection with this area and which were referred to in the Annual Report of 1920, have now been eliminated. British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., will undertake all obligations to drain the lagoon which are obligated under the Government Contract which guarantees the sole oil rights over this area. The land reclaimed, which will extend to some 4,000 acres, and is considered will be amongst the richest in the Colony, will automatically under the Government Contract become freehold.

Home Grown Sugar.

First annual report for period from incorporation, February 13th, 1920, to March 31st, 1921, states that the prospectus was published on March 4th, 1920, and on March 22nd, 250,000 shares were allotted to the general public, and 250,000 to the Minister of Agriculture. The purchase of the Kelham estate and other assets was completed on June 1st, 1920. The British Sugar Beet Growers' Society, Ltd., handed over its surplus, namely, £14,677, to the company. This sum has been carried to reserve. The main work of the year has been the erection of the Kelham Beet Sugar Factory, and the arrangements for the cultivation of beet for the first year's campaign this autumn. It is expected that the factory will be producing sugar in October. An expert beet agriculturist has been drawn from the industry in Canada, and under his supervision 2,300 acres of beet are being cultivated by farmers in the district; 200 acres are also being grown on the estate this year.

On account of the extraordinary cost of labour and materials, additional capital to the extent of £200,000 is required to complete the scheme and provide working capital. To secure this sum arrangements have been made for a first mortgage of £75,000, and Parliament has sanctioned an advance by the Treasury of £125,000 on second mortgage. Sanction has been given by the Government for the first payment of the guaranteed dividend of 5 per cent. upon the public capital of £250,000.

The report of the Central Mining and Finance Corporation states that development operations by the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., are now in progress on the two new fields, Piparo and Santa Cecilia. A portion of the extensions to the refinery is on the point of completion, and when this section is in commission the company will be able to treat a substantially larger quantity of crude oil than hitherto. The necessary casing and other supplies for the enlarged development programme having arrived in Trinidad, active steps are being taken to augment production. Contracts have been arranged with several neighbouring companies to purchase their output.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

Postage Rates.

Mr. Secretary Churchill, replying to Mr. Ormsby-Gore on May 24th, said that pending the consideration by His Majesty's Government of the increased rates proposed by the recent Postal Union Conference at Madrid, no communication had been addressed to the Colonies and Protectorates, and no decision had been arrived at in regard to any alteration in the rates affecting them.

Kelham Beet Factory.

Sir Arthur Boscawen (Minister of Agriculture) informed Mr. Wise, on May 31st, that the value of the property of the Home-grown Sugar Company, including the factory, estate, farm stock, etc., as ascertained on 31st March last, was £447,659 os. 10d. The authorised share capital of the company was £1,000,000. Shares to the amount of £500,000 had been issued, of which £498,415 15s. had been paid up. The list of shareholders comprise between 500 and 600 names. There were no first debentures. The company was, however, negotiating a first mortgage of £75,000 which it was proposed should be secured on its property. The Government had taken out 250,000 shares in this company for the purpose of carrying out experiments on a first rate standard.

Colonial Companies and Income Tax.

Replying on May 26th to Sir R. Blair, who asked whether it was still the practice of the Inland Revenue to refund to preference shareholders in a Colonial company Colonial Income Tax at the rate of Income Tax payable in that Colony when their income, which was a fixed percentage on their investment, had not borne any Colonial tax, Mr. Young said that it had now been decided that, in the case of a preference shareholder in a Dominion company, if the preference shares were entitled to a preferential dividend at a fixed rate without participating rights in any balance of distributable profits and the shareholder's dividend had been paid at the full fixed rate, no relief from United Kingdom Income Tax was to be allowed on such dividend in respect of Dominion Income Tax paid by the company, except in so far as Dominion Income Tax was deducted from the dividend.

Grenada's Constitution.

Mr. Churchill, replying to Mr. Hurd on May 21st, said that the petition from the Colony of Grenada for the substitution for Crown Colony Government of some system based on popular representation, had been considered, and it had been decided to introduce an element of elected representation into the Legislative Council of Grenada. The Governor had been informed accordingly, and had been instructed to appoint a Commission or Committee to report on the details of the proposed change.

Mr. Churchill further informed Mr. Hurd that the Legislative Council of Grenada had decided that, subject to certain conditions, the Colony would make a contribution of £1,500 for a combined trans-Atlantic and inter-Colonial service, or £500 for a fortnightly trans-Atlantic steamship service. The Colonies of British Guiana, Barbados, St. Lucia, and the Presidency of St. Kitts Nevis were, it was understood, also favourable in principle to a contribution to the cost of a trans-Atlantic service. The question whether His Majesty's Government would contribute a subsidy to enable a satisfactory service to be resumed was now under consideration.

West Indian Aviation.

To Mr. Hurd, who asked on June 2nd what progress was being made in developing air communication between the West Indian Islands and North and South America, Captain Guest (the Secretary of State for Air) replied that various schemes for the development of air communication in the West Indies had, from time to time, been closely examined by the Air Ministry. The main difficulty was that of finance. Since the summer of 1920 the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Company had been carrying out valuable pioneer work in the Bermudas, and it was understood that proposals were now being considered for a service between the Bahamas and the mainland.

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. Jan Van Nassau Plymouth, June 1st

Mr. James Brown	The Misses Fernandes (2)	Mrs. M. Pereira
Mrs. M. M. Dickenson	Miss G. A. Glover	Mr. E. C. Russel
Dr. P. Fernandes	Mr. F. T. Larrouy	Mrs. Mary Slinger
Mrs. L. Fernandes	Mr. J. E. Little	The Misses Ulrich (3)
Mr. A. Fernandes	Mrs. & Miss McKenzie	Mrs. & Miss Wade

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. Speuker, May 27th:—

Miss C. Barnes	Mr & Mrs. W. Harrison	Mrs. Paterson
Miss L. Datson	Mr. J. H. King	Mr & Mrs. C. Stewart
Mr. H. Goodall	Miss M. Murray	Miss M. Wilkinson

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.4. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

Mrs S. Archer	Mr. H. A. Lake
Mr. Bruce Austin	Mr. C. Hope Levy
Sir Henry A. Bovell	Mr. Vincent L. Levy
Mr. E. W. Bowen	Mr. W. McMillan
Mr. W. Bowring	Mr. W. Morrison
Mr. James Brown	Mr. P. F. Murray
Mr. Gerald O. Caec	Mr. C. V. Newton
Mr. C. H. Chambers	Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.F.
H.E. Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G.	Mr. John O'Connor, M.C.
Mr. Joseph Connell, Jnr	Mr. A. J. P. Pitt
Mr. J. E. Corbin	Mr. G. O'Kelly
Mr. H. S. Cox	Lieut. W. M. Richards
Mr. Robert Craig	His Hon. Sir Robert Roden
Mr. Paul Cressal	Major Randolph Rust, V.D.
Mr. Jack Culmer	Mr. O. L. Samuel
Mr. D. C. C. Da Costa	Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
Mr. A. H. D. Costa	Mrs. H. H. Sealy
Hon. D. S. De Freitas	Mr. H. Seeloff
Mr. A. P. O. Ellis	Hon. A. P. Sherlock
Mr. James Fisher	Mr. M. Howard Smith
Mr. Percy George	Mr. Thomas Thornton
Mr. D. M. Hahn	Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G.
Mr. E. F. Haughton-James	His Hon. Chief Justice G. O'D.
Mr. E. E. C. Hosack	Walton
Mr. T. P. Humphrey	Mr. Thomas E. War
Mr. W. W. Iunis	F.I.S.A.
Mr. C. H. McClean	Mr. Hugh F. Wildy
Mr. N. Macleod Baldwin, West View	Mr. Percy R. Wilson
Mr. A. P. O. Ellis	Milagrove N.B.
Rev. J. B. Brindley, c/o W.M.M.S., 24, Bishopsgate, E.C.	
Dr. J. F. E. Bridger, c/o West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, S.W.	
Mr. W. J. Cauty, 12, Farquharson Road, Croydon.	
Mr. E. W. C. Dunlop, 13, Esmond Road, Bedford Park, W.	
Mr. George B. Evelyn, 112, Norbury Court Road, Norbury, S.W.	
Mr. John M. Fleming, The Hermitage, Hadlow, Kent.	
Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.	
Dr. R. D. O'Neale, c/o Mrs. Salinou, Moss Lea, Colinton, Midlothian	
Mr. A. M. Reid, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glas.	
Mr. H. Blin Stoyle, Crediton, Devon	

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. Camilo, June 4th:—

Mr. I. de Acuna	Mrs. & Miss Ernest	Mr. J. Mantley
Rev. F. W. Ainley	Miss H. Galey	Mr. S. Menzies
Miss P. V. Alexander	Mr. W. A. Hamilton	Mrs. E. C. Murphy
Miss C. G. Aston	Commdt J. W. Hodgson, S.A.	Mrs. E. J. Selman
Mr. H. Bowdledge	Mrs. J. W. Hodgson and Son	Rev. T. J. Stockley
Miss A. Clemente		Mr. V. Talbush
Mrs. & Miss Delgado		Mr. & Miss J. M.
Mr. J. R. Ernest	Mr. C. J. Inder	Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Vaughan
Mr. J. A. Ernest	Miss G. Lord	Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Woolfolk and Family
Mrs. E. J. Ernest	Rev. & Mrs. D. D. McLaren	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. Changuinola, Avonmouth, June 5th:—

Mr. H. I. C. Brown	Mr. George Karraun	Miss Piltz
Mr. F. K. Barrow	Mr. S. Khaleel & Fam	Mr. G. W. Stahler
Mr. W. Bire	Miss A. G. Leal	Mr. J. T. Sherrif
Mrs. K. Bourne	Mr. W. A. Logan	Mr. Elias Simaou
Mr. G. Beshara	Mr. P. E. Lophard	Miss Janet Stephens
Mrs. M. Cameron	Lieut. Matthews	Mrs. Selisbury
Mrs. Elsie Corinaldi	Mr. & Mrs. V. E. Manton	Mr. G. Thomas
Mr. T. G. Fatou		Miss E. Wright
Mr. J. M. Pousaca	Mr. & Mrs. E. N. Masis	Mr. D. O. Wilkin
Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher	Mr. D. McLelland	Miss A. Weiss
Mr. A. Hendrick Jnr	Mrs. L. Nasralla	Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Westmoreland
Mrs. & Miss Hibbert	Mr. F. Nasralla	Mr. J. G. Young
Mr. T. C. Hepburn	Mr. W. Nasralla	
	Mr. & Mrs. R. Pringle	

Home arrivals from Jamaica in R.M.S. Camilo, Avonmouth, May 29th:—

Mr. J. H. Blakesley	Mr. & Mrs. Edward I. Hunter	Mrs. & Miss Lewis
Miss Rose Bradin	Miss E. J. Isaacs	Miss H. McGrath
Mrs. Bailey	Mr. & Mrs. H. T. Jackman	Mrs. M. Malcolm
Mrs. S. Banks		Miss Ivy Matthews
Mrs. A. J. Cook		Mr. M. McVean
Mr. W. N. Colam	Mr. L. Keir	Miss C. S. Paine
Mrs. H. G. Deer	Mr. J. M. King	Mr. C. F. Robins
Miss J. M. Evelyn	Mr. C. Hope Levy	Miss L. Romney
Mr. T. F. Fall	Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Lake	Miss Nellie Robinson
Mr. Franklin	Mrs. G. Landridge	Mr. James C. Sharp
Miss F. Genke	Dr. & Mrs. C. A. Lopez and Family	Dr. F. N. Scotland
Mr. P. Gunning	Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Lightbourne	Mr. R. A. H. Stone
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Griffid	Miss M. Lightbourne	Hon. & Mrs. R. F. Williams
Mr. T. Gibbs	Mr. Edward Lockhart	Mrs. & Miss Williams

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. Motagua, Avonmouth, May 22nd:—

Mr. & Mrs. P. Abendana	Mr. T. Everett	Mr. A. N. Philips
Mrs. H. G. Allen	Mr. John Gomez	Sir Robert & Lady Roden
Mr. & Mrs. P. J. Brownie	Mrs. M. Hargreaves	Mr. F. C. Robins
Mrs. T. Bradshaw	Mr. W. Hale	Mrs. J. A. Scott
Mrs. & Miss V. O.K. Blackwood	Mr. Taffie Habib	Mr. P. Slater
Dr. J. H. Barnes	Canon J. P. Hall	Miss H. M. Shields
Capt. C. W. Clapperton	Mr. J. Howard	Mr. F. Starkey
Rev. H. W. Cope	Miss M. Johnson	Miss Blanche Thompson
Capt. E. D. Clarke	Mr. A. Legross	
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Douet	Colonel H. C. Lamb	Mr. W. W. Wynne
Sister Agnes Dadd	Mr. A. MacLean	Mr. E. Woodward
	Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Nauco and Family	

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. Stuyvesant, June 4th:—

Mr. & Mrs. Barnes and Family	Mr. W. H. Godden	Mr. & Mrs. McLean and Son
Mrs. C. Calder	Dr. Mrs. & Miss Gomes	Mr. L. H. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Christie	Mr. & Mrs. James	Mr. T. J. Ray
Mr. Raymond Conway	Major J. A. Keruahan	Dr. H. S. Richards
Mr. & Mrs. Downie and Family	Mr. & R. Lambert	Mr. A. R. Thompson
	Mr. & Mrs. McArdle	

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Pacuare	... June 13
Jamaica	Bristol	Motagua	... " 11
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	... " 20
West Indies	London	Specialist	... " 22
B'dus & T'dad	Dover	Jan Van Nassau	... " 25
Jamaica	New York	Sixtola	... June 28
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Puerto Rico	... July 4
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	... " 8
R'mas, J'aca & B. H'dan	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	... " 26

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.

PARTNERSHIP. Englishman, 28, married, capital £1,000, desires to join planter, or would accept responsible post with firm.—Apply "A.P." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
June 7th, 1921.

BANK RATE, 6½ per cent. as from April 28th.

EXCHANGE Value of the £ sterling.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
In U.S.A.	15	9		In Holland	18	8	
" France	1	17	5	" Germany	12	4	9
" Belgium	1	17	5	" Austria	69	6	4
" Italy	3	1	0	" Spain	1	3	5

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 5s. (paper).

SUGAR. British refined is unchanged. Spot sales of West Indian crystallised have been made at from 53/- to 55/6. Muscovadoes are quoted at from 44/- to 50/-. The value of spot American granulated is from 61/- to 61/6. The terminal market is steady, the values being: July 18/3, August 18/9, October 16/3, November 16/1½. December has sold at 15/6. There has been a slightly increasing demand by the public. The New York market has declined since the date of our last summary, prices falling from 5.02 cents for duty paid landed Cubans to 4.63 cents on the 7th. Quotations yesterday were nominal. The futures market shows a slight improvement, the values landed in bond being: July 2.99 cents, September 3.02 cents, and December 2.80 cents. The Cuban crop has reached 2,750,000 tons, as against 3,040,000 tons at the same date last year, with 75 factories working, as against 45.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on May 21st were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919	Tons.
Imports	20,922	24,338	15,009	
Deliveries	16,833	14,447	12,432	"
Stock	12,493	18,027	9,369	"

CACAO is steady, but quiet. There has been a good demand for fine Grenada at 56/- spot, and some sales of Trinidad have been made at the last quotations—59/- to 64/-. There is only a small business doing in export.

Mr. Tripp, writing under date April 30th, reported that the shipments of Trinidad cacao for the month were as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	12,464,442
Shipped previously	18,870,795
Total from 1st January	31,335,237
To same date 1920	39,569,783
" " 1919	25,422,728
" " 1918	25,164,010
" " 1917	44,024,259
" " 1916	27,960,101
" " 1915	30,704,080
" " 1914	41,344,691

The stocks in London on May 21st were:—

	1921	1920	1919	Bags.
Trinidad	22,724	31,747	15,872	
Grenada	29,871	25,416	9,019	
Total of all kinds	194,188	228,295	107,168	"

RUM is unsaleable. No sales have been reported in London during the past six weeks, and values are nominal.

The stocks in London on May 21st were:—

	1921	1920.	1919	Pins.
Jamaica	10,956	7,963	4,183	
Demerara	16,803	13,045	13,167	
Total of all kinds	37,744	30,592	21,745	"

ARROWROOT. There is rather more business doing, without material change in prices. Quotations, 2½d. to 7d

BALATA continues very dull, and prices are nominal. A small business has been done in spot West India sheet at 3/6. Forward shipments are quoted at 8/3 c.i.f.

COCONUTS. The exports from Trinidad during April were 1,334,170 nuts, making 5,767,397 for the year.

COFFEE. Fine home trade sorts continue to meet with a steady demand, but export kinds are neglected. There is nothing doing in ordinary Jamaicas, the nominal value of which remains at 55/-. It is expected that the crops of Blue Mountain will be short this year, which will tend to maintain the steady prices now ruling for this description. Best Blue Mountain has recently realised from 197/- to 203/- per cwt.

COPRA is very slow of sale. West India f.m.s. is worth £28 10s. c.i.f. London or Hamburg.

COTTON. This product has been in limited request; quotations of most growths are slightly lower. No business has been reported in Sea Island. West Indian nominal prices are unchanged—medium 25d., fine 39d., and extra fine 43d., and there have been no further imports during the past fortnight.

HONEY is quiet, with small private sales of Jamaica good amber to good pale— at 50/- to 60/-. Dark liquid is worth about 30/- per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Handpressed is lower, with sales at 20/-, but Distilled remains neglected. There has been a small business passing in Jamaica Raw Lime Juice at 2/6 per gallon.

LOGWOOD is in quiet request at recent rates—£8 to £10 per ton.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is firm, with sales at 10/6, but Bitter is not wanted.

RUBBER. Business has been very slow, and there is practically no trade demand either in Europe or from America, and prices have fallen a penny per lb. Spot crepe 4½d., sheet 7½d. Stock in the Port of London on May 29th, 70,024 tons.

SPICES. Pimento is lifeless, with spot sellers at 2½d. Some small sales to Hamburg have been made at 20/6 to 21/- c.i.f. per cwt. Ginger is firm, but no good quality is offering. There is nothing to report in Nutmegs or Mace.

TRINIDAD OIL. The production figures of the Trinidad oil producing concerns whose returns are available are given below:—

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD.

April—15,000 tons	
Year to June 30, 1917	56,213 tons
" " 1918	154,654
" " 1919	171,286
" " 1920	177,709
Period to April 30, 1921	132,500

TRINIDAD CENTRAL OILFIELDS, LTD.

Year to Dec 31, 1917	5,235 tons
" " 1918	11,640
" " 1919	24,238

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD.

April—2,979 tons.	
Year to Dec. 31, 1917	52,671 tons.
" " 1918	82,671
" " 1919	40,892
" " 1920	49,500
Year to April 30, 1921	16,260

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.

April—5,600 tons.	
Total to April	15,000 tons*

NEW TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT CO., LTD.
(underlying companies of).

Year to Dec. 31, 1918	32,868 tons.
" " 1919	23,710
" " 1920	51,830

* Represented principally by March-April output

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642



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

Telegrams:
CARIA, LONDON.

June 22nd, 1921.

A British Sugar School.

IN all the discussions concerning the West Indian Agricultural College, much stress has been laid on the great need which exists for teaching the art and science of sugar making in a thoroughly practical manner. To secure this it is obvious that students must not only be taught the theoretical side of the question in the laboratory and lecture room, but must also have access to actual machinery in motion, so that they may learn how canes, juice and sugar are handled upon a working scale. In this connection it has been emphasised that there is no institution within the British Empire where instruction of this kind can be obtained, and that we have to look abroad—to the excellent sugar school of the Louisiana University or the Dutch technological institutions in Holland and Java—for assistance, with the result that technologists em-

ployed in the British Colonial sugar industry are largely drawn from the ranks of men trained in foreign countries, a state of affairs which has very obvious disadvantages. It is hoped that the West Indian Agricultural College will provide the remedy, for, as it will be recalled, it is proposed to establish in connection with that institution a model sugar factory sufficiently large for practical educational purposes. Whilst admirable progress is now being made in respect of the central institution shortly to be incorporated, the plans of the buildings for which are now being finally settled, it is satisfactory to learn that the sugar school is also receiving attention. We learn with satisfaction during the last few weeks that British makers of sugar machinery have been invited to support this movement, and that their response has already been eminently favourable. Through the courtesy of DR. STOCKDALE, a meeting of the representatives of the leading sugar machinery manufacturers and the allied trades, convened by MR. C. T. BERTHOE, who has kindly interested himself in the matter, was held at the Glasgow Technical College on June 14th. SIR FRANCIS WATTS, who was also present, outlined the steps which were being taken to establish the West Indian Agricultural College, pointing out the opportunity which was thus afforded for inaugurating also a British Sugar School, and advocating the erection of a sugar factory in connection therewith and capable of dealing with about two tons of sugar per day. After emphasising the importance of practical as well as theoretical training, he appealed to the firms represented to support the scheme by undertaking to supply the requisite machinery and buildings. The meeting was evidently impressed by SIR FRANCIS'S statement as to what the West Indian Colonies, and especially Trinidad, were doing, and after a full discussion it was obvious that the proposals appealed to the representatives of the many important firms present. We are glad to learn that as the outcome of this meeting many promises of integral units of the requisite machinery and buildings have been received, and the establishment of the British Sugar School in connection with the West Indian Agricultural College at St. Augustine, in Trinidad, would now, therefore, appear to be definitely assured. The public spirit shown by the makers of sugar machinery and allied appliances is gratifying and deserving of recognition, while the Agricultural College Committee are also to be congratulated on the success of the movement.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

International Exhibition in London.

The fifth International Exhibition of Rubber and other tropical products was opened at the Royal Agricultural Hall on June 3rd by Sir Owen Philipps, who succeeded the late Sir Henry Blake as President. Since the last exhibition of the series was



A Gold Coast Poster.

The Gold Coast spent many thousands of pounds to secure adequate representation at the Tropical Products Exhibition. Their competitor, the West Indies, was unrepresented.

held, in 1914, the organisers have lost the services of Mr. Staines Mauders, who died during the war, and his successor, Mr. H. Greville Montgomery, had a difficult task to fulfil, inasmuch as his first exhibition synchronised with an unparalleled slump in trade. He and Miss Edith Browne, the very capable overseas delegate, managed, however, to get together a very interesting and instructive show. The British Colonies which participated were lamentably few in number, including only Ceylon, Fiji, the Gambia, and the Gold Coast; but foreign countries stepped in where British Colonies feared to tread and made a really handsome display, the more notable exhibitors being Brazil, Colombia, France, and Portugal. Of the British stands, by far the largest and most comprehensive was that of the Gold Coast, whose Government must have spent many thousands of pounds to secure for it adequate representation. It was an admirably arranged exhibit, showing by actual specimens, diagrams, and models the rich and varied resources of the Colony, special stress being laid on cacao. West Indian producers must by now realise that in West Africa they have a very formidable competitor in respect of cacao. The Gold Coast alone now

claims to produce nearly one-half of the World's consumption of the "golden bean," and for the purpose of emphasising this, a medal has been struck, bearing on the obverse the badge of the Colony, and on the reverse a diagram showing the Gold Coast production of cacao (200,000 tons), compared with that of Brazil, Ecuador, San Domingo, San Thomé, and other countries. The West Indies do not appear even as "also ran," being included now among "other countries." In a pamphlet, an illustration from which is reproduced on this page, is the following table showing the phenomenal development of the Gold Coast cacao industry:—

Year	Quality Tons.	Value £
1901	9,980	42,837
1906	8,975	336,269
1911	30,798	1,613,468
1916	72,161	3,847,720
1917	90,964	3,146,851
1918	66,343	1,796,985
1919	177,000	8,000,000

The enterprise of the Government of the Colony was further demonstrated by a special poster in colours, which has been liberally distributed over the London hoardings, and it may be noted that the Commissioner of the Coast, Colonel Heckles Willson, is a member of an old Barbadian family. General regret was expressed at the complete absence of the British West Indies, which were, perhaps, keeping their powder dry for the great Empire Exhibition of 1923; but it was none the less a pity that having actually reserved space, Trinidad and



West African Cacao Pods.

A prolific growth of Cacao Pods on a Gold Coast tree.

Tobago and Dominica should have sent over no exhibits. The catalogue, which was compiled by Miss Edith Browne, contained, as usual, much valuable matter, including articles on cacao by Mr. Arthur W. Knapp and Mr. H. Hamel Smith.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"DE reason crab no hab head, a because him hab too good a 'tomack."

WE regret to learn that Mr. E. G. Orrett, Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, died at Kingston, Jamaica on May 19th.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. Frederick Harold Martin-Sperry to Miss Queenie Redhead, daughter of Lady Lacon. The bridegroom is third son of Mrs. Martin-Sperry, of Cadogan Gardens.

THE sale of candy in the United States since the advent of Prohibition is estimated in a Reuter's message to amount to about £200,000,000 a year, being an increase of not less than £110,400,000 on the amount spent on sweetmeats in 1919.

THERE appeared in the *Morning Post* of June 11th the notice "In Memoriam" of a "worthy descendent of Governor Eyre, of Jamaica," in the person of Harold Grahame Piffard, of the New Zealand Infantry, who was killed in action in 1917.

MR. W. T. STUART FRETZ, a Kittifonian by birth, has just been called to the Bar as a member of Lincoln's Inn. Mr. Fretz is the third son of Dr. W. H. Fretz, for forty years Medical Officer in St. Kitts, the Government of which Presidency he administered on various occasions.

THROUGH an unfortunate misunderstanding, Mr. G. F. R. Harris Harragin, father of the gifted Miss Edie Harragin, who made her debut on the concert platform recently, was referred to as "The late Mr. Harragin." This was incorrect, for Mr. Harris Harragin is, we are glad to learn, alive and well at Torquay, where he is residing at present.

AT the Baltic Exchange on June 10th, Mr. W. F. Massey, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, said that he trusted that the time would come when all ships trading to the different parts of the Empire would be built in British shipyards by British mechanics, manned by British sailors and carry British products and British manufactured goods. The subject was so important that he trusted it would receive serious attention at the Imperial Conference. He would not suggest subsidies at present, but if improvements could not be obtained in any other way subsidies might be necessary.

INCREDIBLE though it may appear, some members of The West India Committee have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, which became due on January 1st last, although the amount is only £1 1s., or \$5, per annum. Perhaps these think that the amount is so small that it does not matter; but it *does* matter very much indeed to the Committee, which is out of pocket through the cost of THE CIRCULAR and postage. In the circumstances, it is hoped that those in arrears will be so good as to remit their subscriptions without delay, or pay them into one of the branches of the

Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

THE Rev. Oswald Hutton Parry, vicar of All Hallows, Poplar, has been elected by the Synod to fill the vacant Bishopric of Guiana, in succession to Archbishop Parry. The bishop-elect, who was educated at Charterhouse and at Magdalen, Oxford, was ordained in 1894. Much of his life has been devoted to mission work in Palestine and Persia, and he is the author of two books, "Six months in a Syrian Monastery" and "A Pilgrim's Guide to Jerusalem," both illustrated with his own drawings. Through his family Mr. Parry has many associations with the West Indies, for his grandfather was Bishop of Barbados from 1842-1864, whilst his uncle was Henry Hutton Parry, who was principal of Codrington College, becoming in 1877 Bishop of Perth, Australia.

MR. GEORGE HUGHES, in a letter published in the *Fertiliser and Feeding-Stuffs Journal*, recalls how he discovered that the planters of Barbados were buying sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda adulterated with 33 per cent. of sulphate of magnesia or 33 per cent. of common salt! "A most amusing incident in reference to this was when a planter informed me if the negroes on his estate wanted physic they asked for the brand of sulphate of ammonia containing the Epsom salts, and if offered the brand with common salt they stated, 'that massa no good'! Since then a great change has taken place. All manures are sold on guaranteed analysis, and every planter is now a chemist and orders his mixed manures according to his views and with varying success on his crops."

SIR WILLIAM HAYNES-SMITH will have many sympathisers (and among them the members of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation, whom he so generously entertained in 1919) in the trouble which has befallen him. In his old age—and he is now 81—he has been compelled to call his creditors together owing to heavy losses resulting from the war, which delayed negotiations for the settlement of his substantial interests in Mexico. Sir William was successively Solicitor-General and Attorney-General of British Guiana (1865-87), the Leeward Islands (1888-95), and the Bahamas (1895-97), and it was whilst he was at Antigua that he conceived many development schemes which proved to be beyond the resources of the Colony, so that his administration was followed by a period of rigid economy and retrenchment, many enterprises being ruthlessly scrapped.

COCONUT LAYER CAKE.—Half cup butter, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar beaten to cream. Beat 3 yolks and 1 white of egg until stiff, add these to butter and sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk, add 2 cups of flour with 2 teaspoonfuls of baking powder, mix all thoroughly. Put into Washington pie pans and bake. Beat 2 whites of eggs with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup icing sugar, spread this between each layer and sprinkle it thickly with fresh grated coconut. Put the layers together and put icing on the top.—MRB. W. C. CLARKE.

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

By LLEWELYN JONES, M.I.E.S.

(Continued from page 231.)

The propagation and cultivation of the canes, generally speaking, follows the usual lines common to all cane growing countries, with the necessary characteristic variations of local importance. Planting generally takes place from April to November, and harvesting and sugar making from August to December. Virgin canes in the lowlands are allowed a period of growth of fifteen to sixteen months, and in the up-lands eighteen to twenty-four months. As a rule, ratoons are harvested every twelve months, and are often grown as fifth or sixth ratoons, the Indian small growers frequently never replanting for even ten or twelve years.

The average virgin yield on the larger estates amounts to about 30 tons canes per acre, though about 50 tons have been, and can be, obtained from particularly well cultivated areas in the richer districts. The average ratoon yield is about twenty to twenty-four tons per acre. The returns of the small Indian growers are often as low as three tons per acre from ratoons, and rarely exceed fifteen tons for their virgin crops. It will be seen that the average yield of canes per acre for the whole island and for all classes of canes is not large, and may be reckoned at about 17 tons to 20 tons canes per acre, according to season.

The Indian cultivator does not cover himself with credit when left to his own devices as a small grower, but in various ways hampers the possibility of first-class crop returns for the island as a whole. In addition to the want of sufficient cultivation, his canes, as a rule, are anything but freshly cut when they reach the factories. He naturally does his best to sell his produce in the highest market, and instead of taking his canes to the nearest factory, many days of delay are frequently incurred in transporting them to some factory in a distant part of the island where a higher price is obtainable. When so much stress is laid, in all scientific quarters, on the great importance of maintaining a supply of freshly-cut canes, it is a remarkable sight to witness the tedious and complicated details of transport involved in this respect, in which carts and the Government railways are involved, with the objectionable accompaniments of repeated loading and unloading, and the consequent and almost incredible delays. Unfortunately, this undesirable practice is also followed by many other cane growers, and causes congestion of the railway traffic during the busiest season of the year when factory supplies and shipments of sugar should receive the promptest attention.

The canes are cut by hand, and are transported to the factories chiefly by means of light tramways worked by locomotives. This form of transport has been introduced since the outbreak of "Surra" in 1902, and the great advantages of mechanical over animal transport have been established to such an extent that the above disastrous epidemic

amongst the cattle has ultimately come to be regarded as a blessing in disguise. Nevertheless, in addition to a considerable use of the Government railways, there is still an undesirable percentage of transport by carts among the small planters, which will no doubt be superseded in course of time by extensions of the existing net-work of tramways.

In all cane-growing districts, more especially in the case of an island of limited size, it is a matter of considerable importance to establish a uniform system of tramways of the same gauge and equipment throughout the entire district in order to provide for the amalgamation of estates and the centralisation of manufacture. Under the stress and confusion caused by the "surra" epidemic, the planters of Mauritius were not afforded sufficient leisure for a mature consideration of the adoption of a uniform and well-arranged general scheme, with the consequence that they are now somewhat hampered in their movements and extensions by the varieties of tramway gauge and general construction that are in use amongst them. Similar difficulties are experienced with regard to the rolling stock, and it is probable that the not far-distant future will witness a complete correction of this anomaly.

During the past century Mauritius has made the acquaintance of some sixty varieties of canes, many of which have now entirely disappeared. They have been thrown out of cultivation by the attacks of the many cane-diseases that are so prevalent on plantations. The "gumming" disease, and "borers" or various species are responsible for considerable damage, and the depredations of rats have led to the introduction of the mongoose to arrest them.

There is apparently a distinct retardation of the growth of the canes when the temperature falls below 70° Fahr., and they likewise suffer considerably from excessive cyclonic rainfalls, while the effect of cyclonic wind velocities causes a complete though temporary stoppage of growth. This effect is due to the tearing and stripping of the leaves as well as to the damage done to the tender growing-point of the stem by bending. Winds of a velocity of fifty miles an hour are decidedly injurious, and though the canes may not be up-rooted or broken, the crop is definitely affected, although, to the eye, a complete recovery appears to have been effected in the course of a couple of weeks, so pre-eminently fertile and recuperative is the soil of Mauritius. The amount of damage done varies greatly, but has on one occasion, with a wind-velocity of 120 miles per hour, reached the high figure of 48 per cent. On other occasions damages to the extent of about 20 per cent., 29 per cent., and 32 per cent. have been recorded.

There are just about 50 factories in operation at the present time, though, in the middle of the last century, there were as many as 227 at work. But amalgamation and centralisation, which continue to assert themselves, have resulted in this great and gradual reduction of some 77 per cent. in number. Nevertheless, the existing factories, by virtue of their increased size and efficiency, are able to deal with the produce from an acreage about 60 per cent.

in excess of that of the earlier period, and have shown themselves fully capable of manufacturing no less than 235,000 tons of sugar, the most powerful factory producing about 14,000, and the smallest about 2,000 tons of sugar per crop. Similarly, the largest factory can produce 120 tons of sugar per day, while some thirty of the smaller factories manufacture about twenty to thirty tons per day.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances of climate, cultivation, manufacture and the ensurance of the best and most profitable results obtainable, each factory ought, strictly speaking, to be comfortably able to deal with the share of canes allotted to it within a period extending, say, from the first day of September to the middle of December. But, as in many other sugar-producing countries, there is still an undesirable tendency to overwork the factories, and to start them too early in the season and keep them running right on to the end of the year, and sometimes longer.

The general appearance of the Mauritian factories is not in any way at all impressive, but many of them are situated in the midst of very interesting surroundings and scenery, and would supply an artist with a suitable subject for a photograph or painting when viewed from a distant and specially-selected position.

(To be continued.)

THE CANADIAN TARIFF.

A New "Country of Origin" Section.

A memorandum issued by the Canadian Department of Customs and Inland Revenue announces the following important amendment to the Customs Tariff of 1907:—

Section 12A.—All goods imported into Canada after September 1st, 1921, which will not be thereby injured, are to be marked, stamped, branded or labelled, so as to indicate the country of origin in legible English or French words, in a conspicuous place that "shall not be covered or obscured by any subsequent attachments or arrangements." The form of marking adopted is to be as nearly indelible and permanent as the nature of the goods will allow.

Any goods which do not comply with these requirements will be subject to an additional 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty levied on the value for duty purposes. In addition they will be retained under Customs control until they have been so marked, stamped, branded or labelled under Customs supervision at the expense of the importer.

Violation of any of the provisions laid down is punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not exceeding one year. Similar penalties will be imposed for any attempt to deface, remove or alter the mark or label with intent to conceal the information given.

The Minister of Customs and Inland Revenue has been empowered to make the necessary regulations for the enforcement of these provisions.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON SUGAR.

Report Shows Deficit of £24,000,000.

The second report of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply covers the period from the beginning of December, 1916, down to April last. In the preceding report (Cd. 8728), the greater part of which was published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of October 4th, 1917, it was stated that the transactions of the Commission to December, 1916, were estimated to show a profit of £2,000,000, which represented a profit of no more than about one-eighteenth of 1d. per pound on the sugar supplied. The cost of sugar purchased to the end of November, 1916, etc., was £81,097,000.

The second report tells a very different story, a loss of £24,500,000 being envisaged. The Commissioners, after referring to the paragraph in their first report, in which they stated that it was the Commission's aim to conduct its business in such a way that when it should be brought to a close its operations should be found to have been carried out free of cost to the Exchequer, while not imposing upon the public any greater charges than might suffice to cover expenditure, go on to say:—

"This aspiration cannot now be realised. But the fault is not ours. From time to time since the middle of 1919, the Commission has on various occasions pleaded for an increase in the selling price of its sugars, so as to build up a reserve to meet the loss which it foresaw as probable on the liquidation of its stocks on the conclusion of its operations. But on no occasion has a rise been authorised until weeks or months after it was recommended, and then not always to the extent recommended. From a calculation we have made, we are able to say that if our recommendations (which were always kept as low as possible in view of the reluctance shown by the Cabinet to an increase in prices), had been approved at the time they were made, our receipts would have been £16,000,000 more than they have been in fact. Even that sum is less than the deficit which it is probable that the Exchequer will have to meet on our operations, and which we estimate at not less than £24,500,000. Some may perhaps hold that it is not of material importance to the public whether it has to bear a burden of this kind in its capacity as a taxpayer or in that of a consumer of sugar. But to us it is a matter of regret that we shall not be able to claim that we discharged the duties imposed upon us, without having recourse to the funds of the Exchequer otherwise than for the purpose of the temporary financing of our operations. The advances made to us under this latter head by the Treasury stood on 31st March, at £27,281,937."

Tables showing the cost of purchases and price of sales which accompany the report demonstrate, however, that since the end of 1915 the prices paid by consumers in this country have been consistently below those at which sugar imported at the prices of the day in the world's markets could have been sold by a difference seldom less than 2d. per lb., and frequently more.

At the commencement of the report, after dealing with the changes of personnel of the Commission and its relations with the Food Ministry, the Commissioners pass to the situation which arose after the opening of the unrestricted U-boat campaign,

in February, 1917. Until the end of 1916 no material difficulty had been experienced in obtaining sufficient sugar to meet the demands of consumers. Thereafter, however, with the curtailment of supplies, more definite regulation became necessary, not only to prevent excessive charges, but also to ensure that the limited supplies available should be equitably distributed amongst all classes of consumers. With this object, Lord Devonport instituted a system of voluntary rationing, naming 12 ozs. per head per week as the maximum amount of sugar that users should purchase. This measure was serviceable up to a point, and might have been more so if the Food Controller had not prohibited retailers from restricting the sale of sugar to persons who purchased other goods at the same time. That rule had been devised by the retailers themselves as a means of conserving their limited supplies. The abolition of it led to the introduction of the system of "queues," formed largely of selfish, and even of idle persons, who in the early days of each week cleared out the stocks in the shops, leaving nothing for the end of the week when working class purchases are principally made. Something more drastic became necessary, and in January, 1918, a compulsory system of rationing was introduced, under which every individual was provided with a card, with coupons attached, and no sugar could be purchased except in exchange for the coupons, and from the particular retailer on whose register of customers the purchaser was inscribed. This system entailed a corresponding system of regulation for the issues of sugar by the Commission, and of control of the issues through the channels by which they reached the eventual users. An elaborate system of vouchers was established, governing the quantities and the times of delivery that dealers, manufacturers and others were entitled to during prescribed periods, and the purchasing power of such vouchers was varied from period to period in accordance with the amount of the total supplies available.

The working of this system fell primarily to the Sugar Distribution Branch of the Ministry of Food. But it called for close co-operation between the Ministry and the Commission, and entailed upon the latter a heavy addition to the duties it had previously had to perform. The Commissioners then submit certain observations with regard to the Rationing System, suggesting that enough might, perhaps, be effected in a future emergency by applying control only to the purveyors of food without extending it to every individual in the community.

With regard to purchases, the Commissioners show that from the outbreak of the intensified U-boat campaign the great bulk of supplies had to be drawn from the countries of production in the Western Hemisphere.

"The exigencies of exchange, and still more of freight, made recourse to Eastern sources almost impossible, and it was only with great difficulty that in 1917 we were able to arrange for the purchase in Java of 360,000 tons of that year's crop, while in 1918 we were compelled to forgo altogether purchases in that country, with the tantalising result that while we were obtaining nearly all our sugar from Cuba at an

f.o.b. cost of 21s. 7¹/₂d. per cwt. there were large stocks accumulating in Java, which might have been had at an f.o.b. price of 9s. 8d. per cwt. By the middle of 1919, the prices of sugar in Java were five or six times what they had been a year before, and were on a level with, and even above, those of Cuban sugar. The year 1918 offered a tempting opening for speculation; but it would not have been a legitimate application of public funds to use them for making purely speculative purchases."

U.K. Stocks down to Four Days' Supply.

Dealing with stocks, the Commissioners say—

"The maintenance of sufficient stocks in the country, so as to avoid any risk of an interruption in the supplies available for consumption, has been throughout a point that has engaged the attention of the Commission. Prior to 1917 it was not of prominent importance, as supplies were plentiful, and transport presented no serious difficulties. But the U-Boat campaign of 1917 made it critical. In the middle of April of that year there was a moment when the stock in hand only represented about four days' consumption. In the 20 weeks from February 4th to June 23rd, 1917, no less than 80,000 tons of sugar were lost through submarine sinkings; and this unfortunately coincided with a period during which the Ministry of Shipping took upon itself the responsibility of allocating tonnage, not in accordance with the requisitions of the Commission and other importing departments, but in accordance with the judgments it had itself formed from a study of statistics, as to the relative urgency of the several claims upon the tonnage available. It was not until the duty of allocation was entrusted to a specially constituted branch of the Ministry of Food that the allotments of freight were placed on a satisfactory footing. Accordingly throughout the remainder of the year the Commission gave much attention to the subject and urged upon the Shipping Controller and other authorities concerned that, in view of the difficulties and dangers of transport, it should be regarded as a fundamental point of policy that stocks be built up to, and maintained at, a level which should be equal to two months' consumption, or about 200,000 tons. This was agreed to, and a programme of importation was arranged on that basis; but it was long before the desired standard was reached. Indeed in the earlier part of 1918, the deficiency in the imports of raw sugar was so great that in February the Commission was obliged to direct refiners to reduce their melts by 20 per cent., and it was not until the end of March that it was found safe to resume work to the full capacity of the factories. Later the desired position was not only reached, but surpassed.

"The stocks held by the Commission on 31st March, 1921, were—

Raw	390,479 tons
White	57,787 tons.

the raw white being sufficient to supply our refineries up to the middle of July. The conditions under which the sugar is to be issued to the refiners have been settled by an agreement made between the Food Controller and the British Sugar Refiners' Association, under which the refiners undertake not to use sugar imported on their own account until the Commission's stocks are exhausted, but to meet all their requirements out of these stocks and to pay for them at prices which an expert Committee is to fix week by week, at the equivalent as near as may be of the prices ruling at the moment in the world's market. No further purchases are being made by the Commission and the handling of cargoes still to arrive,

the disposal of stocks, and the final winding up of accounts, are all the business that remains for the Commission to carry out under its warrant."

showing the cost of the Commission's purchases of sugar in shillings and decimals of a shilling per cwt. c.i.f.

Appended to the Report are the following tables

RAWS.

	1914-5	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.
WESTERN HEMISPHERE.							
Cuba Basis 96" Pol. ...	19.195	21 761	26.936	24.610	30.360	65.690	24.870
British West Indies " " ...	18.770	19.142	26.650	26.210	29.260	50.640	—
Domingo " " ...	19.709	—	—	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica " " ...	—	—	26.884	—	—	—	—
Venezuela (Low Grade) No basis ...	—	—	—	20.470	—	—	—
Brazil Basis 96" Pol. ...	17.575	21.732	24.869	—	—	55.220	—
" (Low Grade) No basis ...	—	—	—	21.680	—	—	—
Peru Basis 96" Pol. ...	19.211	21 251	24.047	24.330	24.970	49.320	—
" (Low Grade) No basis ...	21 117	—	—	22.180	20.300*	—	—
Europe Basis 96" Pol. ...	18.847	—	38 710	—	—	58.580	—
EASTERN HEMISPHERE.							
Java Basis 96" Pol. ...	17.572	20.100	19.522	—	24.120	78.750	—
Fiji " " ...	18.466	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mozambique " " ...	19.597	—	23.760	20.010	38.500	—	—
Mauritius (Low Grade) No basis ...	—	—	16.580	15.380	—	—	—
Various " " ...	18.918	—	—	—	—	87.75	—

WHITE.

	1914—5	1916.	1917	1918.	1919.	1920.
WESTERN HEMISPHERE.						
American and Canadian Granulated	23.271	28.676	36.257	33.140	41.390	54.280
American and Canadian Cubes ...	26.250	—	—	—	—	—
Argentine " " ...	19.633	—	—	—	—	—
Peru " " ...	21.398	—	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica " " ...	19.409	—	—	—	—	—
British West Indies " " ...	—	—	30.077	—	{ 95.000 }	—
Russia " " ...	19.335	—	—	—	{ D.P. }	—
Spain " " ...	23.456	—	—	—	—	—
European Granulated " " ...	24.008	—	43.200	43.200	43.130	—
" Cubes " " ...	24.202	—	—	—	—	—
EASTERN HEMISPHERE.						
Java " " ...	20.576	22.486	26.545	—	27.510	—
Mauritius Crystals " " ...	20.373	—	25.990	22.080	56.810	95.520
" Soft " " ...	—	—	29.000	—	—	—
Penang " " ...	19.123	—	—	—	—	—
Australia " " ...	21.205	—	—	—	—	—
Mozambique " " ...	20.320	—	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong " " ...	—	—	30.990	—	—	—
Various " " ...	—	—	—	—	29.690	71.360

* Coloured sugar made free of voucher and ration

A NEW JAMAICA CENTRAL.

"Christabel" and "Hilda" "Go About."

Mr. T. A. B. Sherriff entertained a large number of guests at Long Pond, near Falmouth, on May 17th, to witness the inauguration of the new Central Sugar Factory, which he has established there at a cost of over £100,000. Prominent among them were Colonel H. Bryan, the Colonial Secretary, and the Hon. Guy S. Ewen, Custos, and their wives, who performed the opening ceremony by pressing two buttons which set the machinery in motion. The factory, of which an illustration is published on this page, was designed by Mr. James Morrison, while the machinery was erected by Mr. William Mutter, who was sent out for the purpose by Messrs. John McNeil & Co., of Glasgow, who manufactured it. The latter comprises a nine-roller mill capable of extracting 2,000 gallons of liquor per hour, the engines having been christened "Christabel" and "Hilda," after Mrs. Bryan and Mrs. Ewen. Speeches were the order of the day.

The health of Mr. Sherriff was drunk with enthusiasm and with musical honours at the instance of Colonel Ogilvie. Colonel Bryan, having spoken of their host's enterprise, which he described as being in accordance with the best traditions of Trelawny, spoke of the need which existed in the parish for better means of transportation. Mr. A. L. Delgado said that it was estimated that the factory would produce annually 1,100 tons of sugar and 900 puncheons of rum. The estate had 900 acres under cane, which would also be drawn from other properties with an acreage of 700 acres. Mr. George Taylor then mentioned that in 1832 there were 88 sugar estates in Trelawny, which, however, only produced 900 tons of sugar and 300 puncheons of rum. Now, with eight sugar factories, they could produce in the parish 11,000 tons of sugar and 8,000 puncheons of rum. The proceedings were marked with much conviviality, and it is evident that, despite the slump, optimism still prevails in Jamaica. To quote *The Gleaner*, "It was near 5 o'clock when the gathering had their parting sip and gradually dispersed."



MR. SHERRIFF'S NEW CENTRAL AT LONG POND, JAMAICA.

During the month of April, 36,878 cwts of cacao were exported from the United Kingdom, of which 14,190 cwts. were shipped from London, 20,745 cwts. from Liverpool, 1,690 cwts. from Manchester, and 53 cwts. from Southampton. The principal countries to which the cacao was shipped were the United States, Holland, and Germany, which received 12,885 cwts., 6,892 cwts., and 6,887 cwts., respectively.

A silversmith in Harrogate is offering for sale, from Admiral Sir Fanshawe-Martin's collection, a silver tureen inscribed: "Presented by the Merchants of Antigua to Thomas Byam-Martin, Esq., Commander of His Majesty's Ship 'Tamer' (sic), as a testimony of the high sense they entertain of his unremitting vigilance and attention in the protection of the trade of the Island when on this station in the year 1797."

THE SLUMP IN SUGAR.

Underconsumption the Cause?

An interesting review of the causes which have led to the present position of the sugar market appears in *Facts about Sugar* of May 28th. Our contemporary says :

"Those who have not studied the sugar situation closely frequently express surprise at the accumulation of supplies which has taken place in primary markets and at points of production. With the world's output still considerably below that of the pre-war period, and with the removal of the restrictions imposed upon the use of sugar during the war, it would seem logical to expect that the full amount of present production would be promptly and readily absorbed.

"As a matter of fact, the trouble with sugar to-day, as with other great staples, is not overproduction, but underconsumption. This is a world-wide phenomenon, but it is naturally most marked in Europe, where the most serious interruption to the normal relationship of supply and demand was caused by the war. For six years the peoples of that continent, and to only a less degree the residents of other parts of the world, were systematically taught, and in most countries were forced, to limit their use of sugar. Some effects of this long-continued campaign of restriction unquestionably remain. Add to this the industrial demoralisation and depression that has limited the purchasing power of all nations, the heavy import duties and internal taxes that have been imposed in order to bolster up revenues, and the unfavourable exchange situation that doubles or quadruples the cost of purchases made by many countries, and it is easy to understand that all these factors combined have operated to hold the use of sugar far below the level that it otherwise would have reached at this time. Some of the influences mentioned are peculiar to Europe, but others are world-wide in their application. Consequently, it is not difficult to understand that the return to full normal consumption must attend the gradual progress of world restoration. While the full restoration of a normal demand for products that are in the highest degree essential must await the slow process of world recovery, there are special conditions applying to sugar which should cause the revival of demand for this commodity to proceed more rapidly."

The quantity of "Sugars, tank bottoms, syrups of cane juice, concentrated melado, concrete and concentrated molasses" exported from Canada to the United States for the fiscal year 1920-21, was 56,889,799 lbs., valued at \$9,999,566. In addition, 888,685 galls. of molasses, of above 40 degrees and under 56 degrees polarisation, of the value of \$96,879, were exported to the same country.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged, and will take place on July 5th, between Ernest Booman, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Driver, formerly of Montserrat, and Gertrude, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ingham, of Beeston, Notts.

AGRICULTURE IN ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The Value of Pen Manure.

The Report of the Agricultural Department of St. Kitts-Nevis for the year ending March 31st, 1920, gives an account of the work done at the Botanic and Experiment Stations of that Colony during that period. In connection with the Sea Island cotton manure experiments, the Report states that owing to the difficulty in obtaining supplies of artificial manures, no manure of any kind was applied to the plots for that season, but that the picking and weighing of the seed-cotton from each plot separately continued. The average results of the sixteen years during which the experiments had been carried on showed that the best return came from the application of pen manure, the result from that plot giving 1,403 lbs. per acre of seed-cotton, as against 1,256 from the unmanured plot; and the worst return a basic slag, sulphate of potash, and sulphate of ammonia plot, which only yielded 1,067 lbs. The new Government Cotton-seed Farm, established in March, 1920, for the purpose of supplying seed to growers in the Presidency, was progressing satisfactorily, the first picking supplying 36,000 lbs. of seed. There was little or no loss from the cotton worm, which was kept easily under control by Paris Green, but much trouble from the Cotton Stainer.

As regards the chief industries, the Report states that the exports of sugar and syrup from the Presidency for 1919 were :—

Sugar, Crystals	...	5,625 tons.
Sugar, Muscovado	...	721 "
Syrup, 50% puns, equal to Muscovado	...	1,669 "

an increase of about 2,000 tons on the crop of the previous year.

The total acreage in cotton was 4,300 acres, and the Imperial Government having ceased to purchase cotton, most of the crop was sold to the local agent of the Fine Spinners' Association, at prices varying from 4/9 to 6/6 per lb. for clean lint. It is stated that a few growers, shipping cotton directly to the United Kingdom, obtained 8/4 per lb.

The cotton exported for the year ending September, 1919, was 797,762 lbs., as against 190,857 lbs. in 1918. For the year ending December 31st, 1919, it is stated that the exports were 508,780 lbs. For this period there were also exported 274 tons of cotton-seed, 1,765 galls. of cotton-seed oil, 8,271 barrels of salt, and 775 galls. of lime juice.

SADHU BASHISHATH MUNI has been deported to India from Fiji. Asked by the Indian Government for the reason for the proposal to return him to the country whence he came, the Governor of Fiji cabled : "Muni deported under the Immigration Ordinance as an undesirable immigrant causing unrest in the Colony. When arrested he was on his way from the strike area to other districts with the object of calling out labour on preposterous demands."

OUR MEDICAL SERVICES.

The B.M.A.'s Criticisms.

The British Medical Association addressed a letter to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies on May 3rd last on the subject of the Colonial Medical Services, in some of which "the discontent and dissatisfaction among the medical officers as regards the terms and conditions of service are specially grave—namely, the British Guiana, East African, Leeward Islands, West African and Windward Islands Medical Services."

In this letter they state that the discontent among the medical staff in British Guiana arises especially from the fact that there is apparently no provision for payment of passages of medical officers going on leave, or for study leave; that the prospects of promotion are extremely poor, and that the pension provision is reckoned in 1/60ths.

With regard to the Leeward Islands, the Association states that it would be glad to learn what action has been taken by the Colonial Office to remedy the deplorable state of matters as regards pay, leave, prospects, housing and travelling allowances, and insufficient staff, to which the medical officers of Antigua and the Association have already drawn the attention of the Secretary of State. The Association has addressed to you, on April 28th, a separate letter as to the case of Dr. A. J. Gibson, who, in the opinion of the Association, rightly resigned forthwith, on arrival in Antigua, the post of Medical Superintendent of the Hospital and Health Officer there, to which he was appointed in December, 1919.

Finally, the Windward Islands' Medical Service is dealt with in the following paragraph:—

The Association was greatly surprised to learn from your reply of March 29th last (No. 13,746) that the Colonial Office had not by then received the petition of the medical staff of Grenada, forwarded in December last to the Secretary of State through the Governor, as to the many and urgent grievances under which these officers are suffering. These included: (a) inadequacy of the salaries of the district medical officers (basic £250, plus 10 per cent.—that is, £275); (b) insufficient forage allowance (£50); (c) no house allowance or free quarters; (d) stationary character of the salary; (e) no promotion; (f) invidious treatment of the medical staff; (g) transference of control from the Colonial Surgeon to the Governor; (h) the heavy and ill-remunerated work imposed upon the profession by the Venereal Disease Ordinance and otherwise; and (i) the general conditions of service. The district medical officers had hoped that the recommendations of the Departmental Committee would have led to immediate amelioration of the terms and conditions of service, which in the opinion of the Association are discreditable. It is obvious that the medical officers did not realise how slow are the methods of the Colonial Office. The Association urges that the petition, and the further petition dated February 28th, have the immediate attention of the Secretary of State."

THE estimate for the 1920-21 Indian sugar crop is 2,465,000 tons, which is 81 per cent. of the 1919-20 crop.

TROPICAL DISEASE.

"Unhooking the Hookworm."

Mr. George E. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller Foundation; Mr. Wickliffe Rose, General Director of the International Health Board; and Dr. Victor G. Heiser, director for the East, have been visiting London to attend an important conference on tropical diseases, which was held at the Colonial Office on June 10th, with the Hon. E. F. Wood, M.P., presiding.

The British delegates included some of the foremost authorities on tropical disease, notably Sir John Rose Bradford, Sir Walter Fletcher, Major-General Sir W. Leishman, and Dr. A. L. Bagshawe, Director of the Tropical Diseases Bureau, besides Sir Arthur Shipley, Sir Herbert Read, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. A. C. C. Parkinson, of the Colonial Office.

The British West Indies have special cause to be grateful to the Rockefeller Foundation, which has for some years past been conducting an active campaign against *ankylostomiasis*, or hookworm disease in those Colonies. This tropical malady has resulted in great loss of man power, and the investigations carried out in the West Indies are proving of immense value. Recently the Foundation approached the British Government in regard to experimental work in West Africa in connection with yellow fever, for which every facility was given by the Colonial Office. An attempt is now to be made to co-operate on a wider basis.

It was hoped that the distinguished visitors might have been present at The West India Committee's Banquet to the Prince of Wales, to which they were invited, but, unfortunately, they had to leave London before that date. They dined, however, with the Government on June 13th.

Proposing the health of the guests, Mr. Churchill recalled the occasion a few years ago when a similar company, including representatives of the United States, was gathered in that room with minds concentrated upon improving by every scientific, refined, and hyper-civilised means the methods by which German life could be destroyed. They considered questions connected with high explosives, poison gas, submarines, and many other matters highly technical, but all very relevant at that time to the business they had in hand. Now they were gathered on a very different errand—the cause not of death but of life—(hear, hear)—not of destruction but of organisation, and of placing all the animals in their proper spheres and cages, from the irritating mosquito which flanneted its wings on the banks of the Niger to the objectionable bacillus which infected the milk of the Malta goat, and the detestable tsetse which on the shores of the Victoria Nyanza omitted to brush its teeth and so, when it had taken its breakfast from an unhappy sleeping sickness infected native was bound to transfer that objectionable reminiscence to the next object of its attachment. (Laughter.) It all brought them back to the great saying that dirt was good matter in the wrong place. (Laughter.) They were not against the mosquito, or the tsetse, or the bacillus, but they wanted them in their proper sphere. In fact, it was no use being against them, because one

never knew when they would turn up. (Laughter.) Mr. Vincent had been telling him of a scheme which was being developed for uniting cows and sticklebacks in the mission against mosquitoes. The mosquitoes laid their eggs in the grass which overhung the water, and the sticklebacks would like to eat them, but could not for the grass, so then they brought in the cows. So the place where the white man was stricken became a salubrious spa—it was all a question of organisation. (Laughter.)

Mr. Churchill went on to say that the achievements which scientific bodies had made in the great sphere of research into tropical disease were wonderful crusades. So far as the Colonial Office was concerned, he extended to the Rockefeller Foundation the same facilities that had been extended by his predecessors, Lord Harcourt and Lord Milner. Everything they could do to assist the work and further the aims of the foundation would be done, for well they knew how great was the need of their aid in the solution of these problems. The study of tropical diseases was a work of mercy and urgency similar to that which prompted men to hurry to the sea coast on a stormy night and take the lifeboat out to a ship in distress.

Mr. Vincent, in reply, said that the object of the Rockefeller Foundation was to stamp out not merely hookworm, but other diseases also. Hookworm had been taken first, in order to show what could be done. It was a subject that lent itself to humorous treatment, and they had recently prepared a film for propaganda purposes entitled "Unhooking the hookworm." It was a fairly simple disease, and one the doctors knew all about. What was the first thing they did? They came to Britain in order to familiarise themselves with the procedure of public health administration worked out so successfully in this country. The difference between the scientific mind and the lay mind was that the scientific mind was always open and never closed. The lay mind liked to jump to conclusions. It was in a scientific spirit that he ventured to suggest tentative conclusions of their experience. They were impressed with the fact that the public health was a unified thing. While it might be divided into tropical medicine, after all the public health was the essential, and the one outstanding thing was the health of the public, and that had to be dealt with in a large, comprehensive, and statesmanlike manner. Their great concern had been to apply the knowledge gained on a large scale, and for this reason they had to ascertain what the problems of administration were, and to see what things, theoretically admirable, had to be modified when applied in the mass. They realised that the application of what scientific knowledge they had was an extremely important thing. In these matters they had come to realise that men were vastly more important than money. Unless there were well-trained people to concentrate on the work, money might be a curse instead of a blessing, and they had often been in a position of having more money than people who could wisely utilise it. Therefore, at the John Hopkins University a school had been established which had prospered so well that they were promised a full complement of students in the next two or three years. There was also to be organised a school of public health administrators in connection with Harvard University. But while research was essential to all progress, the work was greatly assisted by practical experience in the field. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. A. KELSO, B.A., of Jamaica, has been ordained, and leaves for Trinidad in the s.s. *Ingoma* at the end of the month. Mr. Kelso was a J.P. for Martu Point, Andros, in the Bahamas, in 1917.

THE CORONA CLUB DINNER.

Mr. Winston Churchill's Speech.

Presiding at the annual dinner of the Corona Club, at the Connaught Rooms, on June 16th, Mr. Winston Churchill said that every variety of climate and race, every combination of social, economic, political, and financial problem was comprised within the Crown Colonies of the British Empire.

There were islands which hoped to balance their budget by the sale of turtles; there were islands which endeavoured to keep their heads above water by the annual issue of postage stamps; and there were enormous regions whose wealth had not yet been even tapped or measured. He assured those Colonial officials who were present that although their work had not figured very much in the Press—and hardly figured at all unless something went wrong (laughter)—yet it was appreciated at the headquarters of the Colonial service in London. It would not be possible to govern the British Empire from Downing Street. They did not try. Downing Street attempted to supervise the action of responsible Governors who were expected to act in accordance with the conditions which were associated with the personality of an English gentleman. The first quality of the British administrator and the English gentleman was the power to comprehend the true and legitimate point of view of the other side.

The future of the Crown Colonies was bright. Once the essential, fundamental apparatus had been given, the inexhaustible fertility of many of these regions would return a plentiful increment for the capital which the Mother Country had invested in them. He was of opinion that a tremendous effort should be made to secure for the Crown Colonies the credits which they required; and he hoped it would be possible—he did not say it would be possible—to make some sort of consortium, or combination of credits, between many of the great Crown Colonies, so as to secure the necessary loans on a wide basis. These credits could go out to the Crown Colonies only in the shape of the products of British labour. The return could only come back to these islands in the form of raw materials, which were most vitally needed.

THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.

To represent Colonial Office in Lords.

The Colonial Office is to be represented in the House of Lords by a nobleman personally acquainted with the British West Indian Colonies, the Duke of Sutherland having been invited to discharge that duty which has recently been performed by Lord Londonderry. It will be recalled that the Duke visited the West Indies in the winter of 1913-14 in his yacht *Catania*, in company with the Duchess, Lord and Lady Brooke, and Mr. and Lady Rosabelle Bingham. He visited all the principal islands, and was for some time the guest of the manager of Barbuda, with which island he was particularly charmed.

In 1920 the colony of Newfoundland imported \$142,547 worth of sugar, \$848 worth of oranges, \$102 worth of lime juice, \$168 worth of lumber, \$138 worth of rum, and \$19,560 worth of cigars from the British West Indies.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Endowment Fund's Progress.

The total of The West India Committee Endowment Fund has now reached £23,100 12s. 8d. The Hon. Treasurers have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following amounts since the last list was published in the CIRCULAR of May 26th:—

THIRTY-THIRD LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged—£23,024	14	2
"The Stores" (Grenada), Ltd. ...	50	0 0
C. T. Trechmann, Esq., D.Sc., F.G.S.	5	5 0
Messrs. Lever Bros., Ltd.	5	5 0
Arthur E. Morrish, Esq.	5	0 0
E. H. Walters, Esq.	2	2 0
Morton Cutlibert, Esq.	1	1 0
D. R. Gemmel, Esq.	1	1 0
W. K. A. J. C. Hunter, Esq.	1	1 0
H. G. Seaford, Esq.	1	1 0
R. P. Stephenson, Esq.	1	1 0
C. T. de D. Whitehouse, Esq.	1	1 0
J. R. Carrington, Esq.	1	0 0
F. Carpenter, Esq.	10	6
Mrs. M. A. Andrew	5	0
M. Gonsalves, Esq.	5	0

It is hoped that every member will contribute towards The West India Committee Endowment Fund, having regard especially to the fact that the minimum annual subscription to the Committee is so low, remaining as it does at the pre-war figure of £1 1s. 0d.

The New Postal Rates.

Immediately after the announcement had been made that the postal rates on newspapers and other printed matter sent overseas was to be doubled, The West India Committee took the matter up, pointing out the serious effect which such increase would have on the patriotic work of societies and institutions engaged upon in promoting the unity and interests of the Empire by the exchange of knowledge within the United Kingdom and between the Mother Country and the various Dominions and Colonies.

At their request the Royal Colonial Institute convened a meeting of societies, and a resolution, signed by representatives of the principal societies in the United Kingdom, the text of which was published in the *Times* of June 9th, was sent to the Prime Minister. The matter was also taken up warmly in the Press and the opposition to the new proposals was such that the Postmaster-General yielded, announcing in the House of Commons on June 9th that the proposal to increase the charges for printed papers sent abroad would be dropped. He learned, he said, at the Board of Trade that the most effective form of propaganda, the most simple and plastic form of propaganda, on behalf of British industry was that which was done by the British technical and trade journals. The most effective form of propaganda on behalf of the British spirit abroad, distinguishing here between British industry

and British spirit, was done by the British newspapers which went abroad. He admitted that he felt the force of the representations which he had received to the effect that this increase would be to hamper seriously our propaganda overseas, in comparison with the United States and Germany in particular.

OBITUARY.

THE HON. WILLIAM S. COMMISSIONG, C.M.G., K.C.

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of the Hon. William Sayer Commissiong, which took place in Grenada on May 12th.

The death of Mr. Commissiong robs Grenada of a leading and much respected citizen and a lawyer of more than local reputation. Born in 1846, Mr. Commissiong was the son of the late Mr. Matthew Commissiong, headmaster of Beaumont Lodge High School. After reading law in the chambers of the late Mr. W. Mildmay Shervington, he was admitted in 1867 to the Grenada Bar, at which he practised for over half a century. In 1872 he was appointed Escheator-General, and he acted on numerous occasions as Attorney-General and Chief Justice. As a member for St. John's in the popularly elected House of Assembly and Legislative Assembly, he was one of those, who, in 1875, voted for the surrender of the Colony's ancient constitution, and it is evidence of his open-mindedness and public spirit that 36 years later, as President of the Representative Government Association, he was largely instrumental in securing for Grenada the grant of some measure of representation. Until his death he was a member of the Executive and Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council. For his services to the Colony, he was awarded the C.M.G. in 1911.

SIR BERNARD OPPENHEIMER, BART.

We regret to announce that Sir Bernard Oppenheimer, Bart, died at Stoke Poges on June 13th, at the age of 55.

Sir Bernard Oppenheimer, who was a Life Member of The West India Committee, was connected with the British diamond industry, and was an extensive buyer of British Guiana diamonds. His philanthropic enterprise in training men disabled in the war in diamond cutting at Brighton, Cambridge and elsewhere, received recognition in last New Year's honours, when he was made a baronet.

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following appointments affecting the Colonial Civil Service of the British West Indies have been recently made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Lieut. F. M. Harvey, R.N.R., Harbour Master, Antigua.

Mr. J. A. Robotham, Assistant Agricultural Superintendent, St. Kitts-Nevis.

Lieut. H. E. S. Richards, M.C., Chief Medical Officer, St. Lucia.

Mr. G. P. Lewis (Assistant Postmaster-General, Kenya), Postmaster-General, Trinidad.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Debate in Parliament at Ottawa.

(Continued from page 239.)

Mr. Ballantyne: My hon. colleague has overlooked the fact that the Canadian Government Merchant Marine have two ships of 5,100 tons deadweight each that have been fitted up at Halifax to carry 30 passengers each. They are the best equipped passenger ships going to the West Indies, either from the port of New York or from any Canadian port. These ships have two suites of rooms, one on the starboard and one on the port, six bathrooms, libraries, lounge rooms, and pianos. I do not want this service overlooked. So that if any of our Canadian friends intend visiting the West Indies on the route of these vessels during the winter months, from Halifax to the Bahamas, Jamaica, and British Honduras, and, during the open season, from Montreal on the St. Lawrence, they may be assured of the best possible accommodation on these ships.

Mr. Keefer: Is there any reason why some ships of this type should not ply between Canada and some of the other islands?

Mr. McMaster said that the right hon. minister in charge of the Bill and the hon. member for Durham's conduct was of the greatest consistency; they did what they could to stop the consumption of spirituous liquors in Canada, so that they might have more to ship to the West Indies to supply our dark brethren down there.

Mr. Sinclair (Guysborough): Will the Minister of Marine be good enough to inform us how many passengers these boats have been fitted up to carry?

Mr. Ballantyne: They do not carry very many, they only carry thirty. It was not the intention of the Canadian Government to engage in the passenger trade in any way whatsoever, but the representatives from Jamaica, British Honduras and the Bahamas pressed us so to put on this limited passenger accommodation on our ships, originally designed to be freight ships only, that the Government acceded to their request. They did so as part of the agreement entered into and in order that we might bring Jamaica into the agreement, for the first time, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce explained a minute ago, and it must be remembered that this, the most important island of all, is granting to the Dominion of Canada a preference of 25 per cent.

Mr. Sinclair (Guysborough): We are running freight boats as I understand it. The other route will take, as I estimate, about eight vessels to carry out the conditions of the agreement. The Royal Mail Packet Company are at present running four ships on that route, giving a fortnightly service, and we are paying them a subsidy of \$340,000 a year. We are now proposing to provide a weekly service, and I suppose that will mean that eight vessels instead of four will be required. Now I feel interested, in common with the other hon. gentlemen on this side, in seeing that we should have this service if it does not cost us too much, but I wish to look at this matter in a practical way and represent as well as I can the taxpayers of the country. This service is costing us now, as I have already said, \$340,000 a year and we are promising to double it. But the question is, has my right hon. friend any prospect that he can double the business that is now being done by the Royal Mail Packet Company? I have on my desk the return that was

made by my hon. friend's department to the Government showing the growth of the steamship traffic between those islands and Canada during a number of years. The return goes back to 1908 and it does not show a very rapid growth as far as trade is concerned. In 1908 we had 36,000 tons—that is tons by weight; in 1909, 63,000 tons; in 1910, 66,000 tons—I am leaving off the odd figures; in 1911, 69,000 tons; in 1912, 65,000 tons; in 1913, 52,000 tons; in 1914, 52,000 tons; in 1915, 78,000 tons; in 1916, 100,000 tons; in 1917, 94,000 tons; in 1918, 70,000 tons; and in 1919, 90,000 tons. So that the traffic is not large. Even with the four vessels that are now on the route the ships cannot be going well filled because they have an average tonnage of 4,500 tons, or a little more than that. If we give a weekly service, and take some of the traffic which was enjoyed last year, it will only afford each vessel about 1,730 tons for the trip. If we put five or six six thousand ton ships on the route and only carry that small quantity of freight, the ships will be running to a large extent empty; they will be burning expensive coal and perhaps coming out with a heavy loss. I would like to know what prospects my hon. friend has of doubling the traffic? If he can do that, and secure passengers as well, he may come out all right. There are some phases of this agreement to which I would like to draw his attention. For example, the average speed of the vessels on this route is to be twelve knots; at present the average speed I think, is only ten knots.—Sir George Foster: Ten and eleven.

Mr. Sinclair: The speed, under the new arrangement we are making, is to be twelve knots and the vessels of the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine will be excluded from doing the business. I take it, as their speed does not come up to twelve knots. Then cold storage is to be provided, and the Canadian Government agrees to induce the owners to run hotels if they can. All that the Islands promise is to grant sites for the hotels and promote the enterprise in some way or another—I do not know what obligation they are under in that regard. I would like to have from my right hon. friend some calculation as to how he expects to come out of this arrangement financially. Does he expect, when he promises a weekly service, to increase the volume of freight correspondingly so that it will not cost this country an enormous amount to keep this service going? We have not had any information on that point, but I presume the department must have made some calculation as to what this would ultimately cost the country before entering into the agreement?

Sir George Foster: I do not think you can come to any definite conclusions in the matter. Let us examine it from two or three standpoints. In the first place it is not necessary to double the number of ships at present engaged on that route in order to double the service. I am told, and I believe it to be the fact, that it is quite possible by a schedule arrangement to conduct the service with six vessels instead of with eight. If that be so, then we cut off a very important part of the prospective cost. In the second place the preference that is given by the West Indian peoples to our products is being fully doubled. There is still a very large proportion of the imports into those West Indian Islands which can be supplied by Canada and which this added preference will help Canada to supply, so that we may hope for a progressive increase of freights as a result of added preferences and of increased frequency of steamship communications.

(To be continued.)

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 240).
Grenada's Constitution.

Grenada enjoyed self-government from 1764 to 1876, when the Legislative Assembly, which had only been brought into existence a month before, after Governor Pope Hennessy had dissolved the old House of Assembly, committed political suicide and passed an Address praying the Queen to assent to an Act repealing the constitution and to erect in its place such form of Government as she might consider desirable for the welfare of the Colony.

In its later days the House of Assembly seems to have been a very decadent body, its proceedings being almost farcical. For example, when it was asked to vote a subsidy to enable the Colony to be linked up with the outside world by a submarine cable, it solemnly debated the propriety of entitling the measure authorising this payment "An Act to tax the whole community and to benefit only a few interested parties," a resolution to this effect being formally moved, seconded, and put to the vote on August 31st, 1870. The short-lived Legislative Assembly was apparently no better, for while the Act providing for its own abolition (which, by the way, was held by the Law Officers of the Crown to be *ultra vires*), was waiting the Royal Assent, it actually discussed a motion laying down that the title of a Bill passed to provide for the maintenance of a supply of ice in the town of St. George's should be "An Act to deceive the inhabitants of this island by representing the urgent necessity for keeping up a supply of ice for the use and benefit of hospitals, whereas nothing is intended but the pecuniary aggrandisement of some Government favourite." The local Act providing for the abolition of the constitution was disallowed, because it was held that it was not competent for a Colonial Legislature to abolish itself; but on December 3rd, 1877, an Order in Council was passed under an Imperial Act, proclaiming Grenada a Crown Colony, which it has remained ever since.

What has been the record of Crown Colony Government in the island? If statistics count for anything, it has proved a conspicuous success, for under it the revenue of the Colony has risen from £26,569 in 1875 to £110,387 in 1918-19, and the cacao crop has increased from 21,864 bags in 1878 to 82,377 bags, while a valuable peasant proprietary, initiated by the Hon. Edward Drayton, the Colonial Secretary, which is now the mainstay of the prosperity of Grenada and its dependency Carriacou, has been developed. Further, with the settlement of the people on the land, the need for immigration, which in former days was so great that at intervals down to 1866 East Indians from Calcutta were introduced into the Colony, has been completely obviated. The population of Grenada has, indeed, been steadily progressing, and amounts now to 74,490, as compared with 37,684 in 1871. It is noteworthy, too, that it was during the Crown Colony period that the cultivation of spice, now one of the most important industries of the island, was

started by the late Mr. Frank Gurney, on behalf of Colonel Duncan, at Belvidere Estate. Whether, however, this is a case of *post hoc* or one of *propter hoc*, one is not prepared to argue, though it may fairly be claimed that the development of new industries is facilitated under ordered and stable Government.

Nevertheless, the legitimate political aspirations of the people cannot be disregarded, and in these days especially, when the talk is all of self-determination, the principle of no taxation without representation cannot lightly be laid aside. In recent years there has been a steadily growing desire among the people for the restoration of the representative institutions, which the Colony enjoyed for over half a century, and this had recently manifested itself in the formation of a Representative Government Association. That body, of which the Hon. W. S. Commissiong, K.C., was President, the Hon. D. S. De Freitas and Mr. Malcolm E. H. Martin Vice-Presidents, and our friend with whom we were now chatting, the Secretary, had carried on a campaign in favour of self-government in a very business-like and orderly manner. Enthusiastic meetings had been held throughout the island, and finally a petition to the King was being widely signed, praying His Majesty to grant some measure of self-government to the Colony in substitution for Crown Colony rule. One had heard that there were extremists in this as there are in every movement of the kind, but we failed to detect anything of the hot air agitator about Mr. Marryshow, whose genuine enthusiasm for the cause that he had at heart was unmistakable.

The petitioners claimed that the general electorate was not consulted when the local "Lords and Commons" were arbitrarily superseded by a single Legislative Chamber in 1875, and, premising that the existing Crown Colony form of Government was unsuited to present conditions, they prayed for the introduction of the principle of popular representation into the constitution.

This prayer has since been granted to the extent that the Secretary of State, to whom it was referred, has consented to recommend to the King that four members, to be elected by the people, shall be included in the Legislative Council of the Colony. In coming to this decision, which has naturally given rise to very general satisfaction in the Colony, Mr. Churchill was, no doubt, largely influenced by the character of the signatories of the petition, who included members of the Executive and Legislative Council, ministers of religion, professional men, merchants, planters and, indeed, representatives of all classes of the community.

It is a matter for regret that Mr. Commissiong, who, though one of those who had voted for the repeal of the constitution, became one of the foremost supporters of the movement for securing for the people representative Government, has not lived to see the full results of his work. That distinguished son of Grenada died on May 12th, 1921, and one can only hope that it may have been a consolation to him in his last days to know that some measure of success had already attended his efforts on behalf of the Colony.

Leaving Mr. Marryshow's office, we next dropped in at the St. George's Club, where the leading lights of the capital are wont to congregate after business hours, or whenever a mail steamer comes in, that Institution being conveniently situated near the Government offices and the wharf. Like other West Indian clubs, it has, moreover, a bar; but our visit was necessarily a hurried one, inasmuch as Mr. Ferguson's car was waiting at the door, with his wife inside, ready to take us on a voyage of discovery in the vicinity. It should be explained that the "we" on this occasion included the President of the Associated Chamber and the representative of the Federation of British Industries, with whom there was a good deal of argument as to the correct appellation of the various objects of interest in the neighbourhood. Skirting the harbour, we passed the Botanic Station, the first to be established in these parts under the scheme laid down by Dr. (now Sir) Daniel Morris in the eighties, with its glorious Traveller's Tree, often incorrectly described as a palm, just beyond the entrance. It is a pity that this tree, which hails from Madagascar, is not more frequently planted in the West Indies, for it is second only to the cabbage palm for beauty. Its leaves, which are not unlike those of the banana, are folded over one another in a single plane, and spread out in the shape of a fan. The tree owes its name to the fact that when you cut the stems of its leaves they exude water which was supposed to refresh the weary traveller.

A Chance for Capitalists.

Rushing on, we soon reached Grand Ance, a large bay with a white sandy beach, ideal for bathing. We visitors were all agreed that this was the site of sites for a winter hotel, and it seemed remarkable that though Grenada is the first and last port of call of a line of passenger steamers which ply to and from New York, and is also visited fortnightly by the contract passenger steamers from Canada, enterprise should not have been forthcoming to erect and maintain a really modern caravanserai.

From this delightful beach we turned inland and headed for Carlton, Mr. Ferguson's residence, perched on a plateau on the mountain side just below Richmond Hill, and commanding a glorious view of the surrounding country, which forms a panorama of mountain and valley whose equal it would be difficult to find, even in these islands of exquisite scenery. It recalled, in some far-off way, the Devil's Punch Bowl, though this grand amphitheatre of hills surrounding the Tempe, Mount Parnassus, and Mount Gay valleys presents a far more magnificent *coup d'œil* than Hindhead's famous beauty-spot can boast. Conspicuous in the middle distance was a solitary Morne, on the summit of which was an immense silk cotton, or ceiba, one of those mysterious giant trees which look as if they had been pulled up by some gargantuan hand and planted upside down with their roots in the air. It was on just such a Morne as this that the blood-thirsty rebel, Julien Fédon, pitched his camp during the memorable

insurrection which shook the Colony of Grenada to its foundations in 1795-96.

Fédon's Insurrection.

After Victor Hugues, the Commissary of the National Convention, had retaken Guadeloupe for France, in 1794, he decided to endeavour to reduce St. Vincent and to recapture Grenada and St. Lucia. His emissaries landed secretly on these islands and preached the doctrines of the Revolution, which naturally found ready acceptance, inasmuch as they included freedom, a decree having been issued on April 4th, 1792, that "people of colour and free negroes in the Colonies ought to enjoy equality of political rights with the whites." In St. Vincent the warlike and truculent Caribs, not content with possessing already the most fertile part of the island, which had been given to them in 1773, rose under Chatoyer and Duvalle, overran the country, spreading devastation and ruin in their path, whilst in St. Lucia and Grenada the French inhabitants joined hands with the slaves in an attempt to shake off the English yoke in a rising which was accompanied by scenes of unparalleled cruelty.

In Grenada especially, Hugues found suitable material for carrying out all his designs, inasmuch as the French and English in that island were constantly at enmity. After the capture of Grenada in 1763, the English Government, in order to conciliate the French residents, permitted them to enjoy full religious freedom, a privilege not extended to the English inhabitants, who were consequently intensely jealous of their fellow colonists. Sixteen years later the French, on regaining possession of the island, subjected the English settlers to great hardship and suffering, exasperating them to such an extent that after the restoration of the island to Great Britain by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783, the local Legislature retaliated by wresting from the French their churches and church lands, and making them over to the Protestant Church, and finally by depriving them of their political rights. Hugues selected as his tool in Grenada Julian Fédon, a planter of French descent, who then owned Belvidere Estate, on the heights in St. John's Parish, making him General Commandant.

(To be continued.)

"I would not do it for Christchurch dead" is an expression still occasionally heard in Barbados. Mr. G. B. R. Burton, headmaster of Combermere School, in an article in the School Magazine, attributes this to the superstition resulting from the Barbados Coffin Mystery of 100 years ago, which is described in "West Indian Tales of Old."

THE Government grant in the United States for the year ending June 30th, 1922, for the purpose of fighting the pink boll worm is \$554,840, payable to the Federal Horticultural Board. Opportunity is also given to extend the investigation of the use of powdered calcium arsenate for this purpose by the establishment of several field stations, for which an additional vote is given.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The consumption of cacao in France during the year 1920 was 50,722,112 lbs. Of this quantity, the British West Indies supplied 5,238,016 lbs., the French West Indies 1,112,832 lbs., British East Africa 18,997,776 lbs., French East Africa 8,438,304 lbs., Venezuela 2,590,224 lbs., Brazil 6,416,592 lbs., and Ecuador 2,078,608 lbs.

* * *

Mexico is, also, a fruitful source of vanilla, over 50,000 people being employed in the industry. It grows in a more or less wild state on the lower hill ranges, and in such abundance that it perfumes the surrounding country. It grows best in rich sandy soil and drained, too, thoroughly, and requires shade trees for protection from sun and weather. The temperature most favourable for its production is 85 degrees F., and the most favourable altitude for its growth is 1,000 feet above sea level.

* * *

Experiments have been carried out in Jamaica during the last two years in connection with the cultivation of sisal hemp in that island, and the report of Mr. P. W. Murray, the superintendent of field experiments, shows that the yield of fibre per acre was 938 lbs. and 1,967 lbs. for the last two years respectively, worth at the present time £40. It is stated four crops can be obtained before replanting, giving 4,000 lbs. of fibre per acre. A sisal-hemp nursery has been established at Montpelier of a capacity of 50,000 plants for the development of the industry.

* * *

Experiments recently conducted by Professor Reed, of the University of California, on the subject of sap concentration in relation to growth in orange trees have shown that rapid growth is generally associated with a lower concentration of sap, while slower growth is accompanied by higher concentrations of sap, the concentration increasing as the growing season advances. Further, the sap concentrations of shoots on trees heavily pruned is lower than that of shoots not pruned, on account of the more rapid growth, indicating that pruning trees during the period of most growth is detrimental.

* * *

A brief account is given in the *Experimental Station Record* of work by F. Riedel, in connection with the use of the purified gases from blast furnaces in greenhouse and plot experiments with various crops, including castor bean, tomatoes, cucumbers, spinach, potatoes, barley, and lupines. The air of the greenhouses was charged with the gases through perforated pipes, and the air surrounding the plants grown in the open was supplied with the gases in a similar way. The purified gases contained 20 per cent. of carbonic acid. There was a marked increase of production, both in greenhouses and in the open, by the application of the gases, and no injurious effects resulted.

There are many Lepidoptera which closely resemble the pink boll-worm, *Pectinophora gossypiella*, the great pest of the cotton plant, and which are likely to be mistaken for it, and Carl Heinrich, in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* (vol. xx., No. 11) enumerates and describes no fewer than 38 species, six of which are given as being new. Mr. Heinrich gives also the interesting information that in no instance has he found the pink bollworm attacking any other plant than cotton, although thousands of seed pods of okra and other malvaceous plants growing wild in the immediate vicinity of cotton fields attacked with the boll-worm during the previous year were examined. The article is profusely illustrated, and is well worth the attention of those connected with the cotton industry.

The question of the synthetic manufacture of sugar—that is to say, of that body known as sucrose—is one which has often occupied the attention of scientists; but up to now nothing has been discovered which affords a prospect of its practicability. In Nature, starch is formed from the carbon of the carbonic acid of the air, decomposed in the leaves, and the water absorbed by the roots of the plant. Starch is, however, insoluble in water at the plant temperature, and consequently it has to be converted into a soluble body in order that it may be conveyed in the sap to all parts of the plant for the formation of fibre. Glucose—that is to say a sugar possessing the composition $C_6H_{12}O_6$ —is this body, and it is from the surplus of this glucose that sucrose $C_{12}H_{22}O_{10}$ is formed by the apparent abstraction of one molecule of water H_2O from two molecules of glucose. The chemical process, however, which effects this end is unknown, but it is just possible that the presence of formaldehyde, which has been found in the leaves of plants may form some clue to the intervening stages of the transformation of the carbon from the air and the water from the soil into starch. There is, however, nothing to afford the slightest light as to the subsequent changes ending in sucrose. Experience in other directions, indeed, points to the fact that, if sucrose is to be made artificially, it will be by other means than by attempting to imitate Nature.

* * *

The problem of how best to raise young chicks in confinement has engaged the attention of poultry growers for some years. The difficulties encountered have been attributed to various causes, such as lack of vitamins in the food, want of exercise, and intestinal putrefaction. Messrs. Philips, Carr, and Kennard have been investigating this subject, and the results of their experiments are published in a recent number of the *Journal of Agricultural Research* (vol. xx., No. 11). The conclusions arrived at are that the tops of sprouted oats are useless as a preventive of digestive trouble, or as an aid to growth; that tobacco powder added to the ration of growing chicks prevents growth and causes them to be wild and nervous; and that hydrochloric acid, sulphur, and particularly copper sulphate offer interesting possibilities of success in raising chicks in confinement.

WEST INDIA 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.

British Honduras.

Dr Carmichael, who proposes to found a business for canning the natural products of the Colony, such as fish and fruit, has been granted immunity from import duties on empty tins for one year, and a reduced duty for five years. Dr Carmichael looks for his market, says the *Clarion*, in the United States.

The British Honduras loan has not been so successful as the Trinidad one, only about \$65,000 out of \$1,000,000 having been taken up so far. The revenue is below the estimate, and with practically no market for mahogany or chicle, and scarcely any bananas for shipment owing to disease, the outlook for the moment is not encouraging.

Canon McConney leaves Antigua.

Writing on May 18th, Hon. Donald McDonald states that the General Legislative Council has at last ratified the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, without dissent or amendment, and a New Tariff for Antigua, which is being drafted to give effect to the preferential rates required, will come before the Legislature at an early date.

The first freight steamer of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine reached Antigua on the 18th, with inter-colonial cargo, leaving for Montreal on the same day. It is hoped that this may be the beginning of a regular direct service to and from the St. Lawrence.

Colonel the Hon. T. R. St. Johnston administered the Government during the illness of the Governor, who is now, however, recovered and has resumed the Government.

The island is experiencing drier weather than it has known for a very long time. It is still doubtful if the Central Factory will be able to continue taking canes from outside estates.

The Rev. Canon McConney, Vicar of All Saints', has left for New York on account of his health. Two purses were presented to him in recognition of his 38 years uninterrupted service to the Island Church.

Sportsmen locally are much gratified at the result of the cricket match against St. Kitts, which was played in the latter island, and was won by Antigua by 90 runs.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald have established an "Ian McDonald Memorial Scholarship" at the Antigua Grammar School in memory of their son, the gallant Flying Officer, who perished at the hands of the Arabs in Mesopotamia in September, last year. The *School Review*, discontinued for two years, has made a welcome re-appearance. It provides a strong tie between Old Boys all over the world.

A Bahamas Cause Célèbre.

There has been a dramatic sequel to the opening of the Commission recently appointed to inquire into the conduct of certain officials. Their counsel having written to the Governor, protesting against the attitude of some of the members of the Commission, and stating that fifteen years' experience of the Colony had convinced him that it was quite impossible for his clients "to receive anything approaching a fair trial by any Commission appointed from the natives of this Colony," the House of Assembly passed two

resolutions; the first expressing the opinion that as the officials whose conduct is the subject of enquiry had identified themselves with the letter, they should be deprived of their offices; the second instructing the Speaker to obtain the opinion of the Attorney-General as to whether the letter could be made the ground for a criminal prosecution.

The cargo taken on board the *Canadian Forester*, on May 10th, constituted the largest single shipment ever carried from Nassau to Canada. It included a few crates of pineapples, and it looks as if this product of the Bahamas might again find the favour it used to enjoy in the Dominion. The *Nassau Guardian* thinks that greater efforts should be made to promote the trade which should follow the Canadian Agreement. Mr. Richard Lawson, who was recently appointed Assistant Civil Engineer under a four years' agreement with the Government, has arrived in the Colony.

Another Barbados Estate Sold.

Last month was the driest May experienced for four years, according to the *Agricultural Reporter*, and the young canes, particularly on the sea-board parishes, are severely affected. The growth of the ratoons, however, has been very satisfactory, especially in St. Thomas, St. Joseph, and St. Andrew. Most of the reaping of the old crop had been completed by the middle of May.

Canewood plantation, 115 acres, in the parish of St. Michael, the property of Mr. R. A. Dear, has been sold to Mrs. D. S. Payne, of Accra, for £9,000, crop included.

A vote for £4,000 per annum for five years towards the Canada-West Indies steamship service was agreed to by the House of Assembly on May 3rd.

Captain E. A. Collymore has been gazetted Captain in the Barbados Volunteer force, and to command the Cadet Corps, in the place of Mr. R. Hall, who has resigned. The obituary includes the name of Mr. W. A. Bovell, of the firm of Bovell & Skeete, the Bridgetown Accountants. Mr. J. Beckles, Mr. L. Skinner, and Mr. J. Murphy have been returned unopposed to fill the vacancies on the St. Michael Vestry, caused by the resignations of Mr. R. Challoner, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson and Mr. W. Howring.

Mr. Moreau Dies in Dominica.

The death is announced of Mr. Roland Moreau, on his estate at Mahaut. Mr. Moreau was an experienced planter, whose practical knowledge of local conditions will be much missed.

Grenada Constitution Committee.

At the sitting of the Supreme Court on May 17th, an eloquent tribute was paid to the late Hon. W. S. Commissiong, K.C., C.M.G. (to whose death on May 12th, reference is made in another column), by the Acting Chief Justice, who spoke of "his keen and subtle intellect, his gift of elegant phrasing and his singular charm of manner," and the Acting Attorney-General warmly associated himself with these remarks on behalf of the Bar.

The acting appointment of Mr. R. C. Fitt as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council, has been confirmed.

The Committee appointed to make recommendations for carrying out the approved changes in the Colony's constitution consists of: Hon. M. E. H. Martin, Hon. F. R. Harford, Hon. F. H. Copland, Hon. R. C. Fitt,

Mr. C. H. Lucas, Mr. G. A. Bain, and Mr. C. F. Renwick. The Colonial Secretary in announcing the above personnel, adds that Mr. T. A. Marryshow would also have been invited to serve, had he been present in the Colony.

Mr. H. A. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, delivered an important address to the Agricultural and Commercial Society on May 5th, in which he dealt with the habits of those pests of the cacao plant, termites, mealy bugs and black ants, and emphasised the need for the most efficient orchard management as the best means of checking their ravages.

The Jamaica Railway.

Following criticisms of the Government Railway on the part of certain members of the Legislative Council, the Governor has agreed to appoint a Commission to enquire into the working of the Railway Department.

The ghost of Mrs. Ann Palmer, the beautiful though wicked wife of Hon. John Palmer, who a hundred years ago owned Ron Hall, is reported to have been particularly active of late, and to have been seen by a number of residents of Montego Bay. The *Gleaner* thinks that recent appearances of this lady, the story of whose tragic end is recounted in "West Indian Tales of Old," may be not unconnected with the recent researches at Rose Hall of a novelist seeking local colour.

The appointment of the Hon. W. A. S. Vickers as a nominated member of the Legislative Council has been confirmed. Mr. C. Hope Levy is appointed to fill the position of Custos of St. Thomas, rendered vacant by the death of Captain G. G. Taylor. Lieut.-Colonel Edward G. Orrett, the Island representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., who died on May 18th, was the son of the late Hon. John Orrett, a member of the Privy Council of Jamaica.

St. Kitts' Sensational Census.

Mr. E. J. Shelford writes under date May 25th that the weather remains dry and seasonable, although the Sandy Point and Basseterre districts have been favoured with local showers. Reaping is progressing normally, except in the Sandy Point district, where, unfortunately, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the waterworks system bringing water from the Wingfield River, there is quite a water famine, and several estates are seriously handicapped.

The Census figures for 1921 for the Presidency are as follows:—

	Males.	Females	Total 1921	Total 1911
St. Kitts' ...	9,014	13,401	22,415	26,283
Nevis ...	4,678	6,891	11,569	12,945
Anguilla ...	1,447	2,783	4,230	1,075
			<u>Total 38,214</u>	<u>43,303</u>

The 1921 figures therefore show a decrease of 3,868 for St. Kitts, a decrease of 1,376 for Nevis, an increase of 155 for Anguilla, and a total decrease of 5,089 for the Presidency. The principal cause of this serious condition of things is steady emigration from both town and rural parishes to foreign countries for the better type of young men and women, and although conditions are not as attractive as they were in San Domingo, Cuba, and America, the leakage continues. The outlook is a serious one, and the problem is far from being one merely of wages.

Tobago's Good Cacao Crops.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, under date May 18th, reports a visit to the Island from the Inspector of Agricultural Credit Societies. Besides a general caution about loans in these depressed times, the societies were warned that the loans ought to be for distinctly agricultural purposes, there having been reports of advances having been diverted to commercial and other purposes.

The cacao crop is over. Many estates have had record pickings, and the amount exported should greatly exceed last year's crop, but the drop in prices is far too serious to enable them to make both ends meet, and various suggestions are being made for the planters' relief. There is the promise of an early crop, provided the weather is at all seasonable. Very little rain has fallen in the last fortnight, and it is needed for the fields as well as the people.

Empire Day was celebrated in the schools and villages. At Scarborough, a cricket match took place between the Leeward and Windward districts, followed by a dance.

Sir John Chancellor leaves Trinidad.

Sir John Chancellor left for England on May 28th, via New York, having accepted an invitation to stay with Mr. J. P. Morgan *en route*. Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on May 23rd, states that the Colony is unanimous in its appreciation of the work done by His Excellency during his term of office, and addresses from public bodies are being showered upon him.

The Summer Meeting of the Trinidad Turf Club, which was held on May 14th and 16th, proved most successful, the number of horses entered probably forming a record.

An hotel has just been opened at Point Raleine, the extreme westerly part of the island of Gasparée. The managing director is Major Lamotte, D.S.O., who was lately in command of the troops in the Island, but has now retired. His brother owns a considerable part of Gasparée, and is also interested in the enterprise. With tennis courts provided, motor boats on hire, and excellent bathing and fishing, the convenience of guests will be considered in a manner hitherto unknown in the Island.

Major J. Wilson, M.C., V.D., has been raised to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, the promotion dating from his appointment to be Deputy Inspector-General of the Constabulary. Colonel Wilson, who is the son of the late Mr. John Shine Wilson, at one time a very prominent estate owner of the Colony, is equally popular in the Force and out of it. No more successful event of the kind has been seen in Trinidad than the "Enchanted Wood," a pantomime written and produced by that indefatigable worker for charities, Mrs. J. Aldric Perez, M.B.E. Designed as a farewell performance in honour of Lady Chancellor, it had a cast of over sixty performers, and a very handsome sum should be realised for various deserving causes.

About £600 was the sum paid for admission to the Queen's Park Cricket Club for the very successful sports held there on Empire Day, the chief attraction being the attempt of the former cycling champion, Mikey Cipriani, to win again the principal trophy for the cycling event, but to every one's regret, "Mikey" just failed to the Demerara representative.

The Borough Council are now seriously considering the proposal for an aerial survey of Port of Spain and the suburbs.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.**The Demerara Railway.**

At an extraordinary general meeting of the Demerara Railway, held after the general meeting on the 15th inst., the contract under which the undertaking and assets will be sold to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, on behalf of the Government of British Guiana, was approved.

The terms are as follows: The Ordinary stock is to receive five annuities of £1 each for £200 of stock. The Preferred Ordinary stock is to receive seven £1 annuities for £200 of stock. The Extension Preference and Perpetual Preference are to receive annuities of £1 and £7 respectively per £100 of stock. Annuities accruing from December 31st, 1918, to December 31st, 1921, amounting to £77,406, are to be applied as to £65,031 in crediting or repayment to the Government of the Colony of the amount of the dividends paid or payable to the Preference stocks from January 1st, 1919, to December 31st, 1921, and the balance of £12,375, together with the sum of £19,910 to be paid by the Government as part of the consideration for the said sale, be accounted for and paid to the holders of the Ordinary stock on the register of stockholders on December 31st, 1921, after payment of the liabilities of the company and payment of £12,000 to officials of the company and of compensation to the directors.

The Queen's Park Hotel Co.

The profits of this Trinidad concern for the year ended December 31st were \$22,830.90, making, with the sum of \$1,109.13 brought in, £23,940.03. The directors proposed to apply this in writing 10 per cent. off buildings, plant, machinery, and furniture (\$11,644.00), and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. (\$9,120.00), leaving \$3,176.03 to be carried forward (including provision for Income Tax). The directors, in their report, which was adopted at the annual meeting on May 26th, state that the result of the past year's working was very satisfactory, exceeding as it did that of 1919, which held the record till then, by \$2,361.49. Prospects for this year, while so far fairly promising, are rather difficult to forecast in view of the general depression in trade and drop in prices of produce. The directors, however, hope that 1921 will prove equally as satisfactory as the two previous years. Several additions and improvements have been carried out during the year, the most important being the addition of eleven bedrooms. The cost of bedrooms, laundry, and garage has been put to capital account, while the other additions have been charged to revenue. The remaining debenture bonds, amounting to £1,500, have been redeemed. In order to meet a long felt want, viz. an annex to the hotel, the directors acquired the property of "Belle Vue," Gasparée Island, the purchase of which has been arranged without issue of new shares. This experiment has proved so satisfactory that they feel justified in extending the accommodation, and they confidently look forward to this becoming a profitable venture. At the meeting the retiring directors, Hon. Alex. Fraser and Dr. Inskip Read, were duly re-elected.

THE Anglo-Continental Guano Works, Ltd., have just completed the discharge of their first post-war cargo of guano from Peru. According to a preliminary test by Voelcker, it analyses 11.61 per cent. ammonia, 21.74 per cent. phosphates, 2.37 per cent. potash. If this analysis is maintained the guano should prove an excellent fertiliser for sugar.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.**United States Troops in Hayti.**

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth (Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs) informed Major Lowther, on June 15th, that a proclamation indicating the intention of the United States Government gradually to withdraw from Santo Domingo had been published in December last. He had no later official information on the subject nor as to the intentions of the United States Government as regards the withdrawal of their troops from Hayti.

Colonial Defence Forces.

Sir L. Worthington Evans informed Mr. G. Murray that he was aware that, although the members of the defence forces of those Crown Colonies and Protectorates which were not defined as a theatre of war in Army Order XX of 1918 and Army Order 307 of 1919 had not been actually within the fighting zone, they had had to perform much arduous work throughout the war of a military nature and more often than not on a voluntary basis without pay, and he hoped that a decision would very shortly be reached with regard to the recognition of their services.

West Indian Constitutions.

In reply to Hon. Gideon Murray on June 14th, Mr. E. Wood (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) said that he had not hitherto received any conclusive evidence that a general desire for a constitutional change existed in any West Indian Colony, except Grenada. He would consider the suggestion that someone like the Under Secretary of State should go out to the West Indies to devise more suitable forms of government than at present existed; but he was disposed to think that the object of any such inquiry, if undertaken, should rather be to assist His Majesty's Government to estimate the trend of local public opinion, than to initiate schemes for political changes.

The Anti-Dumping Bill.

As stated in the Circular of May 26th, the anti-dumping clauses of the Safeguarding of Industries Bill now before Parliament are, like those in the Canadian tariff, purely domestic in character. Moreover, "articles of food and drink" are specifically excluded from their operation. (§ 2 (j)). The hope, therefore, that British colonial sugar would be safeguarded under the Bill in company with home-grown beet, if the latter were prejudiced by dumping is, it is feared, frustrated. It will now remain to press for an assurance that any bounties will be met by countervailing duties as prescribed for under the old Brussels Convention, which would be more satisfactory in the long run than prohibition.

British Guiana Rice Control.

Lieut.-Colonel James asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on June 14th, whether he was aware that the Governor of British Guiana had declined to remove the embargo on the export of rice from the Colony, which had been established as a precautionary measure during the war; whether there was any justification for this control of an important local industry two and a half years after the cessation of hostilities; whether he was aware that the continuance of control was causing grave dissatisfaction in the Colony and discontent and distress among the growers; and whether he would recommend to His Excellency the desirability

of the removal of the embargo, so that the important rice industry might return to its normal condition and its progress be governed by the ordinary laws of supply and demand, having regard especially to the fact that there was now ample rice available for general requirements? Mr. Wood replied: "The Governor reported in November, 1920, that, owing to a probable shortage in the supply of rice before the 1921 crop could be harvested, he had prohibited the export until October, 1921. He is still satisfied that the supply of local requirements is not excessive, and, as contracts have been made on the basis of the Government's policy for the year as announced in the autumn of 1920, I consider that intervention on my part would be justified neither by the interests of the consumer nor by those of the industry as a whole. I have no doubt that the Governor will remove the prohibition at the earliest practicable date."

Empire Cotton.

Mr. Baldwin (President of the Board of Trade) stated on July 13th, in reply to Colonel Wedgwood, that no grant was proposed to be made to the British Cotton Growing Association. In pursuance of the recommendations made in the Report of the Departmental Committee on Cotton Growing within the Empire, a scheme had been prepared for the formation of an Empire cotton growing corporation, to be established under Royal Charter, and in the administration of which His Majesty's Government, the Governments of the cotton growing areas of the Empire, and trade interests would all participate. The corporation would not be a profit-making body, and its object would be the development of cotton growing in the Empire by a provision of opportunities for training in tropical agriculture and connected subjects, the promotion of research, the establishment of experimental farms, co-operation with the agricultural departments of present or potential cotton growing areas within the Empire, and in such other ways as might be appropriate. The cotton industry in this country had agreed to a voluntary levy at the rate of 6d. a bale on all cotton consumed for a minimum period of five years, and the proposed grant of approximately £1,000,000 by the Government for the purposes of the corporation was conditional on this support from the trade. In the current Estimate the sum of £50,000 was taken for this year as the first of five annual votes for a corresponding sum for the promotion of cotton growing in the Empire; and the proposed capital grant was in lieu of these annual contributions.

Representation and Federation.

The West Indies were to the fore in question time in the House of Commons on June 7th, as many as ten questions being put to the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subjects of West Indian Constitutions and the possibility of West Indian federation. Mr. Wood agreed with Sir Samuel Hoare that partly owing to historical developments, but mainly to diversity in local conditions and needs, differences of considerable importance existed between the constitutions of the several West Indian Colonies, but he was not satisfied that uniformity in this matter was either possible or desirable. He would always be happy to encourage the discussions in the West Indies of matters of common concern on the lines already adopted by his predecessors, as a result of whose efforts educational and medical conferences were being held this year, and he would consider the suggestion of sending a High Commissioner to the West Indies to make a comprehensive inquiry into the many questions common to all the West Indies that urgently needed impartial investigation. Although

there had been no recent public inquiry the matter had received the continuous attention of successive Secretaries of State. The view that Lord Milner had taken when this was before him had been that, whatever it might be possible ultimately to do in this connection must depend on the ripening of public opinion in the communities primarily concerned.

Answering Hon. Gideon Murray, the Under Secretary stated that one scheme for the establishment of a central advisory council had been brought to the notice of his predecessor (Lieut.-Colonel Amery), who was personally sympathetic, but in the absence of evidence of a demand for a change on these lines from the inhabitants of the West Indian Colonies generally, he thought it undesirable to take any official action in the matter.

Mr. Wood further undertook that the suggestion that there should be a representative of the West Indies on the Imperial Conference would be considered. In reply to further questions, Mr. Wood said that petitions for a more advanced or altered form of government had been received from the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis and from the Colonies of St. Vincent, Jamaica and Grenada. In the first three cases it was not thought that the changes proposed were justified by the local conditions and desired by the majority of the inhabitants. Representative institutions, of course, already existed in Jamaica, and no alteration in the elective system appeared necessary.

A proposal that he himself should visit the West Indies, Mr. Wood said, he would submit to the Secretary of State, and it would have his own enthusiastic support.

Infantile Mortality.

Mr. Churchill supplied to Sir Samuel Hoare, on June 14th, the following figures of the death rate of children under one year of age per 1,000 living births

Colony	Year.	Death Rate
Bahamas	Not available	—
Barbados	1919	306
Bermuda	1919	166
British Guiana	1919	185
British Honduras	1919	215
Jamaica	1919	161
LEewardS.		
Antigua	1918	177
Dominica	1920	146
St. Kitts	1918	255
Nevis	1918	246
Anguilla	1918	95
Trinidad	1919	155
WINDWARDs.		
Grenada	1920	115
St. Lucia	1919	143
	(Apr.-Dec.)	
St. Vincent	1919	111
	(Apr.-Dec.)	

It would appear, from a test conducted with a 20-h.p. Ford car, that the work capacity of Natalite, the present working form of power alcohol, is about 13½ per cent. less than that of petrol. Running at a speed of 20 miles an hour, one gallon of Natalite gave a run of 35.2 miles, as against 40.75 miles in the case of petrol.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Van Rensselaer* Plymouth June 11th:—

Sir Henry Alcazar K C	Mr. David W. Gibson	Mrs. Majolita Murray
Mrs. Dorothy	Mr. George Halse	Mr. Wm. McLean
Mr. John D. M. Bourne	Mr. Daniel Hahn	Miss May Newbolt
Mr. Wm. Rellamy	Mrs. Olive Hahn	Mr. Herbert E. Osborne
Mr. Albert Cherry	Miss Hedwig Olga Hahn	Mrs. Eugenie Olivierie
Miss Dorothy Cooper	Sir Norman Lamont	Mr. Tfor Rees
Miss Evelyn Cooper	Mrs. Hugh McLelland	Mrs. Ludima Reynolds
Miss Marie D'Abentlie	Miss Barbara McLelland	Mr. Ronald Suggden
Mr. Vasco de Freitas	Miss Helen McLelland	Miss Alma Taill
Mr. Albert Fry	Miss Janette McLelland	Miss Constance Wharton
Mr. Arthur T. Grieg	Mr. Arthur Murray	Mr. Oswald Williams

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Senator*, June 11th:—

Mr. H. S. Cox	Mr. D. Metcalf	Mr. D. Reid
Mr. H. A. Lynch	Mr. A. W. Panunenter	

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Scientist*, London, June 11th:—

From ANTIGUA.	From BARBADOS.
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Foote and Son	Miss A. G. Hutson
Mrs. and Miss Scott-Johnson	Miss E. D. Phillips
From DEMERARA.	From ST. KITTS.
Mr. W. Pollard and Family	Miss H. Shakespeare
Mr. J. A. Hennecker	

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Barrauca	June 27
Jamaica	Bristol	Changuinola	" 28
West Indies	London	Specialist	" 29
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Alexandrian	July 2
Jamaica	Bristol	Coromundo	" 4
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	" 5
St. Lucia, T'dad & Deinerara	St. Nazaire	Puerto Rico	July 4
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	" 22
B'inas, Jaca & B'H'das	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	" 26
B'inas, Jaca & B'H'das	Montreal	Canadian Forester	Aug. 16

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), June 15th: "Good showers have fallen, but more rain is wanted"
 Demerara (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 20th: "We are having constant heavy showers, with very little sunshine." June 9th: "We have had an average fall of three inches."
 Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 1st: Port Antonio, 26/29th rain, 30/31st fair, 1st rain. Kingston, 26/1st rain.

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates, have been kindly supplied to the West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti gua. To Mar. 31	Bar- bados To Mar. 31	British Guiana To Mar. 31	British Hondu- ras. To Mar. 31	Domi- nica To Mar. 31	Grenada To Nov. 30	Jamaica. To Dec. 31	Mont- serrat	St. Lucia. To Mar. 31	St. Kitts Nevis To Mar. 31	St. Vincent To Dec. 31	Trinidad To Dec. 31
Arrowroot											2,794,592	119,981
Asphalt												6,778*
Balata			351,473	82,623	667		9,187,028					58,785*
Bananas			8,260									62,708,672
Bauxite												168,594
Bitters					351,680	8,998,416	5,649,840		750,560			343,308
Cacao												21,974,704
Cassava Starch												73,101*
Coco-nuts			718,115	285,830	62,842	42,850	28,246,240		39,508			2,234,570
Coffee			33,586		112		4,682,016					
Copra			37,050				1,463,997					
Cotton M. Galante												
Cotton Sea Island		22,221				374,976					475,650	
Cotton Seed						984,432					31,326	
Diamonds			18,436									9*
Dyewoods												
Ginger							1,634,416					
Gold			1,068									
Ground Nuts							1,140,685		5,376		12,018	16,214*
Hoovey							26,950					4,557*
Lime Juice (raw)	14				28,264	700			10,115			
... (concd)					54,641	21,310			376			
... oil												
Lime (citrate of)			2,080		306,432							
Logwood				360			25,897					3,887*
Lumber			15,708									
Mahoeany				4,395,726								
Manjak												165*
Molasses	56,103	394,703							3,488	72,000	185,988	560,656
Oranges	4,675				48,686		19,135,257					650,270*
Essential Oils					20,855		99,731					32,526,524
Petroleum							7,567,952					
Pimento												
Rice			1,131									19,885
Rubber			726								4	54,878
Rum		8,477	955,142				741,584					
Shingles			242,000									49,974
Sugar	794	2,630	15,885				36,663		759	7		49,988*
Timber			41,567									

The figures can be read easily with the items to which they relate by laying a sheet of paper below them across the page.
 *To November 30th, only.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, BEECHING LAKE,
LONDON, E. C. 3.

June 22nd, 1921.

BANK RATE. 6½ per cent. as from April 28th.
EXCHANGE. Value of the £ sterling.

In U.S.A. ...	£ s. d.	In Holland ...	£ s. d.
France ...	15 6½	Germany ...	18 9
Belgium ...	1 16 8	Austria ...	12 7 0
Italy ...	1 17 2½	Spain ...	77 0 0
	2 19 2		1 2 6½

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 5s. 9d. (paper).

SUGAR. The home market is lower. London granulated is quoted at 57/8; American granulated, spot, 57/-; Spot West Indian crystallised is quoted at from 45/- to 51/6; muscovadoes from 38/- to 46/-. The terminal market is steady; July value 15/3; August value 15/7½; September value 15/1½; November 14/7½. The New York market has weakened considerably since the date of the last Summary. Yesterday a sale of full duty duty paid San Domingos was made at 4 cents, equivalent to 2.40 cents for landed in bond Cubans. The future market is somewhat stronger, the closing prices for Cubans landed in bond being: July 2.86 cents, September 2.68 cents, December 2.68 cents, and March 2.56 cents.

Messrs. Willett & Gray have raised their estimate of the Cuban crop to 3,900,000 tons.

The Board of Trade Returns for May give the total imports for the month as being 104,656 tons, making 562,910 tons for the five months of the present year, as against 182,673 tons and 679,233 tons for the corresponding period of last year. The amount of "refined" sugar imported for the month was 39,451 tons. Of this, 6,761 tons came from Holland, and 17,344 tons from the United States. The total European import was 14,784 tons. Of the 65,205 tons of "unrefined," 13,371 tons came from Cuba, 20,818 tons from Mauritius, and 13,722 tons from the British West Indies. The quantity of home refined sugar that went into consumption during the month was 39,344 tons. The total consumption for the month was 84,243 tons, making 537,145 tons for the five months. These figures contrast with 105,179 tons and 526,177 tons for the last year's period. The stocks on hand on May 31st were 895,600 tons, as compared with 423,600 tons at the same date last year.

American duties under the new Tariff Bill:—

Polar	Full	Cuban	Polar	Full	Cuban
100	2 16C.	1 728	87	1 64C.	1 312
99	2 12	1 696	86	1 60	1 280
98	2 08	1 664	85	1 56	1 248
97	2 04	1 632	84	1 52	1 216
96	2 00	1 600	83	1 48	1 184
95	1 96	1 568	82	1 44	1 152
94	1 92	1 536	81	1 40	1 120
93	1 88	1 504	80	1 36	1 088
92	1 84	1 472	79	1 32	1 056
91	1 80	1 440	78	1 28	1 024
90	1 76	1 408	77	1 24	0 992
89	1 72	1 376	76	1 20	0 960
88	1 68	1 344	75	1 16	0 928

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on June 11th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Imports ...	21,576	29,490	16,668 Tons.
Deliveries ...	18,126	17,130	14,400 "
Stock ...	11,854	20,496	8,400 "

RUM remains unsaleable, and values are purely nominal. No sales have been reported since the date of our last Summary. 544,227 proof gallons of rum, according to the Board of Trade Returns, were imported for the month of May. The amount for the five months totalled 2,905,592 proof gallons. The quantity which went into consumption

during the month was 131,777 gallons, and for the five months, 892,148 gallons, as against 214,006 gallons, and 1,424,635 gallons for the corresponding periods of last year. The stocks on hand on May 31st were 13,406,000 gallons as against 12,006,800 gallons at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on June 11th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Jamaica ...	11,181	8,313	1,439 Puns
Demerara ...	16,730	12,878	13,748 "
Total of all kinds ...	37,913	31,069	22,531 "

CACAO is very quiet. Grenada is quoted at 56/ but Trinidad is weaker at 55/-. Export business is dull. In our last issue we quoted Grenada at 56/-. The figure should have been 55/-.

The imports for May amounted to 102,064 cwt., of which 18,965 cwt. came from the British West Indies. The total for the five months has been 721,501 cwt., 74,401 being British West Indian. The consumption for the month was 80,869 cwt., making 373,586 cwt. for the five months, as against 492,012 cwt. for the first five months of last year. The month's exports were 40,299 cwt., as against 53,293 cwt. for May last year.

The stocks on hand on May 31st amounted to 1,182,000 cwt., as against 1,187,000 cwt. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on June 11th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Trinidad ...	23,163	37,838	17,759 Bags.
Grenada ...	29,626	24,484	9,523 "
Total of all kinds ...	193,393	214,752	109,121 "

ARROWROOT has been quiet, with only a hand to mouth business doing. Quotations unchanged 2½d. 7d.

BALATA. The market continues dull. West Indian sheet is slow of sale at 3/6 spot. Forward shipments are quoted at 3/2—3/3 c.i.f.

COFFEE. Fine home trade sorts continue to demand steady to dearer prices, but export kinds are neglected. Ordinary Jamaicas are nominally unchanged at 55/-. Blue Mountain, fine middling to fine, is worth 160/- to 185/-.

The imports for May were 91,172 cwt., making 124,182 cwt. for the five months, as against 396,982 cwt. for the first five months of last year. The consumption for the five months has been 129,736 cwt., as against 129,850 cwt. last year for the same period. The stocks on hand on May 31st of the present and last year were 760,000 cwt. and 800,000 cwt. respectively.

COPRA is steady, but only a small business is doing. West Indian f.m.s. is quoted at £29 10s., c.i.f. London.

COTTON. There has been no improvement in the demand, but prices are steadier. West Indian nominal prices are unchanged—medium 25d., fine 33d., and extra fine 43d. Imports in the twenty four weeks ending June 16th, 3,007 bales.

HONEY. There has been a little more enquiry lately for low grade descriptions, and business has been done in dark Jamaica at 29/- per cwt. Good to fine pale is quoted at 55/- to 60/-.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. **Handpressed** A small business doing at 20/-. **Distilled:** Some small sales have been made at 2/10½ per lb. **Lime Juice:** Jamaica **Raw** has sold in small parcels at 2/6 per gallon.

LOGWOOD. The market is dull, and owing to existing conditions is not likely to improve. The nominal value is unchanged—£8 to £10 per ton.

ORANGE OIL. **Sweet** has been in good demand, but supplies are small. There are no enquiries for **Bitter-**

RUBBER. The market remains in a very dull and depressed state, and business is limited. Spot crepe 8½d. sheet 7½d. Stock in London, 69,707 tons.

SPICES. **Pimento** on the spot continues dull, with sellers at 2½d. A considerable business has been done for Hamburg at 21/6 per cwt. c.i.f. for June/July shipment.

Nutmegs are quiet; 80's are quoted at 9d., and 110's at 7d. Good pale **Mace** 1/- to 1 1/4; fair pale, 9d. to 10d.

The West India Committee Circular

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hands with all the guests—no small undertaking on a tropical evening with the mercury well in the eighties, as it was—and showed that he possesses in a marked degree the attribute, so characteristic of our Royal Family, of remembering names and faces. His speech in responding to the toast of his health, which was proposed, in terms that will be endorsed by West Indians the world over, by LORD HAREWOOD, was masterly in its simplicity, and revealed a knowledge of West Indian matters which was particularly gratifying. His Royal Highness referred especially to the Agricultural College, recalling that the British West Indies, in wishing to see this institution established, were showing themselves to be the pioneers of all the tropical Colonies, and he commended the College very strongly and earnestly to the West Indies as a whole. We have already referred to the interest which the PRINCE OF WALES has shown in the proposals for the formation of the Agricultural College whilst he was in the West Indies, and it is much to be hoped that those West Indian Colonies which have the question of co-operating in the movement in this direction still under consideration, notably Jamaica, British Guiana and British Honduras, will take the PRINCE'S words to heart and give their loyal and practical support to an institution which, to quote His Royal Highness, will be "a tremendous help to the whole of the West Indies." It was a matter for very great regret to the communities in those Colonies that, owing to circumstances over which he had no control, the PRINCE was unavoidably prevented from visiting Jamaica, St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis during his West Indian tour last year; but residents of all classes and colour will rejoice to learn from His Royal Highness's statement that "next time" he will go to those places, and that he hopes also to be able to include the Bahamas in his tour. By his presence at The West India Committee dinner, and by his gracious speech, the PRINCE OF WALES will have further endeared himself to the people of the British West Indies—if that were possible—and throughout those Colonies we may be certain that the continued interest which His Royal Highness is showing in their welfare under the British Flag will be the subject for much gratification.

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB LONDON.



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
July 5th, 1921.

The Prince of Wales.

THE Banquet given by The West India Committee to the PRINCE OF WALES will, we may be sure, be generally regarded as a historic affair. Just over a century ago, as our readers have been reminded, the Committee entertained their Royal Highnesses, the DUKE OF YORK and his brother, the DUKE OF CLARENCE, afterwards KING WILLIAM IV., the "Sailor King." On June 24th last a large gathering of members of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE assembled at the Hyde Park Hotel to show their respect and honour for the great-great-nephew of their former distinguished guests, namely, the PRINCE OF WALES. The company present was fully representative, and not even in the British West Indies could the enthusiasm with which the Royal Guest was received have been exceeded. The PRINCE OF WALES graciously shook

Mr. Winston Churchill's Promise.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, Secretary of State for the Colonies, proposing, in a statesmanlike speech, the toast, "Prosperity to the British West Indies, coupled with THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE," at the recent Banquet to the PRINCE OF WALES, made an important pronouncement with regard to the relations between the British West Indies and the Mother Country. After dealing with the question of the development of trade between those Colonies and Canada, as to the desirability of which there can be no two opinions, he asked, "What about communication between the West Indies and the Mother Country?" He could not, he said, be content to leave that problem where it was at present, and he proceeded to state that he was perfectly ready to make the strongest representations to the Cabinet on the subject, and that he hoped that before many months were past he would be able to make a definite announcement regarding it. From this we may confidently assume that there is every probability of the British Government consenting to make a substantial contribution towards a subsidy for securing the resumption of the direct passenger and mail steamship service between the West Indies and the Mother Country, on the need for which we have so constantly laid stress in these columns. At present, owing to the absence of such communication, there is, as we know, growing up a feeling of isolation in the West Indies in so far as the Mother Country is concerned. This is the more remarkable, having regard to the fact that a substantial preference is now being given in the Customs duties on a wide variety of articles produced in the West Indies entering the United Kingdom; but, as we have so frequently pointed out, if reciprocal trade is to develop, it is very essential that ample facilities should be afforded for British travellers and business men to pass backwards and forwards between this country and the West Indies, and that there should be greater certainty and regularity than there is at present in respect of the delivery of mails. It is true that Barbados and Trinidad now enjoy a fortnightly transatlantic service, thanks to the good graces of the Royal Netherlands West India Mail Service, but it is, to our mind, simply deplorable that these British Colonies should have to depend on the goodwill of a foreign company for the maintenance of connection with the Mother Country. If the Dutch Government can maintain a transatlantic mail service for the benefit of Surinam and Curacao, and France one for Martinique and Guadeloupe and its dependencies and Cayenne, surely it is not unreasonable to expect that the British Government should be able to ensure that our far-flung possessions in the Caribbean shall enjoy a British mail service. We therefore look forward with particular satisfaction to the prospect of the re-establishment of the steamship link which until 1915 connected the West Indian Colonies with the Mother Country from as far back as the forties of the nineteenth century.

To obviate the removal of their names from the list of members of The West India Committee, those who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year are requested to do so at once.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.**27 New Members Elected.**

At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee, on June 30th, the following candidates were admitted to membership of The West India Committee, bringing the number elected this year up to 176.

Names	Proposers and Secondors
Sir Gerald Strickland, G.C.M.G. (London).	{ Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.P. (London).	{ The Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P. Mr. R. Rutherford.
The Rev. O. H. Parry (London).	{ Sir Edward Davson. Mr. C. Algernon Campbell.
Mr. Thomas Hughes (Australia).	{ Mr. Robert Rutherford. Mr. S. Cameron.
Dr. C. E. Harvey (Jamaica).	{ Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Mr. F. L. de Pass (Jamaica).	{ Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. A. W. Farquharson.
Mr. T. M. de Pass (Jamaica).	{ Mr. L. de Mercado. Mr. Archibald Spence.
Mr. Arthur M. Bramall (London).	{ Mr. Frederic I. Scard, F.I.C. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. A. B. Gohn (Trinidad).	{ The Hon. the Rev. C. D. Lalla. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. S. Teelucksingh (Trinidad).	{ The Hon. the Rev. C. D. Lalla. Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. A. K. Beauchamp (St. Lucia).	{ Mr. Archibald J. Brooks. Lieut.-Colonel R. Deane, O.B.E.
Mr. J. W. Biggs (London).	{ Mr. A. E. Jones. Mr. W. A. Boyd.
Mr. Horace V. Myers (Jamaica).	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. Charles Morrison (Jamaica).	{ Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mrs. Marie E. Liddell (Country).	{ Mr. Cyril Gurney. Mr. Robert Rutherford.
The Dominica Club (Dominica).	{ Dr. the Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G.
Capt. A. J. H. Patten, M.C. (Country).	{ Mr. F. B. B. Shand. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Dr. R. Wellesley Bailey, F.R.C.S. (United States).	{ Sir William Trollope, Bart. Mr. E. A. de Pass. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. D. H. Seale (Virgin Islands).	{ Capt. A. R. H. Morrell. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Major H. Hemming (London).	{ Miss Mary Moseley, M.B.E. The Hon. Kenneth Solomon.
Captain G. S. Tofts, F.C.S., M.Inst.M.M.	{ The Hon. D. S. De Freitas. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. Oliver Underwood (London).	{ Mr. C. A. Campbell. Mr. Cyril Gurney.
Mr. Lawrence R. Twiss (Montserrat).	{ Mr. Charles Griffin. Mr. Rupert C. Otway.
Mr. P. D. Guyadeen (British Guiana).	{ Dr. W. Hewley Wharton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Mr. R. M. Parker.
Mr. G. Persaud (British Guiana).	{ Mr. H. B. Gajraj. Mr. A. S. Rohunan.
Mr. C. R. Jacob (British Guiana).	{ Mr. R. E. Brassington. Mr. W. S. Jones.
Mr. E. R. Jansen (British Guiana).	{ Mr. H. B. Gajraj. Mr. A. S. Rohunan.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The West India Committee Banquet.

The Banquet which was given by the West India Committee to the Prince of Wales at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, June 24th, proved a conspicuous success.

It was held in the Ball Room of the Hotel, which overlooks Hyde Park. The room was beautifully decorated with festoons of roses and smilax, the latter giving it a delightfully cool appearance, which was enhanced by the large French windows being left wide open, thus affording a sylvan view of great charm.

The Prince of Wales was met at the entrance to the Hotel by Lord Harewood, Colonel G. A. O. Lane and the Secretary, who conducted His Royal Highness to the Reception Room, where the members had been received by Mr. Rutherford, Chairman of The West India Committee. The Prince, on entering the room, was greeted with an outburst of applause and was then conducted to a position near the entrance to the Banqueting Room. The entire company filed past His Royal Highness, who shook hands with every member and had a few words to say to each, those who had been privileged to meet him in the West Indies being greatly struck by the manner in which he recalled names and faces.

The reception over, the Prince was conducted to his seat at the high table, and the Toastmaster, in his scarlet dress coat, then called for silence for The Right Rev. Bishop Montgomery, D.D., Prelate of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, who said Grace.

At the conclusion of the dinner the Toastmaster, in the usual impressive style associated with Banquets in the City of London, called, "Your Royal Highness, My Lords and Gentlemen, Pray Silence for The Right Hon. The Earl of Harewood, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, President of The West India Committee, Incorporated by Royal Charter." Lord Harewood then rose and proposed the toast of the King, which was duly honoured after the orchestra had played a few bars of the National Anthem.

Rising again, Lord Harewood next proposed the toast of "Our Guest" in the following speech:—

Your Royal Highness, My Lords and Gentlemen,—For the second time I have received the great honour of being invited to preside at the Banquet of The West India Committee. It is an honour which I highly appreciate and value. On

the former occasion, ten or twelve years ago, we were not honoured by the presence of Your Royal Highness nor any member of your illustrious Family. I remember that my immediate neighbours on that occasion were Lord Crewe, who was at that time Secretary of State for the Colonies, and an old friend of a good many of us here, I dare say Lord Stratheona, who, alas!, is no more.

I hope I may be excused if, with pardonable pride, I allude to another Banquet, which took place—not precisely within my recollection, because it took place more than one hundred years ago. On that occasion—I believe it was 1812 or 1814; I am not quite certain Their Royal Highnesses The Dukes of York and Clarence (the Duke of Clarence was afterwards King William the Fourth) were both present as Guests of The West India Committee. I venture to allude to that occasion on my own account more particularly, because two direct ancestors of my own were present at that Banquet;



The Hyde Park Hotel

Situated in Knightsbridge and overlooking the Park from which it takes its name, it was in the Ball Room of this Hotel that the very successful Banquet given by The West India Committee to the Prince of Wales was held.

one was the Lord Harewood of that date, whose estates in Barbados I still possess—he was my great-great-grandfather—and the other ancestor of my own was George Canning, my great-grandfather. (Cheers.) So I am bound by my old family associations with the West Indies, and that has no doubt induced The West India Committee to select my unworthy person to preside at your Banquet this evening.

Many of the West Indian Islands cherish pleasant and grateful recollections of Your Highness's visit to them last year—(Cheers)—when you visited Barbados on your outward journey to Australia. I can remember, as no doubt many of us can, at that time there was an unwise and inopportune suggestion put forward in certain of the Press in this country demanding that we should liquidate our War debts to America by handing over several of the West Indian Islands to the United States.

I suppose that Your Royal Highness has hardly any more pleasant recollection of your visit on that

occasion—a recollection which must always live in your mind—than the hurst of applause from all classes and colours when Your Royal Highness made the announcement that our West Indian fellow subjects were not for sale. (Loud cheers.)

In former days the West Indian Islands were visited by many members of our Royal Family. In 1786 the Duke of Clarence served on the West Indian Station, and during the period of his service he was best man to Nelson, who was married in that year at Nevis. In 1794 the Duke of Kent, Your Royal Highness's great-grandfather, took part in the reduction of Martinique and St. Lucia, and in more recent times our Gracious King, King George V., has on no fewer than three occasions visited the West Indies, and Your Royal Highness, I am quite sure, must have had many pleasant testimonies to the affectionate remembrance with which his visits are cherished by all classes of the population. (Cheers.)

I feel that, while our hearty thanks are due to His Royal Highness for the extraordinary energy he has displayed and the popularity he has acquired in his tours throughout the Empire, we who stay at home cannot but be grateful that the homing instinct is, as I think it is, strong within him—us strong, perhaps, as it was in the King's pigeon, which recently, as I read in the newspaper, won the Pigeon Race from Newcastle to Norfolk. (Cheers.)

I hope that Your Royal Highness will forgive me—although I think I need not trespass any longer on your patience in enumerating the many reasons why we should give our Guest of this evening the heartiest reception of which we are capable and drink his health with all the honours—yet I hope he will allow me to remind you, although we are twenty-four hours late, that it was his birthday yesterday, and we may be permitted, although belated, to wish him many, many happy returns of the day. (Loud cheers.) My Lords and Gentlemen, I give you the health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. (Renewed cheers.)

The Toast having been cordially honoured, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, K.G., who was greeted with cheers again and again renewed, said :

Mr. Chairman, My Lords and Gentlemen,—I am not going to address you at any great length this evening, because I know that the chief Toast of this evening is going to be proposed by my friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whom we are very glad to see with us to-night. (Hear, hear.) He is really going to make a proper speech. (Laughter.) But I want to thank the Chairman, Lord Harwood, for the very kind words he has used in proposing my health, and all of you for having drunk it. I also want to say how much I appreciate having been invited here by The West India Committee this evening, because I must say I do feel one of you myself. (Loud cheers.)

I think that the weather is rather appropriate for a West Indian dinner; I feel that we could all of us do with one or two, or even three "swizzles"—(Laughter)—and, as I have been reminded by the two gentlemen I am sitting next to, there are such things as "green bitters." (Renewed laughter.)

Gentlemen, I am not going to give you a long detailed description of my time in the West Indies. A good many of you here saw me when I was out there, and I gave a somewhat detailed account of my journeyings to the Lord Mayor of London at the Guildhall. But I did have a wonderful time. I visited Barbados on my way out to Australia, and on my return voyage I spent about a fortnight in the West Indies, going down to Georgetown, in Demerara, and the other Colonies. It was a great regret that I was not able to go to Jamaica. (Cheers.) There was an unfortunate epidemic there—I think it was called milk-pox—(Laughter)—I cannot quite recall the name of it, but I hope it is all over now—also in St. Vincent, St. Kitts and Nevis. Next time I go I will go to these islands, and I hope to be able to include the Bahamas. (Cheers.)

Having been brought up as a Naval cadet, I used to be taught—or they used to try and teach me—a good deal of Naval history. (Laughter.) I did learn a little, and I know the tremendously big part that the West Indies and the Caribbean Sea played in the making of our great Empire. I see Mr. Aspinall sitting at the table. (Cheers.) The splendid book that he wrote, "West Indian Tales of Old," taught me a great deal as well, I can assure you, and, read on the spot, did a great deal to make me realise the wonderful romance that still pervades those waters. By the way, I may tell you that it is entirely owing to this gentleman's book that I turned out one morning at an unearthly hour, about four o'clock, to see the Diamond Rock, off Martinique, which otherwise I would not have done. (Laughter and cheers.)

There is one point I should like to mention, and that is the Agricultural College that it is proposed to establish at Trinidad. When I was in Barbados just over a year ago people were having a fairly good time, but I am afraid that, with the depression since then, they are not having such a good time now. My great hope is that better times are coming along soon, not only in the West Indies, but everywhere. (Cheers.) Everybody has helped tremendously with this Agricultural College, and come up to the scratch in a splendid way, but since the depression there has been rather a gap. I am sure you all realise what a tremendous help the Agricultural College will be to the whole of the West Indies. We must not forget that the West Indies have been the pioneers of all the Colonies in the Tropics in wanting to establish an Agricultural College, so you will forgive me if I commend this College very strongly to all of you, not only to Trinidad, but to every part of the West Indies. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I thank you very much for the kind way in which you have received me, and I hope I shall be out there again at a not too-far-distant time. (Loud cheers.)

The Company then rose and sang, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Rising to propose the toast, "Prosperity to the British West Indies, coupled with The West India Committee," The Right Honourable Winston Churchill, M.P. (Secretary of State for the Colonies), who was warmly received, said : Your Royal Highness, My Lords and Gentlemen,—Our hearts are full

of gratitude at this time and at all times, but especially at this time, towards the King—(Cheers)—and the Prince of Wales. (Renewed cheers.) We see day by day the vital consequence of this ancient Monarchy of Britain to the whole great modern Empire which has grown up around these islands. We see the devoted service, the fearless, inspiring, devoted service which is rendered by those who occupy the most august positions in the British State wherever the task is set of endeavouring to bring together, or to weld together, different portions of the United Kingdom or of the British Empire. (Cheers.)

Our hearts, every British heart, is full of gratitude here in this room to-night. We feel how very gracious it is of the Prince of Wales to have come and spoken at this Banquet, and not only to have made a speech in a formal manner, but to have spoken with real knowledge of each of the Islands and each of the places which together compose the West Indies, and which are within the scope and care of The West India Committee. (Cheers.)

I suppose that that visit which he paid in that great battle-cruiser must have been an episode full of encouragement and good cheer to every loyal lover of the old land, to every man, whatever his class, condition, or colour, who felt proud to be a subject of the Crown and a citizen of the British Empire—(Hear, hear)—and His Royal Highness, remembering every detail of that visit, and almost every person that he met in the course of his innumerable public engagements, has wished to come to-night here to associate himself in this intimate manner with those whom he regards as old friends and companions of a great voyage that he has undertaken. (Cheers.)

My Lords and Gentlemen, this historic West India Committee, dating back into the days of our ancestors, in the range of English history which now seems as remote from us as the reign of Queen Anne, dating back over that long, troubled period of time, has seen many vicissitudes of fortune. It has survived periods of great prosperity in the West Indies; it has also survived periods of great adversity. Now, after extremes of good fortune and ill fortune have been encountered, let us hope that there lies before us a long, level lap of steady pro-

gress. (Cheers.) I do not see why it should not be so. (Renewed cheers.) After a great War there must ensue an interval of commercial disturbance and of social and political exhaustion. Every one of us who has tried to take a worthy part, in an honest part, in the struggle must feel that much virtue and effort and energy has gone out, and it is so with people in every class of life in every part of the country. Gradually, however, the cells of energy will re charge themselves; gradually, how-

ever, the dust and the smoke of the conflict will clear away; gradually, however, the noise of the voices of the War, and of the so-called peace period that follows the War, but which is really nothing more nor less than the after-swell of a heavy gale, will subside, and then the greatness and all the splendour of Victory and the enduring magnificence of the British Empire will rise up like a great edifice, like a great rock, like a great tower, that the men of every land will see that the labours, the tremendous sacrifices, of the War period have not been given in vain—(Cheers)—that they have established real values, definite results, which, although they are not at present immediately realised, although they do not at present give to us all a feeling of complete satisfaction, are nevertheless established and will govern the course of human history probably over the whole of the next century. (Cheers.) And in that period it seems to me that the modern world, the modern scientific world, with all its inventions, with all its apparatus—apparatus ever growing in complexity, ever growing in power, ever growing in its capacity to yield results to mankind it seems to me that this modern world will more and more require the products of the tropical Colonies, the Crown Colonies



The Prince of Wales.
From a photograph by Service of 116, New Bond Street

which we have gathered together through the centuries. (Cheers.)

I am always preaching—and it is by no means only since I became Colonial Secretary that I have preached this gospel—I have been for many years preaching our investment of capital and development of credits for the benefit of the great Crown Colonies of Britain. How can any money which is invested in them go out? It can only go out as the product of and result of British labour. How can their fruits come home? They can only come

home in raw materials or food, which is of vital consequence to the great manufacturing population which dwells in these islands. Let us be careful, before we squander our substance on foreigners, that we have made the best of our own estate. (Cheers.) Let us do our utmost to make sure that those great Crown Colonies, the great tropical gardens, have the proper technical apparatus which is necessary for their development, that they have the Agricultural College and the methods of research into their agricultural conditions which are essential to a prudent and a fruitful development of their resources; that their mineral resources are properly exploited and prospected; that they have the necessary credits to sustain them through temporary periods of misfortune. In all these matters, as long as I have the great honour to occupy my present position in His Majesty's Government, you will find me your advocate. (Cheers.)

I must admit that The West India Committee feel a great deal of independent strength at the present time, and are by no means inclined to cry out for Government assistance. There are, however, certain methods in which, it seems to me, we ought to be able to render you assistance.

In the first place, believe me, the more the fortunes of the West Indies are linked with those of the great Dominion of Canada, the more sure and certain the future will be. (Cheers.) I pointed out at the Imperial Conference two days ago that Canada, with all her wonderful expanse of territory, is really not a complete commercial or geographical entity unless she is commercially associated in a special and peculiar and intimate manner with the tropical and sub-tropical islands of the West Indies. (Cheers.) They can furnish her with all those products necessary to complete her range of production, and they can afford her the Riviera, the islands of pleasure and repose, which, by their beautiful climate and salubrious and balmy qualities, seem best calculated to relieve the hard strain of struggle on the great northern plains of Canada. I hope, and am confident, that the more these two great portions of the British Empire are interested, the one in the other, the greater will be the benefit to both.

Well, then, there is the question of communications. (Hear, hear.) The arrangement which has been made with Canada has already led to two new lines of steamships, two new sets of services communicating between the Dominion and the West Indies. But what about the communication between the West Indies and the Mother Country? (Cheers.) We cannot be content to leave that problem where it is at present. (Renewed cheers.) I am perfectly ready to make the strongest representations to the Cabinet on that subject, and I hope that before many months are past I shall be in a position to make you a definite announcement. (Loud cheers.)

I deplored the absence of the banana from the street barrow during the war. What a splendid idea that was of the late Mr. Chamberlain, whose name is always remembered with honour, particularly in the West Indies; what a wonderful idea that was of securing this remarkable fruit, not merely as a feature on the table of the rich, but as a common

element in the food and the relaxation of the people! (Cheers.) It carries you back to the days when Sir Walter Raleigh introduced the potato.

My Lords and Gentlemen, I can assure you that your representatives, those who have your affairs in charge, have only to keep in close touch with the Colonial Office for us to do our very utmost to aid and develop the prosperity of the West Indies. (Cheers.) Although these are very hard times, when every penny is very hard to come by, people are very ready—and very rightly ready—to subject any request for money to most searching scrutiny; notwithstanding all these adverse things, I shall not hesitate to come forward in regard to the necessary matters connected with the West Indies, and with this earnest resolve to assist you in your business, I venture to propose to you the Toast of “Prosperity to the British West Indies, coupled with The West India Committee.” (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Robert Rutherford (Chairman of The West India Committee), in replying to the toast, said:

Your Royal Highness, My Lords and Gentlemen,—After the inspiring speeches to which we have listened this evening, I feel considerable diffidence in responding to this Toast. It has been very gratifying to hear from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the relations existing between The West India Committee and the Colonial Office are of a cordial nature. I feel that a great deal of this is due to the fact that we endeavour not to bring forward any questions to the Colonial Office which are not of paramount importance, and that we avoid those which are captious or frivolous.

Mr. Churchill has referred to the ancient history of The West India Committee. This ancient, but live body, of which I am the representative, have all through had the interests of the British West Indies very thoroughly at heart. A few years ago—I think it was in 1904—owing to your Royal Highness's illustrious grandfather, King Edward VII.—(Cheers)—we were granted a Royal Charter, which, of course, gave us that prestige which has undoubtedly been very useful and beneficial to us. I am glad to think that within the last twelve months, owing to the generosity of our members and several of our Governments in the West Indies, we have been enabled to take a much more active and conspicuous part in doing our duty towards the West Indies. Our object has been to promote the industries and trade, and thus to increase the general welfare of the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras.

I was interested to hear what Mr. Churchill said—with which I agree—as to the relations between the West Indies and Canada, that the industrial and expanding reciprocal arrangements meet with approbation not only of the Colonial Office, but also of the West Indies as a whole. But I am more particularly pleased to hear this evening that, whilst the relations between the West Indies and Canada meet with all this approval, the relations between the Mother Country and the West Indies are not likely to be overlooked. (Cheers.)

I feel quite sure that the presence of your Royal Highness this evening is greatly appreciated by those interested in the West Indian Colonies in this country—(Cheers)—and not only appreciated by

those of us here and in this country, but still more greatly appreciated by those in the West Indies, with whom your Royal Highness has recently had the opportunity of coming into contact. I thank you, Gentlemen, on behalf of the Executive of The West India Committee, and on behalf of the members of the Committee, and you, sir, for the very generous terms, and if I may say so, appreciative terms, in which you have proposed the health of the Committee. (Cheers.)

Lieut.-Colonel Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., proposing the toast of the Chairman, said that Lord Harewood was almost by heredity the rightful President of The West India Committee. (Cheers.)

After the Restoration in the 17th century, Henry Lascelles, of Harewood, went out to Barbados, and from that time to this Lord Harewood's family had owned estates in Barbados, and had had constant connection with the West Indies. The Secretary of State had told them the long history, the honourable history, of The West India Committee. He (Sir John Chancellor) could tell from personal experience of the valuable services which they rendered during the War. Every West Indian soldier who crossed the Atlantic, no matter what his race or creed, found in The West India Committee a friend and a guardian. He had been told by many coloured soldiers of the kindness they had received from The West India Committee, and he could assure the members of The West India Committee that they had thousands of grateful admirers among the soldiers who had served in the War. (Cheers.) Although he was not personally in touch with them, he knew The West India Committee rendered valuable service to His Majesty's Government during the War in keeping them informed of the views and needs of the representatives of the West Indies in England—in fact, he might say, he thought, that The West India Committee is almost regarded as the Ambassador of the West Indian Colonies in London.

The toast was duly honoured, and Lord Harewood, having responded, the Prince of Wales retired and the guests dispersed.

The Menu of the Banquet was as under :—

- MELON CANTALOUPE
- ELIXIR DE VOLAILLE EN TASSE
- PAILLETES AUX PAPRIKA
- TRUITE SAUMONÉE AU BEURRE DE MONTPELLIER
- ANGUILLETTE DE CANTON AU CHAMPAGNE
- CRÈME DE POIS
- MIGNONNETTE DE BEHAGUE ARMENONVILLE
- POMMES DAUPHINE
- CAILLE ROYALE AU SUC D'ALICANTE
- COEUR DE ROMAINE
- ASPERGES ANGLAISES SAUCE DIVINE
- TIMBALE DE FRAISES JEANNE GRANIER
- FRIANDISES
- CAFFÉ

Wines.

Barsac.

Château Malescot
Margaux Grand Cru.

Perrier Jouet, 1911.
Royal Brandy

During the evening the following programme of music was rendered by the hotel orchestra :—

1. March. *Lorraine.* GANNE.
2. Valse. *Beautiful Spring.* P. LINCK.
3. Air. *When my Baby smiles at me.*
4. Selection. *Pailleasse.* LEON GAVALLE.
5. Air. *Jicky.*
6. Valse. *On Miami Shore* JACOB.
7. March. *"Hop off Contingent."*
(Marching Song of the British West Indies Regiment.)
8. Air. *Garden of Happiness* D. WOOD.
9. Selection. *Mary.* L. HIRSCH.
10. March. *So early in the Morning.*
(Regimental March of the West Indies Regiment.)

The item, "Hop off Contingent," the marching song of the British West Indies Regiment, in particular evoked loud cheers, which necessitated an encore.

The Names of Guests.

Below is given the complete list of those present at the Banquet. By reference to the letter and number against each name, and the plan of the tables on page 277, it will be seen where each guest was seated.

Table and No. of Seat.

- A 5 His Royal Highness
THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.
- B 35 Abel, Peter
- J 186 Adamson, J.
- B 118 Alcazar, Hon. Sir Henry, K.C.
(Member of Executive Council, Trinidad)
- A 2 Amery, Lieut.-Colonel I. C. M. S., M.P.
(Financial Secretary to the Admiralty)
- D 88 Aspinall, Algernon, C.M.G.
(Secretary, The West India Committee)
- E 130 Aspinall, Butler, K.C.
- D 86 Aspinall, Sir John
- F 150 Baddeley, F. A.
- J 192 Balderamos, A.
- A 3 Balfour of Burleigh, The Right Hon. Lord,
K.T., P.C., G.C.M.C., G.C.V.O.
- I 207 Bannerman, G. Leslie
- E 116 Behrens, N. E.
(Commissioner of H.M. Customs)
- B 15 Bell, E. Hyslop
- M 225 Benabu, S. D.
- B 34 Berry, Francis L.
- B 33 Berthon, Claude F., M.I.C.F.
- H 180 Blumenfeld, Ralph D.
- J 187 Boon, G. P.
- B 30 Bowring, Captain W., M.B.E.
- C 50 Brown, F. J., C.B.E.
(General Post Office)
- B 36 Bull, William Perkins, K.C.
- J 189 Burgess-Watson, Captain H.
- G 166 Burnett, Robert E.
- D 91 Burrows, T. F., C.B.E.
- E 119 Cadman, Sir John, K.C.M.G., D.Sc.
- G 165 Cambie, Charles
(Canadian Bank of Commerce)
- P 136 Cameron, C. W.
- P 135 Cameron, S.
(Executive, The West India Committee)

- H 176 Carcy, Harold S.
 B 38 Case, G. O.
 A 10 Chancellor, Lieut.-Colonel Sir John,
 K.C.M.G., D.S.O., K.B.E.
 A 7 Churchill, The Right Hon Winston,
 P.C., M.P.
 (Secretary of State for the Colonies)
 D 90 Clark, Sir William, K.C.S.J., C.M.G.
 (Department of Overseas Trade)
 G 167 Clarke, Roderick E., M.D.
 A 9 Clifford, His Excellency Sir Hugh, G.C.M.G.
 (Governor of Nigeria, and formerly Colonial
 Secretary of Trinidad and Tobago)
 E 129 Codrington, Sir Gerald, Bart.
 D 100 Coke, Hon. L. W.
 D 24 Connell, Joseph
 D 25 Connell, J., Junr.
 F 144 Cowan, J. C.
 I 216 *The Daily Express*
 I 213 *The Daily Telegraph*
 F 158 Daly, C. W., D.D.S.
 F 134 Daruley, E. R., B.A.
 (Assistant Secretary, Colonial Office)
 D 96 D'Costa, Alfred H.
 (Jamaica Imperial Association)
 C 72 Davson, Sir Edward
 (President, Associated West Indian Cham-
 ber of Commerce, and Executive, The
 West India Committee)
 F 132 Davson, Lieut.-Colonel H. M., C.M.G., D.S.O.
 C 61 Davson, Lieut.-Colonel Ivan B., O.B.E.
 (Executive, The West India Committee,
 Dawson, Peter
 D 82 De Freitas, Captain D. A.
 D 81 De Freitas, The Hon. D. S.
 (Hon. Correspondent, The West India Com-
 mittee, Grenada)
 F 138 Delbanco, D.
 H 182 De Pass, Alan
 C 59 De Pass, Eliot A.
 (Chairman, The Jamaica Standing Com-
 mittee, and Hon. Treasurer, The West
 India Committee)
 H 177 De Pass, Harold
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 K 123 Dix, Arthur Harold, O.B.E.
 D 16 Du Buisson, T.
 E 120 Duckham, A.
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 E 122 Dumas, Charles F., M.C.
 G 174 Duncan, Robert
 E 113 Duran, Señor Don Estanislao, C.B.E.
 M 218 Elder, Alexander
 (Committee, The West Indian Club)
 F 146 Estill, J. H.
 (Port of London Authority)
 D 32 Evelyn, A. I.
 B 31 Evelyn, G. R.
 E 131 Everett, Rear-Admiral Sir Allan,
 K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.
 C 62 Ewing, H. Crum
 (Chairman, West India Association of
 Glasgow)
 I 215 *The Exchange Telegraph Co.*
 K 205 Farley, Captain Albert H.
 C 56 Farmer, J. B., D.Sc., M.A., F.R.S.
 H 12 Fawcett, W., B.Sc.
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 H 28 Fellowes, Captain A. R.
 C 45 Fiddes, Sir George V., G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
 (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies)
 D 78 Foakes, Commander E. I. Ashley,
 O.B.E., R.N.
 F 145 Foote, The Hon. J. Freeland
 C 47 Frame, G. Macgregor
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 K 199 Frecheville, Captain G.
 F 149 Freeman, H. J. J.
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 B 19 Fryer, C. H. B.
 E 109 Ganzoni, J. C.
 C 52 Garnett, G. Russell
 E 121 Garnett, Mewburn
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 M 219 Geddes, Captain E. J.
 J 188 Giuseppe, P. E. H., M.B., C.M., J.P.
 J 193 Giuseppe, P. L., M.D.
 K 107 Graham, Hon. G. F.
 (Hon. Correspondent, The West India Com-
 mittee, British Honduras)
 E 114 Greenwood, G. D., C.B.E.
 F 147 Greenwood, T.
 (Hon. Treasurer, The West India Com-
 mittee)
 H 18 Greig, A. T.
 B 17 Greig, I.
 D 85 Grey-Wilson, Sir William, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.
 E 104 Grindle, G. E. A., C.B., C.M.G.
 (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies)
 A 8 Gurney, Cyril
 (Deputy Chairman, The West India Com-
 mittee)
 C 168 Haes, David
 D 89 Hansell, Henry P., C.V.O.
 A 6 Harewood, The Right Hon. The Earl of,
 K.C.V.O.
 (President, The West India Committee)
 K 197 Henriques, Cyril C.
 C 64 Henriques, Harold L. Q.
 F 133 Hill, Major C. Wood, D.S.O.
 (Late Officer Commanding 1st British West
 Indies Regiment)
 F 159 Hirsch, Alfred
 C 49 Hodgson, Sir Frederic M., K.C.M.G., V.D.
 E 126 Hughes, T. Harrison
 G 169 Humphrey, W. P.
 C 68 Hurd, Percy, M.P.
 M 217 Johnson, Arthur
 F 164 Jones, Sir Roderick, K.B.E.
 H 39 Kelway, Clifton
 F 162 Kleinwort, Sir Alexander D., Bart.
 M 221 Knight, Captain Gilfred
 (Assistant Secretary, The West India Com-
 mittee)
 F 140 Lake, H. A.
 F 163 Lamont, Sir Norman, Bart.
 H 29 Lane, Lieut.-Colonel George A. O.
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 D 15 Lawrence, W. F.
 C 54 Levy, The Hon. Charles Hope
 (Custos of St. Thomas, Jamaica)
 F 141 Levy, Vincent L.
 J 195 Lightbourne, R. A.
 C 51 Lubbock, Arthur N.
 (Executive, The West India Committee)
 D 87 Lucas, Sir Charles, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.
 C 71 Machin, Stanley, J.P.
 (London Chamber of Commerce)
 D 93 Macintyre, Gerald
 G 170 Macleod, F. C.
 E 115 Macnaghten, T. C., C.B.E.
 (Overseas Settlement Committee)
 G 171 Mann, H. G.
 C 60 Marlowe, Thomas
 C 67 Marriott, W. K.
 D 84 Marsh, Edward H., C.B., C.M.G.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|-----|---|
| R | 23 | Marsh, Howard | D | 83 | Oliver, V. I. |
| E | 106 | Marshall, E. Luxmoore
(Executive, The West India Committee) | H | 40 | Orpwood, The Rev. W. Lipscomb |
| C | 55 | Marshall, Guy A. K., C.M.G., D.Sc.
(Director, Imperial Bureau of Entomology) | D | 77 | Owen, Captain W. H., D.S.O., R.D., R.N.R. |
| F | 161 | Martin, Lionel A. | D | 99 | Parkington, Colonel Sir J. Roper, J.P., D.L. |
| B | 37 | Mason, G. B., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. | K | 198 | Parrott, G. |
| C | 70 | McConnell, Arthur | M | 220 | Patten, Captain A. J. H., M.C. |
| H | 43 | Messer, Allan E. | K | 196 | Pearl, James W. |
| M | 222 | Messum, Captain F. F. C.
(Hon. Secretary, The West Indian Club) | K | 200 | Pease, G. B. R. |
| C | 66 | Milner, T. J. | K | 204 | Pegg, Arthur J. |
| A | 11 | Mitchell-Thomson, Sir William, Bart.,
K.B.E., M.P.
(Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of
Trade, and formerly Member Executive,
The West India Committee) | B | 22 | Peet, James |
| B | 14 | Moir, Sir Ernest William, Bart. | H | 183 | Perkins, A. F. |
| D | 101 | Montgomery, The Right Rev. Bishop, D.D.
(Prelate of the Order of St. Michael and
St. George) | D | 102 | Philipps, Sir Owen, G.C.M.G., M.P.
(Executive, The West India Committee) |
| L | 211 | The Morning Post | L | 208 | Poole, Charles A. |
| H | 21 | Morris, F. J. | L | 214 | The Press Association |
| H | 181 | Morrison, W.
(Jamaica Imperial Association) | H | 41 | Prest, C. W. |
| C | 69 | Moseley, C. H. Harley, C.M.G. | E | 117 | Previte, H. F.
(Hon. Treasurer, The West India Com-
mittee) |
| M | 224 | Murad, W. H. | C | 73 | Primrose, The Right Hon. Sir Henry,
K.C.B., C.S.I., I.S.O.
(Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply) |
| | | | D | 76 | Read, Sir Herbert, K.C.M.G., C.B.
(Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) |
| | | | K | 201 | Redhead, T. J., M.C. |
| | | | L | 210 | Reuter's |

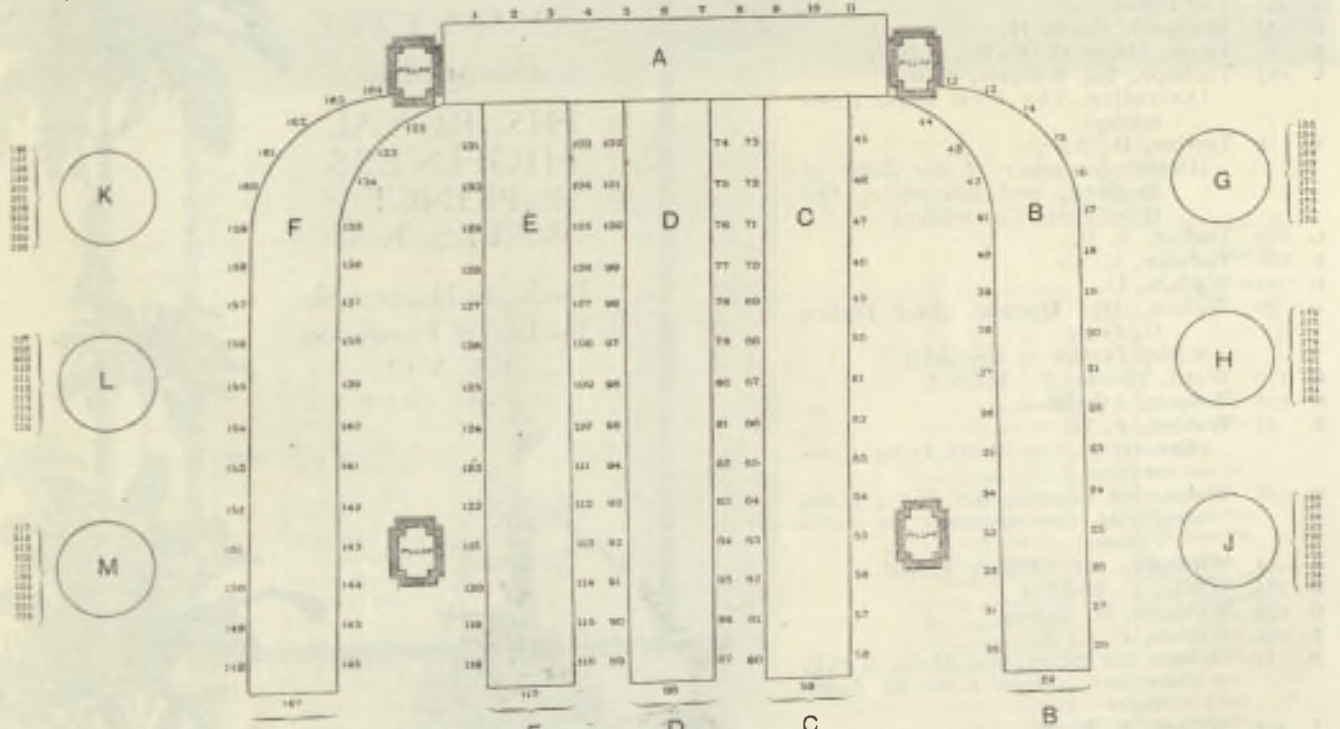


Table Plan of the West India Committee Banquet.

Above is a reproduction on a small scale of the Plan of the Tables at the Banquet given by The West India Committee to the Prince of Wales on June 24th. With the list of diners published on these pages, the plan will furnish an historic record of those present on this memorable occasion, and the position of the seats which they occupied.

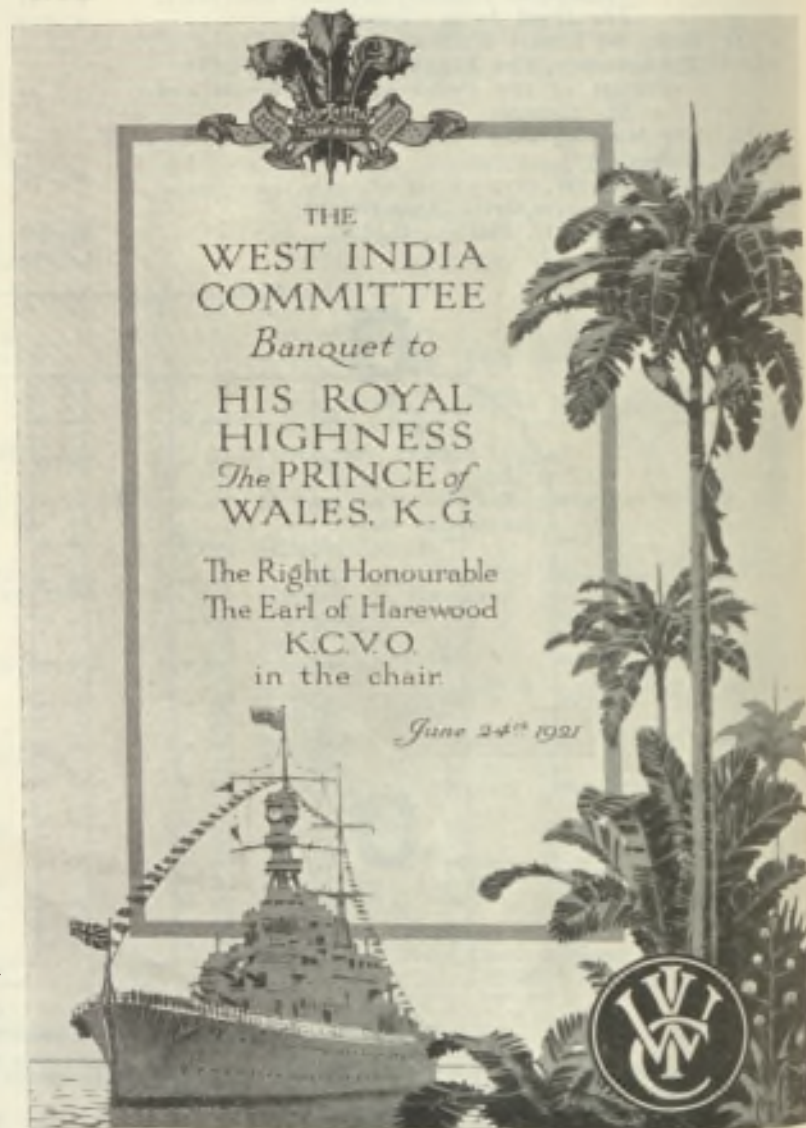
- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|---|-----|--|
| D | 75 | Murray, The Hon. Gideon, M.P. | K | 202 | Richards, W. M. |
| H | 178 | Noble, Captain Percy, C.V.O., R.N. | J | 190 | Robertson, F. H. |
| G | 173 | Noble, Peter, A.M.I.C.E. | K | 203 | Robertson, R. |
| D | 80 | Nunan, J. J., K.C., LL.D., B.A.
(Attorney-General of British Guiana) | H | 185 | Rochs, C. W. O. |
| F | 157 | O'Connor, Captain J., M.C. | E | 111 | Rowett, John Quiller. |
| C | 46 | Ogilvie, Sir Francis, C.B., LL.D. | F | 152 | Russell, H. F. |
| D | 74 | Ogilvy, The Hon. Bruce
(Equerry to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales,
K.G.) | H | 97 | Rust, His Worship Major Randolph, V.D.
(Mayor of Port of Spain, Trinidad) |
| | | | A | 4 | Rutherford, R.
(Chairman, The West India Committee) |

- F 155 Salaman, E. V.
 F 142 Samuel, O. L.
 D 98 Sandbach, Major-Gen. Arthur E.,
 C.B., D.S.O.
 F 156 Scott, William R.
 B 26 Sealy, G. E.
 F 148 Seton, Sir Malcolm, K.C.B.
 (*Assistant Under-Secretary for India*)
 E 110 Sharples, R. W., O.B.E.
 C 53 Sherlock, A. P.
 F 154 Skinner, T. Hewitt
 D 92 Smith, Howard K. F.
 F 143 Smith, R. William
 F 139 Smithett, W. W.
 F 160 Souchon, Louis, C.B.E.
 F 151 Stark, John H.
 F 153 Stephenson, P. R.
 C 63 Stockley, A. H.
 F 153 Stephenson, P. R.
 E 105 Strickland, Sir Gerald, G.C.M.G.
 E 108 Stuart, Alec Moody, M.C., B.A.
 C 57 Stuart, G. Moody
 (*Executive, The West India Com-
 mittee*)
 F 157 Sturridge, Ernest, D.D.S.
 D 94 Tennant, E. W. D.
 M 223 Thompson, W. Duncan
 L 212 *The Times*
 E 124 Townend, Frank H.
 H 20 Tripp, Major H. E. II., O.B.E.
 E 103 Trollope, Sir William, Bart.
 (*Executive, The West India Com-
 mittee*)
 A 1 Trotter, H. A.
 (*Deputy-Governor of the Bank of
 England, and Executive, The
 West India Committee*)
 L 209 Tucker, A. B.
 B 128 Tudway, C. C.
 D 95 Wallace, D.
 D 79 Walton, His Honour Chief Justice
 G. O'D.
 (*Chief Justice of Grenada*)
 H 179 Ward, Thomas E., F.I.S.A.
 G 172 Watson, Athelstan
 B 42 Watson, F. H.
 (*Executive, The West India Com-
 mittee*)
 C 58 Watts, Sir Francis, K.C.M.C., D.Sc.
 (*Imperial Commissioner of Agri-
 culture*)
 H 44 Whinney, Sir Arthur, K.R.F.
 H 184 White, C. Holden
 G 175 Williams, H. Lewes
 J 194 Wilson, E. C. A.
 H 27 Wilson, Sir Harry, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.
 (*Secretary, Royal Colonial Insti-
 tute*)
 J 191 Wilson, P. R. W.
 K 206 Windridge, F. A.
 E 127 Wood, Charles F.
 (*Chairman, The Colonial Bank*)
 C 65 Wood, E. R.
 E 112 Woodhouse, Rowland B.
 E 125 Worters, C. F.

Previté, Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., and
 Captain Gilfred Knight.

The custom of the members of The West India Committee periodically dining together and entertaining distinguished guests was established over a century ago. On March 26th, 1811, Mr. Charles Rose Ellis, M.P., in the Chair, it was resolved: "That The West India Planters and Merchants will dine together in the month of June next, and about the same time annually."

This historic Banquet to Their Royal Highnesses



The Cover of the Menu.

The Battleship is H.M.S. *Renown* in which the Prince of Wales made his memorable West India tour

The Banquet Committee comprised Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Lieut.-Colonel G. A. O. Lane, Mr. Eliot A. de Pass, Mr. H. F.

the Duke of York and the Duke of Clarence, a plan of the seating arrangements at which, prepared by A. Cruikshank, appears on the opposite page, followed.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN you ded (dread) you doan know; when you know, you done ded."

THE Prince of Wales will be the guest of Lord Harewood at Harewood House, Leeds, on July 19th.

THE Trinidad office of H.M. Trade Commissioner in the West Indies has been removed from The Red House to No. 12, Broadway, Port of Spain.

THE date at which the new Regulations as to the marking of goods of British origin going into Canada is to come into operation is, according to the Bill now drafted, altered from September 1st to October 1st, 1921.

THE British steel ship *William Mitchell*, which put into Barbados for provisions early in March, after 55 per cent. had been quoted for re-insurance, has at last arrived at Buenos Aires, her destination. Bound for the Gulf of Mexico, she has taken 266 days over a journey of 6,000 miles, the delay being due mainly to strong head winds.

ON the occasion of his promotion to the dignity of G.C.M.G., Sir Hugh Clifford, Governor of Nigeria, will be the recipient of many congratulations from his friends in the West Indies, and particularly Trinidad, where he was Colonial Secretary from 1904 to 1906. Sir Hugh has been for many years a member of The West India Committee.

THE House of Representatives at Washington has passed a law which will prevent beer being sold or consumed—even on a doctor's prescription—in St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. This will be a further blow to the "Virgin Islands of the U.S.A.'s" tourist traffic, and a corresponding benefit to the enlightened British West Indian Islands.

THE Medical Correspondent of *The Times*, in a note published in that paper on June 30th, gives an encouraging report on the value of Chaulmoogra Oil in cases of leprosy, a subject to which the CIRCULAR devoted a leading article on April 28th. Sir Leonard Rogers has now reached the conclusion that the "upper hand" in the fight with leprosy is being won.

THE *Sugar News* of the Philippines, speaking of the Fiji disease of the sugar-cane, which is doing so much damage in those islands, states that cuttings taken from a diseased cane will always result in the production of diseased canes. "This was true," it is said, "even though a comparatively healthy stool was taken from a plant which had other stools which were diseased."

THREE years ago a movement was started in Hawaii having for its objective the production of

power alcohol from molasses and pineapple waste. Three productive plants are in operation, and more are under construction, and Colonel Hathaway, the originator of the movement, considers that in two years Hawaii will be manufacturing enough power alcohol for the whole of Hawaiian purposes.

MR. J. Q. ROWETT, a prominent figure in the rum trade and a valued member of The West India Committee, is showing his public spirit by financing Sir Ernest Shackleton's forthcoming Antarctic Expedition. It will be remembered that some members of the Committee supplied Sir Ernest with all the sugar he required for his last voyage, and that this cane sugar was largely instrumental in sustaining the members of the party marooned on Elephant Island, as Captain Wild has testified.

CAPTAIN R. M. PARTRIDGE has been appointed Marine Superintendent of the R.M.S.P. Company at Hamburg. At the beginning of the war Captain Partridge was in command of the *Chaudière* on the Canada-West Indies route, but soon after the outbreak of hostilities, being a commander of the R.N.R., he was mobilised. He was eventually mentioned in despatches and awarded the O.B.E. and R.D., besides the French Legion of Honour. His wife is a Barbadian, being the daughter of Mr. Lewis Paeker.

THE hydro-electric plant at Serge Island Estate, Jamaica, is reported to be working very satisfactorily, and a second unit is shortly to be installed which will develop 325 horse power. The estate now has its own saw mill running, operated electrically with a capacity of about 10,000 feet of soft wood per day. In connection with it, Mr. Henry W. Holgate has established a planing mill and woodworking factory equipped with modern machinery from Canada, with which he hopes to start the manufacture of furniture and wood products at an early date.

THE West India Committee has been informed by the Postmaster-General that mails for Barbados and Trinidad will in future be sent by British ships so far as they can be so despatched with advantage. The Dutch packets are now due at Barbados in 12 days, and at Trinidad in 14 days from the United Kingdom. The direct steamers from London, Liverpool, and Glasgow, on the other hand, now take from 15 to 19 days to Barbados, and two or three days more to Trinidad. Mails for Barbados will be sent by a British ship due to sail at least three days, and mails for Trinidad by a British ship due to sail at least five days before the Dutch packet.

FLYING FISH SOUP.—Six cold fried flying fish. Take off skin and shred them up in 3 pints of water. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tomatoes (which press through a cullender to extract the seeds), two middle-sized onions, 2 or 3 eschalots, a little thyme, all cut fine, and 2 ozs. of uncooked rice; put everything together in a saucepan on the fire, and let it simmer for two hours; strain and serve.—MISS SANDERSON.

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

BY LLEWELYN JONES, M.I.E.S.

(Continued from page 251.)

The fear of cyclones is constantly in evidence, and the buildings are usually strongly built with dressed basalt rockstones, being kept as squat as possible. There is no attempt at external architectural effect, nor for the provision of spacious and lofty interiors; and chimneys are short and of considerable strength. Iron-framed roofs covered with galvanised sheeting are most generally preferred, and of late years there has been an increasing tendency to introduce loftier buildings constructed entirely of iron-work. In consequence of the frequent amalgamations and extensions that have more or less been almost continuously taking place, it has not been conveniently possible to re-model the factories in the best and most modern way possible, and many of them are therefore not arranged throughout in a uniform and thoroughly satisfactory manner, nor free from some inconvenient and very undesirable blemish which prevents classification as well-arranged factories. Nevertheless, there have been one or two more recent renovations which are closely in accordance with modern practice and requirements, and some of the leading factories, from a practical point of view, will compare favourably with those of comparatively recent origin in other countries.

The factories, as they stand, may be generally regarded, with but few exceptions, as one-storeyed buildings and, were they perfectly arranged and spread out over an ample floor-area, there would be much to be said in favour of comparatively low structures: some experienced experts preferring factories in which the machinery is confined as much as possible to the ground-level. In colonies subject to hurricanes, wherever the surrounding locality of the factory-site is favourable to such an arrangement, and a proper system of thoroughly efficient drainage can be completely established, it may be preferable to adopt the one-storey arrangement, combined with a sub-storey or efficient and satisfactory system of machinery pits sunk below ground-level, rather than the construction of a lofty building two or three storeys above ground-level. The chief consideration to be steadily and strenuously borne in mind is the provision of ample floor-area so as to ensure convenient access to all the machinery, whether it is located in the sub-storey or on the ground-level; and it is the undesirable and avoidable cramping of the pits of the sub-storey, coupled with insufficient attention to the imperative necessities of efficient drainage, ready access, and an abundance of elbow-room which has established prejudices against it. Otherwise it gives superior means of supervision and is safer and much more convenient when accidents or repairs to the machinery have to be effected. Unless lofty buildings are fully and properly supplied with substantial flooring or platforms of ample area from base to upper storey, efficient supervision, and the execution of repairs, are seriously incommoded, to say nothing of the increased initial cost of construction and general risks involved.

Until quite recently insufficient attention has been paid to the best methods of handling the canes upon their arrival at the mill, and there has been a comparative absence of really thoroughly efficient cane-carrier arrangements. Cane-unloaders, centre-boards, and independently-driven cane-carriers were not in use, nor was sufficient special attention paid to the orderly disposal of the canes upon the carrier. Considerable advances and improvements are now, however, being rapidly effected in these respects.

Revolving cane-knives have been in use for some years, and cane-crushers have only been introduced within the last few years, but every means of efficient preparation of the canes before entering the mills are receiving much greater attention than formerly.

Treble-crushing is the general order of the day throughout the island, with the additional assistance of a crusher in about twenty instances. The largest mill-rolls in use belong to one of these treble sets and measure about 36 inches in diameter by about 84 inches in length. The next in size belong to the only fourteen-roller installation and measure 34 inches by 78 inches. With these and a very few other medium exceptions, the rollers throughout the island are of but very moderate size, the majority of them measuring no more than 30 inches by 60 to 66 inches.

With but comparatively few modern exceptions, each mill is driven by its own separate engine and gearing, and the consecutive mills of a train are placed at a distance of some forty to fifty feet apart. This is a deliberate preference, and a correct one in countries in which an intense initial preparation of the canes before entering the mills is not practised, as in Hawaii. In the latter case, in which revolving cane knives, crushers, and shredders are in conjunctive and efficient use, it is probably preferable and equally effective to place the mills much closer together and incur the increased initial cost of driving three or four mills with one and the same engine; but otherwise it is but reasonable to give the applied thin mixed juices and maceration water as much time as possible in which to act upon the partially-crushed bagasse during its passage from mill to mill, and this important consideration carries great weight in Mauritius.

Messehaert grooves are very popular throughout the island and are employed for both cane and bagasse rolls. They are not, however, applied to the cane-roller of a first mill unless such mill is preceded by a crusher. In Mauritius these grooves have proved an immense practical benefit in a variety of ways and have already given the great majority of the advantages claimed for them.

The bagasse, nowadays, goes direct from the mills to the boiler furnaces. Formerly seccheries were frequently employed. But they have now all been abandoned as an unnecessary nuisance which the planters have been only too glad to abolish, and it is now generally recognised that the best form of seccherie is to be found in the form of an efficient modern bagasse-furnace of ample size and suitable design for the particular class of work it has to perform on any given estate.

(To be continued.)

THE EMPIRE CONFERENCE.

Mr. Churchill Optimistic.

At the second meeting, on June 21st, of the Imperial conference, Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, delivered an important speech on the Crown Colonies and Possessions administered directly under the Colonial Office.

Mr. Churchill said that the finances of these possessions were most complicated. Some were so exiguous that the sale of postage stamps to philatelists was an important feature in their revenue. The production of turtle was in one case almost the staple article of export and of revenue.

During the war we had got our mahogany for aeroplane frames from British Honduras, and fine cotton for their wings from the West Indian Islands. The sugar-producing Colonies had then been prosperous beyond their dreams. But the creeping paralysis of depression had spread to almost all the Colonial industries which had flourished during the war. "From almost every one of the Colonies complaints are coming in that its principal products cannot now be sold at a profit. Even the sugar Colonies, principally Jamaica and British Guiana, are in difficulty about the disposal of their crop." His submission, Mr. Churchill continued, to the Conference, was that we must not lose heart in any way about these splendid tropical possessions, but endeavour to secure credit and money for them to give them that essential technical apparatus they required to develop their great resources. This was a matter that should more and more engage the sympathies and interest of the self-governing Dominions.

"I illustrate this particularly," Mr. Churchill went on to say, "by the West Indies. In the summer of 1920 a trade agreement was made between the Canadian Government and representatives of all the West Indian Colonies. It is not merely a remarkable instance of Imperial Preference, but it promotes unity with the Empire through the development of Imperial communication, which the Prime Minister and I have always considered one of the most promising lines along which we can advance ever since the Conference which he, Sir Thomas Smartt, and I attended in the year 1907. Two lines of steamers, one entirely new, will now connect all the West Indian Colonies with the Dominion of Canada. I hope Mr. Meighen and the Canadian Government will advance with increasing confidence on this path, because it seems to me that for all the greatness of Canada and its tremendous producing potentialities, it is not a complete entity without connection with these semi-tropical islands. Compared to the United States, Canada lies wholly to the North with Northern products, whereas the United States can produce all that Canada can produce, or very nearly all, and reaches down to Florida and regions which give her a semi-tropical sphere. But if the association between Canada and the West Indian Islands is developed and goes on, Canada becomes equipped with an immense range of products, which makes her, from an economic point of view, a far more complete entity, and therefore I look forward to everything which tends to promote a close association between these West Indian Islands and the Dominion. It is not only from the point of view of commerce alone, but they are among the most beautiful islands in the world. They are salubrious and

balmy, and it might be they would be a place of agreeable resort at seasons of the year, when the climate of Canada is sometimes rigorous."

FUTURE OF EMPIRE COTTON.

Prospects Bright when Trade Improves.

Mr. W. H. Himbury, general manager of the British Cotton Growing Association, read an interesting paper on the "Exploration and development of New Cotton Fields within the British Empire" at the World Cotton Congress, on June 13th, in the course of which he stated that the present unfortunate position of the industry, with more cotton available than the trade could consume, was entirely abnormal, and with settled conditions a shortage of the raw article would again recur.

Turning to the various cotton growing areas of the Empire, Mr. Himbury said that some of the West Indian islands at present produced the finest Sea Island cotton grown in the world. The chief credit was due to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which was one of the best equipped in the Crown Colonies, possessing as it did an excellent staff of scientifically trained men, which should not only be maintained but strengthened. The Governments were responsible for the purchasing and ginning of cotton. The British Cotton Growing Association had rendered assistance to the industry by making monetary grants for the payment of experts, the erecting of ginning machinery, financing planters' crops, and the marketing of the same, in addition to advising the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture and the growers as to the best qualities required by the spinners.

The present production was about 4,000 bales, and there was a possibility of increasing this to 10,000 bales. The quantity, however, was limited owing to the fact that the islands were rather small, and there were other industries such as sugar, limes, etc., which proved very remunerative to the growers.

Prior to the advent of cotton-growing in the West Indies, many of the islands had been dependent upon the Treasury for a grant to make good their deficiency in revenue, and the cotton industry had made these islands self-supporting.

In a paper read to the Congress on June 21st, Mr. W. Haworth defined as follows the characteristics which enable a spinner to obtain the best results with a minimum of labour:—

1. The fibres must be even in length
2. The cotton must be ripe.
3. The grade must be even.
4. The cotton must be as free as possible from dead cotton, bearded notes, seed, fibres other than cotton, sand, iron, stones, excessive moisture and other foreign substances.

INCREDIBLE though it may appear, some members of The West India Committee have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, although they became due on January 1st last, although the amount is only £1 1s., or \$5 per annum, which can be remitted direct or paid into one of the branches of the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

The quantity of sugar imported into Canada for the year ending March 31st last was 695,188,623 lbs., of 16 Dutch Standard and under, and 11,687,080 lbs. of over 16 Dutch Standard; in all, 315,545 tons. Of the former, 158,630,350 lbs. came from the United States, 168,886,004 lbs. from British Guiana, 20,076,230 lbs. from Barbados, 25,644,268 lbs. from Jamaica, 25,185 lbs. from Trinidad, and 1,708,431 lbs. from the other British West India Islands; 311,567,453 lbs. came from Cuba, 64,941,165 lbs. from San Domingo, and 21,541,917 lbs. from Peru. Of the over 16 D.S. sugar, 236,680 lbs. were supplied by Barbados, 835 lbs. from Jamaica, and 570,028 lbs. from Hong Kong. The consumption of rum in Canada is steadily increasing, for the three fiscal years ending March 31st of 1919, 1920, and 1921, the imports being 92,908 galls., 214,416 galls., and 329,271 galls. respectively. As it is not mentioned in the Trade Returns that these are proof gallons, it may be presumed that these are bulk gallons. British Guiana supplied 137,902 galls. of the 1921 period, Barbados 1,969 galls., Jamaica 114,955 galls., and the other British West Indian Islands 4,325 galls. An item of 53,630 galls. is also attributed to the United Kingdom. Was this real or imitation? The amount of cacao imported was 116,269 cwts., of which 26,892 cwts. came from Trinidad, 250 cwts. from Barbados, 3,218 cwts. from Jamaica, and 1,383 cwts. from the other British West Indian Islands. 16,293,945 lbs. of coffee were imported in the period, of which 1,772,688 lbs. came from Jamaica, and 4,370 lbs. from the other West Indian Islands. 110,947 lbs. of arrowroot also were entered, of which 5,678 lbs. came from Jamaica, and 113,135 lbs. from the rest of the British West Indies. The imports of chicle amounted to 514,910 lbs., of which 221,667 lbs. came from British Honduras. Unground ginger was imported to the extent of 535,355 lbs., of which 87,954 lbs. came from Jamaica. The unground nutmegs and mace imports were 246,543 lbs. Of this quantity 900 lbs. came from Trinidad, and 142,893 lbs. from other British West Indian Islands. 3,049,486 coconuts were imported during the twelve months, of which 619,906 came from Jamaica, 870,636 from Trinidad, and 311,835 from the other B. W. I. Islands. The value of the oranges imported was \$6,322,543, \$7,256 worth coming from Jamaica. \$791,720 worth of grape fruit also entered, \$17,456 worth coming from Jamaica. The imports of bananas were 1,706,288 lb. bunches. None of these came from the British West Indies.

The total value of the imports for the twelve months was \$1,240,158,882, of which \$265,911,222 were for British Empire products, including \$9,085,567 belonging to British Guiana, \$134,739 to British Honduras, \$8,314,996 to Barbados, \$4,418,062 to Jamaica, \$628,896 to Trinidad and Tobago, and \$1,471,792 to the other B.W.I. Islands. The total value of the exports was \$1,189,163,701, of which \$403,470,602 belonged to Empire trade. The value of the exports to British Guiana were

\$3,594,118; to British Honduras \$88,783; to Barbados \$2,537,087; to Jamaica \$3,380,991; to Trinidad and Tobago \$4,994,370; and the other British West India Islands \$2,162,771.

The Debate at Ottawa.

(Continued from page 259 and concluded.)

Mr. Maclean (Halifax): Is the contract being renewed with the Royal Mail Steamship Company?

Sir George Foster: We are carrying on the contract from year to year. My hon. friend knows that in the last two or three years to have negotiated a contract for five years or more would have put this country at a great disadvantage. We are waiting until the time is more favourable for negotiating a bettered service.

Mr. Maclean (Halifax): I think it is quite clear that when my right hon. friend enters into a contract with some steamship company to perform the service set forth in the agreement he will not be able to do it with the Canadian Mercantile Marine. Their ships are not suitable for trading among the West Indian Islands. I think he will find that the company with which he enters into the contract will consider it rather unjust to have the Canadian Merchant Marine ships also trading in the same waters from Canadian ports. Therefore it seems to me that some time a conflict will arise between the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries or the Minister of Railways. I am not taking the position that our ships should not be allowed to compete with the Royal Mail Steamship Company, or whatever company has the contract, but I do say that no other line of ships competing against the company which has this contract can do any business. It does not matter how many ships are put on or who are operating them, they cannot get the trade and will operate only at a loss; at the same time they will be doing an injury to the other company. It is a problem which will be before my right hon. friend presently or in the early future.

Who is Colonel Amery?

Mr. Morphy: Who is the gentleman known as Colonel Amery, mentioned on page 71 of the report? Is he correct when he says, "Captain Edwards tells me that Canada is starting a big plant for the manufacture of gin"? Where is that plant to be located, and who is Colonel Amery?

Sir George Foster: I know nothing about any Canadian plant for the manufacture of gin.

Mr. Fielding: My right hon. friend does not find it convenient to obtain knowledge of these things; he is too sensitive. There is a plant for the manufacture of gin at Berthier in the province of Quebec, and it has been operating for some years.

Mr. Beland: Red Cross gin?

Mr. Fielding: May I satisfy my hon. friend from Halifax with regard to the possibility of exports? I want to defend the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce and the hon. member for Durham for the worthy course they are taking to encourage the shipment of this hateful stuff to the West Indies. We are stopping its consumption in Canada, which will naturally leave a larger supply to be sent abroad and we ought to send it abroad. Whisky ought to be cheaper in the West Indies after this, on account of the larger supply now available for export. A few years ago I was in the Danish island of St. Thomas, which has since been taken over by the United States, and while walking along the streets of the principal town I saw a signboard with the notice "Rum Shop." I went in.

But do not be shocked. I found that "Rum Shop" meant a shop where the principal article of sale was bay rum.

Mr. Morphy: What a disappointment!

Mr. Fielding: I remember the shopman, an enterprising man, tried to sell me a number of things. He said, "Don't you want some good Canadian whisky?" I replied, "Thank you, I am just from Canada." "But," he said, "we can give you Canadian whisky cheaper than you can get it at home." I found that this valued article could be bought in the West Indies at about one-half the price you would pay for it at home. Exporters can ship Canadian whisky to the West Indies without paying any Canadian duty, and they pay only a moderate import duty in the West Indies.

Mr. Beland: What about the excise duty?

Mr. Fielding: There is a heavy excise duty, I forget what it is for the moment. But whisky is a very expensive article in Canada and a comparatively cheap article in the West Indies. I have no doubt, speaking seriously, that there will be a considerable export trade in whisky from the province of Ontario, notably from Walkerville, for its manufacture is not forbidden, and I think what we are joking about here to-day will develop into quite a market in the West Indies for our whisky, and if they wish to have the stuff down there, I think it is desirable we should have the preference that is set forth in this agreement.

The Section being agreed to the Bill was reported, and read the third time and passed.

AMERICAN BEET SUGAR.

In view of the endeavour to establish a beet sugar industry in the United Kingdom, the following figures, taken from *Facts about Sugar*, connected with the last campaign of the Amalgamated Sugar Company of the United States, which operates in the Utah district, are of interest:—

The quantity of beets harvested was 581,558 tons (it is presumed short tons, as nothing is stated to the contrary), which came from 46,546 acres, or 12.28 short tons per acre. In addition, 17,841 tons were purchased from another company, making the total quantity purchased 599,374 tons. Owing to "shrinkage," there was loss of 44,052 tons.

The average sugar content of the beets sliced was 15.68 per cent., and the net amount of sugar recovered 12.67 per cent., or 81 per cent. of the weight of the sugar in the beets. This is about the average figure of modern cane sugar work.

The losses in manufacture per 100 lbs. of sugar in the beets were 1.6 lbs. in the pulp, .64 lb. in the pulp water, .2 lbs. in the lime water, 0.1 lb. in the filter cloth washings, 1.2 lbs. in the Steffen waste water, and 2.8 lbs. unknown. The net profits for the year were \$329,628, after allowance for depreciation, interest, etc.

"THE AUTOCAR" states that a company is in course of formation in the United Kingdom for the production of Natalite. The raw material for the production of the alcohol necessary will, our contemporary says, probably come from the sago palm (*metroxylon*), grown on a tract of country of an area of 100 square miles in New Guinea. No decision has yet been arrived at as to whether the sago itself will be brought over here for treatment, or whether the alcohol will be produced on the spot.

MR. ARTHUR J. McCONNELL.

The Executive of The West India Committee has lost a valued member in Mr. Arthur John McConnell, whose portrait appears on this page. As already stated, Mr. McConnell did not seek re-election at the Annual General Meeting, and it is now announced that he has retired from business.

Born in 1866, Mr. Arthur McConnell is a son of the late Mr. John McConnell, British Guiana merchant and estates' proprietor, whose London office he entered in 1885. On the death of his father in 1890 he assumed the control of the business in



Mr. Arthur J. McConnell.

conjunction with his brother, Mr. F. V. McConnell—one of the first men to ascend Roraima, and a keen explorer of the hinterland of British Guiana—who died in 1914. From that year until his recent retirement, Mr. Arthur McConnell remained sole governing director of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd., which was incorporated in 1900. A man of few words, Mr. McConnell is gifted with keen business ability and great public spirit, which manifested itself notably on the occasion of the visit to this country of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation in 1919. Similarly, it will be recalled that his firm headed the list of private contributors to The West India Committee's Endowment Fund with a donation of £1,000. Mr. McConnell has been for many years a director of the Colonial Bank, and it is gratifying to know that as a member of The West India Committee he will continue to take a sympathetic, if less active, interest in West Indian affairs.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

It is stated that the attacks of *Heliothrips rubioccinctus*, which recently assumed serious proportions in connection with the cacao cultivation of St. Thomé, were successfully met by spraying with a mixture composed of 4.6 grms. of palm oil, 4.6 grms. of wood ashes, and 200 litres of water.

Among the many tropical products which contain sweetening bodies which come under the heading of sugars, is the Avocado pear, which contains a sugar of a similar composition to mannite, but which was called laurite by its discoverer, Francis, of British Guiana. Although not palatable to the novice, the taste for this nutritious fruit grows with custom.

The pyriform scale, known in the West Indies as the mealy shield scale, and which frequently infests the avocado trees of Florida, has been found on the cinnamon trees of that country. The most satisfactory methods of control appear to be by spraying with a regular oil emulsion, such as is used in the control of the white fly in citrus trees. The proportion recommended is 1 gallon of oil emulsion to 66 gallons of water.

The silk worm industry is not one which has made progress in the West Indies, but to those who still carry it on the experiments of Sacchi on the effect of the partial sterilisation of the mulberry leaves will be of interest. The conclusions he arrived at were that if the leaves are washed with water the silk worms eat less, but weigh more than when fed on dry leaves, and that the quality of the silk, particularly as to length, tenacity, and elasticity, is improved and the weight increased.

A census was taken in 1918 by the authorities of the Porto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station of the poultry population of that island, and the returns showed that it numbered 1,000,000. As the human population is about 1,250,000, the Station considers that the island is understocked in the poultry line, and has published a Circular, No. 19, 1921, on the poultry industry of the island, in which excellent advice is given as to improvement of stock by sanitation and feeds and feeding.

In the French Congo enormous possibilities are said to exist for the manufacture of paper from papyrus. *L'Agronomie Coloniale* states that the areas can be divided into three classes, capable of yielding 145 tons, 240 tons, and 295 tons per hectare, respectively, of papyrus. The papyrus, in its reaping state, contains about 88 per cent. of water, and it is expected that it will yield over four and a half per cent. of its weight in dry pulp. Two reapings are possible annually.

The husks of cacao are of considerable value. From them theobromine is extracted, an alkaloid

much used in heart trouble. Extracts are also made with the use of steam, which are in great demand for confectionery, and on account of their high content of caffeine the husks are employed in the manufacture of certain coffee substitutes, such as malt coffee. A brown dye is also obtained from them. They also contain a large amount of assimilable iron, and serve as a basis for certain medicinal preparations used for anæmia.

The *Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Journal* says that owing to lack of demand and the consequent accumulation of stocks, the German potash mines have introduced short time working; on the other hand there is an improved enquiry for sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda and ammonium sulpho-nitrate, beyond the capacity of the manufacturers to supply. Attention is being directed in Austria to the cave deposits, consisting of pre-historic excreta and bones under thick beds of bat guano, and which contain from 10 to 20 per cent. of phosphoric acid.

A review of the literature of tillage appeared in a recent number of the *Journal of the American Society of Agronomy*, and, after pointing out that the prevailing theories regarding deep and frequent ploughing are not founded on experimental data, the author concludes that the evidence showed that ploughing deeper than seven inches does not generally cause an increased yield, and also that while there was no evidence to show the extent to which ploughings should be carried, it would appear that a suitable rotation of crops enables the number of ploughings to be reduced.

Vitamines are described by Sir Kenneth Goadby as indefinite vitalised substances present in most fresh foods, which are necessary for the maintenance of nutrition. They act by producing harmonious inter-action between materials in the food and the person who consumes it. They are plentiful in rapidly-growing vegetables, and to a less extent in milk and animal flesh. Prolonged boiling or cooking destroys the value of the vitamins. In margarine made from coconut oil they are absent, but exist in butter. The anti neuritic vitamins occur chiefly in the seeds of plants and eggs of animals and fish; in cereals the embryo, or germ, holds the largest quantity.

The recent fear of a famine in linseed oil, which forms an essential component of paints and varnishes, has now passed, but it is of value to know that an oil which promises to provide an efficient substitute exists in the "Oiticica" oil of Brazil. Mr. P. J. Fryer describes this oil in the *Chemical Age* as being present to the extent of over 60 per cent. in the kernels. It dries by absorption of oxygen from the air very rapidly. Mr. Fryer, who is an authority on the subject of oils, says: "It is safe to predict that when it is available in sufficient quantities for practical testing, it will be found to possess very remarkable properties." Does the nut which contains this oil exist in British Guiana?

INDIAN EMIGRATION.

The Situation in Fiji.

The Government of Fiji has intimated its willingness to give a pledge that the position of Indian immigrants shall be equal to that of all other British subjects resident in the islands, and the Government of India has appointed a committee to visit Fiji next autumn.

The committee will be composed of the following members:—Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, member of the Indian Council; Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, member of the Legislative Council, United Provinces; and Mr. G. L. Corbett, C.I.E., Indian Civil Service.

The terms of reference will be:—(1) To enquire into the conditions of Indians now resident in Fiji, and to ascertain causes of discontent; (2) to advise whether or not, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, Fiji offers a suitable field for Indian colonisation.

This news will be received with interest in British Guiana, which gave the lead to Fiji in sending a representative deputation to India which it did in November, 1920.

It might be asked, how is it that the Government of India, while appointing a Committee to visit Fiji, has given the "go by" to British Guiana, where the Indian already enjoys the rights which are still only promised in Fiji. The obvious answer is that the impelling force of colonial public opinion behind the Indian movement is stronger than is the case in British Guiana. It seems clear that British Guiana feels somewhat disappointed that the people of India did not receive with a greater display of enthusiasm the extremely generous offer made to them by the Colonisation Deputation, and with this colonial attitude of mind one must confess to some degree of sympathy. British Guiana's offer committed the Colony to an expenditure which would have been a burden to the industries of the Colony for years before the benefits to be derived from their self-imposed obligations could be realised.

It would therefore not be surprising if in the present world-wide depression of trade, British Guiana thought twice before again making overtures in a quarter where they are received with such scant evidence of appreciation.

The Fijian Deputation did not take to India such a definite invitation nor such a detailed specification of the conditions offered as did the British Guiana Mission, and therefore they may not feel so acutely the half-hearted reception given by India to both Deputations, consequently they have thought fit to renew their efforts, with the result that a Government Committee to visit Fiji has been appointed.

Whilst the West Indies will await the report of the Indian Committee of Inspection with patience, they will be far more interested to see what, if any, practical result is obtained after the Committee's report has been presented.

At a meeting held on June 30th, the following were elected officers of The West India Committee for the ensuing year, pursuant to Article V. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation:—Chairman, Mr. Robert Rutherford; Deputy Chairman, Mr. Cyril Gurney; Hon. Treasurers, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Mr. Eliot A. de Pass, and Mr. H. P. Prévité.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 261.)

The Fate of Governor Home.

The storm broke at midnight on March 2nd, 1795, when a body of rebels surrounded Grenville, or La Baye*, and massacred all the British inhabitants, without regard to age or sex. Having set fire to the houses, they then withdrew to the mountains laden with booty. Simultaneously, another party of insurgents attacked Gouyave, on the opposite side of the Island, and rounding up the British residents, drove them, bound and half-naked, to Belvidere, whose estate works they fortified, finally entrenching themselves on the summit of the neighbouring Morne.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony, Ninian Home, who, as we have seen, was captured as he was returning from Paraclote to St. George's, was incarcerated with the other prisoners, and was eventually placed in the stocks in a hut on the mountain side. Here he was repeatedly called upon to deliver up the island, but preferring honour to liberty, he stoutly declined to do so, although he did go so far as to inform the Acting-Governor, in a letter, that Fédon had threatened that if his camp were assaulted by British troops the prisoners would all immediately be put to death. On April 8th this brutal threat was put into execution. Fédon, being incensed by the death of his brother, who fell early in the day, gave the order for the massacre, and the Lieutenant-Governor; Mr. Farquhar, his A.D.C.; the Hon. Alexander Campbell, a member of Council, and forty-five others were butchered in cold blood. There were only three survivors, one being Dr. John Hay, a clergyman, and a doctor of Fédon's district, who has left the following account of the final scene:—

"The prisoners, who had been let out of stocks, were immediately ordered in, the door locked, and the whole guard put under arms. Soon after the attack became more general, a voice was heard, saying, 'The prisoners are to be shot. . . .' The guard was drawn up very near the prison, at the distance of not more than four or five paces. They appeared very much agitated, trembling with impatience, and some seemed to have their guns cocked. A few prisoners called out 'Mercy!' No reply was made. Others, who were not in stocks, were on their knees praying. Not a word was exchanged among us; we all knew an attack from that quarter must fail of success, which would not only prolong our misery, but endanger our lives. The door was opened; two men appeared with hammers to take the prisoners out of stocks. Those who were not in confinement were ordered to go out. . . . He (Fédon) began the bloody massacre in presence of his wife and daughters, who remained there, unfeeling spectators of his horrid barbarity. He gave the order "Fire!" himself to

*This town stood on the shores of the bay just to the south of that in which the present Grenville stands

every man as soon as he came out; and of fifty-one prisoners, only Parson M'Mahon, Mr. Kerr, and myself were saved."

Meanwhile, Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, the Attorney-General, who had assumed the government of the Colony, had invoked the assistance of Don José Maria Chacon, the Spanish Governor of Trinidad, who sent in response to his appeal two armed brigs and a schooner with forty men on board. For a while these foreigners were employed as a garrison for Fort George, the British regular forces and militia being sent to Gouyave. The Spaniards, however, were soon recalled, because the French émigrés at Port of Spain were beginning to give trouble.

His Majesty's ships *Quebec* and *Resource* also came to the relief of Grenada, but their ship's companies were quite inadequate in strength to quell the rising. By March, 1796, the rebels were in undisputed possession of practically the entire island, which they overran, burning the crops and destroying the works and houses of every inhabitant who did not show practical sympathy with their views.

With the arrival of reinforcements in that month, however, matters began to take a more favourable turn for the English, a magnificent bayonet charge by the Buffs at Post Royal, coupled with the news that Sir Ralph Abercromby had reached Barbados on St. Patrick's Day, putting fresh heart into the Colonists, who were now confined to St. George's, which was protected by a stout stockade. Sir Ralph established his headquarters at Carriacou, and landed with a strong force at Palmiste Bay on June 9th. Ten days later the insurgents were utterly routed. Those at Fédon's camp were taken completely by surprise, the English lighting their camp fires at the foot of the hill to make it appear that they were bivouacing as usual, while they crept up the Morne, and seizing a point known as the Vigie, fell upon them at daybreak.

The English, infuriated by the last act of the rebels, which was to murder twenty prisoners brutally before their eyes, gave no quarter. Nearly all the leaders of the insurrection were captured, except Fédon, who is believed to have escaped in a canoe and to have been drowned in an attempt to reach Trinidad. A special court was set up for the trial of the rebels, and forty-seven were convicted on proof of identity, and were sentenced to death. Lieutenant-Governor Houston, who had now assumed the government of the Colony, respited all but fourteen, who were immediately executed, but so greatly did the loyal Colonists resent this leniency that eventually thirty-eight of the rebels in all were made to pay the supreme penalty for their crimes with their lives, whilst the remainder were deported to British Honduras.

Our sailing orders were: "Six o'clock," and as it was now ten minutes to the hour, we began to feel somewhat apprehensive lest we should be left behind, though our friends in St. George's, with the best intentions, had told us that there was so much cargo to be unloaded that the *Chaudière* could not possibly get away before Eight, and that there was

consequently no hurry whatever—and so on and so forth; but we were determined to leave nothing to chance, and tearing ourselves away from our hospitable friends, we re-entered the car and, racing down the hill, with clouds of dust in our wake, reached the wharf just as the propellers of our good ship were beginning to churn up the mud of centuries from the bottom of the harbour.

Our loyal friend, Edgar Tripp, was awaiting us on the quay in a state of no little agitation, surrounded by a gesticulating and noisy crowd of loafers, who appeared to be highly amused at our very obvious discomfiture as we leapt into the first boats which we could commandeer. Ours was an immense barge. Just ahead of us was Tripp in the stern sheets of a tiny dinghy labelled *Sweet Home*, his appearance, as he swayed backwards and forwards in rhythm with his perspiring oarsman, showing all the agility of a 'Varsity cox, adding to the hilarity of the onlookers.

The *Chaudière* was actually under way when we got alongside, but fortunately the gangway had not yet been hoisted up, and we were able to regain her deck without having to submit to the unpleasant experience of shinning up a rope ladder, as had been my fate some years before at Castries, when rejoining the elusive *Fontabelle*, which in those days had no regular timetable, but a Captain who, like time and tide, waited for no man.

Trinidad's Sentinel Islands.

All that night we were rolling along in the sweltering heat, with the trade wind on our quarter, bound for Port of Spain, and soon after daybreak we distinguished the dark mass of the mountains of Trinidad and the Main rising from the sea, and appreciated that another stage of our voyage was nearing an end.

The shape of Trinidad has been aptly compared with that of a hide stretched out flat. Rectangular, it lies due north and south, just off the delta of the mighty Orinoco River. At each corner it has a promontory, those on the north-east and south-west being extended towards the coast of Venezuela, from which they are divided by narrow straits giving access to the Gulf of Paria, a great sheet of water fully 90 miles long and 40 miles in breadth. The straits at the south, scarcely five miles across, through which Columbus sailed in 1498, to be followed by Sir Walter Raleigh ninety-seven years later, are called the "Boca del Serpe," or Serpent's Mouth, whilst those to the north, which are divided into four separate channels by the islands of Monos (Monkey), Huevos (Egg), and Chacachacare, are known as the "Bocas del Dragone," or Dragon's Mouths. These channels are not so formidable as their names suggest, for though the current races through them like a mill stream, they present no difficulties to navigation.

As we forced our way against the current, which gave the *Chaudière* the appearance of steaming at a greater speed than she could have been capable of showing even in her palmy days, we were reminded that in the month of June, 1805, His Majesty's Ship *Victory*, with ten other sail of the line and three frigates, entered these Bocas in search of the French fleet. This occurred during Nelson's memorable

pursuit of Villeneuve to the West Indies and back, just before the decisive victory of Trafalgar. On reaching the West Indies he had been informed that the French contemplated a descent on Trinidad, and consequently he set his course for that island. When the English fleet reached the northern coast a boat was sent ashore from one of the ships to obtain information from the garrison of a Martello tower which had been hastily erected upon it. The Officer commanding the Fort, who happened to be a Frenchman in the service of the English, thereupon mistaking our fleet for that of the enemy, completely lost his head, and giving up all hope of defending his post, flung his single gun down the hill, blew up the fort, and set off for Port of Spain, spreading the news as he went that the fleets of France and Spain were about to attack the island.

Nelson, seeing the fort "go up," believed that the island was already in the possession of the enemy, and that his quarry would be found in the Gulf, and he accordingly entered the Bocas with his fleet, hoping, no doubt, as his historian has suggested, that he would make the mouths of the Orinoco as famous as those of the Nile. With their sails all set and their battle flags flying, our ships must have presented a magnificent spectacle as they sped along under the beetling cliffs and precipices of these sentinel islands. After entering the gulf, Nelson soon discovered his mistake. There was no trace of the enemy fleet to be seen, and so, putting about, he passed out of the Bocas again without even communicating with the shore.

Meanwhile, the people of Port of Spain were reduced to a state of mind bordering on panic. Martial law was proclaimed, the archives and merchants' books were sent for safe keeping to Port George, the principal defence of the island, whose solid stonework still remains to remind one of a bygone age, and the Governor, Sir Thomas Mifflin, deciding that the capital was untenable, just as Chacon had done eight years before, when he yielded to Sir Ralph Abercromby, had already commenced a march to the batteries at the head of the regular troops, militia, and volunteers, before he discovered—as he did, no doubt, to his intense relief—what a ridiculous mutual mistake had been made.

In passing, it may be mentioned that in acknowledgment of a resolution thanking him for his bold and unwearied pursuit of the enemy to the West Indies and back, Lord Nelson sent the following letter to Sir Richard Neave, the Chairman of The West India Committee, on 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.

It need hardly be said that this letter is among the most treasured records of The West India Committee.

(To be continued.)

WEST INDIA 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 and Canadian Trade.

The House of Assembly has adopted a recommendation that the Colony should contribute £200 per annum for eight years towards the expenses of a Trade Commissioner for the West Indies in Canada, provided that the other West Indian Colonies also contributed, the only opposition to the proposal, says the *Nassau Guardian*, coming from members who were against granting preferential rates in the first place.

S.S. *Thetis*, which left Nassau on May 16th for Miami, with fifty passengers, including Mr. Lighthourne, a member of the Legislative Council, and Major Hemming, was wrecked in the early hours of the following day, off Gun Cay, through the ship striking a submerged rock. The crew and passengers were all rescued.

Barbados approves Ottawa Agreement.

His Excellency Sir Charles O'Brien has appealed to employers on behalf of the Volunteer Force. Formed twenty years ago, when Sir Frederic Hodgson was Governor, the force has an establishment providing for 24 officers and 277 other ranks, but is at present 112 under strength. Many of the merchants have responded to the appeal by promising to give every encouragement to their employees to join.

On May 17th, the House of Assembly passed a resolution approving of the Canada-West Indies Agreement, which has already been ratified by all the other contracting parties, except Bermuda. The resolution is subject to a reservation limiting the Island's contribution to the steamship subsidy to an annual sum of £4,000. Faced with an estimated deficit of £142,647 for the current financial year the Ways and Means Committee of the House have issued a Report, in which the view of the majority, subscribed to by Mr. C. H. Wright, Mr. H. B. Austin, Mr. S. C. Thorne, Mr. E. I. Skeete and Mr. Douglas Pile, favours spreading the loss on the Government's purchase of sugar in 1920 over five years, and imposing an additional excise duty on rum. In a Minority report, Mr. C. P. Clarke recommends an immediate Income Tax without waiting for the assistance of an expert.

Mr. J. H. B. King, Second Clerk in the Treasury Department, has been appointed Assistant Manager and Secretary of the Barbados Cotton Factory at a salary of £400.

St. Michael Commissioners of Health are taking steps to provide for a thorough "clean up" of the parish, especially with a view to the elimination of typhoid, and have decided upon a campaign embracing every section of the parish.

The sixth anniversary of the Empire Club was celebrated with a dinner on Empire Day at which Sir Frederick Clarke presided.

Except in one or two districts, the rainfall for May did not exceed an inch, and the young canes at the end of the month were in many cases withering under the drought.

The weather at the beginning of June showed improvement, but more rain was still required. The financing of the coming crop has not been without difficulty. The capital of the Agricultural Bank is

ried up to a large extent in the unsold produce of last year, and the banks have given notice that they will not make any loans this year except on a Government guarantee. As a counterstroke, the Agricultural Bank is inviting savings bank deposits at 5 per cent., and hopes in this way to be able to make the usual advances to planters.

The Income Tax Bill passed its second reading in the House of Assembly on May 23rd, and entered Committee stage.

The Grenada Bar.

The question of calling students to the local Bar without their being called in England, which was abrogated in 1880, is again to the fore, Mr. H. H. Philip, J.L.B., having petitioned the Government to permit him to practise in the Supreme Courts of the Windward Islands.

In the parish of St. Andrew's, according to a correspondent in the *West Indian*, there are many who are not at all certain whether a dark, rapidly moving object seen high in the sky on May 19th was an aeroplane or the long-expected Pons-Winnecke comet. Both would appear to be equally rare manifestations in Grenada.

The Census in British Guiana.

Mr. J. A. Luckhoo, whose valuable work in connection with the Colonisation Deputation will be remembered, is the provisional President of a new association of East Indians in the Colony, the "Indian National Congress," which has been formed through the instrumentality of Mr. J. A. Vierasawmy. The *Argosy* is assured that the new body is entirely independent of the National Congress of Mr. Gandhi in India, and does not share the aspirations of that advanced thinker.

The compilation of the Census, which was taken on April 24th, is not yet complete for the whole Colony, but the figures for Georgetown, which are published, show an increase of 1,930 over those of 1911, the population standing now at 59,507, of which 25,807 are males and 33,700 females.

The Filaria Commission propose, by means of a house-to-house visitation, to make as complete a return as possible of the health of every inhabitant of Albert-town, which has been found to be heavily infected. Their researches to date have established the fact that filaria is eminently a disease contracted in the house. Dr. Vevers, the sixth member of the Commission, is expected to arrive in July.

It is expected that the new buildings of the Colonial Bank, which add dignity to the appearance of Water Street, will be ready for occupation early next year. The Town Council have decided to raise on loan \$200,000 at 6 per cent. to be spent in repairs and improvements of Water Street.

The annual report of the Schoonord Sugar Estates, Ltd., showed that 736 acres were reaped, giving 1,641 tons of sugar and 408 puncheons rum; the yield being 2.22 tons per acre. The profit on the year's working amounted to \$122,563. At the general meeting of the company on May 30th, a dividend of 5 per cent. was declared.

Baron Van Heemstraa, the newly appointed Governor of Surinam, spent a day in British Guiana on his way to the Dutch Colony, and was entertained by His Excellency Sir Wilfred Collett.

Mr. M. Gonsalves is resigning his position as manager of Bettencourt & Co., Ltd., with whom he has been associated for thirty-two years, with the intention of

opening a wholesale dry goods business on his own account. Hon. R. E. Brassington has been granted five months' leave of absence.

Mr. A. A. Thorne, addressing a meeting of electors of New Amsterdam, on May 23rd, is reported by the *Argosy* as having characterised the Colonisation Scheme as "an attempt to flood the Colony with cheap East India labour," and as taking full credit to himself for its failure. Such statements about a policy which secured almost unanimous approval in the Colony are much to be deplored. At the same meeting, a resolution was passed endorsing the Governor's continued embargo on the exportation of rice.

His Excellency the Hon. Eyre Hutson has issued a memorandum on the subject of taxation on exports, following representations as to the tax on chicle, by the Government of Guatemala, who were under the impression that it was a "transit tax," and therefore unfair in its incidence as regards the product originating from Guatemala. The Governor points out that the tax was levied on all chicle leaving the Colony, but states that he has come to the conclusion that the export duty both on chicle and coconuts should be on an *ad valorem* basis, as being fairer to all concerned.

Drought in British Honduras.

Hon. and Mrs. Graham have left for England on holiday. Sir Frederick Maxwell, K.C., who recently came to the Colony with the intention of practising at the Bar, has returned to the Bahamas for reasons of health.

Copious showers were reported by the *Independent*, which added that all fear of a drought was thus removed.

Later advices, however, indicate that the Belize district has again been in the grip of a severe drought, and that the Government has been compelled to provide boats to transport water from the Manatee River, a considerable distance from Belize, to the coast for domestic purposes. Up to a few weeks ago a freshwater bath was a luxury in the City of Belize.

Empire Day was celebrated with enthusiasm throughout the Colony, the most interesting of the festivities taking place, however, in the country districts.

Milk-Pox, *alias* Alastrim, in Jamaica.

The lighter side of legislation was shown in an unrehearsed scene in the Legislative Council during a recent debate on the railway. An official who attended while his department was being criticised was seen to don his hat before actually quitting the Council Chamber. This unintentional discourtesy seems to have caused quite a flutter among some of the members. The "stranger" was "named," and asked to withdraw, and the dignity of the House thus vindicated.

The epidemic which the Prince of Wales referred to at The West India Committee banquet as "Milk Pox" is called also Amaas, Sanaga Pox, Kaffir Pox and Alastrim, the last being derived from a Portuguese word meaning "to spread." In a paper on the disease, read before the Jamaica Association of Medical Officers, Dr. L. M. Moody, Government Bacteriologist, said that epidemics of it had occurred in Australia, in Africa, in Brazil and in Trinidad. During the present outbreak, for which Jamaica was indebted to Cuba, more than 9,000 cases had been notified throughout the Island up till March 31st. The number of deaths averaged only 4.5 per 1,000 infected. Dr. Moody professed the greatest faith in

vaccination to check the disease's ravages. In his opinion, it was not a mild form of another disease, such as small pox, but an entirely distinct disease which usually ran a benignant course.

The St. Lucia Press.

Mr. R. C. Martin, at one time editor of the *St. Lucia Guardian*, but lately residing in Dominica, has been appointed to the editorship of the *Voice*, of which Mr. G. F. Gordon is now proprietor.

Mr. Archibald J. Brook, writing under date May 3rd, mentions that Mr. Popham Lobb, the Administrator of St. Vincent, has been spending a few days in the Colony. Leaving headquarters, where he had been staying with Colonel Davidson-Houston, one morning at 8.45, and taking the coasting boat to Soufriere, he was able to motor to Choiseul, Laborie, Vieux Fort, Micoud and Dennery, and return to Castries in time for dinner. Previous to the advent of Hon. Gideon Murray as Administrator, this journey used to involve three days of hard riding.

St. Vincent reduces Cotton Export Prices.

By an Order in Council, approved by the Legislative Council on May 4th, the export duties leviable on cotton will in future be as follows per cwt.: Sea Island, 5s.; Marie Galante, 3s. On stained cotton of these two varieties the duties will be 1s. 8d. and 1s. respectively. The Agricultural Advances Ordinance, 1921, which contains elaborate provisions to safeguard creditors given an agricultural lien for advances made, has received the Governor's assent.

The Committee of the St. Vincent Agricultural and Commercial Society and Cotton Growers' Association have declined to adopt a stabilisation scheme for cotton prepared by Mr. R. E. Davis, and passed at a meeting presided over by him as "acting chairman" on May 18th. Mr. Davis's proposals, in which the co-operation of the other Sea Island cotton-growing islands was invited, including the holding of the 1920-21 crop for a minimum price of 5s. 6d. per lb., with an increase of 5d. for all cotton not sold at the end of the year, and the same price to be fixed for the 1921-22 crop.

The planting season is starting, but with arrowroot unsalable, cotton in the grip of a severe slump, and no machinery to take off extensive cane crops, planters are at a loss, says the *St. Vincent Times*, what to plant.

The *Times* of May 5th records some slight showers, though the weather was still very dry, and the majority of streams were nearly dried up. Growing provision crops were suffering for the want of rain, and in some districts worms were affecting unripe sweet potatoes. The harvesting of the cane crop continued. At Peters Ilope Estate, where machinery for making syrup on a modern basis has been put up, the manufacture of syrup was started on May 2nd. Other estates are also manufacturing syrup on the Leeward Coast.

Baby Saving in St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, in a letter dated May 14th, writes that Mrs. Burdon's Baby-saving League is now about to start work and, with the promised support, should soon be doing good work. The funds in hand are about £500, being £300 in donations and £200 in promised annual subscriptions. In addition, the Government will give £200 to help start with, and possibly this may be made an annual grant.

There is a Central Committee with Dr. C. H. Durrant, C.M.O., as Chairman, Hon. D. H. Semper,

Secretary, Miss Majendie, Treasurer, Mrs. Burdon, Mrs. Ross, Miss Thibou, Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge and Mr. J. R. Yearwood, and sub-committees in Basseterre, Sandy Point and Cayon, respectively presided over by Rev. G. Mandeville, Dr. Burton and Mr. J. R. Yearwood. All the doctors have promised to give every support that they can; the chief difficulty at present is to get local visitors in the different districts, who, of course, are voluntary, and will work under Miss Majendie. It is intended to have crèches, to care for about ten children, in each district, and the first one is to be started very soon in Basseterre to show people how the scheme generally will be run. Clinics will be held weekly in all the big villages, to which mothers will be encouraged to come; babies will be weighed, medicines and milk distributed, and later on it is proposed to start baby shows.

There is no doubt but that anything done to conserve human life must be for the benefit of the community, but there is a certain amount of reluctance on the part of a lot of people, and not without some justification, too, to support the scheme. There is without doubt a shortage of labour here; people have been, and still are, emigrating in large numbers. So they say, Why tax ourselves to raise people to go away?

The weather since writing has been very dry and rain is badly wanted. Construction work on the Capisterre factory has been temporarily stopped, but it is understood that Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge has hopes of having it ready for work by March, 1922. If he is able to bring this about it will be a great asset to the island generally and that district in particular.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, under date June 11th, reports a continuance of very dry weather, but all things considered, the young growing crop was looking very well. The Basseterre Factory expected to finish grinding the old crop by the end of June or the beginning of July.

On June 1st, Mrs. Burdon opened the first crèche in connection with the Baby Saving League in Basseterre. On the 3rd, His Honour the Administrator and Mrs. Burdon held an At Home at Government House, Springfield, in honour of the King's birthday.

San Fernando Developments, Trinidad.

Mr. Tripp, writing on May 14th, states that Major Bowen has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. It is understood that he will be entrusted with the carrying out of the new arrangements for the local forces, in view of the expected departure of the regular troops before the end of the year. No better selection could have been made. Colonel Bowen is a strict disciplinarian, but enjoys the absolute confidence of everyone who serves under him, as he does that of the public, who do not forget more than one emergency in the history of the Colony, in which he has acted with great courage and credit.

San Fernando has been rapidly coming to the fore since it became the headquarters of the Southern oil industry. Ocean steamers, which had ceased calling there for some years, now pass on regularly from Port of Spain and discharge their cargoes direct at the San Fernando wharf. A great increase in business in every direction has occurred. The Borough Council is alive to the requirements of the future and has now obtained sanction to issue £50,000, 6 per cent. Bonds for the improvement of the water supplies and other needed works. It is understood that one local capitalist has offered to subscribe for the whole amount.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

Government Stocks of Sugar.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade) informed Mr. Gilbert, on June 27th, that the stocks of sugar purchased on Government account, arrived or expected to arrive in this country amounted to 304,635 tons.

Imperial Air Services.

Captain Guest (Secretary of State for Air) informed Viscount Curzon, on June 28th, that aerial communication would be discussed by the Imperial Conference, and a memorandum on the development of civil air communication within the Empire, with particular reference to lighter than air craft, had been prepared for the Dominion Prime Ministers.

Imperial Wireless Chain.

Mr. Kellaway (Postmaster-General) informed Mr. Hurd, on June 28th, that the wireless stations (Oxford and Cairo) which were to form the first link of the Imperial wireless chain would be ready for use before the end of the year, and a Commission of experts had been appointed to consider the design of the other stations recommended by the Imperial Wireless Telegraphy Committee. Conversations had been going on also regarding wireless communication between the United Kingdom and Canada.

Sugar and the Anti-Dumping Bill.

Mr. Gideon Murray, who asked on June 21st whether, in view of the great importance to our Colonial sugar industry of the prevention of the dumping of foreign sugar, the Government would give an assurance that upon the passing of the Safeguarding of Industries Bill its provisions would be applied so as to prevent foreign sugar from being sold in this country below the cost of production, was informed by Sir Philip Lloyd-Graeme (Secretary, Overseas Trade Department) that these provisions did not apply to articles of food.

The Duty on Power Alcohol.

Sir S. Hoare asked, on June 23rd, whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies was aware of the potentialities of the West Indies as a centre for a successful alcohol industry for power purposes; and, if so, whether he would make representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to a remission of the full spirit duty and surtax upon the importation of West Indian denatured spirit into the United Kingdom. Mr. Wood (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) replied that the subject was under the consideration of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. When that consideration was completed he would inquire further as to the grounds for making representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the sense suggested.

Empire and Foreign Sugar.

Hon. Gideon Murray asked the President of the Board of Trade, on June 28th, whether he was aware that a state of uncertainty existed in the overseas sugar industry due to the apprehension that in the future they might again be handicapped by the competition of foreign sugar sold in the United Kingdom below the cost of production, and that this was acting as a deterrent to the further development of our overseas sugar industry. Mr. Baldwin replied that he was aware of the circumstances referred to, but he was not prepared to give an assurance that His Majesty's Government would take special measures to penalise imports of cheap sugar. Sugar of Empire origin enjoyed a substantial preference over foreign sugar in

importation into this country, amounting to about $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per pound.

Kelham on half-time.

Sir A. Boscawen (Minister of Agriculture), replying to Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy on June 27th, said that the Kelham factory had been mortgaged owing to the very considerably increased cost of construction attributable to the rise in the cost of labour and materials. With regard to the second and third parts of the question, the company's experts had considered it inadvisable, with new machinery and inexperienced labour, to accept more than 20,000 to 25,000 tons of raw material during the first year. With a full supply of beet the factory would not be continuously in operation for more than three months, but in addition time was required for preparations for handling the crop and overhauling the machinery afterwards. With regard to the remainder of the year, the directors were considering how they could best utilise the plant without impairing the efficiency of the factory for sugar production.

West Indian Communications.

Replying to the Hon. Gideon Murray on June 21st, Mr. E. Wood (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) said that with regard to direct mail steamer communication between Great Britain and Trinidad and the adjacent West Indian Colonies, when H.M. Government had decided upon the question of a contribution from Imperial funds, the possibility of reaching an early arrangement would depend upon the tenders received from shipping firms. Regarding the question of air communication, he would be pleased to discuss with the West Indian Aviation Committee the possibility of using airships in the West Indies. At the same time, these large craft were not suitable for communication over comparatively short distances, and would in any case be uneconomical, if not actually impracticable, owing to the very large overhead charges involved for sheds and mooring masts.

Mr. Wood informed Sir Samuel Hoare on the same date that improvements were being effected in the wireless station in British Honduras with a view to ensuring direct communication with Jamaica.

Great Britain no Oil Monopolist.

An important despatch sent by Lord Curzon to the British Ambassador at Washington, enclosing a memorandum prepared by the Petroleum Department regarding the petroleum situation, has been presented to Parliament. The object of the memorandum is to contradict the statements which have been made in the Foreign Press that the British Government is co-operating with British commercial interests to secure an undue share of the petroleum resources of the world. It is pointed out that Great Britain is, next to the United States and (in normal times) Russia, the largest consumer of oil in the world. Over 90 per cent. of her navy is oil-fired (as compared with 45 per cent. before the war), as is a rapidly increasing proportion of her merchant marine. Her present home resources consist of one well giving a daily production of one ton, and Scottish shale fields which yield about 165,000 tons of oil products annually.

In 1920 Great Britain imported about 3,368,600 tons of oil (motor spirit, kerosene, fuel oil, lubricants, etc.) of a total value of £67,000,000. Of this, 61 per cent. in quantity and 68 per cent. in value came from the United States, 37 per cent. in quantity and 30 per cent. in value from other foreign countries, and 2 per cent. in value from British Possessions. During the war the annual imports of petroleum rose as high as 5,160,000 tons.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.

The West India and Panama.

The directors of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, in their report for the year ended December 31st, state that the amount to credit of revenue is £80,176 16s. 8d., but the expenses have been £138,325 1s. 9d., resulting in a loss on the year's working of £58,148 5s. 1d. From this are deducted the balance of £10,083 7s. 9d. brought forward from December 31st, 1919, and £2,104 1s. 4d., interest on investments received in 1920, together making £12,137 9s. 1d., thus showing a net deficiency of £46,010 6s. on December 31st, 1920. In addition to the above expenses, the balance of the cost of the third survey of the Company's cable ship, amounting to £38,579 1s. 6d., fell to be dealt with. Inasmuch as the total cost was £74,252 19s. 1d., of which a part, £35,673 14s. 7d., was dealt with in Abstract C page 8, of the accounts of 1919, the directors have added the £38,579 1s. 6d. to the original cost of the ship, being satisfied that the increased amount at which she thus stands in the Company's books is within her present commercial value.

The unfortunate position of the Company disclosed by these figures is due mainly to the cumulative results of entrusting the cable ship *Henry Holmes* to the Government dock at Trinidad for her third survey repairs, and, in a lesser degree, to the increases in working expenses. As regards the main cause, it will be remembered that the *Henry Holmes* went to Trinidad in January, 1919. Before going there she had put the Company's communications in good order, and for some period in the first half of that year her absence was not seriously felt, and the traffic receipts were comparatively large. But in a cable system like that of this Company, breaks must occur from time to time, and, as it was only occasionally possible to secure the services of other repairing ships, the conditions gradually became worse and worse, so much so that in the spring of 1920, when it was found possible to charter a ship for five months, there were as many as sixteen of the cables interrupted. Although the chartered ship worked well, some sections were still interrupted when the *Henry Holmes* was released from Trinidad, early in October last. It is a matter of experience that telegraph traffic, when lost, is recovered but slowly, and, although by the end of 1920 it was steadily moving towards recovery, the traffic receipts during the year were over £30,000 below those of 1919. Another consequence of the interruptions was the loss of over £10,000 of the Imperial, Canadian, and Colonial subsidies. The hiring of cable ships in the nine months cost at least £28,000 more than the expenses of the *Henry Holmes* would have amounted to; and there was also an expenditure of £2,109 in the hire of sloops for Inter-Colony communications.

Of the increases in expenses, an important one was in respect of cable. With such an accumulation of interruptions a large quantity of cable had to be used in repairs, of which the cost was £19,383, as compared with an average of £9,253 for each of the three preceding years. Another large increase was in respect of the *Henry Holmes*; the wages of the sailors and firemen had to be increased by over 40 per cent.; the cost of victualling increased 100 per cent., and the price of coal had been at least 60 per cent. higher than in 1918. There has also been some increase in the expenses at the stations, and it is probable that the high prices still prevailing in the West Indies may necessitate further increases this year. To meet the general heavy expenses in 1920, coupled with loss of revenue, it was necessary during the year to sell the bulk of the Company's investments. Owing to the state of the money market the sales realised only £66,026 17s. 11d. for securities which had cost £96,382 8s. 7d. It will be seen from Abstract D that the investments now stand at £15,889, as against £109,171 at the end of 1919.

The position of the Company at the end of 1920 was so difficult that the directors decided to approach the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury and ask for financial help. Their Lordships were unable to accede to the request for a special grant; but they were good enough, before the end of their financial year, to obtain the sanction of the House of Commons to the waiving of Clause 11 of the agreement of 1914, under which Clause the Company could have been called on to repay as much as £13,000 of the Imperial and Canadian subsidies, in respect of the year to September 30th, 1919. In consideration of this relief the directors agreed that whenever the cable between British Guiana and Trinidad is interrupted (as it is at present) the subsidy payable by British Guiana shall be reduced by three-fourths. For the first four months of this year the traffic receipts, although not as large as in 1919, show a considerable increase over 1920; and, now that the cable ship is available for repairs, it is hoped there will be no check on the growth of traffic. But in any event it will be recognised that, in view of the debit balance of £76,366 6s. 8d., as shown on page seven, there can be no question of any dividends for the year 1920; and the directors regret that, in their opinion, this debit balance must be completely disposed of before any dividends can be declared.

Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.

The net profit for the year ended December 31st, 1920, was £56,085, as compared with £43,012 for 1919, and £14,949 for 1918, and the directors recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. In their report they state that the difficulties in regard to delivery of casing and equipment mentioned in the last report continued during the year, both drilling and production being almost brought to a standstill. Owing to this the production for the year under review amounted to 98,000 barrels (14,000 tons), as against 169,667 barrels (24,238 tons) for 1919. 75,000 shares have been called for under the Option Agreement with the underwriters out of a total of 125,000 shares. During the year the Board acquired the whole of the issued share capital of Alexander Duckham and Co., Ltd., for the sum of £116,863 12s. 3d., the whole of which amount was applied by the vendors to the purchase of shares in the company at a premium of £3 10s. per share, and the necessary issue of shares for this purpose was made. Of the shares allotted to him and the shareholders of his company, Mr. Alexander Duckham has pledged himself and those shareholders to retain one-half during his engagement as managing director of the company, or for five years from January, 1920, whichever is the shorter period. The acquisition of this prosperous undertaking has placed at the disposal of the company a highly trained technical staff and a distributing organisation for its products.

Presiding at the Fifth Annual Meeting, on July 4th, Mr. Alexander Duckham attributed the lack of success in carrying out the Board's drilling programme to the contractors being overdue in the delivery of plant and material and to the scarcity and inefficient nature of the skilled labour available. In the latter respect conditions had some what improved. The production for the year 1920 was 60 per cent. of that for 1919, and it was a very remarkable testimony to the value of the Company's oil and of their property that with such production the Directors could put before the shareholders the balance sheet now submitted.

Though the Company only shipped one cargo, the local sales were quite satisfactory, and the geological work was furnishing good information.

As to the current year, the outlook was necessarily uncertain owing to the fall in prices. Freight had dropped, but it must be remembered that the retail price of spirit had fallen 6d. per gallon, while fuel oils had come down to a figure £10 below the highest of last year. Production was increasing, the output for May being within a few tons of the best ever experienced.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in s.s. *Coronado*, July 2nd :-

Mr T Renson	Dr J. N. Hawtin	Mr. T. G. Proctor
Dr J. H. Daines	Mrs. J. N. Hawtin	Mrs. T. G. Proctor
Mr. A. Bourrillon	Mr. F. H. W. Jenoure	Miss E. Proctor
Mr. G. N. Carey	Mr. R. A. Lightbourne	Mr. P. A. Sherwood
Mr. T. E. Douglas	Mrs. R. A. Lightbourne	Mr. P. A. Sherwood
Mrs. T. E. Douglas	Mr. M. Mataloo	Miss H. M. Shields
Miss E. C. Douglas	Mr. S. J. Patton	Mr. C. A. Weisse
Master L. D. Dunnett	Mrs. S. J. Patton	Mrs. C. A. Weisse

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Bayano*, June 18th :-

Mrs. H. G. Allen	Mr. & Mrs. W. Head	Mr. G. G. Hussey
Mr. N. Ashenheim	Mrs. R. C. Hickson	Mr. W. H. Milner

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Coronado*, Avonmouth, June 27th :-

Mr & Mrs. J. Baylis	Miss M. English	Mr & Mrs. W. J. McKenna
Mr. J. H. Betts	Mrs. R. Fletcher	Mr & Mrs. J. Philipps
Mr. N. R. Browne	Mr. F. Freese	Mr. T. Picot
Mr. P. Brown	Mr. & Mrs. A. Grice	Miss W. Power
Mrs. A. Bryau	Mr. G. Hargreave	Mr. & Mrs. A. Pullar
Mrs. & Miss Mary Calder	Mr. J. A. Hendriks	Mr. & Mrs. D. Rothnie
Mr & Mrs. J. Cargill	Mr. C. Huggins	Miss M. Saint Firmini
Major Carleton	Mr. R. V. Johnstone	Miss C. Shaw-Allen
Miss E. Clarke	Mr. A. E. Kershaw	Miss G. Saunders
Mr. H. T. Cook	Dr. G. Leon	Mr. J. Sullivan
Mr. C. Cooper	Miss E. Livermore	Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Thompson & Son
Mr. W. J. Cooper	Lt. Col. O. H. E. Marescaux	Miss F. Verley
Mr. & Mrs. Duret and Child	Mrs. H. Mariton	Mr. G. E. White
	The Misses Martin (2)	Rev. D. Winifith
	Miss McDowell	

Home arrivals from Jamaica in R.M.S. *Patuca*, Avonmouth, July 3rd :-

Miss V. M. Crooke	Mr. R. A. Leslie	Miss I. Scarlett
Mr. T. Carter	Mr. & Mrs. W. Mason & Family	Mr. A. Sinclair
Lady Dimsdale		Miss D. Stansbury
Rev. & Mrs. R. M. Dickson & Family	Mrs. J. MacDonald	Mr. M. V. Townend
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Harvey & Son	Rev. J. R. M. Roche	Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Walker & Family
	Mrs. & Miss Simson	Miss A. F. Whitehouse
	Mr. D. Simmons	
	Miss D. Stables	

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Specialist*, July 1st :-

Mr. Alston	Mr. Inglis	Mr. & Mrs. Walton and Family
Mrs. Harrell	Mrs. Ryland	Mrs. Yates
Miss Hutchinson	Mr. Savory	
	Mr. Stewart	

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Jan Van Nassau*, June 25th :-

Mr & Mrs. H. J. Edmed	Mr. H. Matthews	Mr. W. P. Thomas
Mr. Jeffers	Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Scott	Mr. R. E. Youngs

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Crynsen*, Plymouth, June 28th :-

Mr & Mrs. Geo. Anderson & Family	Mr & Mrs. Wm Gordon Gordon	Mr & Mrs. Arthur O'Reilly
Mr. Geo. Barnard	Mr. Ralph Gwynn	Miss Arabella Phillips
Miss Annie Bell	Mr. Hugh Kirby	Mr. Albert Pole
Mr. Arthur Bizell	Mr. Andrew Kernahan	Mrs. Amila Rubhard
Mr. Jos. R. Booth	Mr. Laing	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Russell
Mr. Neal Bourke	Mrs. Marjory Laing	Mr. Cyril J. Smith
Miss Sophie D. Brown	Master Laing	Mr. Harry Webber
Mr. Wm. F. Hushe	Mr. John Martin	Miss Marjory Wetherley
Mr. Chas. Carlyle-Steel	Mrs. Louisa Martin	Miss Annie Yearwood
Miss Alice Driver	Mr. Chas. Matthey	
Mr & Mrs. Gilbert Carter	Mr. & Mrs. James McIntosh	

Barbados is again cut off from cable communication, and telegrams with that island are being forwarded by wireless from St. Lucia at 3/6 per word.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	July 9
Jamaica	Liverpool	Nicoya	" 11
Jamaica	Bristol	Patuca	" 12
West Indies	Liverpool	Chancellor	" 14
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Actor	" 16
Jamaica	Bristol	Camito	" 18
Jamaica	Liverpool	Chirrippo	" 19
Jamaica	Liverpool	Meltonian	" 23
B dos & T'dad	Dover	Crynascu	" 23
Jamaica	New York	Sixaola	July 26
St. Lucia, T'dad & Deinerara	St. Nazaire	Haiti	Aug 2
Jamaica	New York	Santa Marta	" 2
West Indies	Halifax	Chignecto	" 5
Jamaica	New York	Carrillo	" 9
B'mas, J'aca & B. H'das	Montreal	Canadian Forester	Aug. 16
B'maa, J'aca & B H'das	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	Sept. 5

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

100 %	Antigua	4	Redeemable 1919 44	July 4
100 %	Barbados	3 1/2	Redeemable 1925 42	66 68
100 %	British Guiana	4	Redeemable 1935	62 84
100 %	British Guiana	3	Redeemable 1924 45	75 77 1/2
100 %	Grenada	4	Redeemable 1917 42	58 60
100 %	Jamaica	4	Redeemable 1914	69 71
100 %	Jamaica	3 1/2	Redeemable 1919 49	78 81
100 %	Jamaica	3	Redeemable 1922 44	62 64 1/2
100 %	St. Lucia	4	Redeemable 1919 44	58 60
100 %	Trinidad	4	Redeemable 1917 42	69 71
100 %	Trinidad	3	Redeemable 1922 44	73 75
100 %	Trinidad	3	Redeemable 1922 44	59 61
100 %	The Colonial Bank			6 6 1/2
100 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary			83 83 1/2
100 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference			68 73 1/2
100 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4% Debentures			71 74
100 %	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures			70 75
100 %	Augustura Bitters Part. Preference			7 1/2
100 %	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures			105 110
100 %	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.			7 1/2
100 %	St. Madeleine Sugar			5/6
100 %	Aprx (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd			43/-
100 %	Petroleum Options, Ltd. 10%			1/53
100 %	Trinidad Central Oilfields			76/-
100 %	Trinidad Dominion Oil Ltd. 10%			1/81
100 %	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (L1)			49/-
100 %	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd			19/-
100 %	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock			30 40
100 %	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.			98 103 1/2
100 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.			54 59 1/2
100 %	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures			55 60
100 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary			2 1/2
100 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st. Pref.			2 3
100 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd			2 3
100 %	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5% Debentures			40 45 1/2

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies :-

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson and Caviller), June 22nd: "Good showers, but partial." Demerara (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), June 27th: "Heavy rains interfering with grinding considerably." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd.), June 30th: "Weather Demerara more favourable." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 15th: Port Antonio, 9th fair, 10-12th rain, 13-14th fair, 15th rain. Kingston, fine.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegrams—
"Carib. London"



15, SERPENTINE LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
July 5th, 1921.

THE BANK RATE was lowered on June 23rd to 6 per cent., after having remained at 6½ per cent. as from April 28th.

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ sterling

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
In U.S.A.	15	1		In Spain	1	2	9½
France	1	16	11	Germany	13	8	8
Belgium	1	17	2	Austria	93	13	6
Italy	3	0	0	Holland	18	8	½

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 5s. 11½d. (paper)

SUGAR. The home market has declined during the fortnight, but there is a good demand at the reduced prices. Tate's cubes are quoted at 60/6, London granulated at 56½, spot sales of American granulated having been also made at this figure. Crystallised West Indian is steady at 44½ to 49/6, with Muscovados at from 38½ to 44½. The terminal market is firmer. August value 16/6; September 16½; October 15/6; and December 15/1½.

The New York market has been closed since July 1st on account of the Independence Day holidays, but the last quotations remained at 4.00 cents, equivalent to 2.40 cents for Cubans, as at the date of last Summary. The futures market on that date was steady at slightly improved rates, quotations being: September, 2.95c.; December, 2.74c.; and March, 2.73c.

Considerable uncertainty exists as to the extent of the Cuban crop, estimates varying from 3,500,000 tons to 3,950,000 tons.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, under date July 1st, gives the area sown with beet in France for the 1921 crop as 80,810 hectares, against 91,140 hectares reaped in 1920-21. The quantity of sugar exported from Czechoslovakia of the 1920-21 crop has been 229,594 tons.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on June 25th were:—

	1921.	1920	1919	
Imports	25,369	31,009	21,254	Tons.
Deliveries	19,694	18,701	16,145	"
Stock	14,079	20,411	11,301	"

RUM. The market is lifeless. No sales have been reported in London for over two months, and values are all nominal.

The stocks in London on June 25th were:—

	1921	1920	1919	
Jamaica	11,584	9,474	5,151	Puns
Demerara	17,281	12,544	14,016	"
Total of all kinds	38,697	31,735	23,557	"

CACAO remains quiet. Fine Grenada is worth 56½ spot, and Trinidad 58½ to 61½ spot. There has been a small export enquiry for Trinidad direct shipment. Some sales of plantation Trinidad have been made to Germany at 46/6-47½, c.i.f.

Mr. Tripp, writing under date May 31st, reported that the shipments of Trinidad cacao for the month were as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.
To all countries	10,116,011
Shipped previously	31,335,237
Total from 1st January	41,181,248
To same date 1920	44,508,096
" " 1919	31,802,320
" " 1918	30,222,214
" " 1917	50,656,992
" " 1916	32,997,751
" " 1915	34,924,114
" " 1914	49,768,480
" " 1913	33,535,159

The stocks in London on June 25th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919	
Trinidad	23,923	12,766	19,401	Bags.
Grenada	30,892	23,718	12,628	"
Total of all kinds	193,071	252,267	111,363	"

ARROWROOT continues very quiet, with the quotations 2½d.-7d. unchanged.

BALATA continues inactive, and prices are more or less nominal. West Indian sheet is steady at the lower rates—spot 3/6 per lb., forward 3/2-3/3, according to position.

COFFEE. With the exception of good home trade qualities, coffee is dull. Ordinary Jamaica is quoted nominally at 50/-; Blue Mountain is worth 160/- to 165/-. Stock in London, 21,382 tons.

COPRA is steady. West Indian f.m.s. is unchanged at £29 10s., c.i.f. London, Holland, or Hamburg.

COTTON. The market continues slow, and quotations show a further decline. Sea Island remains in a neglected condition. West Indian nominal prices are unchanged—medium 25d., fine 33d., and extra fine 34d. There have been no further imports of West Indian during the past fortnight.

HONEY. With the exception of fine pale qualities there is very little demand. Dark liquid Jamaica is quoted at 25/- to 27/6, but no business is passing; good to fine pale 47/6-60/- per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. The stocks of Handpressed are exhausted; the last small parcel realised 21/- per lb. Only a retail business is passing in Distilled at about 2.10½ per lb. **Lime Juice.** Good Jamaica Raw is steady, with small sales at 2/6 per gallon.

LOGWOOD is very dull, with sellers at about £10 per ton, but there is no demand.

ORANGE OIL. There is a good enquiry for Sweet, but values are nominal owing to absence of supplies. Bitter is still neglected.

RUBBER. With the settlement of the coal strike, buyers are showing more interest, but up to the present there is very little actual buying. Spot crepe 8½d., sheet 7½d. Stock in London, 69,858 tons.

SPICES. Good middling Jamaica **Ginger** is steady at 140/- to 150/- per cwt. **Pimento** is dull, spot value 2½d.; to arrive 21/6, c.i.f. Hamburg. There is nothing to report in **Nutmegs** or **Mace**.

TRINIDAD OIL. The production figures of the Trinidad oil producing concerns whose returns are available are given below:—

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD

May—13,550 tons

Year to June 30, 1917	56,213 tons.
" " 1918	154,654 "
" " 1919	171,286 "
" " 1920	177,709 "
Period to May 31, 1921	116,050 "

TRINIDAD CENTRAL OILFIELDS, LTD.

Year to Dec. 31, 1917	5,235 tons
" " 1918	11,640 "
" " 1919	24,238 "
" " 1920	11,000 "

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD.

May—3,653 tons

Year to Dec. 31, 1917	52,671 tons.
" " 1918	82,671 "
" " 1919	40,892 "
" " 1920	49,500 "
Year to May 31, 1921	19,913 "

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.

May—3,000 tons.

Total to May	18,000 tons
NEW TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT CO., LTD. (underlying companies of)	
Year to Dec. 31, 1918	32,868 tons
" " 1919	23,710 "
" " 1920	51,830 "

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB. LONDON.



15, SKEPPING LANE,

LONDON, E.C. 3

July 19th, 1921.

Trinidad's Oil Industry.

THE Report of MR. A. P. CATHERALL, the Acting Inspector of Mines for Trinidad, for last year shows that the oil industry of that Colony, which suffered in the preceding year from the difficulty in securing the delivery of drilling equipment and machinery, is again going ahead, the oil won in the year 1920 amounting to 72,905,947 Imperial gallons, as compared with 64,436,632 Imperial gallons in 1919, while the number of feet drilled rose from 68,059 in 1919 to 77,376. It will be recalled, however, from the Report of the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., that the difficulty in obtaining material was by no means completely overcome, the result being that the output of that particular company was not so great last year as it was in 1919. On the other hand, a number of new oil companies were enabled to commence operations, while several started drilling in areas from which no oil had yet been extracted. The outlook is regarded as favourable, and MR. CATHERALL anticipates a very large increase in production of oil in the Colony if the wells now being drilled in those districts yield oil in commercial quantities. Though production showed a satisfactory increase, the export of crude oil and its products, on the other hand, showed a substantial decrease, the figures for 1920 being 36,000,000 gallons, as against 49,000,000 gallons for 1919; but this is attributable in great measure to the fact that at the close of

1920 considerable stocks of oil were awaiting shipment. The Admiralty is still the largest customer for the Colony's fuel oil, and took large shipments from the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd.'s Shipping Depot at Pointe-a-Pierre, whence considerable shipments of oil fuel for bunker purposes were made. This company's refinery was also actively at work throughout the whole year producing oil fuel, kerosene, white oil and petrol, most of which products are now exported to private firms. MR. CATHERALL, in his interesting report, summarises very briefly the operations of no fewer than 18 companies, which in itself indicates the expansion of the oil industry, but it must be admitted that those concerns which may be said to have achieved success are more limited in number. The Royalty earned by the Government during the year amounted to £18,710, of which £18,609 accrued under leases, and £101 under allowances, these figures showing the moderate increase of £1,505 over the preceding year. It is the constant fear of agriculturists that the high wages paid by the oil companies will result in a shortage of labour for agricultural purposes, and it will be perhaps some satisfaction to them to learn that the daily average number of persons employed in connection with the local oil industry was 4,046 only, whilst the asphalt industry absorbed 480 more. In this connection it may be noted that the exports of asphalt amounted during the year to 141,100 tons.

The Boll Worm in Egypt.

A COTTON Research Board was constituted in Egypt by a decree issued under the Martial Law then obtaining in May, 1919, and the appointment of that body was confirmed by the Council of Ministers in January of the present year. The scientists associated with the Board are those belonging to the various technical sections of the Ministry of Agriculture, and their first Report has now been published, giving details of the work done under their auspices during the year 1920. This interesting Report will be of special value to West Indian cotton growers, inasmuch as it deals with the results of the measures adopted for the control of the pink boll-worm, a pest which is causing considerable trouble to the cotton cultivation of St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat. Prior to 1920, the treatment of the seeds by heat had been successfully carried out in Upper Egypt, and in 1920 was enforced for the first time in Lower Egypt, the experience gained during the two previous seasons in the former district having proved of inestimable value in applying the law on a greatly extended scale. Special machines for applying the heat treatment were employed, the types used being Simon's, Delta, Delta Scuto and La-forti, the latter being known as Lenzi's machine.

This method of treatment appears to have been most successful. During the whole season 98 per cent. of the worms present in the seed of the Upper Egypt cotton, and 97 per cent. in that of Lower Egypt, were destroyed. It is also stated that in 1919, 24 per cent. of the seed in Lower Egypt was damaged by the worm, and only 7 per cent. in Upper Egypt, an important fact when it is considered that the heat treatment had been in operation in Upper Egypt and not in Lower Egypt. Of the various methods employed for dealing with the pest, the Board is emphatically of opinion that "the heat treatment of all cotton seed immediately after ginning is the simplest method to apply." It is worthy of note that attention was also given by the Board to a comparatively new cotton pest, commonly known as the hibiscus mealy bug (*Dactilopius hibisci*-Hall). Primarily a garden pest, the insect is stated to be quite capable of becoming a field pest under certain conditions, and readily attacks cotton. Outbreaks were traced to the presence of old trees which were heavily attacked by the bug, the young of which were scattered over the adjacent cotton-fields by every breeze that blew. This individual succumbs readily to paraffin emulsion, but as the difficulty of applying this to tall trees is great, the cutting down of them is recommended.

The United States Tariff.

THE Permanent Tariff Revision Bill, introduced into the United States House of Representatives on June 29th last, is an extremely important measure, inasmuch as it shows a tendency on the part of America to modify to a considerable extent the fiscal attitude towards other countries which has characterised it of recent years. This is seen in the provisions which have been introduced into the Bill at PRESIDENT HARDING'S request to enable the President of the United States to adjust tariff rates with foreign countries, giving reciprocal trade advantages to the extent of 20 per cent. of the existing duties, or to enter into commercial treaties, when ratified by the Senate and approved of by Congress, placing the natural products of any country on her free list. As regards sugar, although the Bill contains the same tariff as that in the Emergency Tariff recently passed, it contains an important addition in the shape of the following clause:—

"Any person manufacturing or refining in the United States sugar, testing by the polariscope over ninety-nine degrees, produced from beet or cane grown in the continental United States, shall for each pound so manufactured or refined during any month in any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, be permitted to import, at any time before the expiration of nine months after the last day of such month (for the sole purpose of being manufactured or refined by him in such State, Territory, or District), two pounds of sugar testing by the polariscope not above ninety-six degrees, at three-fourths the rate of duty to which such sugar would otherwise be subject."

The present domestic sugar production of the United States is about 1,100,000 tons, and the

clause opens up the possibility of 2,000,000 tons of refining sugar being introduced at a relatively low rate of duty. The object of the clause is primarily to develop the domestic sugar production by cheapening the cost of production through enabling the factories to be used all the year round. Last year's crop consisted of 150,000 tons of cane sugar from Louisiana and Texas, and 960,000 tons of beet-sugar from the Western States. The sub-tropical cane industry of the first named States does not admit of much in the way of expansion; consequently, the effect of the clause, should it come into operation, will be to give a substantial stimulus to the already considerable beet-sugar industry, for which large and suitable areas exist. It will be the old story of the competition between beet-sugar and cane-sugar, with the venue changed from the Old World to the New. A secondary purpose indicated in the clause is that of the development of the manufacture of high-class direct consumption sugars without the aid of the refiner. This aspect of the case is well worth the attention of West Indian producers, who, if they were to manufacture plantation white sugar, would obtain in the United Kingdom the maximum advantage of the Customs preference, coupled with prices but little below those of refined sugar, at but a comparatively slight increase in the cost of production.

Power Alcohol and The Surtax.

ELSEWHERE in the present issue we publish a letter addressed by THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE to the Colonial Office on the subject of Power Alcohol. Matters in this connection have been moving rapidly. On July 18th a new clause was added to the Finance Bill, providing, in effect, for the removal of the duty and surtax on all Empire spirit imported for making power-, or industrial alcohol, and subjecting foreign spirit for the same purpose to a duty of 2/6 per gallon. The home denaturer will receive 5d. per gallon on all spirit passing through his hands and earmarked for industrial purposes, when such spirit has been distilled in this country, the object being to compensate him for the alleged disabilities to which he is subject from Excise restrictions, etc., and the Colonial spirit will therefore be worse off than home made spirit to the extent of the 5d. per gallon. On the other hand, it is to be assumed that large quantities of spirit will be required for industrial purposes, and as there is not the material in the United Kingdom from which to manufacture it, the denaturers will be compelled either to purchase alcohol from over-seas, or materials from which to manufacture alcohol. Inasmuch as he will secure an advantage of 5d. per gallon if he manufactures spirit in this country, for it can no longer be contended that the Excise restrictions really cost him 5d. per gallon, it is possible that the result of the present amendment of the Finance Bill will lead to a demand for molasses and other materials rather than for Colonial alcohol, and inasmuch as molasses are duty free, this should afford an outlet for West Indian surplus production if suitable transport arrangements can be effected. In this connection it must, however, be borne in mind that Cuba will be a competitor.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN morass catch fire, land turtle look for mangrove tree."

* * *

CABLE communication with Barbados was interrupted on July 4th, but restored five days later.

* * *

MR. O'REILLY, K.C., and his wife, who recently arrived in London from Trinidad, are staying at the Regent Palace Hotel.

* * *

A SUBMARINE telephone between America and Cuba was formally inaugurated on April 11th, when President Harding and several prominent officials at Washington, D.C., rang up and talked with President Menocal at Havana.

* * *

THOSE few members of The West India Committee who have not already paid their subscriptions for the current year, are reminded that these were due on January 1st, and that over half the year is already gone. *Bis dat qui cito dat.*

* * *

MR. AND MRS. GORDON GORDON, who arrived in England by the s.s. *Crynssen* on June 28th, have been staying in London, but left on July 19th for Killiechassie House, near Aberfeldy. For some months past Mr. Gordon has been indisposed, but it is hoped that the bracing air of the Highlands will completely restore him to health.

* * *

THE Cuba North & South Railroad Company has been formed with a capital of \$45,000,000 to establish and maintain an underground railway and subway in Havana. The service will be run on the lines familiar in London, Paris and New York, and the total length of the system will be 185 kilometres above and 15 below ground.

* * *

THE elder son of the Hon. Sydney Cuthbert, of British Honduras, who is now at Dartmouth, recently had the misfortune to be relegated to the sick quarters through a cricket ball striking him full-pitch on his mouth. This prevented him from participating in the reception of the Prince of Wales, which he regarded as the far greater misfortune of the two.

* * *

MR. MARCONI reports that one of his company's engineers has developed a device which, on an extended trial, enabled him to receive messages continuously from the United States, with interruptions through "atmospherics." This invention should prove of immense importance to the West Indies, where communication is often impossible owing to atmospheric conditions.

* * *

THE attention of readers wishing to secure passages to the West Indies for themselves or their friends is called to the announcement regarding the proposed berthing of the steam yacht *Meteor* for two voyages to the Caribbean in the autumn, which appears in our advertisement columns. This yacht is making several pleasure cruises between England

and Norway this summer, and intending passengers desirous of proceeding to the West Indies in her should communicate with Mr. Athelstan Watson, 25, Elgin Park, Redland, Bristol.

* * *

MR. R. E. BRASSINGTON, M.C.P. of British Guiana, is revisiting England after an absence of seven years. It will be recalled that Mr. Brassington was one of the members of the Colonisation Deputation, but was prevented from sailing with his colleagues owing to private affairs at the last moment. He now fills many important positions in the Colony of his adoption, being Chairman of the Georgetown Club, President of The Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society for 1921 (in which position he succeeded the Governor) and President of The British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association, besides Member of the Court of Policy for North West Essequibo, for which he was returned unopposed at the General Election in 1916.

* * *

LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, who died after a short illness on July 6th, was well known in the West Indies, having been Chairman of the Royal Commission which visited those Colonies in 1910 to report on the question of closer trade with Canada. A staunch Free Trader, he nevertheless warmly advocated the establishment of a preferential trade agreement between the West Indies and Canada. Born in 1852, he succeeded to his title after the removal of the attainder of his ancestor, Robert Lord Balfour in 1715, by an Act of Parliament in 1869. Lord Balfour of Burleigh was one of the distinguished guests who attended The West India Committee Banquet to the Prince of Wales on June 24th. He then appeared to be in his usual health, though it is true that he complained of feeling tired, and left early. Consequently, the news of his death was quite unexpected.

* * *

FOLLOWING a fire which occurred in the hold of the *Ingma* in May last, some unissued and incomplete notes of the Colonial Bank got into wrong hands. A packet from which they were extracted contained the following five-dollar notes:—14,000, Nos. B.275,001-289,000 (St. Vincent); 12,000, Nos. B.289,001-301,000 (St. Lucia); 4,000, Nos. B.315,001-319,000 (St. Kitts). The notes are printed for issue at Bridgetown, Barbados, and over-printed in red, "Issued at St. Vincent," or "Issued at St. Lucia," or "Issued at St. Kitts." The notes bear evidence of having been immersed in water, one signature, that of the accountant, is missing (though in some instances a signature has been forged) and the left side of the note has been cut, apparently owing to its showing signs of burning. So far only the St. Vincent notes have been presented. The notes are valueless, having never been issued and being incomplete.

RICE CAKE.—Beat 4 eggs with $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. sugar until light, add $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. brown rice, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. flour, a small tea-cup of milk; put it in a pie dish covered with buttered paper, and bake in a slow oven. MISS G. RICHARDS.

LONDON'S NEW DOCK.

A Comparison with Panama.

The West India Committee was so closely identified with the establishment of the London Docks that it was particularly appropriate that that ancient body should have been represented, as it was, by its Chairman and Secretaries, on the occasion of the opening of the new extension to the Royal Victoria and Albert Dock on July 8th.

In the Eighteenth Century ships entering the Thames from the West Indies discharged their cargoes into lighters at various licensed quays. Apart from the inconvenience resulting from lack of concentration, this system involved heavy losses through theft of produce, and consequent expense in salaries of watchmen and prosecutions. Consequently, The West India Committee took the matter up, and in February, 1798, a meeting was held in order that the proposals for the formation of docks might be given practical shape. Subscriptions were invited to the extent of £500,000, and on December 31st the list closed. The scheme of the Committee fixed the Isle of Dogs as the site of the docks, but this met with considerable opposition from merchants and others, who considered that the proposed site would be too far from the mercantile centres. A counter-project was therefore started, with Wapping as the site for the docks, which had the support of the Corporation of London. In January, 1799, a Committee consisting of Mr. George Hibbert, Mr. Milligan and Mr. Simmons, representing The West India Committee, Sir J. W. Anderson and the Remembrancer for the Corporation of London, and Messrs. Thornton, Fisher & Long for the promoters of the Wapping dock scheme was appointed, and at a meeting of The West India Committee on May 31st, 1799, Lord Penrhyn presiding, a resolution was passed in favour of the Isle of Dogs scheme, and later in the year Royal assent was given to an Act for "rendering more commodious and better regulating the Port of London." In the following year the foundation stone of the new docks was laid, and on August 27th, 1802, the West India Docks were formally opened by William Pitt, the Prime Minister of the day. All ships bringing commodities from the West Indies, other than tobacco, were compelled to use these docks for a period of twenty-

one years, and it is noteworthy that after a lapse of over a century the West India Docks are still being used by the Harrison Line, whose steamers are berthed in them for the British West Indies.

Since the whole of the London Docks were taken over by the Port of London Authority in 1909, many notable improvements have been effected, the principal being the completion of a new river landing-stage at Tilbury, with all the latest improvements and facilities for the rapid loading and discharging of ocean-going vessels of the largest dimensions, and an immense new dock attached to the Royal Victoria and Albert system, which will henceforth be known as the King George V. Dock.

The ceremony of opening and naming the new dock was performed by the King on July 8th. His



King George V. Dock's great lock under construction.

This immense lock is only slightly smaller than the famous Gatun, Miraflores and Pedro Miguel Locks on the Panama Canal.

Majesty on that day proceeded by water in a river launch to London Bridge, where he embarked on board the steam yacht *Rover*, R.Y.S., in which he completed the journey to Gallion's Reach, where the dock is situated. Meanwhile, several thousands of guests of the Port of London Authority had made the journey to Woolwich in river steamers and by train, and had assembled in immense stands built up alongside the new dock. At five minutes to four the *Rover* entered the lock which gives access to the new dock, and whilst water was rising, those on the stands could hear the school children of West and East Ham singing patriotic songs, which ended with the National Anthem and "Rule Britannia," and were followed by round upon round of cheers.

At a quarter past four the bascule bridge crossing the lock began to rise, the lock gates opened, and the white yacht, flying the P.I.A. flag at the fore and the Royal Standard at the main, slowly

moved forward, and, snapping the silken band stretched across the fairway, entered the dock to a great burst of cheering, again and again renewed. She then steamed slowly round the basin, which covers the immense area of 64 acres, and eventually drew up at a pontoon covered with Royal scarlet in front of the stands. The King, who was accompanied by the Queen, the Duke of York, Princess Mary, the Duke of Connaught, and other members of the Royal Family, then came ashore, and after the King had inspected the Naval guard, Their Majesties took up their position opposite the stand.

Prayers having been said by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Devonport presented an Address, to which the King replied in a voice which could be heard even in the most distant parts of the

or 900 feet when an emergency caisson is used—or only 90 feet shorter than the great locks at Gatun, Mirallores and Pedro Miguel—while the dock itself can berth fourteen of the largest steamers at one time, being 4,578 feet long by 710 feet wide. On one side of it are the great transit sheds, each equipped with electric conveyers, whilst on the South side is a series of seven jetties running parallel with the dock sill, each equipped with six electric cranes, making forty-two electric cranes in all along one side of the dock alone—a figure which must make those still dependent on the few miserable cranes at Port of Spain positively green with envy—while at the head of the dock is a capacious dry dock.

The illustration which is given on the next page will convey some idea of the size of the new dock, which will enable steamers of 30,000 tons to discharge their cargo within six miles of St. Paul's.

No sooner had the King and Queen and the rest of the Royal party re-embarked on board the *Rover* and left to inspect the shipping in the neighbouring basins, than the *Demosthenes*, a large ocean liner of 9,000 tons burden, entered the dock, the high sides of which made her appear little larger than a river steamer, and was berthed alongside one of the jetties already referred to.

The illustration of the opening of the West India Docks in 1802 is reproduced from an old coloured print in the possession of The West India Committee. For those of the modern docks the CIRCULAR is in

debited to that enterprising body, the Port of London Authority.

OBITUARY.

RIGHT REVEREND BISHOP SCHELFHAUT.

We much regret to learn of the death on May 22nd of the Right Rev. Philip Schelfhaut, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Roseau.

Born in Belgium in 1850, Bishop Schelfhaut was ordained priest when he was twenty-eight. After twenty years as parish priest, first in St. Thomas and afterwards at St. Croix, he was consecrated Bishop of Roseau in 1902. His ungrudging work made him universally respected and loved in Dominica, and representatives of every shade of religious belief in the Island were present at the funeral. Addressing a meeting on Empire Day, the Administrator expressed his deep sympathy with the Catholic Community and with the whole Island in the loss of "a saintly man and a sincere friend."



The Opening of the West India Docks

The "Henry Addington" is seen entering the Grand Dock, on August 27th, 1802, immediately after the performance of the opening ceremony by William Pitt. This illustration is reproduced from an old colour print in the possession of the West India Committee, which was closely identified with the establishment of the West India Docks.

stand. In the course of his reply the King referred to the ancient history of the Port of London, recalling that it was in it that Drake, the founder of our sea power, entertained his Sovereign on board the *Golden Hind*, and that it was 120 years since the first of the great London Docks, the West India Docks, were opened.

The King then formally named the dock "The King George V. Dock," his announcement being followed by a fanfare of trumpets by State Trumpeters, and a salute of the guns at Woolwich across the water, whose commanding officer was informed by wireless of the auspicious event.

The day was brilliantly fine, and nothing was wanting to contribute to the grandeur of the ceremony. The river was gaily decorated with bunting and every nook of vantage was thronged with groups of enthusiastic onlookers, who cheered the Royal party to the echo.

For magnitude of its conception, the new dock bears some comparison with the Panama Canal. The lock by which it is approached is 800 feet long,

THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS. Where perpetual Summer reigns.

BY JOHN E. LEVO.

During the last two years there has been a constant movement outwards of those men who, from various reasons, have wished to find new scenes

countries must have an undesirable climate, is entirely inapplicable to these islands, which have a climate like a perpetual summer day. If the writer may be allowed to instance his own case—he came to Tortola in July of 1919, extremely ill, and is now, after eighteen months upon an estate, quite recovered in health. The healing quiet of the land and sea, and constant occupation in the open air,



The Rum Quay at the West India Docks.

This Quay, the extent of which is over 500,000 sq. feet, has storage room for 40,000 puncheons of Rum. (See page 298.)

are the best correctives for the nervous ailments which the strain of war has unhappily produced. The temperature ranges between 60 deg. and 85 deg., and the hottest days are tempered by constant sea breezes; and these climatic conditions make the place an ideal resort for those whose object in going abroad is to recover health.

The economic conditions are, in their kind, equally favourable. The soil is extremely fertile. Land suitable for cotton and coconuts can be bought for about \$5.00 an acre, and there is an unfailing market in St. Thomas (now American), among the community and the shipping, for all kinds of fruit and vegetables—

and opportunities to replace the old. The larger Colonies inevitably gain most by the movement, and the smaller and less known dependencies of the Empire are often overlooked. This is to be regretted, for they offer claims and opportunities peculiarly their own, and often have latent in themselves the very conditions of occupation and environment which many people are seeking who are averse from the more strenuous life which they must share in larger countries. This is true of the West Indies, and especially true of the British Virgin Islands, which, if they afford a more limited scope for ambition and endeavour, offer with that limitation a mode of life and occupation exactly suited to men of small capital and modest ambitions, who will be content to live quietly in a peaceful land.

bananas, limes, potatoes, yams, and so on. These are amazingly productive here, and very important as a means of making money until coconuts begin to give a return.



The South Quay Jetties, King George V. Dock.

No fewer than 42 Electric Cranes are available for vessels loading or discharging cargo at this one quay alone of the New Dock. (See page 298.)

The old idea—fast disappearing—that all tropical

Until lately the Colony has suffered much from lax administration, and even now many reforms are to be desired. The means of communication with the main Government in Antigua are uncertain.

tain, and rulings and decisions, notoriously dilatory, are rendered more so by this condition of things. For example, the Government has been deliberating for, I believe, a year or more, over a mining concession in Virgin Gorda, which if it were granted would be of great benefit to the Colony. Such a delay would not be tolerated in a business concern, and is unfortunate in a Government which should act with at least a reasonable speed in matters which affect the interests of those it is designed to benefit.

But in spite of disabilities such as these, the islands are to-day more prosperous than they have ever been; and if statistics are a reliable guide, investment in their enterprises is quite sound, and likely to be of increasing value.

The Government returns are as follows:—

Year	Revenue.	Expenditure
1916-17	£5 012	£5 962
1917-18	6 147	5 771
1918-19	5 070	6 227
1919-20	14 800	8 130
1920-21	11 715	9 816

The Presidency had a surplus of £10,283 on March 31st, 1921, and no debt.

The material increase in the last years is very largely due to the courage and ability of the present Commissioner,* whose devotion and business aptitude have inspired the people—almost entirely small holders—with an enthusiasm and energy equal to his own.

But the Virgin Islands offer attractions to others besides business men and invalids. For sportsmen and lovers of Nature they are an unknown promised land. The sea-grounds around the islands and in the channels provide some of the best fishing in the world. Tarpon, bass, king-fish up to 60 lbs.—as hard and wily as any in the ocean—cavalli, angel-fish swarm in the waters, and give quite as good sport as can be found off the Florida coasts.

One can imagine no better holiday for a fisherman than cruising in a motor-boat between the islands, with a tent for shore of nights, with food and conversation enriched from the day's catch. It is a common occurrence here, bank-fishing off Peter Island, for the angler to catch his king-fish and then lose it again in the jaws of a shark. One man with a rod, and another with a gun, would make an effective combination, and give an additional zest to the sport.

Good health, a perfect climate, a moderate and sure return for small capital and congenial work—all are to be experienced in a land so beautiful that to describe it one turns from ineffectual speech to its pregnant and expressive name: the Virgin Islands.

Summits of the fabled Atlantis, a chain of gems threaded upon a band of azure waters—a rosary meet for the bosom of the Virgin—here they lie at rest, waiting to be known, unchanged in aspect since the caravel of Columbus first broke into their calm. They offer ideal and material gifts to those who come to them; and less hardy adventurers than their discoverer would find their beauty undisturbed and serviceable, and perhaps be wisely tempted to stay and make them, by adoption, their own.

* Major W. H. Peebles, D.S.O.

POWER ALCOHOL.

The Question of Taxation.

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

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

July 1st, 1921.

SIR,—I am directed to draw your attention to the question of the development of a Power Alcohol industry in the British West Indies and British Guiana.

2. As you are no doubt aware, rum is, except in a very few instances, a by-product of sugar, which has enabled producers in the West Indies to deal satisfactorily with the bulk of their exhausted molasses, and has thus constituted an important asset in connection with the sugar industry of these Colonies.

3. At the present time the great falling off in consumption of rum in the United Kingdom has led to an over-supply of that product, and has demonstrated very forcibly the need of finding some other commercial outlet for molasses.

4. Such an outlet would appear to lie in the production of power alcohol, the demand for which, as a substitute for petrol, has been made very apparent recently through the ventilation of the subject in the Press and elsewhere.

5. Experience has shown that a spirit with alcohol as its base is eminently suitable for power purposes, while at the same time it is recognised that a supply of basic products sufficiently cheap to permit of its manufacture on commercial lines, is not available in this country.

6. On the other hand, there is produced annually in the British West Indies and British Guiana a quantity of molasses, which, after allowing for the manufacture of an adequate amount of rum, would yield from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 gallons of power alcohol. There are also other natural materials from which alcohol could be produced. Up to the present time, however, no active measures in the direction of the development of a power alcohol industry have been taken owing to the incidence of the Customs duties in the United Kingdom—the chief potential market for such a product—which are at present prohibitive.

7. As the Customs Tariff of the United Kingdom now stands, denatured spirit for industrial purposes can only be imported by payment of the duty on potable spirit. Alcohol imported for power purposes would, therefore, have to be denatured in bond in the United Kingdom; but even then it would be subject to the incidence of the surtax of 5d. per proof gallon. Inasmuch as alcohol denatured in the United Kingdom receives an excise allowance of 8d. per proof gallon on delivery from bond, there remains a nett charge of 2d. per proof gallon on the imported spirit, which is equivalent to 34d. per liquid gallon on spirit of the strength necessary for power purposes, the advantage which industrial spirit manufactured from home produced alcohol enjoys over that prepared

from imported alcohol being thus 5d. per proof gallon, or equivalent to over 8d. per liquid gallon.

8. I am therefore to point out that the spirit surtax and the practical prohibition of the importation of alcohol already denatured, constitute serious obstacles in the way of the establishment of a power alcohol industry in the West Indies, which there is reason to believe would prove not only of general benefit to those Colonies, but also to users of power in the mother country.

9. In the circumstances, I am to express the hope that Mr. Secretary Churchill will see his way to represent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the desirability of permitting the importation of power alcohol suitably denatured in British Colonies, or of alcohol for the purpose of its manufacture, free of all duty and taxes.

I have the honour to be, Sir, etc.,
ALGERNON ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
DOWNING STREET,
July 14th, 1921.

SIR,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5,472 of the 1st July, regarding the possibility of the development of a power alcohol industry in the West Indies; and to transmit to you a copy of a Parliamentary question on the subject, together with a copy of the reply returned to it on the 28th June.*

2. In the circumstances, Mr. Churchill is not prepared to take any action in the matter at the present time, beyond sending a copy of the correspondence to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which is accordingly being done.

I am, Sir, etc.,
G. GRINDLE.

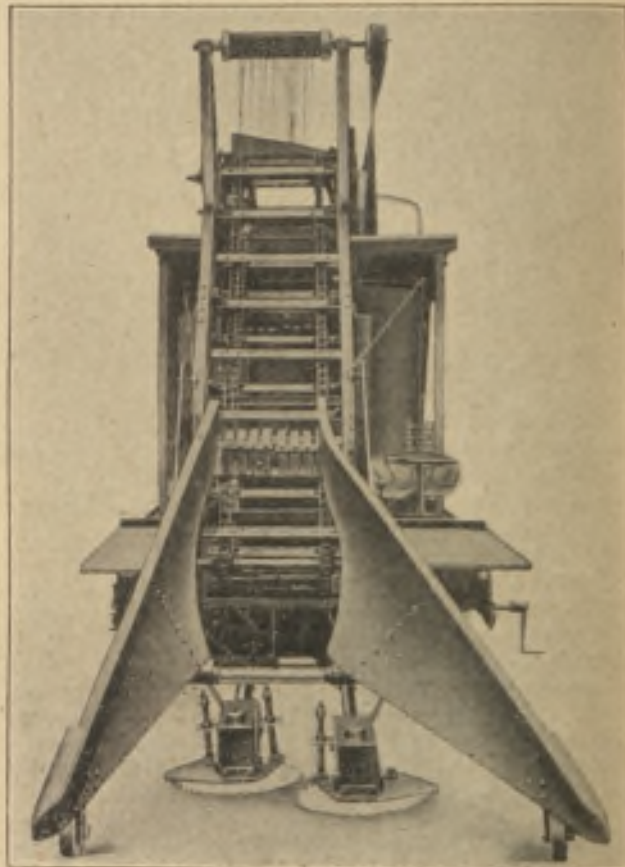
The Secretary,
The West India Committee.

The Finance Bill for 1921 was again considered in the House of Commons on Monday the 18th instant, when a clause was introduced, and accepted by the House, dealing with the question of the duty to be paid by spirit imported into the United Kingdom for the purpose of the manufacture of power or industrial alcohol. By this clause, Colonial spirit for this purpose will be exempted from all duty, while non-Empire spirit will pay a duty of 2/6 per proof gallon. The home denaturer will no longer receive the 3d. per proof gallon excise allowance on denatured spirit going into consumption, made from imported spirit, but will receive instead an allowance of 5d. per proof gallon on denatured spirit made from home-produced alcohol; the home alcohol producer, therefore, will still have the advantage over the Colonial producer, to the extent of the amount of the old surtax. The surtax is abolished in this instance, but its equivalent presented to the home distiller in the form of an allowance.

* Not reprinted here. The question and answer were published in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of July 7th, p. 271.

A CANE-CUTTING MACHINE.

Hitherto, British sugar-cane growers have had to look to America for enterprise in the direction of the development of sugar-cane harvesters. It is, therefore, satisfactory to learn that cane-cutting apparatus made by the Scotch and English firms of Duncan Stewart & Co. and H. G. Burford & Co. is now on the market.



A Patent Sugar-Cane Cutter.

The canes are cut by the two circular saws and are then carried over rollers to the cylinder at the rear of the machine, where the tops of the canes are cut off by knives operating in the cylinder.

The machine which is depicted on this page is carried on a caterpillar tractor. It has in front two circular saws which work close to ground level, and are free to oscillate in direction of machine travel, and also transversely. Thus each saw is able to float on the undulating ground and to cut the cane close to the ground level. Each saw is driven through a flexible shaft.

The cut cane falls on an elevator fitted with automatic clips at intervals greater than the average length of the canes, so that the latter are caught in small bundles and elevated. At the rear of the machine there is a vertical container for cane, fitted with revolving arms, and when the canes reach the top of the elevator they are automatically released by the clips and fall head first into the container. The velocity acquired on the elevator, plus that due to the fall in the container, ensures that each cane reaches the bottom of the container to the same extent.

In other words, the trash is bent over or compressed so that the part at which the cane is to be topped is always at the same level in the container. The motion of the revolving arm is synchronised with the opening of the elevator clips, so that each small bundle of cane has an obstructed fall and is swept away by the revolving arms before the next bundle falls.

At one side of the container and near the bottom of same is located a topping saw, the vertical position of which is adjustable according to the kind of cane being cut, and against the edge of which the cane is swept by the revolving arms. The tops fall out of the machine below the saw, and the topped cane passes through a vertical slot above the saw, on to the ground, to be picked up by the loaders, or an elevator may be fitted beyond the discharge slot so that the canes can be elevated to a waggon following the cutter. All the moving parts of the machine are driven by chain or belt from the tractor engine. Levers are fitted to the two cane-cutting saws so that they may be raised about 15 inches from the ground in the event of obstructions being met, or when turning the machine at the ends of the cane rows.

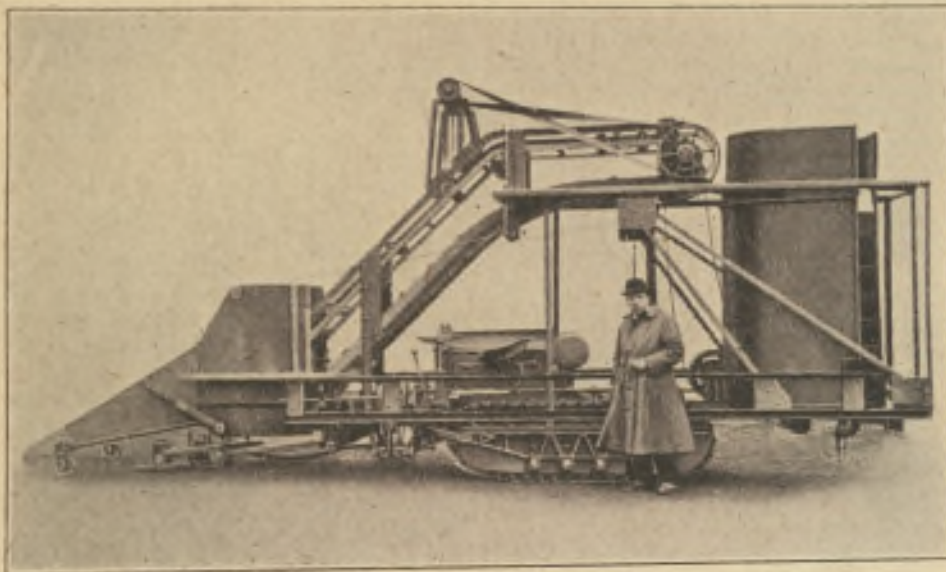
SPEAKING at a luncheon given by the British Empire Producers' Organisation on July 14th, Lord Sydenham presiding, Mr. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, said he was glad that Imperial preference was to-day the law of the land, not only in the United Kingdom, but in every one of the Oversea Dominions. The principles of the British Empire Producers' Organisation, of which he was a member, would encourage production. They would bring the waste places of the Empire into use and occupation and provide a new means of employment for many people of our own stock and for decent people of other races. In doing so they would assist in keeping our people within the boundaries of the Empire. A new trade slogan was needed for the Empire on the lines of "British goods for British citizens and British citizens for British goods."

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—
 Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 1st: "Fine rains generally throughout the island."
 Demerara (Messrs. H. K. Davson & Co.), July 11th: "Weather satisfactory in Berbice."
 (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), July 14th: "Heavy rains, but lighter in Berbice."
 Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 29th: Port Antonio, 23rd fair, 24-25th rain, 26-27th fair, 28-29th rain. Kingston, fine.

THE VALUE OF PLANT FOOD.

Leguminous plants have from time immemorial been used for green manuring and for rotation crops, their great value in this respect being due to their power of absorbing and utilising atmospheric nitrogen. This fixation of nitrogen is brought about by special bacteria that have their working home in nodules, which they construct on the roots of the plant. Attention has recently been called, says the "Journal of Heredity," to plants which fix the air nitrogen as the leguminous plants do,



A new Tractor Cane Cutter.

This machine is being demonstrated in various sugar-cane growing districts in South Africa. The tractor and part of the overhead equipment is made by H. G. Burford & Co., Ltd., while the rest of the apparatus, including the cane cutters is manufactured by Messrs. Duncan, Stewart & Co.

but form the nodules on the leaves instead of on the roots. One of these is *Psychotria bacteriophila*, another is *Pacetta Zimmermannia*. These are tropical plants, and belong to the same order as coffee, and it is probable that other rubiaceous plants have the same property. The value of the leaves of rubiaceous plants has long been known in India, and it is suggested that they can well be grown as subsidiary crops in connection with plantations of rubber, cacao, coffee, and other important tropical cultivations. Their leaves, allowed to accumulate on the ground and there decay, would serve not only as a humus mulch, but also as a nitrogenous fertiliser. When leguminous plants are used for this purpose, the soil, as a rule, has to be devoted to their growth, and thus a crop is lost. This is not so with the rubiaceous plants, and the latter have the great advantage of being perennial, thus not needing replanting every year. Faber has named the particular bacterium *Mycobacterium rubiacearum*. The bacteria inhabit the micropyle of the young seed, and, on the latter germinating, progress through the stomata of the young leaves and into the intra-cellular spaces in the leaf tissue around them, where the nodules are formed.

TRINIDAD'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

The Need for Co-ordination.

By E. H. CUNNINGHAM CRAIG, B.A., F.R.S.E.,
F.G.S., M.L.NST.P.T.

The substantial successes achieved by Trinidad Leascholds, Trinidad Central, Apex, and one or two smaller concerns have made Trinidad once again popular as a field for investment in petroleum companies, and very naturally there has been in consequence a large number of flotations of new ventures. But conditions are now very different from those that obtained during the short-lived and ill-controlled Trinidad oil-boom of 1910.

In the first place, very much more is now known about the geological problems of the island, nearly all of which has been by now examined, more or less in detail, by geologists.

Indeed, crowds of geologists of all ages and classes have studied the ground piece-meal, and though one does hear it said that some of them do most of their work in the Queen's Park Hotel rather than in the forests, still a great deal of new information has been obtained, and the pioneer geological maps have been improved, modified, and extended in several directions. But, unfortunately, such work has been done for various companies, and the resulting maps are their property and not for public use. Thus many interesting generalisations that might be made were all the geological results available, cannot be attempted, and several problems that might be settled out of hand remain in the realm of speculation. A few "new" fields have been proved productive amid rather a flourish of trumpets, but in nearly all cases such areas are situated on published maps and ground already carefully described.

The greatest advance has been in the study of ground along the Central Range, the region of light paraffin base oils, and there is still active search and development work going on in that district. The failure of certain geologists to distinguish between Cretaceous and Tertiary strata has caused a little confusion, but the stratigraphy of much obscure ground is being gradually made clear.

The main lines or directions of lateral variation remain very much as formerly described, and failure to recognise them has led to several "dry holes," or partial failures. The oil-bearing belts are fairly well defined for the greater part of the island, and the problem now is to extend productive areas along the defined belts of greatest promise. Such work necessarily entails a certain amount of wild-cat drilling, and the time has come for such speculative ventures to be attempted, provided that it is undertaken under a definite and well-thought-out scheme. But here it is necessary to say that most of the present speculative drilling is at fault. There has been much traffic in estates and concessions, local companies have been formed, and others have been floated in London, and it would appear from the prospectuses of some of them that any land in Trinidad is worth drilling for petroleum, no matter what the geological structure may be and the posi-

tion as regards the main directions of variation. The investor must be very wary in such circumstances; he must disregard the seemingly favourable statements as to the proximity of the land in question to a producing field; he must discount calculations of depths to oil-sand being presumably the same as in other areas; he must, in fact, consider each case on its own merits.

There are, no doubt, several new companies floated in all good faith, with hope and little else to nourish them; it would not be charity to mention them, but it will be noticed that they do not publish anything in the nature of a geological map. There are others who are holdly attacking new territory where the geological structure is terribly obscure, but where any successful result may prove large new fields. These are to be recommended, for courage at least. And there are some companies that seem to have been started for the sake of flotation profits, without any knowledge of conditions and practically no hope of success.

What is really wanted now is a pooling of geological information by several companies, as suggested by Professor Carmody in a paper before the Institution of Petroleum Technologists, and then the formation of a wild-cattling syndicate to which all the companies could subscribe, to take up and test a series of areas on a definite plan, carefully worked out, so that with a minimum of expense a maximum of information can be obtained and large areas proved or condemned once and for all.

Were there a Government Geologist, such a scheme might be undertaken under his guidance, but a committee of company geologists would probably do as well. Such a scheme would be of great benefit to the Colony, for it is to be feared that the inevitable result of much of the development work that is in progress at present will simply be to give the island a bad name, and to make it appear that the search for oil is a much more hazardous business than it need be.

There is a very large area of promising land as yet entirely untested, partly settled estates, and partly Crown land, but the Crown land with good prospects is mostly in the hands of large corporations, so it is to the estates that the speculative operators and promoters have had to look. In particular, the region of light oils, even if productions be small, merits much more attention than it has received, but there are few companies able to control a sufficient area of land or in possession of sufficient resources to enable them to start a definite scheme of speculative testing of new districts.

The writer has never from the very first had any doubts as to the productivity of many of the fields; but he realises that it may take many years to reveal the extent of Trinidad's resources in petroleum unless some comprehensive and well-considered scheme of speculative drilling be adopted.

There has been enough money lost in oil ventures in Trinidad already; it is being lost now every day. It is surely time to call a halt and to attempt to form some combination of those interests which depend upon proving new and untried territory for their success, as distinguished from the companies working proved and profitable fields.

TRINIDAD'S OIL PRODUCTION.

The Report of Mr. A. P. Catherall, Acting Inspector of Mines, on the Mines Department of Trinidad and Tobago, for the year 1920, contains the following statement, showing the work done at the oilfields by various companies during the period under review.

	FEET DRILLED.		OIL EXTRACTED IN IMPERIAL GALLONS	
	Private	Crown	Private	Crown
United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	3,776	12,992	2,917,656	7,411,608
Trinidad Lake Petroleum Co., Ltd	---	---	2,530,530	---
Kern River Oilfields of California, Ltd	1	---	67,595	---
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited	---	9,329	---	3,383,649
Trinidad National Petroleum Co., Ltd.	1,635	---	---	---
Oropthe Oilfields, Limited	2,165	---	2,484,790	---
Petroleum Development Company, Ltd	---	3,678	---	10,167,981
Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd (Forest Reserve, &c)	1,808	16,679	6,930	36,010,660
(Barrackpore)	1,153	4,936	1,995,735	2,925,300
Transvaal & Rhodesian Estates, Ltd	---	---	11,860	---
United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd	---	5,790	---	1,592,640
Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited	---	---	---	40,208
Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company, Limited	590	---	---	---
Trinidad Oil Producing & Refining Co., Ltd.	753	---	529,480	---
Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited	4,847	---	281,610	---
Amalgamated Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	656	---	---	---
Trinidad Freeholds, Limited	2,239	---	547,715	---
Uroz Oilfields, Limited	1,185	---	---	---
British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd	1,624	---	---	---
Trinidad Esmeralda Estates, Limited	805	---	---	---
Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Co	170	---	---	---
General Petroleum Company of Trinidad, Ltd	565	---	---	---
	23,972	53,404	11,373,901	61,532,046

Of 23 wells drilled on private lands during the year, oil was struck in 11, whilst as regards Crown lands, oil was struck in 30 out of 44.

The following table, specially compiled for THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, shows the development of production since 1908 :-

Year.	Output in Imperial Gallons	Feet Drilled	Year	Output in Imperial Gallons	Feet Drilled.
1908	5,900	3,758	1915	36,753,931	52,047
1909	2,000,000	5,927	1916	32,475,695	58,390
1910	5,000,000	7,321	1917	56,080,914	52,037
1911	9,985,740	14,485	1918	72,872,393	54,238
1912	15,288,162	40,418	1919	64,436,632	68,059
1913	17,626,563	42,552	1920	72,905,947	77,376
1914	22,523,660	41,933			

INDIAN EMIGRATION.

With reference to the article on Indian emigration to Fiji published in last issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, it would appear that British Guiana is, after all, not to be left out in the cold by the Indian Government. The West India Committee has been informed that a proposal of the Indian Government to send a delegation to that Colony to spy out the land has been submitted to the Government of British Guiana.

THE HON. J. FREELAND FOOTE has successfully undergone an operation on one of his eyes and is, we are glad to learn, in his usual health again.

THE SUGAR COMMISSION.

A French Contemporary's Views.

Dealing, in an editorial, with the Report of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply, the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* writes :-

"We are gradually coming to the end of an un-

imaginable period, during which officials—numberless—in many countries have been able to fulfill their wildest dreams. Many times had they told us that if only by some miracle they could be entrusted with the direction of commercial affairs, they would (if we may be pardoned an Americanism) 'show us!'

"Surely their most stringent critics of peace times never for a moment imagined that we should see such an extraordinary phantasmagoria of incompetence, waste, and sometimes even worse. Is it to the public interest that all these errors and misdeeds should be passed over in silence, on the lackadaisical principle of letting 'bygones be bygones'? The question everyone must ask himself is: Are they bygones? 'L'appetit vient en mangeant'; have we shaken off our bureaucratic shackles for ever? Can any sane man say to himself 'the war age is over; let the dead bury their dead, we start afresh'?"

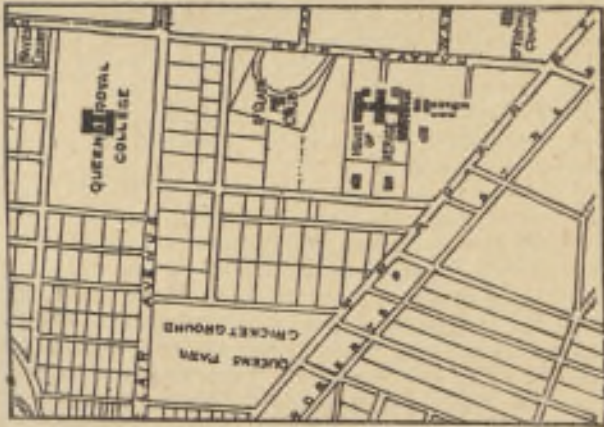
"A recent White Paper has revealed some of the extraordinary delinquencies of the Board of Agriculture, among which one may class the Kelham sugar factory, the origin and history of which remains to be written."

ABDOOL ROHOMAN & Co., of 14, Water Street, Georgetown, is the name of the firm which has acquired the full interest in the provision and hardware business, together with all liabilities, from the heirs of the late Mr. Abdool Rohoman, deceased, as from June 1st,

PORT OF SPAIN FROM THE AIR.

The arrival of Major Cochran Patrick and his fleet of seaplanes, which are making Trinidad their base for the exploration of Venezuelan oilfields, has stimulated interest in aviation in Trinidad. Many residents have taken their first flight during the last few weeks, among them being Mrs. Daniels, daughter of Mr. Edgar Tripp. With an ordinary hand camera, that lady secured some excellent photographs of Port of Spain, one of which is reproduced on this page. It will be of interest to compare this with the corresponding section of a plan of Port of Spain published in "The Pocket Guide to the West Indies." In view of the excellence of Mrs. Daniels' photograph, it is not surprising to learn that a proposal to make a survey of Port of Spain from the air is being favourably considered.

The Air Survey Expedition, of which Major Cochran is in charge, was sent out by the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Company, whose activities are now becoming well known in the West Indies. The com-



A Key to the Birdseye View of Port of Spain.

This section of a map of Port of Spain published in the "Pocket Guide to the West Indies," shows the area covered by Mrs. Daniels' photograph.

pany aims at establishing eventually an all-red air route throughout the West Indies, and is now endeavouring to interest the Air Ministry with a view to getting this route an "approved" one, which will enjoy the same official support as that given to the London-Paris air services.

The rice crop of Japan in 1920 was 8,839,000 tons.

THE NEW SHARK INDUSTRY.

According to the United States Consul in the Ensenada district of Lower California, the shark industry is undergoing considerable development



A Birdseye View of Port of Spain.

This picture is reproduced from the first photograph of Port of Spain, Trinidad from the air, taken by Mrs. Daniels, daughter of Mr. Edgar Tripp, with an ordinary hand camera. The Queen's Park Cricket Ground, Tragarate Road, St. Clair Avenue, the Home of Refuge, and St. Clair Club, can be recognised.

in that locality. The shark is a comparatively small one, weighing from 90 to 125 lbs., and measuring four to five feet in length. Lines are set from the shore, on which are 50 to 100 hooks baited with small fish or lumps of shark. They are secured by floats, and the fishermen make daily visits to collect the booty.

The shark is quite valuable from an industrial point of view. The fins are esteemed a great delicacy by the Chinese, who prepare soup from them, this probably ranking in their estimation with turtle soup. The liver is boiled in order to give up its oil, each liver giving about a gallon, which is used for paints and as a leather preservative. The rest of the flesh is dried and made into manure or chicken food, but sometimes shark steaks are sold by the Chinese under the name of grayfish. The large canning factories working fish-manure plants in California are keen on buying shark, ostensibly for conversion into manure. A shark industry has recently been established in the Bahamas. Why should not one be set up elsewhere in the West Indies also?

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line. Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed "Colonial Bank."

MARRIAGE

DRIVER-INGHAM. — On July 5th, at the Parish Church, Beeston, Notts, by the Rev. W. P. Cole Shirone, M.A., vicar: Ernest Bowman, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Driver, to Gertrude, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ingham, of Beeston.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.
(Continued from page 288.)
A Western Molokai.

The largest and most impressive of the islands of the Bocas is Chacachacare, which owes its name—so it is said—to the cries of the birds frequenting it. This island has been brought into prominence recently through the decision of the Government of Trinidad to make it a Western Molokai, a decision which has evoked a storm of protest from the inhabitants of the island, and Port of Spain in particular, who feel that a bad impression will be created in the minds of visitors to Trinidad when the existence of the frightful disease of leprosy is brought prominently to their notice at its very gates, and deplore the prospect of losing for all time a favourite picnic and holiday resort. On the other hand are all agreed that the continued existence of the leper asylum on its present site at Cocorite, now practically a suburb of Port of Spain, is a grave menace to the health of the capital and the island generally, and a positive scandal.

The report of a committee which was appointed in 1918 with Mr. A. G. Bell, the Director of Public Works, as chairman, to consider the question of providing better accommodation for the lepers in the Colony, revealed a truly terrible state of affairs. It showed conclusively that the sole means of controlling the disease was by rigid segregation—and yet it was only in 1915 that the compulsory isolation of lepers was resorted to in the Colony. During the twenty years from 1895 to 1914 the total admissions to the Leper Asylum were 1,537, or a monthly average of six. In the twenty-five months following the adoption of compulsory segregation the admissions were 442, or an average per month of 17, or nearly three times the monthly average in the preceding years. The natural conclusion at which one must arrive from the consideration of these figures is that leprosy is on the increase in the Colony, and that there has been grave laxity in dealing with this problem in the past. But it is also made abundantly clear that even since the adoption of the practice of compulsory isolation, segregation has not been effectively carried out, for in the four years from 1915 to 1918, while 743 patients were admitted into the asylum, no fewer than 375 were registered as "discharged or absconded." It is not stated how many were discharged, and how many absconded; but, even if only a few lepers make their escape, it is appalling to think of the harm which they can do when mingling with the people of a crowded city, bearing in mind that leprosy is a disease communicated by contagion.

The facts set out in this report and brought to light in the debates upon it in the local Legislative Council, certainly constitute a serious indictment of previous administrations, and however distasteful the idea of transforming so beautiful an island as Chacachacare into a leper settlement may be, it is at least a matter for satisfaction that the Government of Trinidad has at last shown its intention of grappling with a disease which has caused, and is causing, such acute suffering to mind

and body, and no one could grudge the unfortunate lepers the prospect now held out to them of living under more pleasant conditions than those to which they have to submit in the present overcrowded settlement at Cocorite.

But will the inhabitants of Port of Spain be deprived for all time of their favourite picnic and holiday resort? It is hardly to be expected that Trinidadians now living will ever again picnic at La Tinta Bay, or spend week-ends at Rust's, the two typical pleasure resorts on Chacachacare, unless they qualify by becoming infected with leprosy, or are willing to emulate the good works of the late Father Damien, who gave his life to the lepers at Molokai, or the holy and self-denying Dominican sisters who minister to the wants of the lepers of Trinidad. On the other hand, in the light of the progress of medical science which has defeated yellow fever, mastered malaria, and found a cure for yaws, and having regard to the latest discoveries in connection with the use of chaulmogra oil, it is, perhaps, not unreasonable to feel confident that the day will come when leprosy will be stamped out in the West Indies, and that this charming island of the Bocas will be restored to the public for the enjoyment of the residents of a greater Port of Spain. In this connection, it must be remembered that in the middle ages leprosy was rife in England. Every town of consequence had its leper house, to which the unfortunate sufferers were relegated. Yet the disease has been effectively stamped out, and only the hagioscopes or leper-squints—those angular openings in the chancel walls of mediæval churches, through which the afflicted, separated from the rest of the congregation, were permitted to witness the elevation of the Host—survive to remind us of its prevalence. Let us hope, then, that the disease will be similarly conquered in the West Indies, and that meanwhile any differences of opinion may be forgotten or overshadowed by the desire of all classes of the community in Trinidad to support the Government in eradicating leprosy now that the selection of Chacachacare as the site of the new leprosy settlement is a *chose jugée*.

Newcomers to Trinidad are usually struck by the change which comes over the appearance of the sea as they approach the land. The glorious sapphire blue to which they have become accustomed on their voyage down the islands gives place to the muddy, greenish grey so characteristic of the northern littoral of South America. This change, which is attributable to the detritus brought down in suspension by the Orinoco and other great rivers, seems to accentuate the feeling of heat and oppression, and makes one realise instinctively that one is nearing some great continent.

As often as not, scarcely a ripple breaks the surface of the Gulf of Paria, which is so securely sheltered from the prevailing winds that during the rainy season the old-time mariners, compelled to loosen their sails during the day, so that they might be dried during the brief intervals of sunshine, never used to trouble to furl them again at night—so certain was it that their vessels were

is no danger of being capsized by a sudden squall.

On entering the gulf, you see away to leeward a small rocky island destitute of any signs of life or vegetation. This is the much-discussed Patos or Goose Island, for long a bone of contention between Great Britain and Colombia (now Venezuela). It has been the subject of many Notes of an acrimonious character. In order, therefore, to avoid any further argument, a solitary individual is paid by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago the princely salary of £140 12s. a year to reside upon that barren and waterless rock, and to hoist over it every morning at eight o'clock the emblem of Britain's might, in the shape of the Flag, which he is supposed to strike again every evening at sunset. History does not relate how he fills in the rest of his time, which must hang rather heavily upon his hands.

The "Battle" of Chaguaramas.

Away to windward lies the historic island of Gaspar Grande, or Gasparec (famed for its limestone caves, with their delicious bathing pool, and Guachero birds), lying athwart Chaguaramas Bay, behind which rise the magnificent forest-clad mountains of the northern range of Trinidad.

It was under the guns of the fort on this little island that Admiral Don Sebastian Ruiz de Apodaca lay in his flagship *San Vincente*, surrounded by his fleet, when he learned that Admiral Harvey was on his tracks. Following an *émeute* between the seamen of His Majesty's ship *Alarm* and some of the French *rif-raff* of Port of Spain, in May, 1796, Captain Vaughan had landed an armed party near the capital, with drums beating and colours flying, to avenge the injuries inflicted upon his men, and this formed one of the counts upon which Spain declared war against England a few months later. Admiral Harvey and Sir Ralph Abercromby were thereupon instructed to reduce Trinidad, and on February 16th, 1797, they entered the Bocas with an imposing fleet in perfect formation. The Admiral led the way in his flagship the *Prince of Wales*, and as the day was well advanced, decided to wait until the morning before falling upon his prey.

There was no rest in Port of Spain that night. Crowds flocked to the beach, and when a series of violent explosions were heard from the direction of Gaspar Grande, and an ominous glare appeared in the sky, it was thought that a violent battle was in progress. When day broke it was learned that the English had been deprived of a fight, and that the disturbance of the night had been due to the Spaniards destroying their own ships, all of which, with one solitary exception, were burnt to the water's edge and then sunk at their moorings, without the English firing a shot.

After this unexpected event, Harvey captured the forts on Gaspar Grande without difficulty. Abercromby disembarked his troops at Peru—then a sugar estate, but now an East Indian village—and advanced towards Port of Spain. He met with little opposition, and on February 18th the Spanish Governor, Don Josef Maria Chacon, signed Articles for the surrender of the Island of Trinidad to His

Britannic Majesty, in the estate's residence of Valsayn, near the town of St. Joseph, the former Spanish capital.

It is said that on a clear and still day the wrecks of the *San Vincente*, *Gillardo*, *Arrogante*, and other Spanish vessels can be seen in the deep water alongside Gaspar Grande, and it would be interesting if some enterprising pilot of the Aviation Company which is now operating in Trinidad were to test the accuracy of this statement, by practical observations, in the course of one of his seaplane flights.

(To be continued.)

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.

Boll-worm in Antigua.

The presence of the dreaded pink boll-worm in the island has been ascertained by Mr. Ballou, the Imperial Department Entomologist, who has been on a visit there.

England to the Bahamas via Jamaica.

The Police Commission continues to be a topic of all-absorbing interest. The Commission has adjourned *sine die* for the purpose of considering the evidence which has been heard so far, and the President, His Honour Willoughby Bullock, Acting Chief Justice, has taken the opportunity to go to Jamaica, where he will meet his fiancée, Miss Clemente, who has just come out from England, and will be married before returning to Nassau. During the absence of Mr. Bullock, Sir Frederic Maxwell, who decided after all not to remain in Belize and has returned to his more genial native clime, will act as Chief Justice.

The new route to England via Jamaica is likely to become popular. Captain Eric Solomon, late Royal Air Force, has just left for a visit to England via Kingston. The regular sailings of the Canadian Government line are much more dependable than the irregular New York service. The New York and Cuba S.S. Co., which performs the latter service, has now definitely decided not to enter into a contract, but will continue to run their steamers whenever they consider it worth while to do so. The Development Board has sent a representative to New York with the object of opening negotiations with some other company, and it is to be hoped that the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., or some other British Line may be induced to enter into a contract before the winter season. Many local merchants have expressed themselves in favour of the establishment of a direct freight service between the United Kingdom and the Bahamas. In the meantime the all red route via Canada has proved to be more satisfactory to importers than the New York route.

The passenger and freight business carried on by the motor vessel *Priscilla*, plying between Nassau and Miami, has developed to such an extent that an American Bahamian Steamship Co., Ltd., has been formed with the capital of £35,000 to acquire the existing concern and add new steamers to the service.

Polish Artificers mend Barbados Tayches.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, writing on June 14th, says that the long drought seems to have broken up at

last, and all the parishes have had rain, as much as 1.50 inches being recorded in Christ Church on June 12th. It was hoped that these rains would continue, as the 1922 crops were suffering before.

The Agricultural Bank have increased their interest on savings bank deposits, the initiation of which was reported in last CIRCULAR, to 6 per cent., and the venture has already met with considerable success, over £45,000 having been subscribed. Meanwhile some of the estate owners who purchased properties at recent years' high prices, are in difficulties, owing to the decline in the price of sugar. The market in this commodity continues to go from bad to worse, planters who refused \$5.50 for their sugars a few weeks ago, have been eager sellers at \$3 per 100 lbs., and the bulk of the crop has been sold.

Mr. H. H. Baird, writing on June 1st, mentions the interesting fact that a short time ago there arrived in the Island a number (somewhere between 100 and 150) of foreigners, men, women and children. They are said to be Poles, and it is their intention to remain here for two years. On first arrival they were quartered on Pelican Island, but have since found shelter in a building, formerly used for storing empty punchcans, in White Park Road. The men are expert artificers in copper, brass and tin, and at many of the plantations they have performed marvels. Old tawches, buckets, etc., which had been scrapped, have been repaired, tinned inside, and made practically new, whilst the charges they make for their labour are ridiculously low. They also purchase for ready cash (American gold, of which they seem to have a large quantity) old copper and brass, and these they fashion into various kinds of ornaments, which the women complete with some artistic engraving.

Lieut.-Colonel Jenkins, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary, was, on June 8th, presented by the Hon. C. P. Clarke, K.C., the Attorney General, with an address signed by 126 members of the Civil Service of Barbados to mark their regret at his approaching departure for Nigeria.

Sir Wilfred Collet returns from British Guiana.

His Excellency Sir Wilfred Collet left the Colony for England on June 18th, on three months' leave of absence. He was attended by Capt. C. Sherlock, his aide-de-camp. Hon. C. Clementi, who will administer the Government during Sir Wilfred's absence, was sworn in on the same day. Hon. Hector Josephs, B.A., LL.B., the acting Attorney General, has "taken silk," having been granted by the Governor the title of King's Counsel in the Colony.

Practical steps are being taken in the development of the much neglected hinterland. The *Argosy* records that Mr. A. J. Chong, the Government Surveyor, is engaged on plans for the construction of a branch line from the end of the Caburi trail, in a south-westerly direction, crossing the Potaro River at Garraway, thence to Kangaruma, and along to the Potaro to Kaieteur. The successful completion of this track, which is expected to be suitable for motor traffic, will make the famous falls far more accessible, enabling visitors to arrive on the Kaieteur Plateau two days after leaving Bartica.

Mr. Manoel Gonsalves has resigned his appointment as manager of Messrs. Bettencourt & Co., of Water Street, with whom he has been associated for thirty-two years. Mr. N. C. Ruggles, the newly appointed Stipendiary Magistrate, was welcomed to the Bench by Mr. R. B. Marshall on behalf of the Bar, and by Mr. J. Gonsalves for the Solicitors of the Colony. Mr. J. P. Auld has been appointed to the new triple post of Director of Public Works, Director of Sea

Defences, and Engineer to the Harbour Board. The suggestion of Mr. R. M. B. Parker, chairman of the British Guiana Sugar Factories, Ltd., that the Chamber of Commerce should determine fortnightly the average price of sugar sold and exported, and publish the figures arrived at, has been referred by that body to a committee.

Grenada Export Duties.

The official *Gazette* publishes the new export duties on cacao, as fixed by Order in Council. The duty depends on the price in the London market at the date of exportation in the case of cacao shipped to Europe, and to the New York price when it is shipped elsewhere. When this price does not exceed 50s. per cwt., the duty is 6d.; over that amount and not exceeding 60s., 9d.; with a corresponding increase of 3d. for every 10s. rise in price up to 90s., and an additional 6d. per cwt. for every similar rise over that amount.

West Indian Produce in Halifax.

Mr. G. MacG. Mitchell, writing of the condition of markets for West Indian produce in Halifax and Montreal, says that sugar there seems to have gone from bad to worse, although it seemed impossible for the price to go as low as it has. Small lots are coming out from Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara. The molasses market is also very dull, with little business going. As regards cacao and coffee, the prices are extremely low, and what is worse, sales are difficult to make even at low prices.

There have been no visitors to Montreal of late from the South, and the passenger lists of the Royal Mail steamers going South are now very small. The regular mail boats continue to have full cargoes outward, although their homeward cargoes are small. With relatively high freights, however, this service should be doing fairly well, even if the boats are very expensive to run.

The Bill to Aid Jamaica Sugar Industry.

The Government have promptly come to the aid of the Island sugar industry in its present depression, and have introduced into the Legislature a Bill appropriating £400,000 for advances to planters and farmers, the loans to be a first charge on the next crop of sugar and rum, and a first charge on the land, thus depriving existing mortgagees of their priority rights. Already there have been applications for assistance from 28 of the 60 estates on the Island. The Bill met with opposition from certain of the elected members, mainly on the grounds that it was not in the interests of the Island to support industry at the expense of the taxpayer.

St. Lucia Cacao Crop Promises well.

Mr. Archibald Brooks, writing under date June 7th, says that the prolonged drought has at last given way to very welcome and frequent showers. The general depression consequent on the slump in the sugar, cacao and lime juice markets continues, but no doubt will disperse with the recovery of prices. Planters are, however, naturally very anxious as to the future, and this anxiety is reflected in the little attention that is being given to cultivation generally. Extensive manurial, pruning and tillage operations cannot be undertaken in many instances until the last crops have been disposed of, and at the time of writing the bulk of the cacao and syrup crops remain unshipped. Lime planters are a little more fortunate as there are but small supplies on hand, and the prices will in all probability have righted themselves before the forth-

coming crop is manufactured. There is promise of a good cacao and lime crop.

His Grace, The Most Revd. Pius Dowling, Archbishop of Port-of-Spain, has completed his tour of the Island, and returns to Trinidad to-day. During his stay in the Colony he visited every district and held Confirmation services.

Some idea of the improvements which have recently been made in our roads is shown by the fact that His Grace—instead of having as on former visits to do most of his travelling by horse back—was able to motor to eight of the ten parishes visited, the remaining two being readily reached by the Government motor launch *Hewanorra*.

The social event of the week has been the marriage of Miss Annis De Freitas the only daughter of His Honour Chief Justice De Freitas and Mrs. De Freitas to the Rev. Dudley Moore, Rector of Barroullie Anglican Church, St. Vincent, which took place on June 1st at Holy Trinity Church, Castries.

When the Chief Justice proceeds to Jamaica shortly, to take up the post of Puisne Judge, the Hon. J. S. Rae, Attorney General, will act as Chief Justice, and the Hon. V. Degazon will take over the duties of the Attorney General. The "At Home" given by His Honour the Administrator, Lieut.-Colonel. W. B. Davidson-Houston, on June 2nd, was largely attended. His Majesty's birthday was celebrated by an Official dinner given by His Honour at Government House, and by the display of the Union flag throughout the Island.

St. Vincent Planters' Dilemma.

Mr. P. W. Verrall, writing on June 22nd, reports improved weather. After a couple of months of exceedingly dry weather, some nice rains have fallen, and everything looks green and refreshing.

The planting season for cotton has commenced, but the area has been reduced, planters acting on the advice of Mr. F. L. Oliver, the principal purchaser of St. Vincent cotton, in a message sent through the Government. Altogether planters are faced with a serious problem as to what crop to cultivate. Scarcely a bale of last season's cotton crop has been marketed, and the valuations received are very disappointing and discouraging, and if the crop is sold at the prices quoted it will entail a serious loss. This fact coupled with the condition of the arrowroot market and depression in trade generally, is causing a pessimistic outlook in some quarters.

Hon. Leslie Charles Levy, the newly appointed Attorney General, who recently arrived in the Island with Mrs. Levy, has already won many friends by his genial disposition. The Hon. Dr. Eustace Greaves, Colonial Surgeon, is at present convalescing in Barbados after a serious illness, and meanwhile his duties are being performed by Dr. D. S. Graham. Dr. Irvine McDowall, who served as Surgeon-Captain in the war, has arrived home on a short visit, and gave an exceedingly interesting lecture on "The B.W.I. Regt. in the Great War," and a very appreciative audience listened for a couple of hours to the Doctor, who proved a very talented speaker. Major John Tough also spoke of the good work of the B.W.I. Regt. in Egypt and Palestine, and exhibited his war curios. The chair was taken by His Honour, S. J. Thomas, Chief Justice, in the absence of the Administrator, who was unfortunately indisposed.

The death of Dr. W. F. Newsam occurred here on June 21st. He was for many years Colonial Surgeon of St. Vincent, but retired a considerable time ago. His funeral was attended by all classes, by whom he will be missed.

Sugar's Expiring Struggles in Tobago.

Mr. Robert S. Reid writes under date June 16th,

that the wet season has set in definitely and heavy rains are falling daily. This helps on growth of all crops—likewise weeds—and "brushers" are now in request. The labourers are still busy at their gardens, but will shortly be out for work to provide for the "August" holidays. Shipments of produce as well as ground provisions are now on a small scale, and there is likely to be hard times financially till next reaping season, probably October or November. It is interesting to note the expiring struggles of sugar in this little Island. I don't think there is a cane grown by the estates owners, all being under the McTeyer system, as "cane farming" made a false start in Tobago and is not popular. As there is little demand for Muscovado sugar, and it is even difficult to get freight room for it, growers are hawking it by the barrel at a price very much below that now asked for vacuum pan sugar. There is still room for a central usine in the Leeward and if confidence be restored in the industry, we may yet see a factory established there. The glimmer of hope in the East Indian Immigration question is a favourable indication for the future.

Trinidad's Attitude towards Representation.

Writing on June 8th, Mr. Edgar Tripp again calls attention to the very serious condition of the Colony's water supply, pointing out that although more rain has fallen during the past four months than any one can remember during the corresponding period previously, the supply of water has been shut off from Port-of-Spain for four to six hours every day. The Chamber of Commerce has passed a strong resolution on the subject.

On the King's Birthday there was the usual parade in the Savannah before the Acting Governor, the local forces being reinforced by detachments of the Royal Sussex Regiment. The whole brigade, which was seen to great advantage, was under the command of Inspector Commandant May.

A movement has been started at San Fernando in favour of representative Government, led by several well known, responsible and respected residents of that town, but so far no great enthusiasm has been aroused. San Fernando itself, through its Borough Council, has for many years afforded an instructive object lesson of what good a representative institution may effect, but unfortunately experience elsewhere has not always been of the same happy character. The San Fernando resolutions on this subject were considered at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on June 24th, and whilst the Chamber sympathised with the desire for the change as being an ideal to be striven for, it was felt that the time was not ripe to give effect to it, the people of the Colony being perfectly satisfied with the present form of Government. A motion in this sense was carried by a majority of 47, only three members voting against it.

Writing again under date June 16th, Mr. Tripp reports very heavy rain, and it now appears fairly certain that a substantial quantity of farmers' canes will remain unreaped, involving loss not only to the farmers, but also to the factory owners. This is due to a month's delay during the dry weather, whilst demands for higher prices were being considered, and the time lost cannot now be made up.

The export duties leviable on molasses which are reduced by Ordinances Nos. 21 and 22 of 1921, are now as follows :-

	Agricultural College Tax	General Revenue Tax	Tax in aid of Immigration.
Syrup, per 100 gallons	1/10	6/8	2/6
Molasses, per 100 gallons	—	1/7	7d.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

At the meeting of the Rice Millers' Association held recently at New Orleans, it was stated that the advertising campaign in connection with rice had increased the consumption in the United States from 2.47 lbs. to 7 lbs. per head.

The body weight of the hen is an important factor in egg production. Although the weight increases up to maturity, during any particular year changes take place. Hens are heaviest before the period of maximum production, and lightest at the end of it. The heavier the hen of any particular breed, the greater will be its power of egg production.

The Alsace potash beds discovered in 1904 are being rapidly developed. It would appear from borings that they occupy an area of 400 square miles, and it is calculated that they contain enough potash to last the world for 300 years. The deposits consist of the chloride of potash, and are much purer than the celebrated Strassfurt beds, especially as regards magnesium salts.

The *Journal* of the Agricultural Department of the Union of South Africa has drawn attention to the value of the prickly pear plant as a fodder in countries liable to long periods of drought. The spines on the leaves have to be removed, as well as the thorns on the fruit, before the plant is used. Singeing or boiling or steaming the leaves is efficacious in this respect. The leaves are chopped up and mixed with more concentrated food.

A great diminution has taken place in the importation of saccharin, the sweetening drug used in place of sugar. In January-April, 1920, 322,163 ounces were imported, while in the same period of the present year the importations have only been 32,787 ounces. Similarly, the quantity manufactured during the first three months of the present year has been 336,909 ounces, as compared with 1,035,830 ounces for January-March last year.

The *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute states that in 1920, out of 392,823,757 lbs. of tea liberated for consumption in the United Kingdom, 61.5 per cent. came from India, 28.5 per cent. from Ceylon, 0.9 per cent. from China, and 9.1 per cent. from Java and other countries. The consumption of tea has increased in the country from 6.68 lbs. per head of population in 1913 to 8.41 lbs. per head in 1919. In 1905 the consumption was 6.02 lbs. per head.

In a lecture recently delivered on the subject of the use of potash in agriculture, Mr. G. A. Cowie spoke strongly as to its value in increasing the vigour of crops. By its use susceptibility to lungoid disease was, he said, lessened, and he instanced this from the results of the potash plots in the continuous wheat growing experiments at

Rothampsted, the crops from which enjoyed a remarkable immunity from rust as compared with those from other plots.

Crude straw is not a particularly digestible body, the reason being that what is digestible in it is enclosed in what is not digestible, viz. woody fibre. According to the October number of the *Journal of Agricultural Science*, the difficulty has been got over by treatment with caustic soda. The straw is chopped, and soaked overnight in a 1.5 per cent. solution of caustic soda. The next morning it is drained, and the mass transferred to an iron boiler, where it is raised to the boiling temperature and kept there for one hour. The digestive value of the straw thus treated is said to be raised 50 per cent.

The fumigation of rice, or other grain in bags, for the purpose of protecting it from weevil, is, says the *Agricultural Gazette* of New South Wales, cheaply carried out with bisulphide of carbon. Twelve to twenty bags at a time are operated on, and one to two fluid ounces of this chemical are poured into each bag. The bags are then placed side by side on a tarpaulin or canvas sheet, the sides of the sheet folded over the bags, and the whole covered with another tarpaulin. Exposure should last for not longer than 24 hours. Galvanised iron boiler tanks, with covers, may be substituted for the tarpaulin sheets.

The general use of thermos flasks renders the best method by which lightness combined with strength can be obtained a matter of great importance, and *Nature* suggests the use of balsa wood for the purpose. This is the lightest wood known, a cubic foot only weighing a little over 7 lbs., and is also a non-conductor of heat, frozen butter having been sent from Virginia to Los Angeles in hot summer weather in a small "balsa" box and having arrived still hard and frozen. The trees are found chiefly in Cuba and Jamaica, and grow rapidly, a seedling in Costa Rica having reached a trunk diameter of 16 inches in three years.

In the process of the manufacture of cocoa, the cacao beans are roasted, the shells removed, and the resultant product pressed so as to remove part of the cacao butter. The pressed cake, ground and sifted, forms the pure cocoa of commerce. This removal of fat makes the colour of the cocoa much lighter, and, according to Bloomberg, who writes in the *Journal* of the United States Department of Agriculture, various processes have been tried to darken the colour of pure cocoa so that it might more nearly resemble chocolate. The commonest methods comprise the addition of alkalis or alkaline carbonates, and are called "Dutch" processes from their place of origin. Cocos thus treated may be known by the high colour of their water solutions, by the presence of a water-soluble protein precipitable in 1 per cent. sulphuric acid, and by the increase in the ash and alkalinity ratios.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

The Trinidad Representation Meeting.

Replying to Hon. Gideon Murray on July 12th, Mr. E. Wood (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies) said that communications with Trinidad were not so satisfactory as could be wished, and his attention had not been drawn to a public meeting held at San Fernando, Trinidad, on May 31st, at which resolutions were passed in favour of representative government and West Indian federation.

Colonial Reports.

Mr. Wood (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), replying to Lieut.-Colonel Hon. Cuthbert James on July 6th, said that no annual report for St. Lucia had been published since that for 1915-16. A review of the dates on which the reports of various colonies had been received had been recently made in the Colonial Office, and reminders had been sent to the Governors of all colonies and protectorates from which reports were overdue.

West Indies and the Colonial Office Vote.

Speaking on the Colonial Office vote on July 14th, Mr. E. Wood, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said that in the possessions of the Empire, the war period had been succeeded by a time of economic stagnation and paralysis. The circumstances of the day had led to a great many propositions being advanced to the Colonial Office, through the local Governments, for particular help to meet particular sets of difficulties, but however willing might be the spirit, the flesh, interpreted in terms of ready money and rigidly bound by economic laws, was sadly weak. As regards the state of health in many parts of our Colonies, it was impossible to feel satisfied when the mortality of British fellow subjects was what it was to-day.

Meanwhile more and more forces in different parts of the world were being mobilised in the pursuit of disease. The London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine were doing work in the West Indies and in West Africa. Mauritius had set aside 10,000,000 rupees, and had been fortunate in enlisting the services of one of the greatest medical scientists, Dr. Andrew Balfour, to advise as to how best that money might be applied.

Continuing, he said that he noticed that other members had considerable interest in the question of constitutional development in the West Indies, but he was not sure that some of them were not somewhat ahead of public opinion in the West Indies themselves, and some risk might attach to anything which might appear to resemble the putting of pressure from this end in the direction of a course over which their own public opinion was not adequately ripe. However that might be, those who were at the pains to read West Indian constitutional history would see the need of considerable prudence and circumspection. At present there was a Commission sitting in Grenada to explore the best method of reintroducing representative Parliamentary institutions, and it was quite certain that the Secretary of State for the Colonies would never raise unnecessary obstacles to granting an extension of Parliamentary institutions to any community that expressed its desire to be blessed with such institutions. In fact, it was the policy in this field of the Colonial Office to support and promote various forms of co-operation in matters of common interest, out of which he believed it to be not at all impossible, as time went on, that some more organic union might emerge.

In the matter of scientific developments affecting the industries of our Colonies, the most interesting was one now approaching fruition—the West Indian Agricultural College in Trinidad. That development had been powerfully stimulated by the recent preferential trade agreement between the West Indies and their great Dominion neighbour, Canada. It had been made possible by the initiative, enterprise and public spiritedness of Trinidad, assisted and guided by its Governor, Sir John Chancellor, whose recent retirement, on grounds of health, all who knew him and the work he had done would regret.

Sir Samuel Hoare, rising later, uttered a plea for federation of the West Indies, almost every unit of which was governed under a constitution that differed from its neighbours, and those constitutions had never been carefully thought out; they had grown up haphazard. Some of them dated back centuries, others of them had been pieced together during the last 50 or 60 years, when the old constitutions were scrapped. This variety of administration was not only inefficient and extravagant, but also meant that one colony had a more democratic constitution than some of its fellows. Concluding, he strongly advocated the visit of a Royal Commission or High Commissioner to the West Indies to make a comprehensive survey of these problems on the spot.

The following transfers and promotions affecting the Colonial Civil Service of the British West Indies have been recently made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Mr. J. P. Auld, M.I.C.E. (Director of Public Works, British Honduras), Director of Public Works, British Guiana.

Mr. P. N. H. Jones, M.I.C.E. (formerly Director of Public Works, Gold Coast), Colonial Surveyor, Bermuda.

Mr. A. H. Ritchie (Government Entomologist, Jamaica), Entomologist, Tanganyika Territory.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Pacuare	July 22
Jamaica	Bristol	Motagna	25
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Nubian	26
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	Aug 0
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	Oranje Nassau	1
West Indies	London	Scientist	16
West Indies	Glasgow	Songster	10
St Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Haiti	Aug 2
B'mas, J'aca & B. H'das	Montreal	Canadian Forester	16
Jamaica	New York	Tivies	16
West Indies	Halifax	Camquet	19
Jamaica	New York	Sixaola	23
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	Sept. 2
B'mas, J'aca & B. H'das	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	Sept. 5
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Puerto Rico	7

THE concluding instalment of Mr. Llewellyn Jones' article on The Mauritius Sugar Industry is unavoidably held over, but will appear in next issue.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in s.s. *Patuca*, July 8th:—

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. R. M. S. Agar | Miss F. S. Leigh | Mr. C. Stewart |
| Mr. H. Horton | Mr. A. Scarff | |

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Camito*, July 19th:—

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Miss A. Carvalho | Mr. & Mrs. G. M. Hargreaves | Mr. & Mrs. S. Thomson |
| Miss M. Cumming | Mr. V. L. Levy | Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Wall |
| Miss I. Delisser | Mrs. M. G. Leyden | Mr. & Mrs. R. F. Williams |
| Mr. T. K. Gordon | Mrs. M. G. McKinstry | Mr. F. C. Webb |
| Mrs. M. J. Hagley | Mr. J. C. Sharp | |
| Miss T. Hagley | Mr. H. N. F. Squire | |

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Camito*, Avonmouth, July 12th:—

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Bolton | Mrs. Groom | Mr. D. D. Mills |
| Mrs. E. Crooks | Mr. G. Haase | Miss M. O. H. Pearman |
| Mrs. E. Elden | Commander & Mrs. F. C. Hall | Mr. W. E. Powell (2) |
| The Misses Elden (2) | Mrs. I. M. Hobbs | The Misses Powell |
| Mr. G. Falhuys | Miss M. Latreille | Mrs. Roy Saunders |
| Mr. J. Paw and Son | Mr. & Mrs. R. S. Martinez | Miss M. St. Aubyn |
| Lt. Col. & Mrs. Goldsmith & Family | Mr. N. H. Mason | Mr. & Mrs. P. Thomas and Family |

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Ingoma*, London, July 7th:—

- FROM BARBADOS.**
- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Anderson | Mrs. & Miss Dennely | Miss R. Knaggs |
| Mr. & Mrs. H. B. G. Austin | Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Edgell | Mrs. E. Ibb |
| Miss W. Burton | Mr. J. T. Greg | Mr. J. Challeur Lynch |
| Misses F. & E. Carrington | Mr. H. Haslow | Mr. & Mrs. C. Manning |
| Miss M. Connell | Mr. & Mrs. Hammons | Mr. & Mrs. D. Simpson |
| Mr. G. Clarke | Miss Hazel Jenkins | Mrs. & Miss Straghan |
| | Lt. Col. & Mrs. Francis Jenkins, C.M.G. | |
- FROM DEMERARA.**
- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Austin | Mr. H. King | Mr. C. Norton |
| Miss C. Beojamio | Mr. & Mrs. C. Legke | Mr. J. Petty |
| Mr. & Mrs. Fleming | Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Mackenzie | Brig. General C. Rice |
| Mr. A. Harris | Mr. H. Melville | Mr. & Mrs. H. Spain |
| Mr. & Mrs. Heald | Mr. & Mrs. C. Mitchell | Mr. V. Van Lewin |
| Miss M. Inness | Mr. F. Nicoll | Mr. & Mrs. W. Walker |
| Miss H. Jolly | Mrs. M. Nicolson | Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Watson |
- FROM GRENADA.**
- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. E. Donelan | Misses N. & A. Ferguson | Mr. Archibald H. Wallou |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
- FROM TRINIDAD.**
- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. G. Dentall | Mr. A. Hamlyn | Mr. J. Knox |
| Mr. A. Blair | Mr. & Mrs. E. Hutchinson | Mrs. E. Elckford |
| Miss Brown | Miss A. Hutchinson | Mrs. C. Morrin |
| Mr. D. Clifford | Mr. & Mrs. C. Jack | Mr. & Mrs. Ross |
| Mrs. Fraser | Miss W. Johnson | Mr. F. Rudder |
| Mr. & Mrs. A. Hamlyn | Mr. J. Kayes | Mr. A. Stewart |

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, July 9th:—

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. H. G. Beddington | Miss E. Gilligan | Major R. Rust |
| Mr. O. Bryman | Mr. C. A. Hicks | Mr. C. Scholfield |
| Mr. & Mrs. E. A. Brown | Mr. Howard | Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Sidnell |
| Miss H. M. Brown | Mrs. M. H. Ingram | Dr. Stephens |
| Mr. S. Browne | Mr. & Mrs. Little | Mr. Smith |
| Mr. & Mrs. Buchanan | Mrs. M. M. Meals | Mr. C. Thomas |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. Cameron | Mr. E. G. Mitchell | Dr. D. G. M. Vevers |
| Mr. E. H. Claxton | Mr. E. W. Osborne | Mr. W. Warren |
| Mr. W. J. Douglass | Mr. W. J. Pegg | Mr. L. T. P. Witz |
| Mr. H. Edwards | Mr. H. Pearson | |

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Oranje Nassau*, Plymouth, July 12th:—

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. D. Aitken | Mr. W. Harrison | Mr. A. Machads |
| Mrs. M. Behrens | Mr. W. Holm | Padrique |
| Miss Behrens | Mrs. M. E. Hosang | Mr. H. P. Dnniu |
| Mr. D. Bouwfeld | Miss S. Hosang | Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Sara |
| Mr. & C. Burnell | Mr. G. Johnson | Miss M. Sara |
| H. E. Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G. | Mr. G. Joel | Capt. C. C. Sherlock |
| Mr. J. H. Curry | Mr. A. W. Long | Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Vexle |
| Mr. C. A. Child | Mr. & Mrs. V. Lambert | Mr. W. Vealig |
| Mr. F. A. Corea | Mr. E. N. Martines | Mr. & Mrs. R. F. B. Vinicombe |
| Mr. W. H. Dickinson | Mr. F. McMillan | |
| Mr. H. O. England | Mr. J. A. Middleton | Lt. Col. C. Walter |
| Miss S. Falaine | Mr. A. A. Morris | Mrs. V. Watson |
| Mr. S. Glovyn | Mr. & Mrs. A. Mustard | Mr. L. G. Wicups |
| | Mr. T. Overman | Mr. & Mrs. H. Woolwar |
| | Dr. & Mrs. A. T. Ozzard | |

Compagnie Generale Transatlantique.

Sailings to Trinidad, from St. Nazaire, in s.s. *Puerto Rico*, July 7th.

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. V. Dias | Mr. & Mrs. A. V. Grace | Mr. H. R. Higgins |
| Mr. Henry R. Fraser | The Misses Grace (2) | Mr. Franck Middleton |

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. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Sir Henry A. Alcazar, K.C. | Mr. E. P. Haughton-James |
| Mr. G. E. Anderson | Mr. E. C. Hoesack |
| Mrs. S. Archer | Mr. W. P. Humphrey |
| Mr. Bruce Austin | Mr. E. P. Hutchison |
| Mr. H. B. C. Austin | Mr. T. W. Innis |
| Sir Henry A. Revell | Lt. Col. Francis Isokius, C.M.G. |
| Mr. E. W. Bowen | Mr. Lynch King |
| Mr. W. Bowring, M.B.E. | Mr. J. Knox |
| Mr. R. E. Brassington | Mr. H. A. Lake |
| Mr. James Brown | Mr. F. J. Larrouy |
| Mr. A. S. Burling | Mr. C. Hoop Levy |
| Mrs. M. T. Camacho | Hon. J. Challenor Lynch |
| Miss F. L. Carrington | Mr. I. G. Mackenzie |
| Mr. Gerald O. Carr | Mr. C. M. Manning |
| Mr. C. H. Chambers | Mr. H. P. C. Melville |
| Mr. Albert Cherry | Mr. W. J. M. Serry |
| Mr. G. A. Clarke | Mr. W. McMillan |
| H. E. Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G. | Mr. W. Morrison |
| Dr. J. H. Cooke, B.A., M.B. | Mr. F. E. Murray |
| Mr. Joseph Connell, Jr. | Mr. C. V. Newtoy |
| Mr. J. E. Corbin | Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E. |
| Mr. Robert Craig | Mr. John O'Connor, M.C. |
| Mr. Paul Cressal | Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C. |
| Mr. Jack Culmer | Mr. G. O'Reilly |
| Mr. D. C. C. Da Costa | Mr. A. J. Pavitt |
| Mr. A. M. D'Costa | Mr. G. M. Peter |
| Hon. D. S. De Freitas | Hon. J. M. Phillips |
| Mr. E. A. Donelan | Lieut. W. M. Richards |
| Mr. Gay C. Edgell | His Hon. Sir Robert Riden |
| Mr. A. F. G. Ellia | Mr. E. Haughton Sanguinetti |
| Mr. P. J. Evans | Mr. Ivan J. Scott |
| Hon. J. Freeland Poote | Mr. G. Elliott Sealy |
| Mr. James Fraser | Mrs. H. H. Scaly |
| Capt. A. R. Fellowes | Mr. H. Seedorl |
| Mr. Percy George | Hon. A. P. Sherlock |
| Mr. W. Gordon Gordon | Mr. D. Gratton Simpson, A.M.I.M.B. |
| Hon. G. E. Graham | Mr. Thomas Thornton |
| Mr. J. T. Greg | Mr. R. S. Turton |
| Mr. A. J. Reid | Sir Francis Wallis, K.C.M.G. |
| Mr. A. C. Hamlyn | Thomas E. Ward, F.I.S.A. |
| Mr. A. J. Hamlyn | Mr. G. Westall |
| Mr. D. M. Hahn | Mr. Hugh P. Wildy |
| Mr. J. H. Haigh | Mr. Percy K. Wilson |
| Mr. N. Macleod Balden, West View, Mithgave, N.B. | |
| Mr. E. W. C. Dunlop, 13, Esmond Road, Bedford Park, W. | |
| Mr. George B. Evelyn, 112, Norfolk Court Road, Norbury, S.W. | |
| Mr. John M. Fleming, The Hermitage, Hadlow, Kent. | |
| Mr. Ernest N. Jago, Valenceux School, Ilford, Essex. | |
| Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C. | |
| Dr. R. D. O'Neale, c/o Mrs. Salmon, Moss Lea, Colinton, Midlothian | |
| Mr. A. M. Reid, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glou. | |
| Mr. H. Blin Stoyle, Crediton, Devon. | |

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 new members elected in the last three months of the year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1923.

THE monthly steamer of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique from Bordeaux to the French West Indies, now calls at Trinidad both on the outward and homeward voyage.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SPURRING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3
July 19th, 1921

BANK RATE 6 per cent., as from June 23rd.

EXCHANGE. Value of the £

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
In U.S.A.	14	10		In Spain	1	2	6
" France	1	16	10	" Germany	13	10	8
" Belgium	1	17	2½	" Austria	109	5	3½
" Italy	3	3	8½	" Holland	0	18	9½

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 6s 9½d (paper)

SUGAR. The depression in the New York market which had brought about the low level of 1.00 c. for duty paid 96's, and which had lasted for nearly three weeks, commenced to pass away on the 18th inst., and the value of this class of sugar yesterday was 4.61 c., equivalent to 3.00 c. for c.i.f. Cubans. The future market was steady, values for landed in bond Cubans being: for September, 3.04 c.; December, 2.78 c.; and March, 2.70 c.

The home market, in sympathy with America, is stronger. West Indian crystallised was quoted yesterday at from 45/- to 51/6, and Muscovados at from 40/- to 46/-. The value of spot American granulated was 56/3. The terminal market was firm, values being August 18/3, September 17/-, and October-December 16/7½.

The Board of Trade Returns for June show that the imports of sugar for the month amounted to 130,833 tons, as against 123,609 tons for June last year. This brings the total amount imported for the six months of the present year to 692,032 tons, which is considerably less than for the same period last year, when 862,842 tons were received. The month's supplies of "refined" imports was 61,827 tons, of which 22,398 tons came from Europe and 32,763 tons from the United States. This is in great contrast to the January-June, 1920, imports of this class of sugar, which only amounted to 7,308 tons from all sources. 66,005 tons of "unrefined" sugar were entered for the month, as against 116,205 tons for June last year, bringing the total amount of unrefined sugar imported for the six months to 486,987 tons. Of the month's supply, 13,937 tons came from Cuba, 21,758 tons from Mauritius, and 17,378 tons from the British West Indies and British Guiana. During the six months, 111,365 tons have been imported from Cuba, 54,610 tons from Peru, 158,831 tons from Mauritius, the latter, although direct consumption white sugar, still being recorded as "unrefined."

The consumption for the month was 121,277 tons, as against 103,127 tons for June last year. The six months' consumption has been 658,168 tons, as against 629,110 tons for the corresponding period of last year. The amount liberated from the refineries was 47,461 tons for the month, as against 84,396 tons in June last year.

The stocks on hand on June 30th were 398,000 tons, as against 418,100 tons at the same date last year.

The West Indian Sugar statistics in London on July 9th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919	
Imports	30,461	35,135	38,152	Tons
Deliveries	21,696	20,406	35,134	"
Stock	17,169	22,865	11,033	"

RUM continues lifeless. Some idea of the accumulation of stocks may be gauged from the fact that the Board of Trade figure of 13,621,000 gallons on June 30th constitutes a record for the United Kingdom

Imports for June amounted to 322,899 proof gallons, as against 145,192 gallons for June last year. The total for the six months is 3,228,493 gallons, a large excess over the imports for the first six months of last year. The con-

sumption continues to decline, that for June having been only 82,853 gallons, as against 156,222 gallons for June last year. The consumption for the six months has been 973,301 gallons, as against 1,580,856 gallons for the corresponding period of last year. The stocks on hand on June 30th were 13,621,000 proof gallons, as against 11,919,500 gallons at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on July 9th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,702	10,523	8,415 Puns.
Demerara	17,310	12,373	10,640
Total of all kinds	39,145	32,574	31,279

CACAO. There is not much improvement to report. The value of fine Grenada is still 56/- spot, and Trinidad is slow at 57/- to 61/- spot. There has been a better demand during the last few days from Hamburg, with sales up to 50/6 c.i.f.

The imports for June amounted to 86,496 cwt., making for the six months a total of 805,027 cwt. The corresponding figures for last year were 263,148 cwt. and 1,450,994 cwt. The consumption for the six months has been 454,068 cwt., as against 583,023 cwt. for January-June 1920. 37,616 cwt. were exported, making 194,359 cwt. for the six months. The exports in June, 1920, were 42,954 cwt., and for January-June, 371,507 cwt. The stocks on hand on June 30th amounted to 1,144,000 cwt., as against 1,308,000 cwt. on June 30th last year.

The stocks in London on July 9th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	24,398	14,629	28,554 Bags
Grenada	27,850	23,559	27,654
Total of all kinds	189,818	289,863	279,201

ARROWROOT. The demand remains quiet, and quotations unchanged at 2½d.—7d.

BALATA. The market is steady, with good quality scarce. Business has been done in West Indian sheet at 3/5 spot.

COFFEE. The export trade is still quiet, but with a slightly better tendency for ordinary Jamaica, several hundred bags recently fetching 55/- to 57/6 per cwt., whilst bags of slightly better quality fetched 58/- to 59/6. Blue Mountain has been selling up to 18½/-.

Imports for the month were 34,376 cwt., as against 94,069 cwt. for June last year. The corresponding six months' figures are 454,568 cwt. and 488,101 cwt. The consumption for the six months has been 154,660 cwt., as against 146,352 cwt. for the corresponding six months of last year. Exports have been 42,731 cwt. for the month, making 226,583 cwt. for the six months. Stocks on hand on June 30th were 722,000 cwt., as against 777,000 cwt. last year.

COPRA is active, with a large business passing. The value of West Indian is £33

COTTON. Sea Island continues to be neglected, not having yet responded to the general improving tendency. The nominal prices are: medium 25d., fine 33d., and extra fine 43d.

HONEY. Very dull, and almost neglected at the last auctions in June. Dark liquid Jamaica is quoted at 25/- amber 35/- to 40/-, pale to fine white 50/- to 57/6 per cwt.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is scarce, and valued retail at 21/- per lb. Distilled is steady at 2/9 to 2/10½ per lb., according to quality. Lime Juice. There is more demand, but sales are small, considering the weather.

LOGWOOD. The market remains dull, with value nominally £10 per ton. There is a very little Continental demand.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is in good demand at 12/- per lb. Bitter is attracting no attention yet.

SPICES. Jamaica Ginger is steady at 110/- to 125/- but supplies of sound quality are short. The spot market for Pimento remains dull, but c.i.f. shipments to Hamburg at 21/6 to 22/6 show considerable improvement

The West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXXVI.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1921.

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No. 596

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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 2s. 6d., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.00). The subscriptions of new members elected in the last three months of the year will not, when paid, be renewable until January 1st, 1922.

The West India Committee Rooms

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SERPENTINE LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
August 2nd, 1921.

Indian Colonisation.

THE third report of the Standing Joint Committee on Indian affairs, which was presented to Parliament on July 21st, will be read with deep interest in British Guiana and Trinidad, the two colonies in the West Indies which until recently received Indian immigrants, for it deals with the position of Indians in Kenya, still better known as British East Africa. The Committee, which comprises eleven members of the House of Lords and an equal number representing the Commons, was appointed in March last to watch Indian affairs, and in view especially of the fact that it includes such distinguished Indian Administrators as LORD CHELMSFORD, the late Viceroy of India; LORD SYDENHAM, and LORD

HARRIS, among others, much weight will necessarily attach to its findings. The claim made by the Government of India, as to status on behalf of the Indians in Kenya, was clear. They did not suggest that responsible government should be given to the Colony, or that the present official majority on the Legislative Council should be abandoned, or that the basis of Crown Colony Administration should be modified, but they claimed for the British Indians that they should share with the European settlers on a common franchise the right of electing members of the Legislature and of the Municipal Bodies; and that there should be no discrimination against Indians as such, as regards other rights which those settlers enjoy. The Committee, in their third report, now state that they have decided to recommend the acceptance of the general principle which the Government of India have laid down, namely, that there is no justification in Kenya for assigning to British Indians a status in any way inferior to that of any other class of His Majesty's subjects. They go on to say: "Kenya is a Colony in which India has always had a peculiar interest, and Indians have taken a large share in its economic development. It is true that the Committee quickly realised that the question involved not merely the status and privileges of Indians in Kenya Colony, but in any British Colony, Mandated territory or Protectorate into which Indian immigration has occurred, or may occur in the future. The handling of this question cannot, therefore, be dissociated from Imperial policy of vital importance, and may even affect the self-governing Dominions." They add, however, that their recommendations are limited to the problems that have arisen in Kenya. It is to be hoped that it will be brought before the attention of the Standing Committee that all the rights and privileges which they claim for Indians in Kenya, and far more, are already enjoyed by Indians in British Guiana and Trinidad. As we announced in our last issue, the Indian Government have now expressed their willingness to send out a Deputation to British Guiana to spy out the land, and we may be certain that if this offer is accepted by the local Government, and Commissioners do visit the colony, they will return with such a favourable report that Indians will be made to realise that they have in our mainland colony of South America a real promised land.

Sisal in the British West Indies.

THE cultivation of sisal is receiving increased attention in Jamaica, the Government of that colony having embarked upon a large hemp enterprise, involving a considerable expendi-

ture, on lands situated in the parishes of St. Elizabeth and Manchester. In recent years it has become apparent that the world's supply of sisal hemp, from which binder twine is manufactured, is not keeping pace with the world's increasing wheat crops, and that to maintain an adequate supply of sisal hemp, fresh areas will have to be planted, preferably, in these days of high transportation charges, as near as possible to the point of greatest consumption, namely, New York and Canada. Consequently, the International Harvester Company has already established a sisal plantation and factory at Cardenas, Cuba, and other developments are foreshadowed. Owing to its proximity to the largest sisal hemp markets in the world, and to the comparative absence of labour troubles, Jamaica would appear to be particularly well situated for the development of the industry, and there is no reason why sisal hemp should not be produced in the island on a large scale at a price which would permit it to compete successfully with other and more distant producing fields, such as Java and Kenya. Mr. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture, in his Report for the year ended March 31st, 1920, called attention to the widespread fallacy that sisal would only grow and produce good fibre under conditions of aridity and poor soil, pointing out that the planters of East Africa have found that the biggest crops and most profitable cultivation are in areas of good rainfall and in fertile soils. He regarded a stretch of twenty miles of coastal limestone in Eastern Portland as an ideal site for a sisal factory. One of the advantages of this form of cultivation is that two or even three light cuttings of the leaves can be taken in one year, and as there is no special reaping period, the decorticating factory can be run continuously, and consequently with greater efficiency; whilst if for any reason it has to suspend operations for a time owing to breakdown or other causes, cultivation within certain wide limits does not deteriorate. It is of interest to learn that the Jamaica Cordage Company, Ltd., have erected a factory at May Pen, which is in the centre of one of the most important sisal producing parts of the island, and that it proposes to convert into rope and binder twine, on the spot, the raw fibre already being cultivated by planters in the vicinity. It will be recalled that "Agronomist" in a recent issue pointed out that Mr. P. W. MURRAY, the Superintendent of Field Experiments in the island, shows that the yield of fibre per acre was 938 lbs. and 1,967 lbs. for the last two years respectively, worth at present £45 in New York. It is stated that four crops can be obtained before replanting, giving 4,000 lbs. of fibre per acre. A sisal-hemp nursery has been established at Montpelier, of a capacity of 50,000 plants, for the development of the industry. Hitherto, as far as the British West Indies are concerned, the sisal hemp industry has been confined to the out-islands of the Bahamas group, which produced 6,341,363 lbs. of hemp, valued at £85,131, last year. Now Jamaica has entered the field, and there seems no reason why other colonies in the Caribbean should not follow her lead in the matter.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

New Members Elected.

At a meeting of the Executive on July 28th, thirteen candidates, whose names are given below, were admitted to membership of The West India Committee, bringing the number elected this year to 288.

Names	Proposers and Seconders
Mr. J. N. Fox (British Guiana)	Dr. W. Hewley Wharton, M.R.C.S. Mr. W. A. Boyd,
Mr. J. Arnold Mende (London)	Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. H. K. F. Smith,
Mr. J. A. Scharfe (Canada)	Mr. Aubrey Evelyn Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. W. A. Slack, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.) (Nevis)	The Hon. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O. Mr. Aubrey Evelyn.
Mr. T. Albert Marryshow (Grenada)	Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. H. F. Previte.
Mr. T. G. Westall (St. Lucia)	Mr. G. O. M. O'Reilly, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall
Mrs. J. J. Camacho (Antigua)	Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Mrs. Rapsay (Trinidad)	Mr. H. F. Previte, Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. E. R. L. Henderson (Dominica)	Mr. F. Woodward, Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
The Grenada Chamber of Commerce (Grenada)	Mr. John Barclay, Mr. C. V. C. Horne.
Mr. F. W. Hopkinson (British Guiana)	Mr. J. B. Cassels, M.B.E. Mr. A. P. G. Austin
Mr. C. W. J. Imbert (London)	Mr. G. O. M. O'Reilly, Mr. Arthur Balderamos.
Mr. J. A. Davis (Trinidad)	Mr. Edgar Tripp, Mr. M. P. Maillard.

The Endowment Fund.

The Executive of the West India Committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following additional contributions towards the Endowment Fund.

THIRTY-FOURTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged...	£23,100 12 8
G. A. L. Santleben, Esq. ...	5 5 0
F. D. T. Alexander, Esq. ...	1 1 0
G. A. Bentall, Esq. ...	1 1 0
Major H. Hemming, A.F.C. ...	1 1 0
W. K. A. J. C. Hunter, Esq. (2nd Donation) ...	1 1 0
Mrs. M. E. Liddell ...	1 1 0
J. T. Valladares, Esq. ...	1 1 0
"Well-Wisher" ...	1 1 0
J. A. Guellnicht, Esq. ...	1 0 10
J. A. Madgwick, Esq. ...	1 0 10
S. V. Meggs, Esq. ...	1 0 10
Haddon F. Shand, Esq. ...	1 0 10
G. V. Hepburn, Esq. (2nd Dona- tion) ...	19 0
R Parkinson Goffe, Esq. (2nd Donation) ...	10 6

Total received to date ... £23,118 17 6

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"DARG hab four foot, but him can't walk four different ways."

MR. GODFREY LEACH has been admitted to partnership in the firm of Messrs. C. M. & C. Woodhouse, of 30, Mincing Lane.

MR. R. W. SMITH, a Jamaican, who was a pupil of the late M. Casserole, and Chef Rotisseur at the House of Commons, returned to the island of his birth in the s.s. *Pacure*.

MESSRS. THOS. & JAS. HARRISON announce that their passenger steamer *Intaba* will leave for Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara on September 9th. Her passenger list is already full.

A PROOF-READER did Mr. Marconi's engineer an injustice in last issue. The whole point of the new discovery is that it enabled messages to be received continuously without interruption by atmospherics.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR MORGAN SINGER, who was in temporary command of the North American and West Indies Station for a year from February, 1919, has been appointed Admiral Commanding the Reserves.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. C. L. Seton-Browne, Leicestershire Regt., surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Browne, of "Dunfermline," Grenada, and Marjorie, elder daughter of Colonel R. Heard, I.M.S.

MAJOR C. WOOD HILL, D.S.O., formerly of the West India Regiment, who commanded the 1st British West Indies Regiment during the war, has been posted to the East Yorkshire Regiment, now at Mullingar, Ireland.

WE greatly regret to learn that Lieutenant-Commander F. C. Bottomley, R.N., recently Flag Lieutenant-Commander to Rear Admiral Sir Allan Everett, died in London on July 18th, from blood poisoning following a slight operation.

THE Pennsylvania Hotel of New York, by way of endeavouring to provide for the hiatus in the life of many caused by the prohibition of alcohol, has initiated the custom of serving each guest gratuitously with a small cup of black coffee before breakfast as an ersatz cocktail. Other railway hotels have followed the example.

THE Canadian Trade Commissioner in London thinks that a market could be developed in England for maple sugar sand (*sic*), and speaks of this article as a by-product of the maple sugar industry. He also mentions that Germany imported large quantities of it before the war! Can this be the friend of the early Victorian grocer in another guise?

CAPTAIN J. T. CARMICHAEL, of s.s. *Guiana*, has been a welcome visitor to London recently. He spent seventeen days in the Metropolis in connection with an arbitration case regarding the sinking of the *Bernudian*, of which he was First Officer during the war. Captain Carmichael returned to New York in the s.s. *Megantic* on Saturday last, and hopes to resume his voyages to the West Indies in the *Guiana* in September.

THE Department of Agriculture of the United States estimates that there are 274,000,000 acres of land in that country upon which the sugar-beet can be successfully grown. In a report to the Senate, the Secretary of Agriculture says, "If we suppose but one-fourth of the sugar-beet area to be actually devoted to crops, the growing of beet on but one acre out of every fifty tilled acres would enable us to stop using foreign sugar."

THE *International Sugar Journal* publishes a translation of an article by Dr. E. O. Lippmann on the presence of methyl alcohol in West India rum, in which details are given of the results of some past examinations of twenty samples of rum from Barbados and other West Indian islands. In three of these samples the presence of methyl alcohol was doubtful; in the rest it was found in quantities varying from 2.5 to 8.5 per cent. In the latter instances there was no need for denaturing.

THE advertisement of The Grange School, Kingston Hill, Surrey, is commended to the notice of parents in the West Indies desirous of sending their children to school in England, one of the members of that establishment being Mr. Hamilton Ross, Barrister-at-Law, a Grenada Estates' Proprietor. Mr. Ross was for some years associated with the conduct of the Anglo-American School in Paris, and was afterwards for several years tutor to Lord Cheylesmore's sons. An old Somerset county cricketer, he was a contemporary of Sammy Woods, Lionel Palairet, H. T. Hewett, and Vernon Hill, who helped to bring Somerset to the rank of a first-class county.

FACTORIES in Cuba which have just concluded their 1920-21 crop with over 500,000 long tons of sugar, show the following manufacturing figures:—

Sucrose in Cane	12.80%
Fibre	10.83%
Commercial Sugar on Cane	11.02%
Sucrose in Juice or Sucrose in Cane	91.80%
Commercial Sugar or Sucrose in Juice	93.77%
Commercial Sugar or Sucrose in Cane	86.02%
Purity of Juice	81.5%
Resultant Molasses per ton	56.0% Imp. Gall
Purity of Resultant Molasses	33.67
Polarisation of Sugar	96.02%

CASSAVA PUDDING.—Break up 6 large rounds of cassava in 2 pints of milk and a little spice. Boil it, and when dissolved add 9 well-beaten eggs, a wine-glass of brandy, a little isinglass, ½ lb. fresh butter and sugar to taste. Stir in a few stoned and cut-up raisins with a little citron, and bake in a pie dish.—MISS SKINNER.

TROPICAL POWER ALCOHOL.

Hints as to Production.

BY F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

Whatever be the form of the ultimate power product of which alcohol is the base, there are several points about the method of producing the initial alcohol which should be borne in mind in providing for and in carrying out its manufacture. It has, in the first instance, to be remembered that what is wanted is not a potable spirit, in which flavour and especial stimulating properties are required, but a plain spirit of a high strength and purity, of which a maximum yield is to be obtained.

To avoid, therefore, the production of unnecessary bodies formed at the expense of the alcohol, and calculated to prejudice its quality for the purpose for which the spirit is intended, the fermentation should be hastened as much as possible, and the yeast cells placed in the most favourable position at the outset for growth. Whatever, therefore, be the source from which the sugar to be fermented comes, the wash should possess at the outset an acidity of not less than 0.15 per cent. or more than 0.2 per cent., calculated as sulphuric acid. With sugar, the result of the hydrolysis of starchy or fibrous bodies, this acidity would be provided for by the hydrolysis process, any excess being neutralised. With molasses from cane sugar it can be obtained by the addition of sulphuric acid to the wash when set up.

The object of the acid reaction is to prevent putrefactive bacteria, which abound in the tropics, from attacking the yeast cells before the latter have obtained sufficient strength of growth to cope with them; and the degree of acidity is limited, so that there may be no interference with the growth of the ordinary yeast, which does not thrive well in strongly acid media.

The quicker the fermentation, the fewer the production of bodies at the expense of the alcohol, and the lesser the formation of acidity. Should, therefore, the wash take longer than 72 hours to ferment, sulphate of ammonia or some other ammoniacal body should be added in the proportion of 10 lbs. per 1,000 gallons of wash. This will have the effect of bringing the duration of the fermentation well within the above limits. To avoid acetous fermentation, also, the wash should be removed to the Still slightly before it has become "dead."

The gravity at which the wash is set up is another important factor in economic alcohol production. With molasses it is found that a specific gravity of 1.060 prior to the addition of ammonium sulphate, and sulphuric acid gives a most economical result. With other products the most favourable initial gravity will depend upon the proportion of "sweets" present to the total solids. The reason why there is an economic limit to the gravity at which wash should be set up is that the formation of alcohol above a certain proportion has the effect of inhibiting the yeast growth. The sugar strength of wash should not, therefore, be greater than would give a yield of 11 per cent. of proof spirit, say 6.6 per cent. of 66 O.P. This would be obtained in practice under favourable conditions by a sugar

content, expressed as glucose, of 126 lbs. in 100 gallons of wash.

There is nothing that the enemies of the yeast plant like so much as darkness and stale air. With the view, therefore, of securing the most favourable outside conditions for fermentation, the wash loft should be exposed as much as possible to light and air. A shed with open sides, in which the wash vats rest on a platform raised some six feet or more from the ground, forms an ideal wash loft, free access of light and air, with protection from rain, being thus obtained. The vats also should be of the maximum capacity that the power of the still permits. Their diameter also should exceed their height, so that there may be free evolution of the carbonic acid, and as much coming to the surface as possible on the part of the yeast cells in the course of what should be active "boiling." To further keep away hostile forces, the vats, after the removal of the charge to the still, should be thoroughly washed out with water, and the entire wash loft, including floors, pumps, pipes, gutters, and cisterns, should be periodically scoured out with lime water, followed by water acidulated with sulphuric acid, so that no alkalinity may remain.

An extremely important factor in the well-doing of a distillery is the quality of the water used. A stagnant source should be avoided, and it is essential that it should be free from sewage contamination, the drainage of manured fields, and the waste products of a sugar factory. A "hard" water, also, is undesirable. As a plain spirit is aimed at, "dunder" should not be used in the setting up of wash.

The nature of the still also looms largely in the production of power alcohol, as a continuous strength of over 66 degrees O.P. requires some "doing." In addition to the question of strength, a still is wanted that will free the spirit from impurities produced in fermentation, and also turn out the spirit at the lowest possible cost of fuel. Water is not required in the cylinders of an internal combustion engine, even if a lower strength than the above were permitted by other essential factors. The idea of the use of a still giving a lower strength spirit than the above should not, therefore, be entertained. There is no difficulty, however, in obtaining a still to satisfy the above requirements.

The question of the employment of yeast is also one which requires consideration. Where the sugarcane is growing, there is an abundance of yeast cells on the look-out for sugar in the cane products, and air-borne. The manufacture and addition of yeast is not, therefore, essential with molasses fermented on the spot. But in the case of a central distillery using molasses, it would be better, in order to secure that these are free from yeast enemies acquired in the considerable time that would probably elapse between the molasses leaving the factory and reaching the distillery, to steam them thoroughly before storage. In this case a suitable yeast culture would have to be maintained at the distillery. With the fermentation of sugars chemically prepared from other sources, it would certainly be necessary.

No provision at present exists for the shipping of

alcohol for power purposes. If the alcohol is destined for further treatment in the country of destination, the shipment will have to be more or less in bulk. The ordinary wooden puncheon is out of the question, as not only is it costly, but it would also entail serious loss from evaporation, not only in bulk, but also in strength. If metal packages are used, they would have to be of a maximum size compatible with convenient handling, and constructed with the view of being adapted for further use in the country of destination. The metal of which they are made, also, would have to be one which would not be attacked by impurities in the alcohol, such as aldehyde, which is especially corrosive on account of its ready conversion into acetic acid. Tank steamers would be ideal means of conveyance, especially if the tank room could be used for other purposes on the voyage out.

If the alcohol is prepared in the country of manufacture for its future purpose, there is no doubt that the small package is the one for the purpose. "Tins" holding two or three gallons, so constructed that a pair of them would fit into a wooden case, after the manner of kerosine tins, would be very suitable. The experience of Natalite ought to be very useful in this respect.

There is one point in connection with the working of a central molasses distillery to which attention should be given in the drawing up of the contracts, and that is as regards the condition of the molasses in respect to lime. Heavy liming of molasses in the manufacture of sugar is fatal to good fermentation, and the dealing with molasses so treated might seriously prejudice the financial position of the distillery. A clause limiting the proportion of lime in the molasses should, therefore, be part of the contract.

CHOCOLATE PRICES.

50 per cent. Cut in America.

The New York correspondent of *The Times*, in a message dated August 1st, states that after admitting that its profits for several years had reached an average of 300 per cent., a company which owns a chain of shops in New York known as Miller's Candy Stores, has announced reductions of nearly 50 per cent. in its prices for chocolates and other sweetmeats.

Mr. Benjamin Miller, president of the company, states that this step has been taken as a contribution to the process of getting back to normal conditions. He considers that no justification exists for the maintenance by confectioners of war-time prices, and adds that the reports of travellers indicate that the public is refusing to pay them. By making this reduction, Mr. Miller says, and cutting prices to a reasonable level, there will still be a business profit, and work will be given to people who badly need it.

The prices of chocolate are still much too high in the United Kingdom, though they have been falling recently. If the example of Miller's Candy Stores is followed generally, there should be a rapid increase in the consumption of chocolate, and consequently in the demand for cacao.

RUM FOR THE GOLD COAST.

Regulations Affecting Importation.

The regulations governing the importation of spirits into the Gold Coast have now been published. Under these, the importation of imitation rum, which is defined as a spirit distilled from material other than a product of the sugar-cane, is definitely prohibited. Rum will only be admitted for consumption in the Colony after August 1st next in glass or stone hottles, packed in cases of twelve bottles of not less size than that known as reputed quarts (twelve to measure not less than 1.78 liquid gallons), and when accompanied by certificates of age, to show that it has been stored in wood in bond for a period of three years.

The age of the spirit must be the age of the most immature spirit in the blend, if the spirit is blended. In the case of rum in cask being bottled in a country other than the country of production, and exported therefrom to the Colony, the interval between distillation and importation into the country of export may be regarded as a period in warehouse for the purpose of fixing the age. For example, if five casks of rum distilled in Jamaica in January, 1918, were imported in cask therefrom into the United Kingdom in January, 1919, and bottled in bond in the latter country in January, 1921, for exportation to the Gold Coast, the certificate of age particulars would be quite correct if they gave the age as three years in wood.

Certificates of age must be signed by the Imperial or Colonial Customs authority when the spirit is shipped from the United Kingdom or British Possession, or by the proper foreign Customs authority and *visé* by the British Consul at the port of shipment when despatched from a foreign country.

It is noteworthy that all imports of rum must be accompanied by certificates of origin showing that it was produced in a tropical or sub-tropical country in which the sugar-cane is cultivated. This indicates that the definition of rum submitted by The West India Committee to the Royal Commission on Spirits in 1909, and accepted by them, is endorsed by the Gold Coast Government.

The following gives the values of some tropical products imported into Canada for the fiscal years 1919, 1920, and 1921—

	1919 \$	1920 \$	1921 \$
Bananas	3,716,644	4,947,007	5,415,511
Oranges and Grape Fruit	5,063,531	7,199,766	7,114,269
Chicle Gum	1,141,543	1,542,165	265,902
Sugar not above 16 DS	35,381,888	63,343,171	70,556,225
Other	929,107	6,609,161	3,275,861
Cacao	2,178,714	3,553,232	1,717,316
Coffee	1,611,612	4,711,079	3,961,778
Spices	818,620	1,130,920	9,688,785
Logwood and Logwood Extract	2,016,342	1,893,885	1,890,940
Crude Petroleum	14,666,967	15,571,813	22,652,012

MOLASSES IN MAURITIUS.

A Bulletin by Dr. H. A. Tompany, F.I.C., Director of Agriculture, and Mr. C. D. D'Avoine, Assistant Chemist, dealing with the composition and utilisation of exhausted molasses in Mauritius, has been published by the Department of Agriculture of that island.

It is stated that the average quantity of residual molasses produced is approximately 9,020,000 gallons annually. A certain amount of this is converted into alcohol in the three distilleries of the island, and the returns show that for the five years 1914-15 to 1918-19 the quantity of spirit manufactured varied from 230,126 gallons of a strength of 23 deg. Cartier, equivalent to 146,257 gallons of pure alcohol, to 414,393 gallons of 23 deg. Cartier, or 252,780 gallons of pure alcohol. The greater portion of the spirit produced is consumed in the form of rum, some is exported to the Seychelles, while a quantity is denatured for local industrial use. In the alcohol industry, the quantity of molasses used is from 660,000 gallons to 1,100,000 gallons per annum. The remainder of the molasses is either given to stock, burnt in furnaces, or applied to the land as a fertiliser, either by itself or mixed with scums and ashes.

The result of the analysis of eighteen representative samples showed the following mean composition:—

Sucrose	35.1
Reducing Sugars	14.9
Organic Non Sugars	18.3
Ash	10.1
Water	21.6
	100.0

Some interesting information is given in the Bulletin on the subject of the fertilising value of molasses. It states that its employment for this purpose is widespread in the island, and that there is a considerable volume of evidence showing the beneficial effects derived from this practice. The experiments of the Department of Agriculture in 1918-19 showed that dressings of 800 gallons of molasses per acre gave increases in yield amounting to 4.8 tons of canes per acre, while later trials, in which 1,000 gallons per acre were applied, gave increases of 11.85 tons per acre in the case of first ratoons, and of 8.80 tons per acre in the case of first ratoons.

In view of the fact that the increased production of industrial and power alcohol may deprive the cultivation of molasses, experiments were conducted with the use of "vinasse," or lees, for this purpose, as against that of molasses. The results showed that an increase of 2.1 tons per acre was obtained when 20 barrels of lees were applied per acre, 5.2 tons when 20 barrels of molasses were applied per acre, and 10.3 tons when 40 barrels of molasses were applied.

The great difficulty, as the Bulletin remarks, in the employment of lees for this purpose lies in the bulk of liquid to be handled, and treatment with lime, with subsequent subsidence, is recommended

as one way of getting over the difficulty. The Bulletin makes no mention of the danger of applying fresh acid lees to the cultivation, a danger which the lime process would get over. The old "lees pond" of British Guiana overcame the difficulty to which the Bulletin refers.

WEST INDIAN FREIGHT RATES.

The following correspondence has passed between The West India Committee and The Association of West India Trans-Atlantic Steamship Lines, on the subject of freight rates:—

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C.3,
July 12th, 1921.

The Secretary,

The Association of West India Trans-Atlantic
Steamship Lines, 113, Queen Victoria Street,
E.C.4

DEAR SIR, I am directed by my Committee to inform you that they are continuing to receive from West Indian merchants, shippers and importers, many complaints regarding West Indian freight rates, which they claim to be higher than those prevailing in respect of other parts of the Empire.

Following a discussion regarding these complaints at a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, June 30th, I was instructed again to urge that the West Indian freight rates generally might be further reduced.

In this connection it is unnecessary for us to remind you that the British West Indian Colonies are, at the present moment, passing through a very critical period owing to the heavy decline in the market quotations for their produce of every kind.

Special reference was made to the freights on sugar, rum, cocoa, coffee, cotton and molascuit. With regard to sugar, though the rates have recently been reduced, it is claimed that the reduction is altogether insufficient, the rate from Jamaica, now 75s. plus 10 per cent, being regarded as a higher charge than the industry in its present condition can bear.

With regard to rum, it was stated by one member that the shipping companies had suggested that no complaints had been made as to the rate being too high. We would point out, however, that at a conference held at this office on January 24th, at which representatives of the two principal West Indian Shipping Companies were present, special reference was made to the rate on rum which was considered much too high, in view especially of the difficulty which was being experienced in disposing of this product.

Coming now to cocoa, it has been pointed out that this product is being charged £6 10s. per ton from Jamaica as compared with £5 10s. for coffee, pimento and ginger, and our correspondent states that there does not seem any reason why cocoa should be thus penalised. He also calls attention to the rate on pimento, which is 110s. per ton plus 10 per cent, as against 50s. without primage before the war, and complains that freights generally would appear on the average to be about 150 per cent. over what they were before the war.

With regard to molascuit, we are informed that Cuban molasses were being offered at the Royal Agricultural Show at Derby at £6 10s. per ton, and it is

stated that the freight on this product from Cuba is 35s. per ton only. It has been represented to us that if the market for molascuit is to be developed, that commodity should not be charged a higher rate than 45s. per ton.

We are quite aware of the difficulties which the shipping industry has had to face in view especially of the high cost of fuel and labour, but, at the same time, there can be no mistaking the fact that the present high rates are tending to cripple the industries of the West Indies, and we would suggest that it must be manifestly in the interests of the shipping companies to assist in the maintenance and development of the industries and trade of the West Indies, which we suggest they could do by securing a further and general reduction of freight rates.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ALGERNON ASPINALL,
Secretary.

THE ASSOCIATION OF WEST INDIA TRANS-ATLANTIC
STEAM SHIP LINES.
(West India and Pacific Traffic.)

113, Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.4,

July 28th, 1921.

DEAR SIR,—Further to your favours of the 12th and 25th instant,* I am instructed to remark as follows:—

The Lines have given full attention to the remarks contained in your letter of the 12th instant, and whilst they do not controvert that freights generally may be 150 per cent. over what they were before the war, they emphasise on the other hand, the fact that shipping expenses are at present from 200 per cent. to 300 per cent. greater than before the war.

Freight rates have been very much under the attention of the Lines during the last few months and very considerable reductions have been made. Whilst the Lines fully appreciate that market values of many commodities have fallen, every endeavour has been made by them to meet this by reducing rates as far as that could reasonably be done with a view to the economic position of the shipowners. At the moment it is not thought that a useful purpose can be served by a further general reduction in rates, but the Committee may feel assured that the Lines are keeping the matter well in mind.

Yours faithfully,
C. HICKMAN,
Secretary.

*A request for an answer before the date of the Executive Meeting, not published here.

H.M.S. *Calcutta*, which was paid off on June 3rd at Portsmouth after her arrival from the West Indies, was re-commissioned on the 14th, and left again for Bermuda on July 3rd. The officers of the new commission are as follows:—Captain Walter B. Compton, D.S.O., M.V.O.; Lieut.-Commanders Edward W. Kitson, Eric J. Shelley, and Oliver Bevir; Lieutenants Basil C. Brooke and Wilmot P. Bennett; Engineer-Commander Carl B. F. Le W. Rock; Paymaster-Commander Cyril S. Johnson; D.S.O.; Paymaster-Lieutenant John A. Hussey; Sub-Lieutenant Humphrey Bradburne; Gunners Richard J. Hatton and John Neal; Warrant-Shipwright Francis W. Newbery, and Warrant-Engineer John H. Dickson.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The West Indian Commission.

BY LETTIA D. FAIRFIELD, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.

The considerations which led to the dispatch of the Colonial Commissions by the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, the policy which they set out to advocate, and the scope of their activities have often been reported in the columns of the West Indian Press, and are presumably well known to its readers. There has, however, been little opportunity hitherto of making public the findings of the Commissioners and the recommendations which they have felt justified in basing on the results of their work.

The widely divergent conditions prevailing in the Colonies visited by Drs. Wright and Fairfield (Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad, Grenada, Barbados, and Bermuda) make a compressed report extremely difficult to frame. It may be fairly stated, however, that everywhere (except in Bermuda) is venereal disease very common, and nowhere has the provision for treatment or prevention advanced beyond a rudimentary stage. The exact incidence is impossible to ascertain in the absence of notification and precise methods of diagnosis. Estimates of 50 per cent. to 80 per cent. of infections were given by reliable medical officers on estates in Jamaica and Trinidad. In Grenada they have had 3,118 notifications in two years out of a population of some 74,000. In the chief almshouse of Barbados 24 per cent. of the 540 patients were diagnosed as syphilitic. The havoc caused by venereal disease among the contingents of the British West Indies Regiment is notorious.

The Commissioners were often assured by persons of the *laissez-faire* type that venereal diseases are negligible in the tropics. This is true to this extent that certain common and serious sequelæ, such as infantile blindness from gonorrhœa, and the insanity and nerve troubles due to syphilis, are almost unknown in the islands. But it is also true that the skin lesions, e.g. ulcers, are severe and disabling, and a great many of the mild chronic forms of gonorrhœa pass unrecognised, or are attributed to causes more flattering to the vanity of the sufferer. At the best, venereal disease is a sufficiently serious cause of loss of wage-earning capacity and heavy public expenditure to be worth the attention of all good economists.

Public provision for meeting the situation varies from island to island. In Jamaica there is a free clinic in Kingston, but it is far from complete in equipment, and only appeals to a limited class. Treatment is also given by the District medical officers, but the Government scale of payment is (or was) hopelessly inadequate. In Trinidad good work had already been done on a limited scale, and admirable schemes were in hand when the Commissioners left. In Grenada treatment is free and compulsory, but was much hampered by lack of facilities for applying modern methods. Barbados had a good scheme, but the principal hospital does

not yet deal with venereal cases, and the almshouses give no relief in the earlier and curable stages. Our brief visits to the Leeward Islands showed a very plucky effort to deal with the situation in St. Kitts (which is in many respects in advance of the whole West Indies in health measures), but not much else encouraging. In every island the Commissioners found that laboratory facilities, which may justly be considered the keystone of modern medicine, are inadequate, or wanting altogether.

The West Indies' Preventable Diseases.

On the *preventive* side, which primarily means education in the nature of the venereal diseases and the necessity for avoiding the habits which spread them, one found that the campaign had hardly anywhere been started, Jamaica being an honourable exception. But, indeed, there was hardly any trace of the popular enlightenment on public health matters which alone has made recent improvement in the home country possible. The innumerable difficulties arising from an admixture of races were apparent to the Commissioners, but they had ample evidence that the people are eminently teachable, and the difficulties far from insuperable when faced with pluck and determination. Certain of the most dangerous abominations of other countries, e.g. commercialised and tolerated vice, are unknown in the West Indian communities, and the Commissioners had little drastic to advocate. Prevention should rather take the form of a general improvement in education and in the strengthening of all those social elements which go to build up a sound and wholesome family life.

Although travelling on a special mission with a strictly limited object, the Commissioners became increasingly conscious as they proceeded that venereal disease is only one of many important preventable diseases prevalent in the West Indies with which the present medical machinery is unable to cope. Their own observation and the reports of local medical officers showed that malaria, yaws, ankylostomiasis, typhoid, dysentery, pellagra, and a huge infantile mortality are accepted with undue complacency by the powers that be, and the public at large. The handling of an emergency, such as the alastrim epidemic in Jamaica, shows up these weaknesses in a startling light. With rare exceptions, such as the anti-tuberculosis work in Trinidad, one found a striking lack of enthusiasm for preventive medicine and sanitation in the most unexpected quarters. It is not entirely a question of money. Granted that the financial resources of the islands are limited and fluctuating, they do not appear to be making the best use of the resources they have. Nor is it a question of "research," but rather of failure to apply the results of already established medical principles.

The reasons for these shortcomings are obvious to the most superficial observer. No blame whatever can be attached to the personnel of the medical services, who are putting up a gallant fight against heavy odds. Each island independently cannot possibly afford to maintain a modern specialist service in venereal disease or any other department.

It cannot afford salaries which will attract men of experience from Europe or Canada, nor can the doctors themselves afford the heavy expenditure entailed by frequent visits to Europe in order to keep in touch with modern advances. Further, hospitals and laboratories out of touch with similar institutions of their kind inevitably tend to become slack in general efficiency and in administration. In addition to these inevitable handicaps, certain islands (Barbados, for example) are gravely hampered by an obsolete system of local government which makes the handling of health problems on scientific lines well-nigh impossible.

To meet this extraordinarily difficult situation, the Commissioners have brought forward certain suggestions which may be epitomised as follows:—

1. That there should be an expert medical head of the Colonial Medical Service at the Colonial Office.
2. That Colonial Governments should be kept constantly in touch with methods of public health propaganda which have proved invaluable at home. The publications of the Ministry of Health do not appear to reach the Colonies with any regularity. Suitable films, slides and exhibits for illiterate and semi-illiterate populations should be prepared and loaned to the Colonies on demand.
3. The urgent necessity for post-graduate instruction can only be met by some form of co-operation between the Islands. It is for local experts to think out details, but two possible schemes readily suggest themselves: (a) A post-graduate school in Trinidad (preferably affiliated to one of the English Schools of Tropical Medicine) to which medical officers could come for refresher courses, or (b) a staff of post-graduate instructors, appointed by, and responsible to, an inter-island committee, who could circulate between the Colonies, including British Guiana, and regretfully omitting Jamaica owing to transport difficulties. Neither of these schemes would be of much greater benefit than temporary commissions however well endowed or well staffed. The medical difficulties of the West Indies are of a permanent nature and can only be met by a statesman-like scheme established on a permanent basis.

In conclusion, the Commissioners can only reiterate their view of the gravity of the situation. The alternative to co-operation is not mere stagnation, but actual retrogression in vital matters. It cannot be supposed that, apart from mere self-interest, the people of the West Indies will leave any necessary steps untaken to keep abreast of the portions of an Empire to which they are so proud to belong.

At the first annual meeting of the Home-Grown Sugar, Ltd., it was stated that one of the chief difficulties at Kelham was that of housing for special and ordinary labour. It appears that this cannot be provided for out of the £700,000 capital of the concern, and with the view of solving the problem a "Public Utility Society" has been formed under the title of Kelham Cottages, Ltd., which hopes to secure, through the Ministry of Health, a mortgage from the Public Works Loan Board, and the State Housing Subsidy. The factory will be opened formally in October. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum to be paid by the Government was sanctioned by the meeting.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

To be Greater than "Colinderies."

The plans for holding a great British Empire Exhibition in, or rather, near London in 1923, have now assumed definite shape. The Prince of Wales has consented to become President of the General Committee, and Parliament has by special Act voted £100,000 towards the guarantee funds, and Mr. W. F. Wintour, C.B., C.M.G., a past-master of organisation, has been appointed General Manager.

Wembley Park, which can be reached in a quarter of an hour from the centre of London, has been selected and acquired as a site for the Exhibition, which will be the first Inter-Imperial Exhibition of a really comprehensive character since the famous "Colinderies" of 1886. During the interval there has been an enormous growth in the area, population and commerce, the imports from other parts of the Empire into the United Kingdom having risen from £81,884,043 in value in 1886 to £560,731,252 in 1920.

The objects of the Exhibition fall under four main heads. Firstly, it will aim at taking stock of the resources of the Empire and showing how they can be developed—or, in a word, to increase production. Secondly, it will make the people of the Empire better known to one another, with a view to securing interchange of trade; thirdly, it will endeavour to secure co-ordination in matters regarding scientific research by meetings, conferences, etc., and fourthly, it will aim at making the Empire self-supporting.

Wembley Park covers an area of 120 acres and presents a site wherein an Exhibition can, to quote the Prince of Wales, "be organised upon a scale worthy of the causes which it is intended to commemorate." Six miles from the Marble Arch by road, it is served by two lines of railways and excellent roads.

The India Office, Colonial Office, and Board of Trade have given recognition to the Exhibition by appointing representatives on the Executive Council of the Exhibition, and the Empire Prime Ministers gave their blessing to the scheme at a luncheon given in their honour at Claridge's on July 6th, over which Sir Robert Horne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, presided. On that occasion both Mr. W. M. Hughes, of Australia, and Mr. Massey, of New Zealand, laid great stress on the need for propaganda, and pledged themselves to support the

Exhibition to the utmost of their power. Mr. Massey, in a particularly graceful speech, declared that the Exhibition would do much to bring the people of the Empire together, and would ventilate the need for faster ships, cheaper freights, and cheaper cables, which were of the utmost importance to the commerce of the Empire. In preparing for the Exhibition, he urged that an effort should be made to bring in not only the Dominions, but the Crown Colonies and Protectorates of the Empire.



Layout of the British Empire Exhibition.

Preliminary information regarding the Exhibition has already been sent to the various West Indian Governments, and it is much to be hoped that when formally invited to participate, the various Permanent Exhibition Committees will take up the matter with enthusiasm, and that Commissioners will be appointed, as was the case in 1886.

MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

BY LLEWELLYN JONES, M.I.E.S.

(Continued from page 281, and concluded.)

With the exception of two or three isolated exceptions, multi-tubular boilers have always been in general use. About the only water-tube boiler (a Stirling boiler) now in regular use has given the most excellent results over a prolonged period of some fourteen years, but, notwithstanding its excellent performances, the planters are generally unwilling to forsake the use of the older fashioned fire-tube boilers, which they more fully understand, and which has served them for so many years in the past.

Coal is never used for steam-raising purposes on a Mauritius sugar estate. On those estates where modern arrangements have not yet come fully into force, the bagasse, when insufficient, is supplemented by the burning of cane-trash and wood, but this undesirable and reprehensible practice is not altogether general and is gradually becoming a feature of the past. A few more years of further improvement and re-arrangement of the more backward factories will witness its complete abolition.

The employment of Economisers for the utilisation of the heat of the waste gases on their way from the boilers to the chimney is rapidly increasing, and has become more popular than ever since the introduction of the application of a mechanically induced or forced draught, which has removed all difficulties connected with the very short chimneys necessitated by cyclonic dangers. The employment of economisers of the fullest size recommended by the makers is recognised as the soundest and most profitable practice, and with the aid of an induced draught fan they can now be installed as single economisers of full length, which is a much more efficient arrangement than that of double economisers of half the length. At the same time it has been found necessary to retain the use of the full height of the old chimneys in conjunction with these accessories, in order to convey the products of combustion beyond the height of the highest portions of the factory buildings, otherwise a chimney of insufficient height may, in this respect, create a greater nuisance than that caused by the seccheries of by-gone days.

Upon leaving the cane-mill, the juice is first sulphured and then limed whilst it is cold, and the initial heating of this treated juice, on its way to the clarifiers, receives careful attention as to the manner in which it can be economically heated, and there is no hesitation about leading it in pipes for considerable distances, when necessary, to enable it to be heated, in the first instance, by the waste vapours from the multiple-effects, as well as by multiple-effect heaters attached to the same stations; and where central Torricellian condensers are employed the above means can be supplemented by the application of the additional waste heat of the vapour coming from the vacuum-pans. The higher degrees of heat necessary for the complete clarification of the juice are administered chiefly through the customary agency of heaters worked

by the exhaust steam from the factory engines, and finally by the briefest possible application of direct high-pressure steam at the clarifiers themselves.

With but a few special exceptions, the process of clarification, on the whole, cannot, of late years, be said to have invariably received as much thoughtful attention as might have been expected. No doubt in earlier and quieter days it was maintained, comparatively speaking, at a higher level; but amidst the continual changes and partial disorganisation caused by the rapid extensions of more recent years, it seems to have been thrust somewhat into the background and been more or less neglected and almost unconsciously left behind in the general progression. A fully satisfactory explanation of this anomaly is difficult, more especially in a locality in which chemical supervision is pre-eminent. It is more due to force of circumstances and to the withdrawal of the attention to newer interests than any neglect on the part of those more closely and professionally connected with this section of manufacture, and this deficiency has latterly been receiving more special attention and gradual rectification. Certainly too much care cannot possibly be paid to the correct and effective laying of this foundation-stone of all satisfactory subsequent manufacture, inattention to which is generally the root-cause of much avoidable trouble at the multiple-effect, besides causing various difficulties in other branches in the course of manufacture.

It is not possible in so cursory a sketch to enter at all fully into the details of clarification as practised in Mauritius, but it should be mentioned in passing that various systems are more or less in use on the different estates, and that the operations in this section of the manufacture are by no means rigidly confined to uniform procedure. American, French and West Indian methods have each and all some measure of representation; but it is a fairly sound statement to say that the most reliable British and French authorities on this point, who have had prolonged experience of this Colony, are decidedly of the opinion that, all things considered, it is very doubtful whether it is in any way desirable to attempt radical departures from the older and more generally established French system. Notwithstanding the general acceptance of this opinion, it is noteworthy that the employment of the old standing design of French defecator is being almost everywhere abandoned in favour of plain juice-tanks of correct proportions fitted with high-pressure steam heating-coils. In one of the best of the factories a very complete and well-executed installation on the super-heat system (Deming) has been established; but a sufficient margin of time should be allowed to elapse before a definite verdict in its favour, or otherwise, can be correctly and scientifically recorded.

The sulphuring of the cold juice is effected in various ways. Sometimes by means of the well-known sulphur-box or tower, sometimes by the injection of the sulphur-gas into the juice as it stands in tanks specially arranged for this purpose, and very frequently by the employment of the Quarez apparatus.

The liming of the juice is usually effected in two stages; firstly, when cold, immediately after sulphuring; secondly, when almost fully heated, as a final adjustment, and after its deposition in the clarifiers prior to the administration of the ultimate degrees of heat to which it has necessarily to be subjected. In many cases locally manufactured lime is employed, and this local ingredient is obtained by burning the coral which is found in abundance on the reefs which surround the island. This is, however, considered to be a very doubtful and questionable practice, and the most authoritative opinion, more especially when the best results as to quantity and quality of sugar are concerned, may be said to be in favour of the employment of the more expensive imported lime of the best quality procurable. Hydro-sulphite of soda (blankit) is used in some of the factories.

The concentration of the juice is uniformly effected in vacuo by multiple-effect. French Continental influences have been paramount in this direction for many years. Whilst this system was being reluctantly adopted and regarded with hesitation and suspicion in the British West Indies, the Mauritians practised it with success, and its general acceptance contributed largely towards the accompanying and comparatively early establishment of multiple-crushing and imbibition which prevails throughout the island, thus promoting increased extraction of sucrose from the cane without so excessive an employment of extraneous fuel as must otherwise have been incurred.

Some of the multiple effects have been made in the local foundries, and embody all the most modern features that ensure good results both as to circulation and output for any given size of apparatus, and the vessels of the effects are built of an unusual height in order to prevent mechanical entrainment. So successful has this last-mentioned feature proved in this latter respect that it has been also applied to vacuum pans with correspondingly good results. No further radical changes have taken place with regard to crystallisation, and the ordinary coil and calandria pans are universally employed, special attention being paid to the arrangement of the heating surface, which is kept as low down in the pan as possible. The general manipulation of the pans closely follows the customary methods prevailing in other countries.

Crystallisation in motion is in use in almost every factory, the plain, open, unjacketed Malaxeurs being almost universally preferred; and upon being discharged from these crystallisers the massecuite goes direct to the centrifugals, where both single and double curing is practised. Of recent years a great change has been effected by the substitution of the Weston suspended centrifugal for the old-fashioned under-driven machine of French construction. These machines had obtained such a firm hold in Mauritius that they were, at first, superseded in a very gradual manner, with the result that the Mauritian sugar manufacturers were being left behind the rest of the sugar-world in this section of the factory. This natural delay is now, however, being corrected with all possible despatch.

This brief sketch of the general conditions under which the process of sugar manufacture is conducted in these, externally and internally, unpretentious-looking factories, which nevertheless surprise strangers by the amount of work effected in them, may be fittingly closed by the following categorical statement of the general order and succession of the respective stages of operation which is most generally adopted:—

Cane-crushing.—By means of three to four separate three-roller mills in the same train, preceded in about 24 cases by a crusher. With three mills (30 in. by 60 in.) and a crusher (eleven rolls in all) about 22 tons of canes will be crushed per hour.

With four mills (34 in. by 78 in.) and a crusher (fourteen rolls in all) about 52 tons of canes will be crushed per hour.

These quantities have, of course, been exceeded; and the smaller mills (30 in. by 60 in.) have been worked over considerable periods up to 26 tons of canes per hour, for three mills and a crusher; and up to 36 tons of canes per hour for four mills and a crusher. Likewise, four mills (34 in. by 78 in.) and a crusher have worked up to fully 62 tons of canes per hour. Nevertheless, for the continuous attainment of the best possible results over long periods of time and when dealing with many varieties of canes, it is best to rely chiefly upon the smaller figures.

Cold Sulphuring of the Mill Juices.

Sulphured Juice run into Measuring-tanks and Limed Cold.

Limed Juice passed through a succession of heaters and heated up to a temperature ranging from 170° Fahr. to 200° Fahr. Where practicable, the higher temperature is secured.

Final Clarification in ordinary tank-clarifiers. It may here be noted that the treatment of the juice previous to its arrival at these clarifiers is in accordance with sound scientific conclusions referring to the avoidance of inversion and darkening of the juice.

Cleaning Pans or Eliminators, if required.

Multiple-effect Evaporation, concentrating up to 30° Beaumé.

Vacuum Pans.

Crystallisation in Motion.

Centrifugals.—Single or Double Curing.

Some approximate idea of the manufacturing and commercial results following upon the treatment of the raw material, as above, will be gathered from the following figures, which are neither the best nor the worst that might be quoted:—

Sucrose in Cane	=	13.79	=	100.00
Sucrose in Bagasse	=	0.99	=	7.20
Sucrose in Juice	=	12.80	=	92.80
Sucrose obtained in Sugars	=	11.17	=	81.00
Sucrose in Molasses, and lost in manufacture	=	1.63	=	11.80
				12.80

Sucrose in Cane	=	14.61	=	100.00
Sucrose in Bagasse	=	1.09	=	7.50
Sucrose in Juice	=	13.52	=	92.50
Sucrose available in Sugars	=	11.83	=	80.90
Sucrose in Molasses, and lost in manufacture	=	1.69	=	11.60
				12.50

Extraction of Commercial Sugars :—

Per Cent. on Cane	=	12.17%
Do. on Sucrose in Juice	=	90.00%
Do. on Sucrose in Cane	=	83.00%
Sucrose per cent. on Cane	=	11.17%

As a comparison of general interest the following figures concerning the Continental Beet Sugar Industry may be quoted in comparison with the various figures given above and in the course of the article :—

	Tons Roots per acre	Sugar % of Roots.	Tons Sugar per acre
Germany	11.808	15.49	1.83
France	11.272	12.84	1.44
Belgium	13.140	13.97	1.69
Denmark	11.030	13.13	1.44

DEMERARA RICE CONTROL.

At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee on July 28th, the following letter was read from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce thanking the Committee for the representations they had made to the Colonial Office at the Chamber's request regarding the continuance of rice control in British Guiana :—

June 13th, 1921.

DEAR SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated April 31st and the 10th ultimo, the former accompanying copies of the correspondence which passed between your Committee and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the latter confirming the receipt of the Memorial of this Chamber to the Secretary of State on the subject of the Rice Industry in British Guiana with the covering letter to the Colonial Secretary.

I am instructed to tender to you, and to request you to convey to your Chairman and Committee the grateful thanks of this Chamber for the very kind and prompt attention which the matter has received at your hands, which no doubt involved a considerable amount of valuable time and possibly inconvenience.

Up to the present so far as is known, no reply has yet been received from the Colonial Office concerning the matter, but the Chamber will not fail to duly inform you of such immediately after receipt of same.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) T. E. GUY,
Secretary.

The Secretary,
The West India Committee

It is understood that the Rice Industry will be decontrolled almost immediately.

the Railway Department, which is used for handling railway supplies, such as coal and machinery, and the public can obtain hire of this crane when not in use, but owing to its situation and to its importance in connection with the shipping of sugar it can seldom be applied to other uses during the sugar crop season.

"There are apparently other cranes in Port of Spain, but none except those mentioned above are available for loading into railway trucks."

THE WHARVES OF PORT OF SPAIN

The West India Committee have received the following letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies relative to wharf accommodation at Port of Spain, and the congestion on the Trinidad Government Railways, in reply to theirs of January 7th, which was published in the CIRCULAR of the 20th of the same month :—

Downing Street,

12th April, 1921.

Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Department of the 20th of January,* I am directed to inform you that the Secretary of State has approved of the proposals made by the Governor of Trinidad for increased customs and wharfage accommodation at Port of Spain, and has authorised their being put in hand as soon as possible subject to the reference to consulting engineers of the questions of the site and method of construction of the new wharfage.

2. The Governor has pointed out with reference to paragraph 3 of your letter of 7th January that, owing to war conditions, the railway has suffered seriously from a shortage of locomotives and rolling stock. He adds, however, that of 210 ten-ton goods wagons which have long been on order, 110 have recently arrived in the Colony. These are being erected and placed upon the line as rapidly as possible.

3. The Governor also states that the question of increased crane power is also being dealt with, and that, as a temporary measure, a six-ton movable steam crane belonging to the Public Works Department has been handed over to the Railway Department temporarily for use on the wharves. It is understood that the following are the cranes at present in use :—

Steamer Sheds.—One of one ton lifting capacity on the landing stage.

No. 1 Jetty.—One of three tons lifting capacity.

No. 2 Jetty.—One of three tons lifting capacity.

St. Vincent Wharf.—One of ten and one of five tons lifting capacity.

Queen's Wharf.—One of five tons lifting capacity.

Railway Sugar Shed.—Steam Crane of five tons lifting capacity.

Reclaimed Lands.—Steam Crane of about seven tons lifting capacity, now being repaired by the Railway for use on the St. Vincent Wharf.

I am, etc.,

G. GRINDLE

The Secretary,

The West India Committee

With regard to the statements in the above letters as to crane facilities at Port of Spain, The West India Committee informant writes :—

"With regard to the crane, I have information from Trinidad to the effect that there is only one crane on the wharves by which goods can be loaded into railway trucks. It is situated near St. Vincent Wharf, and is used for loading and discharging cargo from lighters.

"There is, however, another crane belonging to
(Concluded at the foot of preceding column.)

*Not published. In this letter it was stated that the Committee's representations would be referred to the Governor of the Colony.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.
(Continued from page 308.)

Trinidad's elusive monkeys.

From outside the Bocas the appearance of Trinidad was so wild and mysterious that we almost imagined that we could hear the "wilderness-like yell" of the thousands of red monkeys which, according to Joseph's admirable little "History of Trinidad," generally "horripiles the ear of the voyager" on approaching its shores. This was, however, only fancy, and we were not actually greeted by any such manifestations of welcome. Inside, the scenery became less severe as evidences of civilisation manifested themselves in the shape of the pretty little villas tucked away in the bays of Huevos, Monos, and Gasparée. Port of Spain lies in the angle formed by the north-west promontory of the island, and consequently we turned east after entering the Gulf, and coasted along within a few miles from the shore.

Signs of cultivation now began to appear, extending from small patches of coconuts to considerable areas under cacao in the broad and rich Diego Martin and Tucker Valleys. High up on the side of one of the lofty mountains, looking seaward, was the grim old Fort George, already referred to, and as we picked up this historic landmark of Nelson's day with our glasses, we could see, fluttering from its flagstaff, patches of bunting, with cabalistic signal balls and cones alongside, to tell the merchants of the capital that a mail steamer had entered the Bocas; for the old Fort has for many years been used as a signal station. In these days of wireless it is of less account than it was a century ago, when the merchants no doubt eagerly scanned it to learn the fate of the vessels consigned to their care, and one could imagine the consternation which must have prevailed when such hoists were discerned as 1 . 45 . 48 . 106, signifying, as we are told by the old Trinidad almanacs, "Packet has made signal of distress; rudder damaged; blows hard outside," or when an owner learnt by 131 and 132 that his ship had entered, but had drifted out again!

It was this fort that ruined Mr. George Dickson, one of the wealthiest merchants of Trinidad. That much maligned individual was taxed with having charged for articles which he had failed to deliver, and was tried by court-martial and thrown into prison. He escaped, and was imprisoned again. One trial then followed another, and the persecuted merchant eventually proceeded to England and laid his case before the King in Council, whereupon the proceedings in the Colonial Courts were quashed, but not before he had lost a fortune of £80,000, which was never restored to him.

In Chaguaramas Bay, behind Gasparée, we could see the Government Floating Dock, which, if not a very paying concern, has at any rate added to the standing and value of the port. To the south-west was another small island, that of Cronstadt, now used as a place of recreation for the men of the Trinidad Constabulary, who must be envied by

their less fortunate fellow-citizens for being able to enjoy their *villegiatura* in such an attractive spot. To westward again were still more islands, the picturesque group known to the Spaniards as Los Cotorros, or the "little parrots," and to us as the Five Islands: Caledonia (neither stern nor wild), Craig, Lenegan, Nelson, and Picton, the last being so named after Thomas Picton, Abercromby's Aide-de-Camp in 1797, and afterwards Governor of Trinidad, who fell at Waterloo before judgment was finally passed on his action in ordering (while Governor of Trinidad) a recalcitrant witness, Luisa Calderon, to be tortured according to Spanish law. "*Appliquez la Question à Luisa Calderon*" was all he wrote, and the young woman was accordingly taken out and duly tortured, one of her wrists being tied up to a pulley on the ceiling, while the toe of one foot was placed on a spike of wood. This episode nearly broke Picton. For years the rights and wrongs of the matter—to be known ever after as the "Picton Case"—were debated in Parliament and wherever lawyers were gathered together. Waterloo ended the worries and the distinguished career of this brave soldier, whose memory is still kept green in Trinidad by an oil-painting in the Town Hall and an estate in the Naparimas which bears his name.

The Five Islands, which recall vividly those on the Italian Lakes, are now mostly used by Government institutions, such as the convict station, the quarantine station, and the immigration depot, where the East Indian immigrants used to be first located immediately after their arrival from Calcutta prior to 1917, when the Indian Government forbade any more to embark.

The mountains now began to recede, and the noble plain on which Port of Spain stands was disclosed at their base. This was the site chosen by the simple Indians for their principal town, which they called by the high-sounding name of Conquerabia. The Spaniards, regarding the position as being too vulnerable, established their capital in 1577 seven miles away, at St. Joseph, which they named after their Governor, Don Josef de Oruña. There they hoped to be free from the unwelcome attentions of freebooters and pirates; but in 1595 the town was razed to the ground by Sir Walter Raleigh, and just over a hundred years later it was plundered by the notorious Blackbeard. It was not, however, until 1783 that the seat of Government, with the Illustrious Board of the Cabildo, the Regidores, and other Spanish officials, was transferred to Puerto de los Españoles.

Port of Spain has no enclosed harbour, and owing to the shallowness of the water, steamers of any size have to anchor several miles out. Consequently passengers have to wait for tenders to take them ashore. This is not a little trying to the temper when the thermometer is in the eighties, for if you get on board the launch directly she comes alongside, you are almost roasted to death while waiting for her to start, and if you remain in the steamer you have to be on the *qui vive* all the time lest the launch should leave without you. In either case you become a nuisance to yourself and to your fellow-passengers.

The question of the improvement of the port and the provision of modern harbour facilities had been constantly under consideration; but so far there was nothing to show for it. Many years ago there had been a proposal on foot to make a deep-water harbour at Chaguaramas Bay, to be connected with Port of Spain by a railway, and in 1917 the Governor had put forward a scheme for the construction of deep-water quays at Port of Spain; but this did not meet with the approval of the mercantile community, whose members contended that cargo could be more economically and expeditiously handled by lighters. The pros and cons of deep-water quays were discussed by the West Indian Shipping Committee appointed by Lord Milner in 1919, and that body, in their report, favoured the Governor's scheme, provided that it were started at a time when it could be carried out at a reasonable cost, and on the strict understanding that the use of quays were made optional. This rider probably gave the death blow to the scheme, for it was obvious that the harbour could not be profitably maintained if the steamer companies using the port were still to patronise lighters instead of the quays; and it must be remembered that the establishment of the original West India Docks in London was only rendered practicable by Parliament giving them a monopoly for twenty-one years, during which ship-owners were compelled to use the quays. At the end of that period the monopoly was not continued. The lighters made their reappearance, and at the present time 75 per cent. of the work of the Port of London is performed by lighters. The Port of London still flourishes, in spite of this; but there can be no true analogy between such a busy port and a West Indian harbour where there would be insufficient business to go round. The Trinidad mercantile body urged that what was really wanted was the provision of Customs warehouses, and wharfage accommodation, in order to relieve the congestion, which was causing serious inconvenience to the rapidly increasing trade of the colony, and when later in the year (1920) Sir John Chancellor announced the postponement of his deep-water scheme and outlined comprehensive proposals for the improvement of wharfage and warehouse accommodation and crane facilities, the Chamber of Commerce found themselves in full agreement in principle with the scheme put forward, which will include provision of modern electric cranes with long jibs, that should greatly facilitate the handling of the cargo at the port. If ever the scheme for deep water quays is revived, Trinidad might take a leaf out of London's book, and adopt the system in force in the new King George V. Dock of quays running parallel with the dock, or wharf wall, which enables steamers to discharge into lighters lying on either side of them, as well as on to the quay.

At last, after what seemed a never-ending wait, we were all packed securely on board the tender, which, after a preliminary hoot that awakened echoes in the mountains, sheered off, and, picking her way through the shipping—including a silver-grey cruiser, several square-rigged ships discharging their cargoes of timber, a tramp steamer or two,

and numerous sailing lighters—headed for the lighthouse jetty.

Our first view of Port of Spain was obscured by a veil of mist which lay upon the city like a pall. We were told that this was usually the case in the early morning, and that it resulted from the emanations from the noisome Caroni and Laventille Swamps lying to the south-east. It seemed remarkable that this nuisance had been allowed to continue for so many years unabated, for it cannot be conducive to the health of the people to be compelled night after night to inhale the damp fog coming direct from noxious and pestilential mangrove swamps. For the past half-century the question of the reclamation of these swamps has been frequently discussed. Forty years ago negotiations were entered into with the late Mr. Gregor Turnbull in this connection, and the matter was again brought prominently forward in 1913 during the Governorship of Sir George Le Hunte, when a concession for the drainage of the Caroni savannah was granted to Mr. A. H. Cipriani, one of the most capable and successful of Trinidad's younger generation of business men; but the war supervened, and the project was allowed to remain in abeyance until after the cessation of hostilities. It has now been revived, and Mr. Cipriani has undertaken to carry out the work, which will not only render 10,000 acres of land available for profitable production and reduce the distance by road between the capital and San Fernando and the principal oil-fields by no fewer than ten miles, but will also confer an immense advantage on the inhabitants of Port of Spain by ridding their city of what is admittedly a grave menace to the health of the community. The cost of the undertaking has been estimated at £179,000, which would be money thoroughly well spent even if the estimate of £175,000, which the reclaimed lands are expected to produce, were not to be realised.

(To be continued.)

Owing no doubt to the effect of the heat wave a compositor transformed a definite assertion in the last instalment of "The West Indies Revisited" article into a question. For "all are agreed" that the continued existence of the leper asylum site at Cocorite was a grave menace to the health of the Capital, he substituted "are all agreed," thus completely altering the sense, which should, however, be clear from the context.

MR. A. W. KNAPP calls attention to the fact that the photograph of cacao pods reproduced from the Gold Coast pamphlet issued in connection with the recent Tropical Products Exhibition, and appearing in the CIRCULAR of June 23rd, really depicts Trinidad and not Gold Coast cacao, the variety being the *amelouado* form of Forastero. The photograph in question was an old one of Jacobson's, of Port of Spain, which was taken to illustrate Mr. Knapp's book. Seeing that it was reproduced in the Gold Coast pamphlet, the CIRCULAR naturally assumed that it represented the Gold Coast cacao, and it will be encouraging to West Indian producers to know that the Gold Coast had to look to Trinidad for a really characteristic specimen of cacao pods.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

Milk is as nearly a perfect food as it is possible to obtain, inasmuch as it not only contains the proteins, fats, sugar and mineral matter necessary to maintain the tissues and furnish energy and growth, but also one of those bodies which are essential to proper assimilation of food, the vitamins. The energy value of a quart of milk is about equivalent to that of a pound of lean meat or eight eggs.

Now that the banana trade has revived in Jamaica, the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society recommends that the trees be used, not only for the purpose of their fruit, but also as cover crops for cacao in the lowlands, and coffee in the uplands. Coffee, the *Journal* states, is still the standard crop of the upland districts of Jamaica, and can be grown there as profitably as anywhere, provided the trees are given fair play.

The attention of the public is again being called to the use of the plumage of birds for millinery purposes. When it is considered that in a single year 35,000,000 wild birds skins are imported into the United Kingdom, the extent of the upsetting of the balance of Nature by bird destruction thus caused will be realised. Tropical birds are especially sought after in this connection, and their loss means that tropical agriculturists are thus deprived of one of Nature's means of combating insect pests.

The relative merits of St. Vincent and Barbados yams recently formed the subject of an animated discussion in Jamaica at the Mile Gully Branch Agricultural Society. Opinions were forcibly expressed, one of the advocates of the Barbados variety saying that it was "a yam which stays a man and fattens him," which the St. Vincent variety did not. On being put to the vote, 10 votes were recorded for "St. Vincent" and 14 for "Barbados," Great Little England coming out on top as usual.

The highly interesting subject of the food of pigs is dealt with in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* for June 1st. The most efficient diet for a storage of protein in the animals, it is stated, has been found to be corn (maize), supplemented with the proteins from milk in the proportion of one-third of the total proteins in the ration. The development of energy also is apparently a desirable objective in the breeding of American pigs, but a diet of corn alone is not suitable for this purpose, a small amount of proteins from other sources being also necessary.

The disease known as cotton root-rot has been prevalent on the San Antonio Experiment Farm in Western America ever since cotton experiments were begun there in 1906. Attention was not, however, especially given to it until 1912, and in 1916 the disease had become so serious that a series of crop rotation experiments were instituted with the view of combating it. The ravages of the disease have, however, according to the *Journal* of

Agricultural Research, increased, and the conclusion arrived at is that control of cotton root-rot is not to be found in any ordinary system of crop rotation or of tillage methods.

In the sugar cane experiments conducted at the Agricultural Station in Guadeloupe, some big sugar contents were recorded in connection with the seedling canes cut during the crop season 1918-20. In the black soils the juice of B208 contained 19.79 per cent. of sucrose, of B.H. 10 (12), 18.01 per cent., and of D143 17.92 per cent. With the red soils the sweetest juice was given by B.H. 10 (12), and this contained 18.27 per cent. of sucrose, practically the same amount as the juice of this cane planted in the black soils contained. The next highest content was that of the juice of B67, which recorded 18.1 per cent. of sucrose; while the juice of B208 contained 17.67 per cent., and of D143 14.30 per cent.

Coffee we know well, and tea we know better, but our acquaintance with maté, the non-alcoholic stimulating drink of South America, is practically nil. Maté is prepared from the dried leaves and twigs of the *Ilex Paraguayenses*, or Paraguayan holly. As with tea and coffee, its essential principle is caffeine, although it is said to contain also an alkaloid which is peculiarly its own. Wonderful sustaining properties are attributed to it, these being said to permit of prolonged fasting during periods of active exercise. It is possible that in maté another useful item might be added to our list of non-alcoholic stimulants, but the taste for it would have to be acquired, as its flavour is anything but agreeable to the novice.

Among the foremost vegetable oils is that prepared by the Chinese from the wood oil nut. It has the property of rapid drying by oxidation, and is thus a valuable substitute for linseed oil. It is also a preservative and is used instead of paint by Chinese shipwrights, the wood thus treated acquiring a bright lustre; the residue, after extraction of the oil and carbonising, being used to mix with the oil for caulking purposes. The oil is also used for leather dressing, furniture polish, soap and lacquer making. It enters into the composition of the material which the Chinese employ for waterproofing paper umbrellas. Chinese ink is also prepared from the burnt husks after the oil is extracted.

As a preservative for meat sucrose has up to now been the only form of sugar used. Experiments have, however, recently been carried out by Mr. R. Hoagland, who publishes the results in a *Bulletin* of the United States Department of Agriculture (No. 928, 1921, p. 28). The results of the experiments are stated to indicate strongly that corn sugars, as well as refiners' syrups, can be used as substitutes for ordinary sugar in this direction. "Yet," says Mr. Hoagland, "it is highly advisable that meat packing establishments, contemplating the use of one or more of these substitutes, conduct curing tests on a moderate scale before curing large quantities of meat with the sugar substitutes chosen."

OUR LIBRARY.

The "Apple-Tree of Paradise."

The Library of The West India Committee has been enriched by a well-preserved copy of "Histoire Naturelle et Morale des Iles Antilles de l'Amerique," which has been presented to it by Mr. G. MacGregor Frame. This volume, which is embellished with many curious plates and a Carib vocabulary, was published in Paris by Antoine Cellier in 1658. Among its illustrations is one of a banana tree, which is reproduced on this page. Mr.

wards instead of hanging down." Even in 1650 we learn from Cellier that the banana was called the "Apple-tree of Paradise," or "Adam's Fig-tree." He mentions that the fruit, when cut in slices, shows a representation of the Crucifix—a circumstance which made the Spaniards consider it a crime to cut a banana.

THE GRENADA HANDBOOK, DIRECTORY AND ALMANACK FOR THE YEAR 1921. By the Colonial Secretary. London: The Crown Agents for the Colonies. Obtainable at The West India Committee Rooms. Price 7/6. This valuable work of reference, the publication of which was suspended in 1919 and 1920 owing to circumstances arising out of the war, now makes a welcome reappearance. The Handbook, which owes its inception to Mr. Edward Drayton, who not only compiled it in the first instance, but also edited it for twelve years, was first issued in 1895. A special feature of it was the admirable summary of the history of the Colony which it contained, and this feature has, we are glad to notice, been brought up to date by the present compiler, the Colonial Secretary of the Colony, the Hon. Herbert B. Ferguson, who has placed on record an interesting account of the visit of the Prince of Wales to the Colony last year. The statistical information given in the Handbook is remarkably complete, and has evidently been collected with the greatest care; and the tables of cacao crops and prices should be invaluable to all interested in the staple industry of the Colony. As usual the book is embellished by numerous photographs of Grenada, and it has also a folding map of the Island, together with a plan of the harbour of St. George's.



An "Apple-Tree of Paradise."

This quaint picture of a banana tree is reproduced from M. Cellier's "Histoire de les Iles Antilles de l'Amerique," recently presented to The West India Committee's library by Mr. G. M. Frame. Note the representation of the Crucifix in the cut fruit.

Fawcett, author of "The Banana: Its Cultivation, Distribution, and Commercial Uses," recently published under the auspices of The West India Committee, in response to a request for an expression of his views regarding the tree depicted, writes: "The artist does not realise that the banana plant is not a tree, but a gigantic herb, which may be compared in structure to the leek. The trunk consists of a cylinder composed of concentric layers which are the lower portions of the leaf-stalks, the outer layer belonging to the oldest leaf. The cylindrical leaf-stalks protect the younger leaves and the flower-spike in the very centre. The flowers shoot out from the apex of the trunk, the flower-clusters protected by leafy coverings. As soon as the flowers begin to form, and soon turn up-

Señor Carlos M. Trelles, in the *Hispano-American Historical Review*, pays Mr. Frank Cundall a well-deserved compliment. He writes: "A little while after the publication of my 'Apuntes,' there appeared the first genuine bibliography of the Antilles which has so far been published. It was due to the pen of a prolific English author, Mr. Frank Cundall, and it is entitled 'Bibliography of the West Indies (excluding Jamaica).'" Mr. Cundall's Bibliography was published in 1909. It is high time for its amplification, and we should like to see the various West Indian Governments contributing towards the cost of publishing a second edition.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and must not, therefore, be considered as such.

Naval and Military Burial Grounds.

Sir,—During his visit last year to the West Indies, Mr. Aspinall, Secretary of The West India Committee, noticed that very little was being done to preserve and maintain the naval and military cemeteries in the British West Indies. Sir John Butcher, K.C., M.P., then very kindly took up the matter in the House of Commons, with the result that Lord Milner, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, invited the various Governors to send him reports on the subject.

Replies having been now received, Sir John Butcher has very courteously transmitted them to the Secretary of The West India Committee, with permission to publish their contents.

Having now perused the whole of the correspondence submitted to me, I am in a position to assure your readers that the local officials have invariably shown a keen desire to put neglected burial grounds into good order, and to assign sufficient annual grants for their maintenance.

The War Office was formerly the custodian of military cemeteries, but after the garrisons were withdrawn and the barracks and other buildings sold, the responsibility for upkeep devolved in such cases on the local authorities.

In Barbados public interest has also been aroused, and a ladies' club has generously offered to superintend the planting, fencing and laying out of the soldiers' cemetery at Needhams Point, which, in 1914, was so overgrown with scrub as to prevent me from approaching many of the grave-stones.

In St. Vincent and St. Lucia, the scene of much 18th century fighting, the cemeteries are reported to be in good order. In Trinidad, the only one there was in a very bad condition, and the same applied to Tobago. In Georgetown, Demerara (noted for its Botanical Garden) the Director of Science and Agriculture has been responsible for some years past for the plants and trees at Eve Leary, where many officers and men were buried, whose inscriptions I copied verbatim in 1914.

In the Leeward Islands proper care is exercised, and I have recorded all the inscriptions in that government. Taking into consideration the conditions met with in the various islands, I must confess that the churches and churchyards are cleaner and better kept than many in the London area. Due allowance must also be made for tropical vegetation, but that does not damage the stones, for marble slabs of the 17th century may still be seen, with coats of arms as sharply cut as the day they were sent out.

In conclusion, may I suggest that on Empire Day instruction be given to the scholars, bearing on some salient episodes of local history and visits made to historic sites.

H. R. II. the Prince of Wales, at the recent banquet, gracefully acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr. Aspinall's inspiring "West Indian Tales of Old," and perhaps a work on similar lines and couched in simple language might be added to the school curriculum, and so instil a patriotic feeling in the minds of the rising generation.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,
V. L. OLIVER.

July 15t, 1921.

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 and the Civil Service Bonus.

Hon. Donald McDonald, writing on June 8th, states that a message from the Governor was placed before the members of the Legislative Council on May 23rd, inviting them to vote certain sums of money in excess of amounts for which provision had been made in the estimates, including the payment of an additional temporary bonus on officials' salaries for 1921. This bonus had already been objected to by the unofficial members of the Federal Council, in their reply to His Excellency's address to the Federal Legislature when he alluded to the matter. On the consideration of the message most of the unofficial members expressed their disapproval in no uncertain terms, and on a division being taken on a resolution moved and supported by the unofficials that the amount be not voted, the measure was only carried by the Governor's vote. The unofficials objected to the proposal on account of the grave financial outlook for the Colony's revenue, owing to depreciation of values of sugar and cotton, and the failure of the sugar crop on account of drought. A permanent increase of all official salaries and an additional bonus had already been granted.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance, amending the Customs duties so as to give the 33½ Imperial preference agreed upon for the Leeward Islands at the Ottawa Conference, has been passed by the Council.

Mr. Walter Thompson, whose death, on May 26th, is recorded, was for many years Harbour Master of the Island. A son of the late Mr. Robert Thompson, Inspector of Police, Mr. Thompson was widely known and liked by visitor and resident alike, and much sympathy will be felt for his widow and two children.

A draft copy of a Trade and Revenue Ordinance, which provides *inter alia* that for the collection of *ad valorem* duty, the current rate of exchange shall be included in the calculation, was forwarded by the Government for consideration by the Agricultural and Commercial Society, who objected strongly to the clause mentioned above as being absurd, unworkable and unfair. Such a provision would not only involve an additional imposition on goods subject to *ad valorem* duty as compared with goods paying specific duty, but would discriminate unfairly against British and Canadian goods.

The weather continues dry, and the outlook for both present and future crops is gloomy.

During the absence of the Hon. J. F. Foote in England, Mr. A. P. Cowley has been appointed a member of the Legislative Council and Mr. R. S. D. Goodwin of the Executive Council of Antigua, and the Hon. Donald McDonald to act as a member of the Executive Council of the Leeward Islands.

The British Guiana Sugar Industry.

Mr. V. Fitzpatrick, writing under date June 16th, mentions that with the heavy fall in the price of sugar, there is a severe depression in trade all round in the Colony, money is very tight and most of the locally owned sugar estates are finding it extremely difficult to finance themselves. There has been a fairly heavy cut in the wages paid for field labour on sugar estates, but up to now no reduction in the wages of the stevedores, wharf labourers, porters, and carters in Georgetown has yet taken place. This question is

under discussion by the various wharf owners and shipping agents and a reduction of wages in the vicinity of 20 per cent. is anticipated. For this necessary step, it is hoped to secure the support of the local labour Union. This Union has been given a legal status by an Ordinance providing for the regulation and registration of Trade Unions, which received the Governor's assent on June 16th.

In view of the fall in the price of sugar to the vicinity of 3 cents, the Government has been approached with a view to removing the 1 per cent. Colonisation Tax and 1½ per cent. Invoice Tax which was introduced a couple of years ago by the Government as a war measure. The Government, whilst sympathetic to the representations of the Sugar Planters Association, decided that the taxes could not be waived in view of the loss that would be involved to the Colony's revenue.

Mr. J. Hampden King has been appointed a member of the Executive Council.

It has been definitely decided to commence immediately to crop three estates, which means, that within the next three or four years, cultivation of sugar may be entirely abandoned in one of the three provinces. This would be a very serious blow, not only to the sugar industry, but also to the Government and the population as a whole.

Very serious objection is being taken to several sections and clauses of a new Sea Defence Bill by the sugar estate interests and the Director of Sea Defences has been asked to meet the Planters' Council to discuss the matter. The new Ordinance, if passed, will give very arbitrary powers to the Director of Sea Defences and the planters are of the opinion that this must be resisted with all their strength.

At a meeting of the Sugar Planters' Association on May 17th, it was stated by Mr. Strang that the offer of the Alcohol Fuel Corporation to sell to the Association the Demerara rights for the manufacture of "Natalite" for £500 could not be considered until information had been received in the Colony as to the cost of a plant for the manufacture of ether.

British Honduras New Public Works.

Riversdale Estate, 16,000 acres, in the Stann Creek District, is to be sold by the Government, with the object of recovering amounts advanced to the estate out of general revenue during the war. A reserve price of \$150,000 is announced. The property, which has a sea frontage of about three miles, has 1,014 acres under bananas, and approximately 150 under coconuts. About 5,000 acres consist of pine ridge land, believed to carry some 200,000 pine trees, whilst it is estimated that there are 2,000 acres of "Cohune ridge" land suitable for the extension of banana cultivation.

Owing to the general trade depression, it has been found necessary to postpone various works of public utility, including the establishment of an agricultural department. Only harbour improvements will be proceeded with at present.

Barbados' Sugar Industry Bank.

A fortnight's favourable weather, with very few dry days, is recorded by the *Agricultural Reporter* of June 25th. A noticeable improvement has resulted in the appearance of the countryside, the parched fields again becoming fresh and green. The young crop still, however, shows signs of backwardness.

Steps are being taken by the Director of Agriculture in conjunction with the Agricultural Society, to prevent the introduction of a dangerous cane disease known as Gummosis, which is prevalent in Porto

Rico. The course recommended by the Society is to put an embargo on the importation of all plants from that Island.

A contribution of over £152 has been made by the people of Barbados to the Zeebrugge Memorial Fund, in response to an appeal from Lord Emmott, Chairman of the Fund, to the Governor. This sum was collected by Mr. E. G. Sinekler, Manager of the Government Savings Bank, with the assistance of Mr. C. W. Haynes. The Government Savings Bank, which was established in 1852, continues to prosper, in spite of the fact that there are other banks competing with it. The number of depositors has increased from 12,647 on December 31st, 1919 to 15,057 on the same date in 1920, the amount due to depositors at the end of 1920 being \$5,297,453.

The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank has been strengthened by the receipt of £80,000 subscribed in the form of savings bank deposits at 6 per cent., and by a further sum of £80,000 advanced by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. This should solve the problem of financing the next crops.

Mr. Woolward's Farewell to Dominica.

Mr. Frederick Woolward, who recently retired from the position of Manager of the Colonial Bank in Dominica, which he had filled for fourteen years, received a splendid send off when he left the Island for England. He and Mrs. Woolward were entertained at a soirée, and addresses were presented which showed not only the good will, but also the affection in which they were held. Mr. Woolward is the son of that fine old sea captain, the late Robert Woolward, author of "Nigh 60 years at Sea," who is referred to by Lord Fisher in his "Memories" in the following terms—

"I was suddenly recalled to England and left him with deep regret in the West Indies to become Captain of the *Inflexible*. I had the most trying parting from the ship's company of the *Northampton* and not being able to stand the good-bye, I crept unseen into a shore boat and got on board the mail steamer before the crew found out that the Captain had left the ship. And the fine old Captain of the Mail Steamer—Robert Woolward by name—caught the microphone and steamed me round and round my late ship. He was a great character. Every Captain of a merchant ship I meet I seem to think better than the last. (I hope I shan't forget later on to describe Commodore Haddock of the White Star Line, for if ever there was a Nelson of the Merchant Service, he was.) But I return to Woolward. He had been all his life in the same line of steamers, and he showed me some of his correspondence, which was lovely. He was invariably in the right and his Board of Directors were invariably in the wrong. I saw a lovely letter he had written that very day that I went on board, to his Directors. He signed himself in the letter as follows:—

'Gentlemen, I am your obedient, humble servant' (he was neither). 'Robert Woolward—forty years in your employ and never did right yet!'"

Mr. Woolward is succeeded by Mr. A. E. E. Carpenter, son of the late Mr. Edward Carpenter, for many years manager of the Colonial Bank in London.

A New Hotel in Grenada.

Mr. C. V. C. Horne, writing under date July 4th, says that trade is very dull and depressed. The last crop has been under the average and no price if any to speak of. The next crop will be early. There has lately been plenty of rain. Income Tax papers are out and returnable July 15th. Whether or not the Government will receive what they anticipate is very doubtful. With the present condition of affairs here, it is hardly an opportune moment to introduce fresh taxes. What the Government will do to tide over the

big deficit in the revenue it is difficult to say. Several meetings have been held and various schemes proposed.

Mr. H. W. Sharpe, the Assistant Treasurer at Grenville, has come to act as Colonial Treasurer in St. George's consequent on the departure of the Hon. F. W. Laborde to act as Administrator of St. Lucia. Mr. Sharpe's acting appointment is very popular, as also would be its confirmation.

There has been no delivery of English mails in the Island since May 25th.

Ice is a very serious question just now. There is no ice factory and what ice is available comes from Trinidad and is retailed at 2½d. per pound. The Island seems to be going from bad to worse (writes Mr. Horner). In the principal street of the town the only light is a 2 G hurricane lamp tied to a stick!

A new hotel has been opened in the house lately occupied by Miss Davies, called "Cockburn Hotel," the proprietress being Mrs. Jno. Franco and the management being under Mrs. Clarke. It is said to be a great improvement.

The Return of Jamaica's Labourers.

The beginning of June was marked by a rain and thunder storm of 48 hours duration, but beyond the blocking of several roads and a few days' interruption of the telephone and telegraph services, little damage was done, and except in Westmoreland, the rain was very welcome.

The Island's financial condition continues to cause considerable anxiety. The Collector-General's report covering the quarter ended March 31st, 1921, shows that the Island's exports totalled £542,854 as compared with £1,693,526 for the corresponding quarter of 1920, whilst a considerable quantity of the produce exported is still lying unsold at ports of destination. Bananas, which have been the one bright spot in the produce market, have lately slumped, bunches which recently sold from 7s. 6d. to 8s. locally, being now sold for 3s. to 3s. 6d.

The United Fruit Company have this month removed to their new building near Myrtle Bank Hotel in Harbour Street. This handsome reinforced concrete structure materially adds to the appearance of the east end of Kingston.

Jamaican labourers are returning from Cuba as fast as the boats plying between Santiago and Kingston can bring them, according to the report of the Direct West India Cable Co. The majority bring tales of hardship and privation. They are returning empty handed, most of them with only I.O.U.'s to show for several months' work; I.O.U.'s which are apparently worthless. If the position of the sugar industry in Jamaica is bad, it would appear that in Cuba it is worse. The problem of finding employment for these men is likely to become a difficult one for Jamaica in the near future.

Mr. C. A. Gay has taken over the local office of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., in the place of the late Colonel E. G. Orrett. The obituary list includes Mr. R. McConnell, of the firm of J. B. Steven, and Mr. Ernest Lindo, brother of Mr. S. C. Lindo, of Kingston.

The Parochial elections resulted in the return of the old representatives in most cases, and Mr. R. W. Bryant was re-elected Mayor of Kingston.

St. Kitts. Mr. Gaunt's Death.

Great sympathy is felt with Archdeacon Gaunt, following the sad and sudden death of his wife, who was a sister of Mrs. Whyham, of Antigua.

Sugar Embargo raised in Trinidad.

Mr. Edgar Tröpp, writing on July 31st, states that as in the case of British Guiana, it has been found necessary to make a reduction in wages, and at a meeting of the principal planters a reduction of 25 per cent. in the case of ordinary labourers, and of 33 per cent. in that of artisans, was decided upon.

The Acting Governor has revoked the Order whereby the exportation of sugar was prohibited without the Governor's licence, and it is hoped that this will have the effect of facilitating operations in the trade.

Although most of the estates have closed down for the crop, the Usine Ste. Madeleine, and one or two other concerns are still struggling to take as much as possible of the large area of unripe canes. One large factory with a crop of about 7,000 tons has so far not shipped one single pound, and market conditions could not be more unfavourable, looking at the heavy cost of production and subsequent charges.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th inst., the Acting Colonial Secretary moved:—"That a supplemental vote for the payment of an honorarium of £500 each to the Auditor-General and the Receiver-General in respect of services rendered by them in connection with the assessment and collection of the Income Tax for 1920 and 1921, be taken." The motion was strenuously opposed by Mr. A. Wight, hitherto known as the "silent member," supported by Mr. Lazare. In reply, the Attorney-General in one of his most tactful speeches, of which he is a master hand, pointed out that local officers concerned had done work for which the Colony had been prepared to pay an imported officer £1,000 per annum, but had been unable to obtain him. Mr. Warner pointed out that the tax collected in 1918 amounted to £76,000, in 1919 to £64,000, in 1920 to £107,950, and the estimate for this year was £187,000. In Jamaica they had paid £5,000 to collect £175,000, as against the cost to Trinidad of £500 a year plus the cost of staff, to collect £187,000. There can be no doubt that the honorarium was well earned.

That very active and progressive Company, The British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., have now supplemented their plant on this side by two large tug-boats which have come out under their own steam or oil. They were originally intended to be gunboats or minesweepers, and were amongst many others finished at the time the war ended. They are named the *Mercer* and the *Mackay Edgar*, and will be employed in towing the company's barges with material to the extensive works now being carried on by the company in the delta of the Orinoco. The two seaplanes chartered by the company for the survey of their huge concessions in Venezuela having been fitted up here, proceeded to the Orinoco last Friday.

Heavy Rain in Tobago.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, in a letter dated June 30th, records heavy rains almost every day up to the 25th. On the newer portions of public roads there were minor landslips and some trees blown down which obstructed traffic until cleared by the Public Works Department. The forest land cleared in the dry season is now being planted up in cacao, coconuts and timber, with corn and vegetables as minor shade. The peasant proprietors and contractors being thus employed, there is not much doing on the estates and owners are not sorry for this breathing space. There will be ample work for all who want it during this growing season, as the grass keeps well ahead of the entlass these days.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

The Sugar Duties.

In moving a vote of reduction of the Customs Duties on sugar on July 28th, Sir W. Barton pointed out that before the war the tax on sugar in this country was 1s. 10d. per cwt., whereas now it was 25s. 8d., or 14 times as much. Thus the tax had been increased to more than the total price of the sugar before the war. As showing the effect on consumption, he instanced a section of his own constituency, where in 1914 there was a total consumption of 43,933 cwts. the value of which was £46,000, and the amount of taxation £4,030. In 1920, the consumption had fallen to less than half, namely 20,900 cwts., the value over double, £96,401, and the taxation on the half quantity had risen from £4,030 to £26,842. The motion was not carried.

Infantile Mortality, British Guiana.

Replying to Mr. Stewart on July 28th, Mr. Churchill said that the rate of mortality of infants under one year was 223 per 1,000 in 1918 and 185 per 1,000 in 1919. The returns for 1920 had not yet been received, but might be expected shortly. The figures for 1918 had been adversely affected by shortage of food caused by the war. The population had been 278,000 at the census of 1891, 296,000 at the census of 1911, and had been estimated at 306,000 in 1919. Sanitary work in the coast strip was heavily handicapped by natural conditions, as the cost of good drainage was often prohibitive. Improvement in sanitary conditions, which would continue to engage careful attention, depended principally upon the general development of the Colony. There was no restriction as regards the nationality of foreign immigrants other than enemies.

Polish Coppersmiths in Barbados.

Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, K.C.M.G., C.B., asked, on July 20th, whether upwards of 100 to 150 foreigners, said to be of Polish extraction, had recently landed in Barbados, where they were plying the trade of coppersmiths; where these emigrants actually came from; who had sent them to Barbados; how long they proposed to stay there; and whether, in view of the great need of population in British Guiana, he would endeavour to secure similar emigration to that Colony? Mr. Wood (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies) stated in reply that he had no information on this subject, but would make inquiries of the Governor of Barbados. When the Governor's reply had been received, the suggestion made in the last part of the question would be considered. The Government of India proposed, if suitable personnel was available, to send a deputation to British Guiana in the autumn to consider the question of Indian immigration into that Colony.

The Magnificent Province of Guiana.

Mr. Stewart asked, on July 26th, whether the Colony of British Guiana had for long suffered from a condition of stagnation so that little or no development had been made in it; whether it suffered from an obsolete form of government working under an old Dutch charter; and whether any steps could be taken to bring the Colony under a more progressive type of representative government, ensuring representation to all elements of the population, or under some efficient form of Crown Colony administration, whereby capital might possibly be attached to the Colony with

a view to developing its industries and of utilising its hinterland which had many unexploited possibilities. Mr. Churchill stated in reply that the interior of British Guiana was undeveloped, but that development and the introduction of capital were impossible without increased population. A deputation from India would shortly visit the Colony to report on its suitability for Indian settlers, and he proposed to discuss the question of development generally with the Governor, who was now on leave in this country. He could not accept the suggestion that the present form of constitution did not afford equal possibilities of representation to all sections of the population, but before any change in the existing constitution could be made, the pledge given on the capitulation in 1802 would involve reference to the inhabitants of the Colony through their elected representatives in the Legislature.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.

Bendals (Antigua) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

The accounts for the year ended October 31st last show a profit of £8,122, as compared with £5,948 for the same period in the preceding year. The issued capital remains at £22,500, and the debentures £10,000. The Directors, in their report, state that the past season's results were adversely affected by severe drought, which set in during the month of February and continued until after the grinding season was closed. There were manufactured from about 23,926 tons cane purchased by the factory, 2,455 tons sugar, equal to about one ton of sugar from 9,731 tons cane. Had the weather during the spring months remained favourable, the output of sugar at Bendals would probably have reached 3,000 tons. The additional amount set aside for payment to the original cane contractors is £11,940 9s. 2d., equivalent to a supplementary payment of 11 per cent of canes. After deducting the amount of £2,100 for payment, the dividends declared on the Preference and Ordinary shares, there remains £5,722, which with the balance in hand of £6,349, making a total of £12,071, the Directors recommended should be carried forward. Since the close of the financial year, debentures of the value of £3,200 have been redeemed and cancelled, leaving outstanding £6,800. The Directors regret to state that the results of the season of 1920-21 are likely to prove unfavourable. Owing to exceptionally adverse weather conditions, the crop and quality of cane grown have been disappointing. Following upon the world's increased sugar production, accompanied by a smaller consumption than expected, the price of sugar has fallen heavily, and the outlook remains uncertain. The Directors were authorised by the shareholders in August last to carry out negotiations for the sale of the factory, but the transaction was not carried through.

THE Nourse Line announce that the s.s. *Sutley* will load at Calcutta for the West Indies and Cuba in September-October.

A MOVEMENT has been originated in Uganda towards securing the introduction of uniform Civil Service Pensions Legislation throughout the Colonies and Protectorates, and a petition on the subject is being circulated for signature.

AT the Annual Meeting of the West India Association of Liverpool, held on July 27th, Mr. John A. Tinné was elected Chairman, and Mr. A. W. Armour, of Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Deputy Chairman for the ensuing three years.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in s.s. *Montagu*,

July 26th:—

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. W. Bowen | Mr. E. Frachetta | Miss A. G. Moxley |
| Mr. F. Cleaves | Mr. H. Huber | Miss M. I. Freddy |
| Mr. J. de Mier | Miss H. Le (Johan) | Miss E. T. L. Simons |
| Mr. J. de Mier | Master R. Lindo | Mr. F. F. Starkey |
| Restrepo | Miss L. Marchal | Mr. W. Sutton |
| Mr. J. M. de Mier | Miss E. C. Matheson | Mr. W. H. Venn |
| Miss M. de Mier | Mr. K. T. Michelin | Mr. C. E. L. Verley |
| | Mr. C. C. P. Michelin | |

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. *Bayano*, Avonmouth,

July 24th

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. H. V. Alexander | Mr. H. Kedrick | Rev. & Mrs. P. R. Richardson |
| Mr. K. N. Alexander | Masters Keeling (2) | Miss M. Richardson |
| Mr. E. C. Aitken | Miss Fay Keeling | Master D. Richardson |
| Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Arias | Inspector & Mrs. J. C. Knollys | Misses Richardson (2) |
| Miss J. Bovel | Misses Knollys (2) | Mr. & Mrs. R. Reching |
| Capt. & Mrs. H. J. Bartlett | Mr. A. Kirkham | Miss M. Reching |
| Mr. P. D. Burnett | Mrs. R. Lindo | Miss P. Sant |
| Mr. & Mrs. G. P. Dewar | Miss L. Lindo | Capt. W. D. Staver |
| Mr. T. D. Ewing | Miss G. McKie | Miss G. H. Staver |
| Mr. W. W. Boston | Mr. E. McNab | Mr. P. W. Sangster |
| Miss A. Farguharson | Mrs. R. Muir | Mr. W. H. Sangster |
| Miss H. Grant | Master K. Muir | Mrs. G. M. Shaw |
| Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Gillies | Master E. D. Motta | Miss A. Shaw |
| Misses Gillies (2) | Mr. J. N. Oliphant | Mr. J. Tapley |
| Miss I. James | Rev. H. Owen | Miss E. Tirres |
| Mr. M. O. Halsey | Capt. J. Pratt | Miss M. Villeran |
| Dr. & Mrs. E. Hoffman | Miss M. Penke | Mr. R. Waterhouse |
| Miss M. Hoffman | Mr. J. G. Peet | Mr. & Mrs. S. H. Whittingham |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. Ingegn | Mr. & Mrs. E. Ramilen | Mrs. P. T. Watson |
| Misses Ingegnen (4) | Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Russell | Mr. T. D. Young |
| | Mr. G. Reynolds | Dr. W. Zingira |

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Stuyvesant*, Plymouth, July 26th:—

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. H. F. Boyce | Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Howell | Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Pilgrim |
| Miss E. H. Britton | Miss P. M. M. Howell | Mr. Kahanut |
| Mr. T. E. Corbin | The Misses Ince | Mr. Kenneth Reid |
| Mr. & Mrs. H. Deverill & Family | Mr. M. de Jesus | Mr. Mohamed Shaffe |
| Mr. T. Fraser Dickson | Mr. W. S. Lambie | Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer |
| Mr. & Mrs. H. Dormau | Mrs. C. A. Lambie | Mr. M. Suske |
| The Misses Edwards (2) | Mr. E. J. Lee | Miss G. E. Taylor |
| Mr. E. Federof | Mr. A. Lines | Mr. I. Timmus |
| Miss V. Gomes | Mr. Neil MacLeod | Mr. J. W. Tomlinson |
| Mr. A. Gordon | Mr. R. A. Northey | Miss J. C. Vinter |
| Miss E. F. Guey | Miss V. O'Neal | Miss G. A. Wallou |
| Mr. J. W. Hedges | Mrs. & Miss Pereira | Lord T. Willistey |
| | | Mr. J. C. Wippell |

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Home Arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Songster*, London, July 23rd:—

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| | From ANTIGUA. |
| | Miss S. Green |
| | From DEMERARA. |
| Judge & Mrs. Berkeley | Mrs. A. L. Grannum Misses Grannum (2) |
| | From DOMINICA. |
| | Miss Porter Dr. F. Sutcliffe |
| | From ST. LUCIA. |
| | Lieut. Col. W. R. Davidson Houston |
| | From TRINIDAD. |
| | Miss S. E. Derbyshire Masters Eastgate (2) |

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 8/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line

PARTNER WANTED.—Bachelor with capital £2,000 to live on property 600 acres, two miles from seaport. Land adaptable for bananas, coconuts and cunes. Thirty acres already under cane contracted with sugar factory one mile distance. Small house, healthily situated.—A. E. CRODD, Green Island P.O., Jamaica.

CAPABLE AND EFFICIENT PLANTER requires reengagement. Four years' experience as senior assistant and acting manager, and eight years' experience of I.C. engines and all kinds of machinery. Familiar with all classes of native labour.—Apply C. B. P., care of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

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.3. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Sir Henry A. Alcazar, K.C. | Mr. T. W. Innis |
| Mr. G. E. Anderson | Lt. Col. Francis Jenkins, C.M.G. |
| Mrs. S. Archer | Mr. A. S. Kernahan |
| Mr. Bruce Austin | Mr. J. A. King |
| Mr. H. B. G. Austin | Mr. Lynch King |
| Sir Henry A. Bovell | Mr. J. Knox |
| Mr. E. W. Bowen | Mr. H. A. Lake |
| Mr. W. Bowring, M.B.E. | Mr. F. J. Larrow |
| Mr. R. E. Brassington | Mr. C. Hope Levy |
| Mr. James Brown | Hon. J. Challenger Lynch |
| Mr. A. S. Burleigh | Mr. J. G. Mackenzie |
| Mrs. M. T. Camacho | Mr. C. M. Manning |
| Miss F. L. Carrington | Mr. T. Albert Marryshow |
| Mr. Gerald O. Case | Mr. H. P. C. Melville |
| Mr. C. H. Chambers | Mr. W. J. Messervy |
| Mr. Albert Cherry | Mr. W. McMillan |
| Mr. C. A. Child | Mr. W. Morrison |
| Mr. G. A. Clarke | Mr. F. E. Murray |
| H. N. Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G. | Mr. C. V. Newton |
| Mr. Joseph Council Jur | Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E. |
| Dr. J. H. Cooke, B.A., M.D. | Mr. John O'Connor, M.C. |
| Mr. J. M. Corbin | Mr. G. O'Reilly |
| Mr. Robert Craie | Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C. |
| Mr. Paul Crossall | Dr. A. T. Ozzard |
| Mr. Jack Culmer | Mr. A. J. Poynt |
| Mr. D. C. C. Da Costa | Hon. Hon. Major H. Peckles, D.S.O. |
| Mr. A. H. D. Costa | Dr. J. Aldric Perez |
| Hon. D. S. De Freitas | Mrs. M. A. Perez, M.B.E. |
| Mr. H. Deverill | Mr. G. M. Peter |
| Mr. G. P. Dewar | Hon. J. H. Phillips |
| Mr. E. A. Donelan | Hon. G. Laurie Pile |
| Mr. Gay, C. Edachill | Dr. E. F. Pligmin |
| Mr. A. F. G. Ellis | Mr. Kenneth Reid |
| Mr. F. J. Evans | Lieut. W. M. Richards |
| Hon. J. Freehand Foote | (Hon. Hon. Sir Robert Roden) |
| Mr. Alexander Fraser | Mr. E. Houghton Sanguinetti |
| Mr. James Fraser | Mr. Ivan J. Scott |
| Capt. A. R. Fellowes | Mr. G. Elliott Sealy |
| Mr. Percy George | Mrs. H. H. Sealy |
| Mr. W. Gordon Gordon | Mr. H. Seclford |
| Hon. G. E. Grahamin | Hon. A. P. Sherlock |
| Mr. J. T. Greg | Mr. D. Grafton Simpson, A.M.I.M.F. |
| Mr. A. J. Greig | Dr. E. M. Skeete |
| Mr. D. M. Hahn | Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer |
| Mr. J. H. Haigh | Mr. Thomas Thornton |
| Mr. A. J. Hamlyn | Mr. R. S. Turlon |
| Mr. C. W. Haynes | Mr. T. G. Westall |
| Mr. E. R. I. Henderson | Mr. Hugh F. Wildy |
| Mr. E. E. C. Hosack | Mr. Percy R. Wilson |
| Mr. W. P. Humphrey | Mr. W. Harold Wright |
| Mr. F. P. Hutchinson | |
| Mr. N. Macleod Balcluth, West View, Milngavie, N.B. | |
| Mr. E. W. C. Dunlop, 13, Farnold Road, Redford Park, W. | |
| Mr. George B. Evelyn, 112, Norbury Court Road, Norbury, S.W. | |
| Mr. John M. Fleming, The Hermitage, Hadlow, Kent. | |
| Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C. | |
| Dr. R. D. O'Neale, c/o Mrs. Salmon, Moss Lea, Colinton, Midlothian | |
| Str. A. M. Reid, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glos. | |
| Mr. H. Blin Stovle, Crediton, Devon. | |

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	Oranja Nassau	Aug. 6
Jamaica	Liverpool	Barranca	" 8
Jamaica	Bristol	Changuinola	" 9
West Indies	London	Scientist	" 10
West Indies	Glasgow	Songster	" 12
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	Asian	" 13
Jamaica	Bristol	Coronado	" 15
Jamaica	Liverpool	Bolivian	" 20
West Indies	London	Settler	" 24
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	Venezuela	" 27
West Indies	London	Intaba	Sept. 9

B'mas, J'aca & B. H'das	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	Sept. 6
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Puerto Rico	" 7
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	" 16
B'mas, J'aca & B. H'das	Montreal	Canadian Forester	" 27

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SPRING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
August 2nd, 1921.

BANK RATE was lowered on July 21st to 5½ per cent. from 6 per cent., at which it had remained since June 23rd.

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ on July 28th.

In U.S.A.	£	s.	d.	In Spain	£	s.	d.
France	1	16	9½	Germany	1	2	0
Belgium	1	17	9½	Austria	120	7	7
Italy	3	8	3½	Holland	0	19	2½

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 7s. 0d. (paper)

SUGAR. The home market has been steady during the fortnight, but owing to the August Bank Holiday there have been no quotations since the 29th ult., when West Indian crystallised was quoted at 46/- to 51/6, much the same price as at the date of the last Summary. The Terminal market was stronger, values being: September 20/-, October 18/6, November 17/7½, and December 17/7.

In the New York market the 4.61 c. quotation for landed duty paid Cubans remained until the 28th ult., when the Cuban Sugar Committee raised the price of Cuban c.i.f. sugar to 3.25 c., equivalent to 4.86 c. duty paid landed, at which figure sales were made on the 29th. Yesterday the quotation was unchanged. The futures market is slightly stronger, yesterday's prices for Cuban sugar landed in bond being: September 3.29 c., December 3.05 c., March 2.87 c., and May 2.93 c.

Messrs. Willett & Gray's latest estimate of the sugar crops of the world for the season 1920-21 is 16,428,068 tons. Of this, 11,802,018 tons are cane sugar, and 4,626,050 tons beet sugar. Of the latter, Europe is credited with 3,622,031 tons, the United States with 967,419 tons, and Canada with 34,600 tons. The total excess of the world's sugar in 1920-21 over that produced in 1919-20 is estimated at 1,277,616 tons, due to the increasing production of beet sugars.

The West Indian Sugar statistics in London on July 23rd were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	31,793	36,136	25,615 Tons.
Deliveries	23,773	22,521	21,667 "
Stock	16,424	21,751	10,140 "

RUM. Some business in Demerara has been reported during the last fortnight, but Jamaica remains neglected.

The stocks in London on July 23rd were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,641	10,731	5,968 Puns
Demerara	17,721	12,323	14,370 "
Total of all kinds	39,408	32,900	25,298 "

CACAO is quiet, but steady. A fair business has been done in fine Grenada at 55/- spot, and a small quantity disposed of at 56/-. Trinidad remains slow at 57/- to 61/-; forward shipment, 52/- to 53/-, c. & f.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing from Trinidad under date June 30th, reports an improvement in the market, more frequent enquiries being received from abroad. The shipments of cacao for that month he gives as follows:—

Destination	Weight in lbs
To all countries	6,978,254
Shipped previously	41,481,248
Total from 1st January	48,459,502
To same date 1920	48,447,777
" " 1919	43,908,019
" " 1918	36,871,808
" " 1917	55,070,093
" " 1916	37,662,970
" " 1915	39,346,826
" " 1914	54,323,618
" " 1913	37,161,054

The stocks in London on July 23rd were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	21,829	46,195	31,625 Bags.
Grenada	24,053	21,231	15,608 "
Total of all kinds	179,496	293,022	136,733 "

ARROWROOT continues quiet, and only small sales have been made. Quotations, 2½d. to 6½d.

BALATA is very slow, with prices mostly nominal. A small business has been done in spot West Indian at 3/6. Forward shipments are quoted 3/2 c.i.f.

COFFEE. The last auction was held on the 26th ult. and sales will recommence on August 9th. There has been more business doing in export qualities. Ordinary Jamaica is quoted at 50/- to 55/- nominal; Blue Mountain is worth 166/- to 192/6.

COPRA is firm, with buyers of West Indian f.o.s. at £26 10s. c.i.f. Holland or Germany.

COTTON. A moderate business has been done in West Indian Sea Island at easier rates. Quotations have been reduced 200 points—medium 23d., fine 31d., and extra fine 41d. Imports in the thirty weeks ending July 28th, 4,265 bales.

HONEY is quiet, at unchanged prices. Dark to good pale Jamaica 25/- to 50/-, fine white set 57/6 to 60/-.

LOGWOOD continues dull, with values nominal.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is easier. Further supplies are now available, and valued at about 19/- to 20/-. Distilled is steady at 2/9 to 2/10½ per lb., according to quality. **Lime Juice.** Retail sales of good Jamaica Raw have been made up to 2/7½.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is quiet but firm at about 12/- per lb. Bitter is unchanged.

RUBBER. The market has become very quiet again, and prices show a small decline, but the undertone remains good, and there is no pressure to sell. Spot crepe 9d. sheet 8½d.

SPICES. Jamaica **Ginger** is quiet but steady, at 110/- to 125/-. **Pimento** on the spot is quiet, with sellers at 2½d. Business has been done to Hamburg at 23/4 to 23/6 c.i.f.

TRINIDAD OIL. The production figures of the Trinidad oil producing concerns whose returns are available are given below:—

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD
June—11,300 tons

Year to June 30	1917	56,213 tons
" "	1918	154,654 "
" "	1919	171,286 "
" "	1920	177,709 "
" "	1921	157,350 "

TRINIDAD CENTRAL OILFIELDS, LTD.

Year to Dec 31	1917	5,235 tons
" "	1918	11,640 "
" "	1919	24,238 "
" "	1920	14,000 "

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD.

June—3,402 tons

Year to Dec 31	1917	52,671 tons
" "	1918	82,671 "
" "	1919	40,892 "
" "	1920	49,500 "
Year to June 30,	1921	23,315 "

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.

June—2,400 tons.

Total to June	20,400 tons
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NEW TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT CO., LTD.

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Year to Dec. 31	1918	32,868 tons
" "	1919	23,710 "
" "	1920	51,830 "

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON



15, SKYTHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
August 16th, 1921

The West Indian Medical Conference.

WE have read with great interest the report of the proceedings of the West Indian Medical Conference held at Georgetown, British Guiana, from June 28th to July 13th, on the success of which we desire to congratulate all concerned, not forgetting those devoted Civil Servants at the Colonial Office who were the originators of the idea, and were instrumental in causing it to be carried through. The papers read and the discussion which followed showed the keen interest that the Medical Officers of the West Indian Colonies take in their work. It was made very evident that the British Guiana Government is far and away ahead of the other West Indian Governments in the matter of organisation for the prevention and treatment of disease, and consequently the wisdom of holding the Conference there, from an educational point of view, is obvious. In addition to this, moreover, after reading the papers and discussions, one is left with the impression that nowhere is the question of health more pressing than it is in our South American Colony, where it is so closely connected with the subject of immigration. The conference was the sixteenth of a series of intercolonial conferences which have been held in recent years,

the others being those concerning agriculture, quarantine, steamship communication, law, and Customs affairs, and including the important Education Conference held this year. All proved eminently successful, and may be regarded as helpful preliminaries to that permanent closer union of the British West Indian Colonies which we all desire to see brought about. The Medical Conference was opened and brought to a close by two important and suggestive addresses from the HON. C. CLEMENTI, C.M.G., the officer administering the Government of British Guiana, from which we quote the following trenchant remarks: "The most fundamental questions in every community," said Mr. CLEMENTI, "are these: Can we keep the inhabitants of our country in good health? and, Does our population show, year by year, a natural increment? If these questions can be answered in the affirmative, the community is sound at the core. If the answer is in the negative, then there is something rotten in the state." Nothing can be more true. His Excellency proceeded to quote figures comparing the population of British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Barbados for the years 1901 and 1921, which showed a decrease of 12.3 per cent. for British Guiana, and an increase of 47.31 per cent., 13.72 per cent., and 3.53 per cent. for Trinidad, Jamaica, and Barbados respectively during the twenty years. With reference to British Guiana, he put the matter in a nutshell when he said: "The area now colonised in British Guiana is a partially reclaimed swamp four feet below the level of high spring tides." He drew attention also to the important fact that the Conference was attended by representatives of the London School of Tropical Medicine, and of Dutch Guiana, and congratulated the members on their suggestion that the West Indian Medical Conference be held every three years. He welcomed the resolution recommending improved drainage and the provision of a supply of pure drinking water in British Guiana, and stated emphatically that he regarded the permanent sea defence scheme, for which a local loan for five million dollars was about to be launched, as an insurance, and as the necessary preliminary to any effort to drain adequately the coast lands. It was absurd, he said, to attempt to solve this problem until the coast lands had first been given permanent protection against inundation by the sea. Provided that private rights are respected, we heartily agree, for we hold that the problem of prevention of the mosquito borne diseases of malaria, yellow fever, and filaria, and the fly, milk, and water borne diseases of dysentery and

enteric fever is mainly a question of drainage and scavenging, and, therefore, an engineering problem. There can be no fever if there are no mosquitoes, and there can be no mosquitoes if there is no water for them to breed in. Elsewhere in the present issue we publish a summary of the findings of the Conference, written by DR. G. R. MASON, who served for nine years in the Colonial Medical Service, and is now a Consultant in Tropical Diseases at the Ministry of Pensions, and we can only express the hope that the many resolutions passed will be most carefully considered by the Governments concerned, and that it be not their fate to be relegated to dusty pigeon-holes.

Brighter Sugar Prospects.

THE Board of Trade Returns, just published, for the month of July, point in a very encouraging manner to a definite recovery in the sugar consumption of the United Kingdom from the check which it received as the result of the abnormally high prices which obtained at the beginning of last year. The consumption of all classes of sugar for the month has been 156,875 tons, as against 87,545 tons, which represented the consumption of July, 1920, and these figures show a considerable degree of approximation to the pre-war consumption, which in July, 1913, was 170,866 tons. There is every reason to believe that this revival is mainly due to the relatively low retail prices which now obtain, although no doubt the hot, dry summer has contributed to it in some degree from the increased demand created for beverages containing sugar. An interesting and important point also brought out by the Returns is that there has been no material increase in the power of output of the refineries since pre-war days. The quantity of sugar which went into consumption from this source in the month of July of 1913, 1920, and 1921 was, respectively, 72,087 tons, 72,064 tons, and 73,498 tons. Another interesting and, it must be said, regrettable fact is that, as before the war, the consumers of sugar in this country have to depend upon foreign sources for their supply of direct consumption sugar over and above that supplied by the home refineries. In July, 1913, out of a total importation of refined sugar of 91,070 tons, 91,016 tons came from the Continent. In July, 1921, out of 79,319 tons of this class of sugar which came into the United Kingdom, 40,267 tons came from Europe and 40,041 tons from the United States. There is thus still a dependence upon foreign sources for direct consumption sugar—a dependence which will increase as the consumption increases, so long as the power of output of the home refineries remains stationary, or unless home-grown beet production is established as one of the agricultural industries of the United Kingdom, which is extremely problematic. The preference shown to Empire produced sugars in the Customs tariff of the United Kingdom invites a supply of Empire direct consumption sugar—an invitation which is supported by the evidently growing re-demand of sugar by the British public. Will Empire sugar producers accept it?

LIABILITY FOR PILFERAGE.

Imperial Conference's Resolution.

The Conference of Prime Ministers and representatives of the United Kingdom, the Dominions and India was concluded on August 5th, when a report of their proceedings was issued.

Dealing with the question of shipowners exempting themselves or limiting their liability for pilferage of cargo, which has been the subject of independent legislation in various parts of the Empire, the following resolution was passed:

“The Conference approves the recommendations made in the Report of the Imperial Shipping Committee on the Limitation of Shipowners' Liability by clauses in bills of lading, and recommends the various Governments represented at the Conference to introduce uniform legislation on the lines laid down by the Committee.”

The Imperial Shipping Committee, on which Sir Frederick G. A. Butler, K.C.M.G., C.B., was appointed to represent the Colonies, issued their report in February this year. The recommendations referred to above, which were unanimous, were that there should be uniform legislation throughout the Empire on the lines of the existing Acts dealing with shipowners' liability, but based more precisely on the Canadian Water Carriage Goods Act, 1910, subject to certain further provisions in regard to—

- (i) Exceptional cases in which goods should be allowed to be carried by shipowners at owner's risk;
- (ii) The precise definition of the physical limits to the shipowner's liability;
- (iii) The fixing of maximum values for packages up to which shipowners should be liable to pay.

The Canadian Act makes it illegal for the shipowner to relieve himself in a bill of lading from liability for loss or damage to goods arising from negligence, fault or failure in their proper loading, stowage, custody, care or delivery, unless the protecting clause is in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

A resolution was also adopted by the Imperial Conference to the effect that, pending the constitution of a permanent committee on shipping, the existing Imperial Shipping Committee should continue its enquiries.

The position as regards rebates was discussed and strong representations were made by Dominion Ministers in regard to it, but no resolution was passed, it being understood that the matter is at present under consideration by the Imperial Shipping Committee.

It has been found necessary to send a reminder to those few members of The West India Committee who have even now not paid their dues for the current year, and it is to be hoped that this will prove effective. Under the rules of The West India Committee, those members who are over three months in arrears with their subscriptions are not entitled to receive copies of the CIRCULAR.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"MEAN man go a market two time."

His many friends will be sorry to learn that Mr. Guy Wyatt has latterly been far from well, and has had to go into a nursing home at Cheltenham.

SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL THOMSON, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, has been appointed a member of the Commission on Wheat Supplies.

The pink boll-worm has made its appearance in the British Virgin Islands. Larvæ and pupæ collected at Tortola have been identified as this pest by Mr. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

MESSRS. THOS. & JAS. HARRISON announce that s.s. *Ingoma* will make her second voyage this year to Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara on October 23rd. It is not yet decided whether she will sail from London or Liverpool.

MR. J. P. HAND, M.B.E., director of Young, Hand & Co., having offices in Bermuda and Trinidad, has been appointed one of the two unofficial members of the Executive Council of the former Colony.

The Jamaica economy campaign has begun in earnest. A cablegram from Kingston states that the Legislative Council has rejected the Bill providing for railway improvements, and the Public Works Bill, which together involved an expenditure of £430,000.

It is now announced in America that permission has not been given by the United States Government to the Western Union Co. to land their cable from Barbados in Miami; all that was done, according to the *New York Sun*, being to allow the company to repair a wire running across Biscayne Bay.

The value of the trade of Canada with the United Kingdom for the fiscal year 1920-21 was \$528,171,535, made up of \$218,914,814 imports and \$314,226,721 exports. The value of the trade of Canada with the United States for the same period was \$1,417,293,861, consisting of \$856,610,436 of imports and \$560,683,425 of exports.

MR. PAUL ALBERTI, a prominent American insurance banker, who has been travelling through Germany, said, in an interview published in the *Daily News* on July 19th, that he thought that that country would attempt to compete with the West Indies within a couple of years. Germany was, he added, out to dominate the trade of the world. Her workmen were working in earnest.

MR. JUSTICE NATHANIEL FODERINGHAM BRIGGS, who, we regret to learn, has died in Barbados, was

the youngest son of the late Mr. Augustus Briggs, of Maynards', in that island, and a cousin of the late Sir Graham Briggs, Bart., of Farley Hill. He was for many years a Judge of the Assistant Court of Appeal in Barbados, and was very popular in the island, being a sincere friend and a man of kindly disposition.

THOUGH the Naval Wireless Stations of Bathurst, Mauritius and the Seychelles have been closed on the grounds of economy, that at Demerara is being retained for the present. The stations to be closed, which were established during the war, are to remain in the hands of caretakers until it is decided whether the Colonial Office or the Post Office will take them over, or whether they can be run by private enterprise.

MR. ATHELSTAN WATSON informs us that he has been compelled for various reasons to abandon his proposal to charter the S.Y. *Meteor* for two voyages to the West Indies in the autumn. It appears that the minimum number of intending passengers was not forthcoming. Mr. Watson is, however, deserving of thanks for the efforts which he made to fill the breach caused by the absence of a British Transatlantic passenger service.

MR. T. ALBERT MARRYSHOW, editor of *The West Indian*, and Hon. Secretary of the Grenada Representative Government Association, was granted an interview by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, on August 16th, when he presented the case for greater independence in the matter of finance being allowed to the elected members under the proposed new Constitution, and a widening of the area of selection of nominated members, whose nomination, Mr. Marryshow suggests, should be made by the Governor after consultation with the Colony's Agricultural Society and Chamber of Commerce.

THE marriage of His Honour Col. Willoughby Bullock, Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Bahamas, to Miss Anita Clemente, of 14, Buckland Crescent, Hampstead, took place on June 28th at the Half-way Tree Parish Church, Kingston, Jamaica. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. G. Lovell, and the bride was given away by the Hon. F. C. Wells-Durrant, K.C., Attorney-General, Jamaica. After the ceremony there was a luncheon party at the Liguanea Club, at which a number of friends of the bride and bridegroom were present. Col. and Mrs. Willoughby Bullock subsequently spent a few days at Moncague before returning to the Bahamas.

DOLPHIN OR HERRING ROES.—Place fresh roes in a tin dish on the oven, with a tablespoonful of butter over them, a little anchovy sauce and pepper. Cover with another tin plate until done. Fry some toast, and when the roes are done, put the toast into the gravy for two minutes. Lay the roes on the toast and serve hot.—MISS ANDERSON.

THE MEDICAL CONFERENCE.

Its Findings Summarised.

BY CAPTAIN G. B. MASON, M.R.C.S.
(Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

The First West Indian Medical Conference was opened in the Court of Policy Hall of British Guiana on June 28th, His Excellency, the Hon. C. Clementi, C.M.G., Officer administering the Government, presiding, and Professor R. T. Leiper, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, and Dr. W. G. Boase acting as Vice-Presidents. The delegates comprised: Dr. J. R. Dickson, Deputy Surgeon General, Trinidad; Dr. J. Hutson, Public Health Inspector, Barbados; Major H. E. Sutherland Richards, M.C., Chief Medical Officer, St. Lucia; Dr. E. D. Gordon, D.M.O., Jamaica; Dr. J. Wolff, Government Bacteriologist, Surinam; Dr. G. W. Paterson, Colonial Surgeon, Grenada; Dr. J. Anderson, with Professor Leiper, representing the London School of Tropical Medicine; Dr. E. P. Minett, Government Medical Officer of Health, British Guiana, who acted as Hon. Secretary.

It is unfortunate that representatives of the Leeward Islands could not be present at the Conference, which would have been strengthened by their presence, and would have benefited by their experiences in tackling the many serious problems under discussion.

The resolutions passed by the Conference were classified under four heads, but only a few of the twenty-three recommendations sent in to the Secretary of State can be dealt with here. Of these, the first resolution recommended the introduction of the most modern methods of promoting infant welfare, personal and public sanitation, and hygiene.

The valuable papers of Dr. Wishart and Mrs. Minett on infant welfare and mortality leave little to be said, for they cover the ground completely. One most liberal and wise provision noted is, that if the mother of an illegitimate child satisfies the Health Visitor that the father is unable to support the child, the Poor Law authorities in British Guiana, after investigation, contribute to its support. Ante-natal clinics, and home visiting of expectant women, are to be carried out in the near future in British Guiana. Mrs. Minett pointed out that voluntary workers were not as good as trained Health Visitors engaged on a three years' contract, and that all advice to the mothers should be free of charge. She advocated the establishment of certified midwives in the villages, and the passing of a Notification of Births Extension Ordinance, by which local authorities could provide, out of the rates, medical and nursing assistance for poor mothers, before, at, and after, the birth of a child. She found the ignorance of the people and the unrestricted practice of unqualified midwives a great drawback. It is possible that a small Government subsidy to trained district midwives would be as helpful as it is in Antigua and St. Vincent in dis-

couraging unqualified practice, by introducing competition. Also, a small house might be provided for lying-in cases. As Dr. Minett rightly says, hygiene should be taught in the schools.

The second resolution recommends, in the interest of the health of an immigrant population in the West Indies, the provision of (1) a pure water supply; (2) efficient surface and soil drainage; (3) a properly organised system of disposal of refuse and excreta; (4) effective control of mosquitoes, and stringent enforcement of public health ordinances and regulations. This is a most comprehensive resolution, which, for its execution, chiefly concerns engineers. One method of disposal of refuse and excreta is by a system of pails, used with ashes or dry earth, removed when full and replaced by empty ones every other night by the corporation scavenger, then covered and carried away in motor lorries, and emptied in trenches on a sewage farm some distance away from the town. Each trench can be filled in with earth, and a new trench dug parallel to it, as in Army camps. A system of water-flushed sewers is, of course, the best, but is also the most expensive, and requires a proper fall, which it is difficult to secure in British Guiana.

The fifth resolution recommends a system of control of midwives, including methods of training, registration, and supervision by a central authority. This is highly important, as a means of lowering the high infantile mortality, and securing proper attention at birth. The figures given by Mr. Churchill, in reply to a question by Sir Samuel Hoare in the House of Commons on June 14th, will be found in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of June 23rd, 1921. They show that the death rate of children under one year, per 1,000 living births, is 306 per 1,000 in Barbados, the highest; and 95 per 1,000 in Anguilla, the lowest. It is remarkable that a Colony so advanced in many ways as Barbados, which has a system of pipe-borne portable water, and which passed and enforced a stringent Anti-Mosquito Act, can be so indifferent to this terrible waste of human life. Although they have representative institutions, and the Members of the Assembly are elected by the people, they have to take the hindmost place in the struggle for infant welfare, being badly beaten by the Crown Colonies around them. To rear labourers for emigration does not appear to appeal to the Barbadians, and their babies never get a fair chance.

The thirteenth resolution recommends the isolation of lepers after notification, and that arrested cases of leprosy be not discharged from leper asylums under any conditions. It is to be regretted that the Conference did not support the proposal for a combined leper asylum for the West Indies. The epitaph of Sir Frederick Treves on the Barbados Lazaretto, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here," comes to one's mind. The experience of the South African Government with Robben Island ought to be made known in the West Indies. It is not possible to say whether centralisation will be more expensive or not until an estimate has been made of the cost. There should be no difficulty in obtaining a staff to work a combined West Indian Leper Asylum on one of the Grenadine Islands, if liberal leave is granted, and it is to be hoped the

Secretary of State will cause further enquiry to be made. Leprosy can probably, be, and should be, stamped out in the West Indies by isolation, but it should be isolation in a village community, where the patients can work as well as play, and have some interest in life, and not be condemned to a living death in unattractive institutions. Every Medical Officer in the West Indies should be required to know something of the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy, and be familiar with its clinical aspects.

The fifteenth resolution recommends the establishment of a United West Indian Medical Service. An appeal should be made to the Secretary of State to carry out this reform without delay. It will be an additional inducement to intending candidates to know that they have a career before them in the much wider field of the whole West Indies. The policy of having a separate service for each West Indian Colony is narrow and short-sighted. It means that Medical Officers are unfairly kept for undue periods in the worst districts, in poor Colonies, because no one can be found to replace them if they are promoted or transferred. Every officer, on joining the service, should be told he will be transferable for the first three years of his service. Adequate pay and a pension, and suitable quarters for married men, should be provided in all districts. To send single men to out districts, in backward Colonies, with bad roads and no society, and temptation all around, is a direct incentive to drink and demoralisation, in the case of many young fellows. An efficient and contented medical service is a first-class insurance for any Government.

Resolution No. 17 recommends the early appointment of a Sanitary Commissioner for the West Indies, to be under the Imperial Government and independent of local control. The Conference is to be congratulated on this resolution, and it should have the fullest support. It is not advisable that this officer should have any executive power, as it would cause too much friction with local authorities. He should be free to inspect and report to the Secretary of State and carry out any investigations he may be asked to do. The Secretary of State, on receiving the reports, can consult with those Government Officers in England who are authorities on Public Health, if he wishes to do so, and send out instructions to the local Governments accordingly. A man of world-wide reputation is not required, as he would be too expensive; all that is wanted being a man of tact, with public health and tropical medicine qualifications, preferably a West Indian, who understands and sympathises with local conditions, and is personally known to the local authorities. This Officer might also act as Editor of the proposed West Indian Medical Magazine, under the direction of such a man as Dr. Bagshawe. A special Medical Commissioner can be sent out by the Secretary of State at any time to deal with special problems, independently of the Sanitary Commissioner for the West Indies.

The compulsory training of the medical staffs in the School of Tropical Medicine in England, both before and after joining the service, and that they be provided with free transport, full pay and study

(Continued at foot of next column.)

FERMENTATION OF CACAO.

Papers have recently been issued by the St. Andrews' Agricultural Association of Grenada on the subject of the cultivation of cacao and for the preparation of the bean for the market. As regards the fermentation of cacao it is pointed out that the reasons for it are:—

1. To remove, or facilitate the removal of, the mucilage of the bean.

2. To eliminate the bitter taste which the kernels of the beans have in their fresh green state.

3. To obtain a change in the colour of the kernel from pink to cinnamon.

4. To loosen the closely-packed folds of the cotyledon or kernel of the bean.

5. To bring about the chemical changes in the kernel which produce the full flavour and aroma of the bean.

To effect this, two distinct processes are necessary, the external fermentation and the internal fermentation. The external fermentation is for the purpose of the easy removal or drying of the mucilage, for the destruction of the germ and for the coloration of the outside of the bean. It is brought about by a yeast called *Saccharomyces Theobromæ*, the distribution of which is assisted by a little fly called the cacao fly (*Diosophila Melanojaster*). The heat generated by this fermentation destroys the germ about the third or fourth day.

Concerning the internal fermentation, there is considerable difference of opinion. One theory considers the enzymes which are mainly responsible for the internal changes enter the kernel from outside through the softened skin, while another considers that the enzymes are resident in the kernel and that when the germ is killed their activities commence. There seems no doubt, also, that oxidation plays an important part in the fermentation of cacao, chiefly in connection with the coloration of the bean internally and externally.

leave, are recommended in the nineteenth and twentieth resolutions. This is very desirable, but it will be a waste of money and time, unless microscopes and a library of standard text-books are provided by the Government in every Colony for the use of the Medical Staff. A microscope in every district is not required, so long as arrangements can be made for the examination and report on specimens at the local hospital. District Medical Officers, as a rule, have no money to spend on microscopes or expensive medical books of reference.

The twentieth resolution, recommending the publication of a West Indian Medical Magazine, may not be found feasible in these days of costly printing, especially if the circulation is limited. Those officers who have the time to write papers should have no difficulty in getting them published in the *Journal of Tropical Medicine*. It should also be possible for the local Governments to send copies of their Medical Officers' reports to one another.

(To be concluded.)

TRINIDAD'S FLOATING DOCK.

Mr. Archibald G. Bell, as general manager of the Trinidad Government Floating Dock and Workshop, in his report for the year 1920 stoutly defends that concern against the attacks of the chairman and directors of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, who blamed it for the delay in repairing their s.s. *Henry Holmes*. He states that the repairing of this vessel was put off on several occasions because she was on continuous service during the war. The dock and workshop

mously in excess of what the then officers of the ship and Lloyd's surveyor had represented as being required. It was work which the company should have entrusted to a large shipbuilding yard in England or the United States. Though they knew this they complained of time and cost, a complaint which Mr. Bell characterises as entirely unjustifiable. Mr. Bell adds:—"That we carried the job through and to an eminently successful issue is, I think, something on which we are entitled to congratulate ourselves and to receive general commendation. That we did carry it through to a successful issue is proved by the admitted fact that the ship when she left our hands was a better ship in every way than when she left the hands of her builders. As regards time, it is well to remark that long after the company had begun to complain of delay we were practically daily receiving orders from them or from Lloyd's to carry out further work, and it was I who had at last to state that I did not desire to receive any further orders."

The total revenue received by the dock and workshop during the year was £78,936 6s. 10d., whilst the expenditure was £75,117 10s. 10½d., leaving a net balance of profit of £3,818 15s. 11½d. The total tonnage docked during the year was 6,791 tons, which yielded £8,546 3s. 9d., and gave an average of 10s. 5½d. per ton docked, a much greater average than in any preceding year. The interest paid by the Government from the general revenue of the Colony on monies borrowed for the purchase and upkeep of the dock and workshop in 1920 was £3,321 6s. 5d.



Some of the Shackleton Sugar Boxes.

Some of the cases of sugar which Sir Ernest Shackleton took with him to the Antarctic. The sugar for the forthcoming Shackleton-Rowett expedition is similarly packed, but the cases are inscribed "Trinidad Sugar," "Cane Sugar" and "Granulated," as the case may be. (See opposite page).

had been in communication with the company on the subject from as far back as February, 1917, and the acting captain and chief engineer had been asked to make the necessary examination in the following month, to ascertain as nearly as possible what repairs and what materials and in what quantities would be required, but the information supplied was only meagre.

Mr. Bell claims that the sole responsibilities of his concern in the matter were to prepare for the work which the owners of the ship, or their representatives, told them to be prepared for, and then to carry out such work as Lloyd's surveyors ordered and the owners, or their representatives, required in addition. All the work outlined by the ship's responsible officers and notes on the order paper issued by Lloyd's was easily within the capacity of the dock and workshop to perform expeditiously and economically, and the only additional information given was furnished by the ship's chief engineer, who handed in a paper giving the size and number of tubes in the donkey boiler. Beyond this no list was provided by the ship. The work which had eventually to be carried out was enor-

WEST INDIAN AVIATION.

The second meeting of the West Indian Aviation Committee, which was formed recently with the approval of the Air Ministry and Colonial Office, will be held in September under the Chairmanship of Lt.-Colonel Ivan Davson, O.B.E.

The object which the Committee has in view is to secure the development of air routes in the Caribbean area by British enterprise. The Bahamas, as recently announced, have voted £5,000 per annum for an air mail service to and from Miami, Florida, but Imperial support must be forthcoming if regular West Indian air mail routes are to be maintained. The present danger is that if the British Government refuses to support the proposition, neighbouring foreign countries will undoubtedly step in and assert their predominance.

Mrs. Mary Gaunt has just completed her book on Jamaica, written during two years' stay in the island.

SHACKLETON'S SUGAR.**"Caroni" Crystallised for the "Quest."**

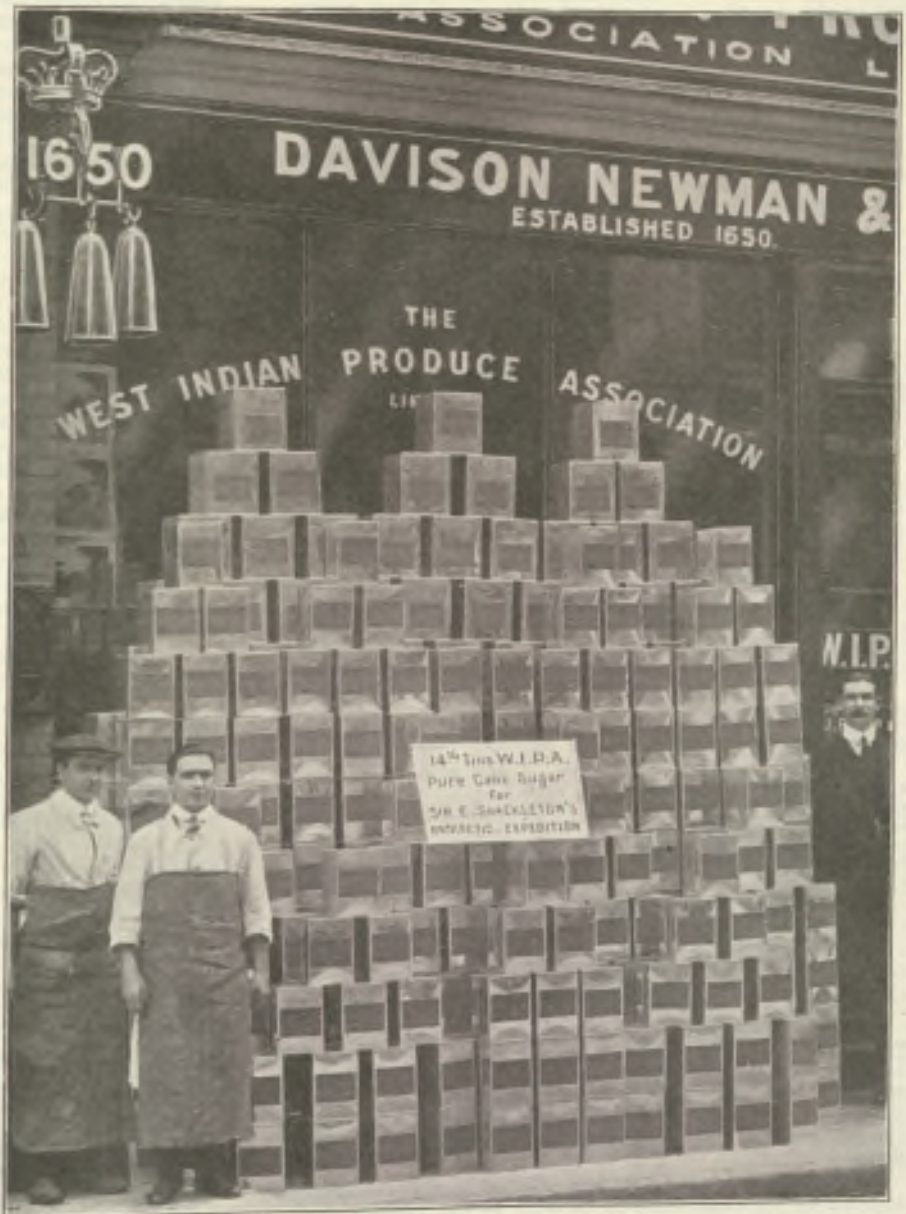
West Indian crystallised sugar will form part of the stores of the *Quest*—the vessel which is to sail on her voyage of discovery to the Antarctic early in September—Mr. Thomas Prentice having presented to Sir Ernest Shackleton, through Messrs. E. D. & F. Man, a quantity of this class of sugar manufactured at Caroni Estate in Trinidad. The arrangements for packing the sugar were entrusted to the West Indian Produce Association, of 14, Creechurch Lane, who, it will be recalled, similarly put up the sugar presented by members of The West India Committee to Sir Ernest Shackleton for his Antarctic expedition in 1914. The Caroni sugar, which is of the finest quality, is packed in 14-lb. tins and venesta cases, three tins to each case. It was through the adoption of this system of packing that sufficient sugar for members of the expedition was saved when the *Endurance* was crushed in the ice pack, for the end came so suddenly that it was necessary to harpoon the cases in the hold from the deck. If the sugar had been in single packages, it is obvious that it would have been damaged by sea-water, whereas under the system adopted, the harpoon striking the middle tin, the two tins on either side were saved. But for this the sufferings of Captain Wild's party on Elephant Island, where it was marooned, would have been very greatly aggravated. Messrs. E. D. & F. Man also secured for Sir Ernest Shackleton the gift of cane lump and granulated sugar from Messrs. Henry Tate & Sons and Abram Lyle & Sons, Ltd.

It must not be forgotten that it is due to the generosity of Mr. John Q. Rowett, the well-known rum merchant and a member of The West India Committee, that Sir Ernest Shackleton has been enabled to embark on a fresh voyage of discovery. West Indian readers should, therefore, be doubly interested in the undertaking.

The *Quest*, which is due to leave London for the Antarctic at the end of this month, is at present moored at Hay's Wharf, between Tower Bridge and London Bridge, having come to the Thames from Southampton, by way of Eastbourne and Ramsgate, on August 16th.

A TROPICAL RESEARCH PRIZE.

A prize has been instituted by the London School of Tropical Medicine in memory of Dr. W. H. Langley, C.M.G., Principal Medical Officer of Southern Nigeria. It is about £30, and is to be awarded triennially, and is open to competition among officers of the West African Medical Staff, whether on the active or the retired list. The award will be made in respect of the best paper written on one of three subjects, namely:—(a) Tropical Hygiene or Surgery; (b) Tropical Hygiene and Sanitation; (c) Tropical Entomology and Parasitology. The first award will be made in 1924.



Tins of Cane Sugar for the Antarctic.

These tins of sugar were packed in Venesta cases, three in a case—a system which enabled the sugar to be saved from the hold of the "Endurance" during Sir Ernest Shackleton's last Antarctic Expedition.

TRINIDAD INCOME TAX.

Reply to West India Committee's letter.

A reply has been received from Mr. Churchill, dated August 12th, to the representations which, it will be recalled, were made by The West India Committee in April last regarding the Trinidad Income Tax Ordinance (No. 54 of 1920). In this reply, Mr. Churchill states that a copy of The West India Committee's letter has been communicated to the Governor of Trinidad with a recommendation that the views of the Committee should receive careful consideration in drawing up the Income Tax Ordinance for the coming financial year. The following is the text of the Committee's letter referred to:—

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
15, Seething Lane,
London, E.C.3,
April 15th, 1921.

Sir,

Referring to our correspondence on the subject we now have the honour to submit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary Churchill, the views of The West India Committee with respect to the tax on Incomes Ordinance (No. 54 of 1920) of Trinidad and Tobago.

2. At the outset the Committee desire to make it clear that they do not disapprove of the principles of the Ordinance, it being obviously desirable that the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago should derive financial advantage from the concessions granted by Section 27 of the Finance Act of 1920, of the United Kingdom, as is proposed.

3. On the other hand, they wish to protect the interests of the taxpayers generally, and to make it certain that the non-resident companies and proprietors, who are now for the first time to be taxed in the Colony, shall not be prejudiced through double payment of income tax or otherwise.

4. In the circumstances they submitted the Trinidad and Tobago Income Tax Ordinance to Mr. A. M. Latta, a Counsel well versed in the intricate question of Income Tax Law, for his opinion, and the views which they now beg to submit were agreed in conference with him.

5. The observations follow the order of the Sections in the Ordinance, and are arranged according to that order rather than by reference to their intrinsic importance.

6. *Section 3.*—The expression "aggregate income" appears open to criticism. It is apprehended that it is not the intention of the Ordinance to include in the expression "aggregate income" anything but income taxable in the Colony. The expression "aggregate income" (which appears in this section only in the Ordinance, although it appears again in the Regulations made under the Ordinance, and in these Regulations once only) seems ambiguous, and might be construed to include the income of a non-resident from property outside Trinidad. It is suggested that for the word "aggregate" there should be substituted the word "taxable." Any ambiguity would thus be avoided. The expression "taxable income" is defined in section 2 of the Ordinance, and if "taxable income" is substituted in section 3 for "aggregate income" the parenthetical words, namely, "which term shall include profits and gains" can be omitted, and it is suggested that this ought to be done.

7. *Section 5 (2).*—The principle adopted in this subsection appears to the Committee to be open to the gravest objections and to be almost impracticable in working with regard to non-resident companies. If the Ordinance only taxed income of companies resident in Trinidad there would still be objections to this clause as it stands, for the reasons

pointed out in paragraphs 8 and 11 below; but the objections to applying this clause to non-resident companies, a part only of whose profits are liable to Trinidad taxation, appear to the Committee to be insuperable and are summarised in the following four paragraphs.

8. *Section 5 (2).*—It is to be observed, in the first place, that the subsection places a trader who is an individual or an unincorporated firm in a different position with regard to interest on money borrowed for the purposes of his business to that occupied by a company with regard to the interest on its debentures. In the former case there is no provision that the trader is to deduct the interest on the money he has borrowed from his profits, and presumably the principle of the United Kingdom Tax Acts is to be applied under which annual interest is not a deduction from the assessable income. There is, however, no provision that the individual trader can recoup himself for the tax so suffered by way of deduction against the creditor to whom he pays the interest. With regard to companies, however, the debenture interest is by this subsection a deduction from the profits. Further, with regard to companies the dividends paid are a deduction from the profits under this subsection; there is no provision that an individual trader is to deduct from his assessable profits any part of them that he may have to pay away or distribute to persons entitled to share in the profits. There appears to be no ground for differentiating between the taxation of incorporated bodies and unincorporated firms or individual traders in the manner that the subsection adopts.

9. *Section 5 (2).*—It is a necessary part of the subsection that with regard to companies the companies should furnish to the Assessment Committee the names and addresses of their debenture holders and shareholders, and that the company should be assessed as the agent of absentee debenture holders and shareholders (see section 9 (2)). In the case of a company whose head office is in the United Kingdom or elsewhere outside Trinidad, and which may have a very large number of debenture holders and shareholders all over the world, this is placing a most unnecessary burden on the officials of the company, and this in itself is a great objection to the methods proposed.

10. *Section 5 (2)*—There is this further difficulty in the case of companies whose head office is outside Trinidad, and a part only of whose profits are earned in Trinidad, that they will have to apportion the debenture interest and dividends paid by them among their shareholders in some way so as to arrive at the portion of the dividend or interest paid to the shareholders which represents profits earned in Trinidad. This will be necessary because in the case of companies with undertakings all over the world it is only that part of the profits which is earned in Trinidad which will be liable to Trinidad taxation; therefore, in ascertaining whether any particular non-resident shareholder or debenture holder is liable to Trinidad tax, and if so how much Trinidad tax, it will be necessary to make an artificial division not only of the company's total profits, but also of the amount of distributed profits and of the interest so as to show what portion of the distributed profits which is paid to any individual shareholder or debenture holder is to be considered as having arisen from the trade carried on in Trinidad. The Committee respectfully submit that this is an insoluble problem to place before any non-resident company whose undertaking is situated not only in Trinidad, but other places also.

11. *Section 5 (2).*—A further grave difficulty arises in the working of this subsection which the Ordinance does not appear to deal with. Assume that a company does not distribute all its profits in the year of charge, but carries some of them to a reserve, and distributes them in some subsequent year. The profits undistributed will not have been deducted from the assessable income of the year in which they were made, and therefore will have been charged to tax. If the company distribute these accumulated profits

in a subsequent year it would appear that although they have paid tax in the hands of the company it would be the duty of the company on their distribution to subsequently deduct tax from the dividend and account for it to the Crown under section 9 of the Ordinance; this involves double taxation.

12. *Section 5 (4).*—The Committee feel that the wording of this subsection might be improved, and that it would be desirable to bring it into closer conformity with the provisions of the Imperial Finance Act, 1920, on this subject. This is, perhaps, rather a matter for the authorities at Somerset House to consider than for The West India Committee. It occurs, however, to The West India Committee that no provision is made against double taxation arising from an income tax imposed by another Colony or Dominion.

13. *Section 7.*—This section is incorporated from the previous Income Tax Ordinance in the Colony. It is submitted that it is now unnecessary and undesirable to adopt a differential method of taxing insurance and shipping companies doing business in Trinidad, seeing that under the present Ordinance all non-residents trading in Trinidad are to be taxed in respect of their Trinidad trade.

14. *Section 9 (1).*—It is submitted that this section is far too wide. It is not every agent who ought to be responsible in respect of his non-resident principal, but at the most an agent who has the control or management of the property, as in the United Kingdom Income Tax Acts.

15. *Section 9 (2).*—This subsection will, if the arguments urged against section 5 (2) are accepted, be amended. In any case, the concluding words, "except as hereinbefore provided" in the present Ordinance have nothing upon which to operate, and appear to be merely copied from the Ordinance No. 31, of 1919, in which Ordinance there was room for the exception clause to operate, though there is not in the present Ordinance.

16. *Section 10.*—The criticism made under section 9 (1) applies to this section.

17. *Section 13.*—It is observed that the United Kingdom system of average is not adopted. There should, therefore, be some provision under which a trading loss made in a preceding year should be allowed for. The Committee, however, appreciate that possibly some limitation with respect to the allowance for past losses might fairly be made either by reference to amount or to the period of time in which the loss was incurred.

18. *Section 17 (1).*—It is submitted that the tribunal as constituted affords no adequate protection to the taxpayer, and that some person not connected with the administration or collection of the Revenue ought to be appointed in addition. The Committee suggest that the Colonial Secretary would be a suitable person to be added to the Assessment Committee.

19. *Section 18 (1).*—The time should be extended in the case of non-residents.

20. *Section 18 (3).*—It should be made clear that the subsection applies only to employees in the Colony.

21. *Sections 18 (5), 19 (2), and 20 (2).*—The penalties should extend only to persons who have no reasonable excuse for failure in the duties prescribed.

22. *Section 21 (4).*—This provision, in effect, gives the Assessment Committee almost unlimited powers to legislate on all the more controversial questions that arise on income tax. It is submitted that this is an undue delegation of the powers of the Legislature.

23. *Section 22 (1).*—It is submitted that the powers conferred are too wide and might be made the occasion of great abuse. It is submitted that the powers conferred by this subsection should be exercisable only after a complaint as to an inadequate return has been made to the Assessment Committee, and after the taxpayer has had an opportunity of appearing before the Committee in his own defence.

24. *Section 23 (1).*—Some time limit should be imposed to the power of additional assessment. Under the United Kingdom system the limit is three years, and it is suggested that that is a suitable period to take.

25. *Section 23 (1).*—The period of three months is far too short and, indeed, might prevent a non-resident from applying at all. Moreover, the three months relates not to the application for repayment, but to the actual date of the payment of the tax by the taxpayer to the Assessment Committee. It is suggested that it would be more fair to allow repayment to be made where an application for repayment is made within three years of the year of assessment.

26. *Section 27 (1).*—The time should be extended to meet the case of non-residents.

27. *Sections 27 (2) and 27 (3).* An appeal on points of law should be given to the Court, and thence to the Privy Council, as is the case with regard to income tax law in other Colonies.

28. Since the above representations were agreed, there has come into the possession of The West India Committee a form which it seems intended to be used for the returns of taxpayers under the Ordinance. The West India Committee desire to point out that the form seems quite unsuitable for the case of an agent or trustee of non-residents, although on the face of it the form appears to be that which has to be filled in both by residents on their own behalf and on behalf of non-residents. An illustration of the wide powers of legislation which the Assessment Committee propose to exercise under Section 21 (4) of the Ordinance is given by paragraph 6 on page 4 of the form.

29.—The above observations are not intended to be exhaustive, but are only directed to the more salient points as they occur to The West India Committee. The Committee feel bound, however, to add that in their opinion the Ordinance is inadequate for the difficult subject with which it is concerned, and forms no sort of a basis for a permanent Income Tax Code in the Colony. No definition of "income" is given. No attempt at laying down rules for assessing the profits of trades or businesses is made. In particular, no provision is made with respect to allowances for wear and tear, or any other form of depreciation, or with regard to wasting assets. The whole of this appears to be left to the unlimited discretion of the Committee under section 21 (4). No provision is made, again, to meet the case of the business ceasing in the course of the year of assessment or of the taxpayer dying. It has been already pointed out that the Ordinance does not provide any means by which an individual who has been taxed on his income is able to pass on the tax to some other person to whom, by way of annuity, interest, or otherwise, he is bound to pay out some of his income. No attempt at differentiation is made between earned and unearned income. The financial year of the Colony is not the same as that of the United Kingdom, and difficulties may arise in the case of taxpayers who are subjected both to United Kingdom and Colonial taxation. The question of a taxpayer who has had to pay United Kingdom Excess Profits Duty in respect of profits partly earned in Trinidad does not appear to be clearly dealt with, neither is any indication given generally as to what deductions are to be allowed in arriving at taxable income. The Committee submit that a far more comprehensive and logical system of income tax ought to be thought out and devised. The West India Committee further submit that in any event the clauses relating to non-resident companies and individuals should be suspended until the suggestions made by the Royal Commission in this connection have been fully dealt with in the pending Revenue Bill, which it is understood will deal with suggestions made by the Royal Commission.

We have the honour to be, &c.,

(signed) R. RUMFORD, *Chairman*,
(signed) ALGERNON ASPINALL, *Secretary*.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

PLANTATION WHITE SUGAR.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The present fiscal attitude of the United Kingdom towards sugar renders it of great importance that the question of the manufacture of direct consumption sugar in the West Indies for this country should be considered, and in this connection it has to be borne in mind that the preferential advantage accorded to a white sugar is greater to the extent of somewhere about 10s. per ton than is the case with one of the "Demerara" type, on account of its higher polarisation.

The majority of West Indian factories, however, are not fitted with the necessary machinery to produce white sugar; while, on the other hand, most are not suitable for the manufacture of "Demerara" sugar, on account of the high degree of milling the canes receive, which renders the production of a high-class sugar of this description out of the question, save in exceptional circumstances. The canes grown, also, are not as a rule adapted to the manufacture of this sugar. The question therefore of the white sugar process which will give the best results as regards quality, with the lowest expenditure on machinery and cost of working, is an important one. The sulphitation and double carbonation methods are well known, and there is little to learn about them. The latter process is, however, unsuitable for the West Indies, as it demands a large supply of magnesia-free limestone, which is not available in their locality. The question, therefore, resolves itself into the possibility of another process being evolved, which will be an improvement upon the sulphitation process, which has its disadvantages.

Recent experimental work in the direction of the clarification of cane juice has been largely directed to the elimination of the pectins and other colloid bodies. The more the amount of milling and maceration the canes receive, the greater the quantity of these bodies in the juice. It is the breaking up of the cane which gives rise to the presence of these impurities in the juice. It is, or rather was, the simple squeezing of the canes in the much-abused windmill which rendered Barbados muscovado sugar so celebrated for its quality. When the steam mill, even of the single type, was substituted for the wind mill, the prejudicial effect upon the juice was at once apparent; while, it may be remarked, the quantity extracted from the cane, when the wind blew suitably, was as great as with the single steam mill.

With modern milling the want for white sugar is a ready and cheap method of eliminating the colloids from the juice, and recent results point to decolourising carbon, in some form or other, as being a probable agent in the future for the purpose. To this end it is essential that either a carbon be discovered which can be produced so cheaply as to do away with the necessity for revivification, or that its revivification can be carried out in such an efficient and cheap manner as to give rise to the necessary economy in the cost of manufacture. The difficulty in this connection lies in the fact that the presence of the colloids and

other bodies separated with and by the carbon is calculated to interfere with the process of revivification and diminish the clarification value of the carbon when revivified. In addition to the removal of the colloids, it may be expected from existing knowledge that the necessary colour destruction would be effected by the carbon, due, of course, to its oxidising power, which in itself is an advantage over the use of sulphurous acid, in which the bleaching is only apparent and not actual.

Whether the carbon be thrown away after first use, or whether it be revivified for further use, it is manifest that it is at the syrup stage of manufacture that it should be applied. The volume of liquid is only one-fourth of the initial volume of the juice, while impurities, for the removal of which the use of the carbon is not necessary, will have been already removed in the early stage of manufacture.

A typical process for the manufacture of white sugar directly from the cane juice would be for the clarification to be conducted with lime, as in the ordinary manufacture of refining crystals, and for the syrup to be treated with the decolourising carbon, boiled, and filtered through filter presses.

To adapt an ordinary refining sugar factory to the manufacture of white sugar by such a process would merely mean a supply of filter presses and "blow up" tanks for the syrup, some additional vacuum pans and crystalliser power, and sufficient centrifugals to form a double curing plant, with, of course, the necessary appliances for steaming the sugar and returning the washings. The question of the extra steam would have to be met by improved economy in its use, such as would be given by double effect heating of the cold juice with conversion of triple effects into quadruple, as with modern sulphitation factories.

But the thing is to find the decolourising carbon which fulfils the conditions of cost, and the present development of the subject certainly points to this being done. In one particular description the revivification process has already been materially cheapened, while the general attention which is being paid to the subject in all parts of the cane sugar industry producing countries cannot fail to help on the matter. Indeed, in the United States, claim has been made of the successful working of a plant with decolourising carbon. The trouble with white sugars made by the sulphitation process is they do not keep their colour. If the decolourising carbon process is perfected, this will not arise, and the sugar made will be quite equal in quality to refiners' granulated, while the wear and tear of machinery resulting from the sulphurous acid liberating the acids of the juice in a free state will be avoided.

Mr. J. C. GANZONI, after nearly fifty years' activity, has relinquished his position on the Board of C. Czarnikow, Ltd., though he will continue to give that firm the benefit of his valuable advice and wide experience. His large circle of friends will wish Mr. Ganzoni many happy years in his retirement. Mr. Ganzoni's son, Sir Francis Ganzoni, who has on more than one occasion visited Barbados, has been a Member of Parliament for the Ipswich Division since 1914.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 328).

The Case for Wireless.

As we drew near the Lighthouse jetty in our tender, the mist was already beginning to be dissipated by the tropical sun, and we could recognise many familiar objects, conspicuous being the tower of Holy Trinity Cathedral, the dome of the Red House (as the Government Building, rebuilt after the regrettable riots of 1903, is called), and the rococo tower of Queen's Royal College, the island's leading Public School. Conspicuous, too, were the tall twin masts of the wireless station, the position of which had been forming the subject of enquiry by an expert from home. It was contended that the aerials should have been placed high up on the hills instead of near the sea level, and some unkind critics went so far as to suggest that the station had been established on its present site so that it might be conveniently near the office of a prominent official—which was, of course, absurd. Nevertheless, although its range was limited, this wireless station was proving itself to be a blessing to the community while the cables were broken, and in spite of occasional delays due to "atmospherics" and the inability of the staff to cope with the number of words submitted for transmission, it was possible to send messages by it with a reasonable degree of certainty that they would eventually reach their destination in an intelligible form, which was more than could be said of the "cable" messages despatched by sloop from Barbados.

Many claim that wireless will prove the panacea for the West Indies' telegraphic ills. The Imperial Communications Committee did not share this view. In considering the case of those colonies, it definitely rejected wireless on the grounds that it was subject to constant interruptions owing to the atmospheric conditions prevailing in the Caribbean area. Notwithstanding this adverse decision, however, one feels that the last word on the subject has not yet been said, for while America is talking of wireless telephony for her West Indian possessions it seems ridiculous that we should be turning down wireless telegraphy for ours. Wireless has not yet been properly "tried out" in the British West Indies. Most of the stations in those colonies were only hurriedly erected during the war. They were set up by the Government and were not intended to carry on a commercial service. None of them can be said to be really up to date, and there is, moreover, a great diversity about the types of apparatus used in the different islands and British Guiana. One must hope, therefore, that further experiments will be made in the light especially of the recent Marconi inventions, by which, it is claimed, communication can be maintained without interruption through "atmospherics," that future developments will not be confined to ship to shore stations, and that the West Indies will eventually enjoy efficient wireless communication as well as the British cable system *via* Bermuda, which is essential for strategic reasons as well as for commercial purposes.

Away to the left of Port of Spain were two small jetties, alongside one of which was the miniature liner *Belize* waiting to perform her fortnightly trip to Tobago and round the coast, while the other was occupied by what looked like a red hulk in the shipbreaker's hands. This vessel proved to be the cable repair steamer *Henry Holmes*, which had been the cause of the continuance of the breakdown of cable communication from which the islands to windward of the Caribbean Sea and British Guiana were still suffering. We were told that she had already been in the hands of the Trinidad Government floating dock and workshop for fifteen months—since January, 1919—and, judging by her appearance, which was very worn-begone and forlorn, there seemed to be every probability of her remaining there several more months before she could again sail the seas and continue her merciful work of repairing cables and keeping West Indians in touch with the outside world. Her owners, the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, blamed the Government for the delay. The Government, on the other hand, declared that the responsibility lay at the door of the company, which had provided no list of defective parts beyond tubes required for the donkey hoiler, and was continually giving orders for further work to be carried out. Both were agreed that the undertaking was too great for the local dock and workshop to carry out, with their limited resources. Meanwhile, there the *Henry Holmes* lay in her hospital uniform of red lead, and it was not until October, 1920, that she was eventually re-commissioned, "a better ship in every way than when she left the hands of her builders," if the claim of the General Manager of the Dock is justified.

The Land of the Humming Bird.

At last we reached the jetty, and it was with feelings of very real pleasure and eager anticipation that we set foot once more on the "Land of the Humming Bird." The Indians from the Main who once peopled the island—not to be confused with the Indian immigrants from Calcutta of later years—gave the West Indies many euphonious place names, but none so picturesque as that by which they called Trinidad. To them the island was *Ière*, a word interpreted on the *multum in parvo* principle as the "Land of the Humming Bird," a name by which it has been affectionately known ever since. It was a happy choice, for though humming birds are probably not more numerous in Trinidad than they are in Jamaica, or certainly in Dominica, it undoubtedly attracts visitors. It savours of romance and the silent virgin forests with their exquisite and rare orchids, and sounds so much nicer than the Land of Mud, which is occasionally, and without any real justification, given to the Colony of British Guiana.

Of all my fellow-passengers who landed at Trinidad, not one, probably, was more glad to get ashore than Miss Moseley, proprietor and editor of the *Nassau Guardian*. That enterprising lady, after completing five strenuous years of work on behalf of the Contingents which crossed the Atlantic from the British West Indies during the war, was endeavouring to return to her home in the Bahamas by way of "the islands." In her frantic endeavour

to find a phantom ship to carry her on that un-scheduled route, she was paying a second visit to Trinidad, and in the absence of cabin accommodation on board the *Chaudière*, had been compelled to pass two days and two nights at sea as a deck passenger. From this it must not be supposed that she was one of the motley crowd of West Indians known as "deckers," who travel from island to island with their pots and pails and all their worldly belongings in baskets and bundles, exposed to the fierce rays of the burning sun, except when they make themselves shelters of rugs and canvas, on the fo'c's'le of the mail steamers, and presenting a pitiable sight to the first-class passengers, who lean over the rails and callously watch them in their discomfort. It was not quite so bad as that. Still, two nights in a deck chair even in the tropics are not very conducive to rest; but she came up smiling, and one was glad to notice that she received a very cordial welcome from several of her protégés who had gathered to meet her.

During my stay in Trinidad my host was to be Mr. Gordon Gordon, a merchant prince of that island, who had been a fellow-passenger on the run down from Barbados, and we were met by his wife, one of the kindest of women. The Customs formalities were not serious, for though Trinidad has a "tariff" visitors are not troubled as they sometimes are in the "land of the free" to the north, and we were consequently soon driving through the wide and well-kept streets of the capital.

The name "Port of Spain" is, on the face of it, an obvious misnomer. It is, however, hallowed by age, and one must be thankful that when the city was captured by the English it was not re-named Kingstown or Georgetown, to add to the difficulties of geographers and the bewilderment of globe-trotters. As a matter of fact, although the yellow and red flag of Spain was floating over Trinidad less than a century and a quarter ago, the island bears the impress of Spanish ownership more lightly than does Jamaica, British now for over two hundred and fifty years. In the last-named island many Spanish names survive, and one still sees the women in their picturesque turbans and large-brimmed straw hats riding astride their donkeys on the way to market after the fashion of the peasants of Andalusia. It used to be said that in Trinidad one could still hear the dreamy Spanish waltzes, but even these have been supplanted by American "rag-time" and jazz music.

The present town may be said to date from 1808, its predecessor having been almost completely destroyed by a calamitous fire in that year. The conflagration originated in a chemist's store in Frederick Street, then, as now, the leading business thoroughfare. A certain doctor, who had been looking on the wine while it was red, at ten o'clock one night in March in that year, accidentally set light to some shavings. The fire, fanned by a breeze, spread with terrible rapidity through the town, the wooden buildings of which it was entirely composed burning like matchwood. The church bells were set ringing, the drums beat to quarters, and the troops of the garrison were hurried to the scene. The soldiers, however, proved a hindrance rather

than a help, for many of them broke open the grog stores and looted the property which the inhabitants threw from their windows in their despair. The slaves also got completely out of hand, which is hardly to be wondered at considering the example set to them by the troops, and freely pillaged the shops and warehouses. Many inhabitants resorted to the expedient of throwing their goods into the wells, and though these were dry they went on piling bale upon bale of merchandise until it caught fire from the top and was burnt nearly to the bottom of the wells. Throughout the night the domestic pigeons of the town circled over the fire, until, overcome by weariness, they dropped into the flames. It was not until eight o'clock on the following morning that the fire was eventually checked by blowing up many houses with gunpowder, and by that time the greater part of the city had been consumed.

By this conflagration thousands of the inhabitants were rendered destitute and homeless. The usual fund was raised for the relief of distress, and Parliament voted £50,000 towards that object; but Joseph relates that none of the sufferers got a shilling of it, and that part of the sum was expended on building a gaol, for accommodation in which there must, one imagines, have been many people qualified.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Leprosy and its Transmission.

SIR,—The West Indies Revisited" has been a source of much pleasure throughout its continuation.

In THE CIRCULAR of 21st inst., the reference to leprosy calls up some recollections of its prevalence in British Guiana in the 60's, and of several cases in the older European or Creole families. I am under the impression that about that time a Commission investigated it in India and much dissatisfaction was expressed at the finding that contagiousness was unproven. Dr. J. D. Hillis—with whom I was well acquainted—afterwards wrote an extensive work upon it and this was followed by a Commission to India in which Dr. Beavan Rake, of Trinidad, took part. Dr. Rake had been carefully investigating it and making experiments in Trinidad. About this time my friend the late John Bell Smyth—who for many years spent his Sundays with me—was agitating in the Council for improvements in the quarters of the White Sisters who were doing the whole work of the asylum at Cocorite. During this time, Father Damien had acquired the disease and died at Molokai, but not a single case occurred among the Sisters at Cocorite—as far as I can remember. What of the theory of its transmission by the insect *cimex lectularius*? The School of Tropical Medicine ought to be able to put you through, and, if there is anything in it, its prevalence and spread in the West Indies and British Guiana are sufficiently accounted for. To me it was from the first a subject of absorbing interest and I had opportunities for observing the course of a number of cases. This is my excuse for once more breaking in upon your time.

PETER ABEL

Ardingly, July 24th, 1921.

JAMAICA GOVERNORS.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VII. John, Lord Vaughan.

John, second Lord Vaughan, third and last Earl of Carbery, was the son of the second Earl (the patron of Jeremy Taylor and Samuel Butler), and his second wife Frances, daughter and co-heir of Sir John Altham, whose great piety was recorded by Taylor. Born in 1640, he was probably at first educated at home, at Golden Grove, Carmarthenshire, under Jeremy Taylor and his friend and assistant, the classic scholar William Wyatt. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, in July, 1656, and was admitted to the Inner Temple two years later.

He was knighted in 1661, and sat as Member of Parliament for the Borough of Carmarthen from 1661 to 1679, and for the county from then to 1681, and again from 1685 to 1687. He succeeded his elder brother Francis in the courtesy title of Lord Vaughan in 1667.



ARMS OF LORD VAUGHAN.

Raised in a literary atmosphere he acquired a literary turn of mind. He was one of Dryden's earliest patrons, and he wrote the following prologue which is prefixed to his "Conquest of Granada," which appeared in 1670 :

"ON MR. DRYDEN'S PLAY, THE CONQUEST OF GRANADA."

"The applause I gave among the foolish crowd
Was not distinguished, though I clapped aloud :
Or, if it had, my judgment had been hid :
I clapped for company, as others did
Thence may be told the fortune of your play,
Its goodness must be tried another way.
Let's judge it then, and, if we've any skill,
Commend what's good, though we commend it ill
There will be praise enough; yet not so much
As if the world had never any such :
Ben Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, Shakespeare, are,
As well as you, to have a poet's share
You, who write after, have, besides, this curse,
You must write better, or you else write worse
To equal only what was writ before,
Seems stolen, or borrowed from the former store.
Though blind as Homer all the ancients be,
'Tis on their shoulders, like the lame, we see.
Then not to flatter th' age, nor flatter you
(Praises, though less, are greater when they're true),
You're equal to the best, outdone by you :
Who had outdone themselves, had they lived now."

Later "The Kind Keeper of Limberham," a coarse comedy produced by Dryden in 1678, was dedicated to Vaughan, whom Pepys describes as

"one of the lowdest fellows of the age, worse than Sir Charles Sedley."

On the 3rd of April, 1674, he was appointed Governor of Jamaica, with "express instructions to discourage and pursue the Pyrates," Sir Henry Morgan being made Lieutenant-Governor on the 6th of November. In view of past difficulties, Vaughan was expressly informed that he was not to declare war without the King's particular command : and, as foreshadowing the drastic measure brought out by Carlisle a few years later, he was forbidden to re-enact any laws "except on very urgent occasion," and it was also proposed to prevent him from making any fresh laws, but this does not seem to have been included in his instructions. He was accompanied, as his physician, by Dr. Thomas Trapham, who published in 1679 "A Discourse on the state of health in the island of Jamaica," and played a part in the island's progress as a member of the Assembly, and in other ways till he returned to England in 1702.

On their way out they were refused provisions by the "unworthy" governor of Madeira. When the *Foresight* frigate arrived off Port Royal on the evening of March the 13th, 1674-5, with Lord Vaughan on board, the fort fired many guns, and he was entertained the next day at the King's House there "as well as the island could afford"; Sir Henry Morgan, who had outsailed him, presumably presiding. Vaughan's term of office as Governor was sandwiched in between two of Morgan's terms.

On the 15th Vaughan took the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy administered to him by five Members at his first Council Meeting held at Port Royal : Sir Henry Morgan at the same time was sworn in as Deputy Governor. On his going to St. Jago de la Vega he was met at Passage Fort by 150 horse, and a company of foot, besides the gentlemen of the country and seven coaches—all of which accompanied him to the town. There he dined with Sir Thomas Modyford (who had come out in his train, and whom he had made chief justice). He was later entertained by Sir Thomas Lynch. Peter Beckford, the Deputy Secretary for the island, and later Lieutenant-Governor, also took part in the festivities, and Hender Molesworth, a Member of the Council, and later Governor, was probably there too. So that there were possibly dining at one table, one present, three past and two future Governors (or Lieutenant-Governors) of the island—not to mention John White, who later, as President of the Council, administered the government for a short time.

Vaughan set about his work of putting down the pirates with zeal; and so well did he carry out his instructions that they "soon dwindled to nothing"; but he wrote home, "These Indies are so vast and rich, and this kind of rapine so sweet that it is one of the hardest things in the world to draw those from it which have used it so long." The planters, thus robbed of a source of revenue, turned their attention to the better cultivation of their land, and "they soon became equal to any of the other colonies (Barbadoes not excepted) for the goodness and quality of their sugars."

About this time the planters suffered severe losses by reason of the special charter granted in 1672 by Charles II. to the Royal African Company, by virtue of which the Company took to itself not only the exclusive right of the whole trade in those parts, but also of seizing as prizes all ships trading with slaves or merchandise without their licence, "interlopers" as they were called.

Vaughan was instructed to receive with kindness such immigrants from Surinam as followed the original party that had come over with their Governor, General Banister, in March 1671-2, and to take care that they received provisions at moderate rates—and each person was to have twice as much land as other settlers.* On the arrival of these Surinamese, numbering between 1,000 and 1,200 whites, blacks and Indians, the Governor issued a proclamation ordering that "all possible assistance be given them, in order to their better settlement in this island." They were sent to the Surinam Quarters in St. Elizabeth (now Westmoreland), where the earlier immigrants under Banister had settled. In January, 1675-6, Vaughan reported that they had proved "a considerable addition to us," and that they were exceedingly pleased with the island. Leslie, in his "New History of Jamaica" (1740), says, "Indeed, the removal of the Colony of Surinam was the only good thing that befel Jamaica in the Lord Vaughan's time."

(To be continued.)

*See "The Migration from Surinam to Jamaica," by the present writer, in "Timehri" (Vol. vi., Sept. 1919).

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following transfers affecting the Colonial Civil Service of the British West Indies have been recently made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Mr. C. V. A. Espent (Director of Public Works, Uganda), Director of Public Works, Jamaica.

Mr. H. A. Young, K.C. (Resident Magistrate, Kenya), Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana.

MRS. SEALY, who, we regret to state, died on July 14th, was the widow of the late Mr. T. H. Sealy, M.A., of the well-known firm of solicitors in Barbados, Messrs. Carrington & Sealy. She was the third daughter of the late Mr. Charles Lyall, of Claybury, Barbados and Bath, and a sister of Mrs. Archibald Pile and Mrs. Laurie Pile. Mrs. T. H. Sealy will be much missed by her family and many friends, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy in their great loss.

A CABLEGRAM received as we go to press states that Major Randolph Rust, Mayor of Port of Spain, presided over a large meeting of the inhabitants of Trinidad at Prince's Building on August 11th, at which it was decided to forward to the Secretary of State for the Colonies a memorial embodying a resolution to the effect that "the time has come when the inhabitants of this Colony should have a voice in the Government thereof by electing the official members of the Legislative Council."

NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

Barbados Civic Circle's Work.

THE old Military Cemetery at Needham's Point, Barbados, to the disgraceful state of which attention was called in the CIRCULAR of July 8th, 1920, is at last to be restored, thanks to the good offices of the Civic Circle of the Barbados Lyceum Club and a grant which has been voted by the Legislature. The matter is now engaging the attention of the Public Works Department, and it is proposed to surround the graveyard with a wall and to restore the tombstones as far as possible.

Recently members of the Civic Circle restored the lettering on the monument to the officers and men of the Royal York Rangers, who fell in the Martinique and Guadeloupe Campaign in 1809 and 1810, which stands at the cross-roads near the Savannah.



York Rangers' Monument in Barbados.

THE Dutch Pides Society of Surinam celebrated on July 1st the anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in that country.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

No less than 2,000 tons of pea-nuts are annually imported into Australia for edible purposes; and, says the *Australian Sugar Journal*, the growing demand is to be met by the production from 6,000 acres in the North of Australia, in a locality where the nuts contain 50.8 per cent. of oil. It is expected that, in addition to the human consumption, a big oil industry will be established.

The Bureau of Agriculture of the Philippines has published a *Bulletin* (No. 37) dealing with the cultivation of rice in those islands. The subject is treated extensively in the 87 octavo pages of the *Bulletin*, which is also profusely illustrated. Growers and prospective growers of rice in the West Indies would do well to acquire the *Bulletin*, which can be obtained from the Bureau for 1.40 Philippine dollars, post paid.

There is a certain amount of wastage of nitrogen in green manuring when the manure is added to the soil in a fresh state, and it is recommended that the green manure be collected in pits, allowed to rot, and be then applied to the land. Little has been done in this direction, however, but the system is worthy of an extended trial, as it would put the manure in a thoroughly satisfactory condition for the maximum utilisation of its fertilising constituents.

In connection with the trouble which is being experienced in San Thomé from the prevalence of thrips in the cacao cultivation, *Tropical Life* states that the humidity of the atmosphere of that island has been considerably reduced since the cacao estates were first established on a large scale, and that this is the cause of the spread of the pest. The condition is further aggravated by the increasing impoverishment of the soil, by want of manure, by the lack of care in cultivation, and by the absence of adequate shade.

The Citrus Black Fly (*Aleurocanthus Woglumi* Ashby) has not up to recently given trouble in the United States; but its extensive prevalence in the West Indies has caused an order to be issued by the United States Minister of Agriculture forbidding the introduction of plants or fruits from certain countries, among which is Jamaica, unless under a permit from the Federal Horticultural Board, which, it is advised, should be obtained in advance of the proposed shipment. Jamaica bananas are now being shipped under licence to the United States.

The Report of the Commission appointed in Barbados in 1919 to enquire into the causes of root-borer disease of the sugar-cane, and to determine the measures to be adopted for its control, has been published. It is recommended that rotation of crops should be practised where the pest occurs, that stumps in infested fields should be dug out at the earliest possible moment after the canes are

cut; that the eggs and beetles of the adults of the brown hard-back, the cause of the trouble, should be carefully collected in fields when these insects occur; that the beetles themselves should be destroyed as well as the grubs, and that the parasite, *Tiphia parallela* (which apparently already existed in Barbados), should be introduced into the island.

A peculiar example of the power which some insects possess of assuming a terrifying appearance for the purpose of defence is offered by the larva of the beautiful Sphinx Moth, *Phobus labrusca*, which feeds on the field vine, *Vitis Sicyoides*. At first sight, says Mr. J. D. Cleure in a recent number of the *British Guiana Times*, its remarkable snake-like appearance attracts attention, the markings resembling those of the deadly *Labaria*. The larva has also the power of retracting the first two segments of the body, rendering its appearance still more horrible. In addition, at the posterior end, where the "horn" of most sphinx larva is situated, there is a peculiar "eye-like" marking, which the animal has the power of causing to flicker, doubtless to cause further perturbation in a possible enemy.

In normal years, says the *Canadian Export Pioneer*, India produces well over 5,000,000 tons of oil seeds, including cotton seed, rape seed, pea-nuts, sesame seed, mowra seed, poppy seed, niger seed, linseed and castor oil, as well as copra. Linseed, niger seed and poppy seed were formerly used in paints and varnishes as liquid drying oils, and rape seed was employed for industrial purposes; but linseed and rape seed can be refined for the production of margarine, and much rape seed is being used for this purpose on the Continent of Europe. Copra and mowra yield solid fats, while liquid non-drying oils are expressed from cotton, sesame, rape and castor seed, and from pea-nuts. India furnishes 98 per cent. of the castor seed of the world, the oil from which is considered the best lubricant for aeroplane engines, and has a monopoly of the supplies of several other varieties.

With the knowledge of West Indian conditions which the promoters possess, and with the experience that is available of similar institutions elsewhere, the West Indian Agricultural College will start under the very best of auspices. Not only will it have the support of the British West Indies themselves, but also that of the Home Government in the shape of the Colonial Office. In the training of the industrial students, theory will be closely associated with practice in a form nearly allied to the actual conditions of the various industries catered for, while it is expected that invaluable research work will be carried out in connection with the many animal and vegetable pests associated with tropical agriculture by those students who have selected for their future the purely scientific side of agriculture. The results, indeed, of the College, should materially encourage all classes of West Indian agriculturists, from the peasant with his garden plot to the proprietor of many acres.

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's *ad valorem* Duties.

Hon. Donald Macdonald writes under date July 13th that at a recent general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, which was attended largely by importers outside the Society, as well as by members, a strong resolution was adopted protesting against the Government's intention to include the current rate of exchange in calculating *ad valorem* duties, as aiming a direct blow at Imperial trade.

The Leeward Islands were for some reason unrepresented at the West Indian Medical Conference in Demerara, which will doubtless prove of great value to all the Colonies.

The Bahamas Police Commission.

A cabled despatch has been received by the Governor from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, directing the reinstatement in their respective offices of Mr. J. M. St. John Yates and Major E. E. Turner, whose conduct has been the subject of a Commission of Inquiry in the Colony, which is not yet concluded. These officials have been granted leave of absence with full salary until further orders. On the matter coming up for discussion in the House of Assembly on July 25th, the Speaker stated that a grave situation had arisen which required careful consideration and the most deliberate action on the part of the House. Thereupon, says the *Nassau Guardian*, the House at once adjourned.

The New Barbados Customs Tariff.

The new Customs tariff, which came into operation on July 1st, considerably increases both *ad valorem* and specific duties. In the case of the former, in general a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty is imposed on British goods, as against a 20 per cent. on foreign. Certain foodstuffs (meat, milk, and vegetables) are placed on the free list.

In a libel action arising out of the recently contested election in St. Joseph, Mr. H. Graham Yearwood, who was then elected, has recovered £455 damages from the *Weekly Times*.

The *Advocate*, of July 5th, reports a fortnight of favourable weather, although more rain would have been welcome in many districts. The business of W. H. Bryan & Co., which was placed in liquidation earlier in the year, has been bought out by Samuel Manning & Co., and will be reorganised as a limited company.

The Medical Conference in British Guiana.

After the drought, the deluge! Many of the streets of Georgetown were flooded by the extremely heavy rain towards the end of June, and much disorganisation was caused in some of the villages. The change was, however, a welcome one for the crops.

The outstanding event of late in the Colony has been the West Indian Medical Conference which opened on June 25th in the Court of Policy. In his inaugural address, Hon. C. Clementi pointed out the great value of these Inter-Colonial Conferences, the most important of all being one dealing with the health of inhabitants. British Guiana, in the speaker's opinion, had much to learn from her sister Colonies, and it was a sad reflection to find that in

spite of the efforts to increase the population by immigration, there had been a decrease of 1.2 per cent in twenty years.

Mr. Jaundoo, a prominent rice grower of the East Coast, has come forward with the proposal that adequate representation of East Indians, who number nearly half the inhabitants of the Colony, should be secured by the nomination of two East Indian members in the Court of Policy. The *Argosy* points out that this would involve a drastic change in the Constitution, and would moreover destroy that very principle in upholding which British Guiana has proved an example, namely equal rights for all citizens without regard to race.

The death is reported from Barbados, whither he had gone for his health, of Mr. G. J. Wickham, the popular manager of Plantation Friends, and formerly of Plantation Albion.

The Grenada Census.

The provisional returns of the Census taken this year give the island's population as 66,302, which shows a decrease of 448 on the figures of 1911. The Registrar-General gave an estimated return of the population in 1919 as over 74,000, and although emigration was considerable last year, the *West Indian* is at a loss to account for such a difference.

It has been decided to start a Grenada branch of the Comrades of the Great War, Mr. Terence Commissioning acting as Hon. Secretary.

The Committee appointed to make recommendations for the changes which have been sanctioned in the Colony's constitution, have concluded their sittings and presented their report. They favour one electoral district for the whole island.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on June 28th, Mr. George de Freitas gave an account of the financial condition of the Colony, showing that this year's estimate of expenditure—viz., £142,000, was about double the island's normal revenue, and recommending the use of an axe rather than a pruning knife to put the Colony's finances on a sound basis.

Canadian Warships off Jamaica.

The four-day visit of H.M. Canadian Squadron, under the command of Captain C. H. Adams, C.R.E., and consisting of the flagship *Aurora*, and the *Patriot* and *Patrician*, came to an end on July 18th. The first visit of a Canadian squadron to Jamaica, it was admitted on all sides to have been a notable success, and much enjoyed by Canadian officers and men. Their entertainment, which was arranged by the Victoria League, included dances at the Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring Hotels, a regatta held by the Royal Jamaica Yacht Club, at which His Excellency Sir Leslie Probyn, Commodore of the Club, was present, an At Home at the Liguanea Club, and a picnic at Serge Island Estate.

The Government, says the *Gleaner*, have decided to repatriate about 10,000 Jamaicans who were stranded in Cuba, many of them penniless and suffering great privation. The Legislative Council has voted £3,300 towards the cost of repairing the rifles and bayonets presented by the Home Government.

The railway situation continues to cause anxiety. On July 31st a large section of the employees were due to "come out." A memorial was sent to the Governor, with the request that it should be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, setting forth their grievances, which include the question of pay and hours of work.

Montserrat and the Boll-worm.

Mr. W. Robson, who has lately returned to the Island from a visit to U.S.A., writes under date July 9th that the cotton crop appears to be in much the same condition as last season at this time, and the rainfall has again been very unsatisfactory. With other weather conditions satisfactory, to ensure a successful first crop the rainfall under our conditions on what is regarded as good cotton land should be in the ratio of 2, 4, 6, and 8 inches for the four months succeeding the date of planting. The low rainfall in June in the present season limits very seriously the amount of first crop, and now that the pink boll-worm is present in the island, the possibilities of a good second crop are problematical, even if the weather for the remainder of the year continues favourable, in view of the probable serious increase of this pest towards the end of the year.

It is of interest to record that the pink boll-worm has not yet been observed to be infesting cotton plants on the current crop, which points to the probability of successful first crops of cotton being obtained in favourable seasons before the crop is generally infested with the pest, the cotton crop as a rule in Montserrat being planted in the month of March.

The prospects for a bay rum industry in the island, now that it is known that the St. Thomas industry is still in a flourishing condition and promises to continue, are not so attractive.

The Governor of the Leeward Islands (Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.M.G., etc.) has visited the island, returning to Antigua on July 10th.

Re-opening of the Nevis Hospital.

On June 29th the Alexandra Hospital, which has been re-floored and reconstructed, was re-opened by Mrs. Burden, the Administrator also being present. Dr. the Hon. C. H. Durrant complimented Mr. Clarkson, the new Assistant Superintendent, on the speeding-up of the work since his arrival. Mrs. Burden, in declaring the Hospital open, said she hoped the next ceremony of the sort in Nevis would be the opening of a new Nurses' Home and Maternity Ward, additions that were urgently needed. The Hon. F. H. Watkins said that when these materialised, the Nevis Hospital would compare favourably with her sister Institution in St. Kitts.

St. Kitts Crops show Promise.

The temporary appointment of Mr. A. D. C. Adamson as Cotton Inspector, whose duty it is to see to the proper carrying out of the boll-worm Ordinances, has now expired. His work during his term of office met with much commendation.

Writing under date July 15th, Mr. Adamson says that the Basseterre factory finished grinding on July 13th, and should close with a crop of about 8,000 tons. There have been good showers, and the sugar and cotton crops are looking well. Unfortunately the pink boll-worm is reported to be in evidence at La Guerite.

St. Lucia's New C.M.O.

Dr. H. E. Sutherland Richards, M.C., who represented St. Lucia in the Inter-Colonial Medical Conference in Demerara, has been appointed Chief Medical Officer of the island.

His Honour E. D. Laborde, I.S.O., has been sworn in as Acting Administrator in the absence on leave of Lieut.-Colonel Davidson Houston.

The St. Vincent Sugar Industry.

Mr. Alban Da Santos, one of the few manufacturers of centrifugal sugar in the Colony, has written to the Administrator advocating a high import duty on sugar coming in to St. Vincent, in order to induce planters to take up a large cultivation of cane, and enable them to overcome the disadvantages arising from lack of modern machinery. In his reply, the Administrator agrees that it is desirable to increase cane cultivation, but points out that no tariff would be successful in establishing a prosperous industry without modern machinery and co-operation among planters.

The report of the Agricultural Department for the period from April 1st to December 31st, 1919, is only just to hand. These months witnessed the largest area under cotton cultivation ever recorded in St. Vincent, a total of 6,633 acres, of which 5,979 acres were planted with Sea Island, and 1,554 with Marie Galante.

The Registrar-General, in his report on the Vital Statistics of the Colony for 1920, estimates the population on December 31st as 54,014, an increase of 800 on the preceding year's figures. There were 597 legitimate births, and 1,401 illegitimate, the proportion of the latter being 70.1 per cent. Of the total deaths, 20.8 per cent were of infants under one year.

Trinidad and the Shipping "Conference."

The flying boats *Specialist* and *Chaguaramas* left Port of Spain on June 30th in order to start their aerial survey of the Orinoco delta. They were piloted by Major Cochran-Patrick and Captain Bailey.

The death occurred on June 30th of Mr. Francis Agostini, who owned some of the finest cacao and coconut properties in the Colony, to which he came from Corsica at the age of twenty-one.

American Independence Day on July 4th, and Venezuelan Independence Day on July 5th, were celebrated by a Pan-American Ball, the atmosphere up to midnight being American, and thence to 4 a.m. Venezuelan. The function was largely attended by others than citizens of the two nations immediately concerned, and proved highly successful.

The Chamber of Commerce is taking an active interest in the question of the Conference Lines of steamers and the effect of the rebates offered by them, and on their representation the matter is now receiving the earnest attention of the local Government.

Canon S. F. Branch, who died on June 8th, was the father of Hon. E. St. John Branch, Attorney-General of Jamaica. Canon Branch started his ministerial career over forty years ago in St. Vincent, being transferred to St. Lucia, where he was appointed Chaplain of the West India Regiment in 1868. In Trinidad he became Chaplain of Public Institutions, which position he held until his retirement, two years ago.

Emigration from Turks and Caicos Islands.

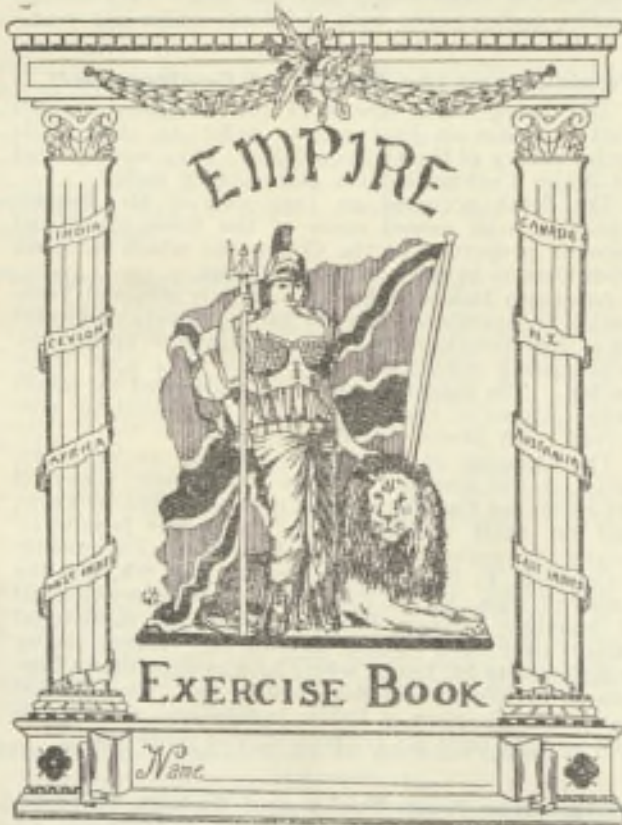
About 150 labourers have left the Dependency recently to work on contract at Barbados.

Mr. William Scholefield, Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate, has been appointed Clerk to the Courts at St. Ann, Jamaica. No cotton is being shipped at present, owing to the low price in the New York market, but consignments are still coming from the Caicos group to be ginned. A revival of the sponge industry is looked for very shortly. The census results for 1921, which are published, show a reduction of 3 on the figures for 1917, the population being 5,612 (of which 3,067 are females).

JAMAICA SCHOOL BOOKS.

It will be recalled that The West India Committee drew the attention of the Colonial Office to the fact that Exercise Books bearing the badge and flag of a foreign country were being used in the schools of Jamaica. The Secretary of State for the Colonies communicated with the Governor, who subsequently wrote a memorandum on the subject, emphasising the need for children of an impressionable age being supplied with material of a patriotic character. Extracts from the Memorandum, and from a circular to the island teachers by the Director of Education appeared in the CIRCULAR of June 9th (p. 235).

As a result of the publicity given to the matter in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, a firm submitted an "all-British" design for the exercise book-covers, a reproduction of which was given on page 127 of the CIRCULAR of March 31st. Another "all-British" Exercise Book has been published by Messrs. Bankhead, Hill & Co., the cover of which is depicted on this page.



Another all-British Book Cover.

THE Quebec Steamship Company is arranging a series of four cruises from New York to the West Indies during the coming winter by their new s.s. *Fort St. George*. The first sailing will be on November 26th, and the islands visited during the twenty-three days' cruise will include St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, Barbados, and Trinidad. Thereafter there will be sailings from the American capital on the 4th of each of the first three months of 1922.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

The Steamship Service.

Mr Wood (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), replying to Mr. Gilbert on August 4th, agreed that there was no regular service of British mail steamers calling at Trinidad at the present time, and stated that no subsidy was paid by his department to mail steamers for calling at any West Indian ports. The Legislative Council of Trinidad had recently had under consideration the question of a British mail and passenger service with England, and were of opinion that at the present time there was no need for subsidising such a service from the funds of the colony. The whole question of ensuring the maintenance of a regular British steamship service with the Lesser Antilles and British Guiana was under the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Tropical Agricultural Colleges.

Answering the Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., on August 2nd, Mr. Wood (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies) said that in the present financial condition of the West African Colonies a proposal for the foundation there of a college similar to that at present being set up for the West Indies in Trinidad would not be practicable. In Ceylon a School of Tropical Agriculture has been in existence since 1916, and it would no doubt be developed in connection with the recently established University College. He would always be pleased to give such assistance as might be within his power with a view to such Agricultural Colleges being in close association with the large universities in this country, subject to the willingness of the Colonial Government controlling the institution to provide any necessary funds.

Colonial Medical Officers.

Mr. Wood recently informed Lieut-Colonel Freemantle that it was not possible to publish the evidence given before the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the Colonial Medical Services. The recommendations of this Committee were at present being considered in connection with the observations of the Colonial Governments, but it was not yet possible to make any statement as to the decision on the proposal to appoint a Director-General of the Colonial Medical Service. A minimum salary of £600 per annum, with pension, for Colonial medical officers, as recommended in the Report of the Committee had not yet been sanctioned, the differences in the resources of the several Colonies being so great and the conditions under which their medical officers serve so diverse, that there was no prospect of it being possible to insist on Colonial Governments adopting the minimum in question as a hard-and-fast rule. In a number of the more prosperous Colonies the local governments had adopted, and in some cases exceeded, the minimum.

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.

THE RECTORY, STOW ST. MARY, MALDEN, ESSEX.—The Rector and Mrs. Gordon Smythe offer excellent home-loving care, and experienced tuition to children 6 to 12 years. Beautiful house standing in two acres of grounds in pretty and healthy countryside. Entire charge. References to parents.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in s.s. *Bayano*, August 1st:—

Mr P. Callaghan	Mr L. Franklin	Mr. A. McKenzie
Mr A. Chapatte	Mr F. V. Galbraith	Major C. D. Nicholson
Mr E. Clark	Mr & Mrs W. F. Hamilton	O. B. R.
Mr H. Cook	Dr. C. A. Lopez	Mrs C. L. Pinnock
Mr A. Deans	Mr. K. Matalon	Mr O. L. Samuel
Mr J. E. Ellis		Miss M. E. Sharp

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Changuinola*, August 9th:—

Mr & Mrs C. Chalmers	Mr & Mrs A. K. Hendriks	Mr F. C. Robbins
Mr S. Daddow	Mr O. Hernandez	Mr. F. L. Thomas
Mr P. L. Frost	Miss S. J. McCaulay	Mr J. T. Tiner

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. *Changuinola*, Avonmouth, August 1st:—

Mr. & Mrs. Sydney Bentley & Family	Dr. Braulio Henio	Dr. & Mrs. Jose Llanos and Family
	Mr. C. C. Knight	Miss Irene Morrison

Home arrivals from Jamaica in s.s. *Coronado*, Avonmouth August 8th:—

Miss B. Aitchison	Mr F. H. R. Farquharson	Miss Nixon
Mr J. C. Aplin	Mr E. C. Gould	Mr & Mrs. F. Ratcliff
Mr & Mrs R. T. Bain and Family	Miss E. Grove	The Misses Kerric (2)
Mrs & Miss Havly	Dr. & Mrs. J. N. Hawtin	Mr & Mrs. E. Setton
Mr Peter Magrove	Miss G. Hay	Rev. H. Simpson
Mr H. Bown	Mr & Mrs F. Holmes and Family	Miss M. Smith
Mrs A. Bullock	Mr & Mrs J. G. Kieffer & Family	Mr A. Verly
Major B. P. Caws	Miss I. Morin	Hon & Mrs W. A. S. Vickers
Mr & Mrs C. Curwen	Mr C. Moseley	Mr. C. Vidal Hall
Mr H. J. Dyble		Miss F. Woulley
Mr & Mrs W. Farquharson		Mr & Mrs R. Morton

Compagnie Generale Transatlantique.

Sailings to West Indies, from St. Nazaire, in s.s. *Haiti*, August 2nd

Mr J. B. Aguirre	Mr. H. P. Gray	Mr. J. B. Liverpool
Mrs A. Guisepil	Mr Moutanel	Mr. A. Liverpool

Royal Netherlands West India Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Oranje Nassau*, August 6th:

Mrs & Miss Brunt	Mr B. S. Haydon	Mrs Purvis & Family
Mr & Mrs S. Duinker	Mr J. Kelly	Mrs S. L. Raap
Mr & Mrs A. Feraudes	Mr & Mrs J. E. Little	Mr H. Silverman
Miss Fernandes	Mrs. Meerson & Infant	Miss H. L. Toke
Mr R. R. Findlay	Mr. J. Mullius	Mrs. E. Weston
Mrs E. Ground	Mr R. Nisbet	and Family
	Mr W. Owen	

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London in s.s. *Scientist*, August 12th:—

Mr O. M. Brown	Mr I. S. Duggall	Mr E. B. Knapp
Dr L. Clavier	Mr & Mrs. W. R. Forrest	Mr Peter Noble
Miss B. P. Cas mau	The Misses G. esham	Mr. H. J. Kies

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Nicoys</i>	Aug. 22
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Patuca</i>	" 23
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Spectator</i>	" 23
West Indies	London	<i>Settler</i>	" 24
B'nos & T'dad	Dover	<i>Venezuela</i>	" 27
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Camito</i>	" 29
West Indies	London	<i>Itaba</i>	Sept. 7
B'nos & T'dad	Dover	<i>Stuyvesant</i>	" 9
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	Sept. 7
B'nos, T'dad & R. P'das	Montreal	<i>Canadian Forester</i>	" 27
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chignecto</i>	" 30

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates, have been kindly supplied to The West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti-gua To Apr. 30	Bar. balos To June 30	British Guiana To June 23	British Honduras To June 30	Dom. nico To June 30	Grenada To May 31	Jamaica To Mar. 31	Mont. serrat	St. Lucia To June 30	St. Kitts Nevis To June 30	St. Vincent To Mar. 31	Trinidad To July 10
Arrowroot											552,253	58,102
Asphalt												
Balata			388,591	216,119	1,265		1,227,081					
Bananas												11,475
Bauxite			10,545									82,741,172
Bitters												
Cacao					574,560	7,089,508	584,184		1,198,268			23,450
Cassava Starch												86,425
Coco nuts			1,431,474	1,817,584	187,932	2,864	6,514,420		79,534			10,130,308
Coffee			43,718		333		1,659,546					1,920
Copra			67,199	115,627			563,823		10,080			15,6420
Cotton, M. Galante												
Cotton, Sea Island		65,727								279,218	353,550	
Cotton Seed										267,080		
Diamonds			36,222									
Dyewoods							216,944					
Ginger			3,525									
Gold												
Ground Nuts												
Money												
Line Juice (raw)	560				43,486	1,900	26,726		10,758			
" (concd.)	320				26,555	6,125	3,473		16,053			
Lime (citrate of)			3,840		397,376		745			15		
Logwood				360								
Lumber			48,280									
Mahogany				4,376,047								
Manjak		70										
Molasses	55,101	2105,975							43,425	73,600	9,780	33,710
Oranges	4,875				48,831	31,508	139,017					
Essential Oils							8,865					
Petroleum							349,440					
Pimento			2,444									
Rice			728									125,303
Rubber		12,121	1,483,985	329			341,436					
Rum			1,037,048									
Shingles			24,154						1,916	4,079	34	38,374
Sugar	2,804	12,903	71,053				2,439					
Timber												

No figures yet supplied.

It is hoped that those Governments whose statements are so much in arrears will kindly furnish up to date statistics.—Ed.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegram—
"Carib. London"



15, SKEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
August 16th, 1921.

BANK RATE 5½ per cent., as from July 21st.
EXCHANGE. Value of the £

	Aug. 1st.	Aug. 15th.		Aug. 1st.	Aug. 15th.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	15 1	15 1	In Spain	1 2 2½	1 1 5
France	1 16 9½	1 17 1	Germany	14 2 0	15 4 5
Belgium	1 17 9½	1 18 15	Austria	120 7 7	124 17 3½
Italy	3 8 31	3 6 41	Holland	19 2½	19 5½

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 6s 4½d. (paper)

SUGAR. The New York market has remained steady during the fortnight, yesterday's price for Cubans being still 3.25 c. c.i.f., equivalent to 4.86 c. duty paid landed. Quotations for Cubans landed in bond in the futures market were: September, 2.65 c., December 2.84 c., March 2.64 c., and May 2.70 c., comparing with September 3.29 c., December 3.05 c., March 2.87 c., and May 2.93 c., the quotations in this market which obtained a fortnight before.

The home market has been steady, prices being slightly higher than at the date of the last Summary. Muscovadoes are quoted at 40/- to 46/-; West Indian crystallised 45/- to 52/6, spot terms; spot American granulated 60/-, aloft 32/- c.i.f. White Mauritius sold yesterday at 53/6 duty paid landed; spot white Brazil crystals, 54/- to 56/-. The Terminal market values were: October, on the old terms, 17/3, November 17/3, December 17/-. On the new terms the values were: September 18/6, October 18/3, December 18/3, and March 17/3.

The estimate of the area sown in beets for the 1921-22 crop in the United States is somewhere between 842,270 and 895,246 acres. The area reaped last crop was 842,896 acres, but Messrs. Willett & Gray do not consider that more than 800,000 tons of sugar will result, as compared with 769,000 tons for last crop.

The Board of Trade Returns for July show that there is an upward tendency in the sugar trade of the United Kingdom, the consumption for the month having been 156,875 tons, as against 87,545 tons in July last year. This brings the total consumption for the seven months of the present year to 814,836 tons, as against 716,575 tons for the corresponding period of last year. The imports for the month amounted to 134,556 tons, making for the seven months 826,250 tons. The month's supply of "refined" was 119,029 tons, of which 44,410 tons came from Europe and 60,147 tons came from the United States. The month's imports of "unrefined" sugar was 55,236 tons only, the proportion of refined imports to those of unrefined increasing as the consumption increases beyond the power of the refineries to meet it. The Empire supply of sugar for the month was, from Mauritius, 12,770 tons; from the British West Indies and from British Guiana, 7,102 tons; and from British India, 826 tons. The quantity of sugar liberated from the refineries was 73,493 tons. The stocks in hand on July 31st amounted to 447,150 tons, as compared with 432,850 tons at the same date last year. The amount of the Cantley home-grown beet sugar for the six months of the present year which paid duty, is given as 1,032 tons.

The West India Sugar statistics in London on August 6th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Imports	36,705	37,780	27,279
Deliveries	25,816	24,124	24,374
Stock	19,293	21,792	3,097

RUM is lifeless and prices remain nominal.

The imports for the 7 months of the present year have been 8,385,458 gallons, and the consumption 1,046,210

gallons, compared with 250,611 gallons and 1,700,317 gallons respectively for the corresponding period last year. The stocks on hand on July 31st were 13,688,000 proof gallons, as compared with 12,084,600 gallons at the same date last year. The exports for the 7 months have declined from 312,277 proof gallons, last year's figures, to 104,031 gallons.

The stocks in London on August 6th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Jamaica	11,505	11,284	6,205
Demerara	17,832	12,239	11,342
Total of all kinds	39,337	33,371	25,629

CACAO is a fair market, with a good demand for low common qualities. A moderate business has been done in Grenada ordinary at 47/- to 50/-, and Jamaica ordinary has sold at 43/-. Trinidad is quiet at 58/- to 62/-.

The imports of cacao for the month were 61,731 cwt., bringing the total for the seven months to 860,447 cwt. Of the month's supply, 16,699 cwt. came from the British West Indies. The consumption for the month was 62,813 cwt., a slight increase on the 56,407 cwt. consumption of July last year, and a considerable increase on that of July, 1913, when it was 44,424 cwt. The consumption for the seven months of the present year has been 516,838 cwt., as compared with 430,003 cwt. for the first seven months of 1913. The stocks in hand in the United Kingdom on July 31st were 1,058,000 cwt., as against 1,412,000 cwt. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on August 6th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Trinidad	26,170	49,123	37,638
Grenada	23,506	25,566	17,519
Total of all kinds	180,176	303,629	151,525

ARROWROOT. Some cheap offers on the market are retarding any improvement in values, which remain steady and unchanged at 2½d. to 6½d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is in small supply with a fair demand. Spot value 3/7, forward 3/3 c.i.f.

COFFEE is quiet and firm, and the finer grades have advanced in values. Fine ordinary Jamaica has sold at 60/- to 62/-, but no first-hand Blue Mountain is on offer.

The imports for the month were 20,106 cwt., of which 124 cwt. came from the British West India Islands. The consumption for the month was 26,625 cwt., as against 27,760 cwt. for July last year, and the stocks on hand on July 31st, 16,000 cwt., as against 26,000 cwt. last year.

COPRA is flat. West Indian f.m.s. is valued at £33 10s. c.i.f. London or Holland.

COTTON has been in fair request without material change in values. West Indian Sea Island has been neglected with quotations unchanged at medium 23d., fine 31d., and extra fine 41d. There have been no further imports during the past fortnight.

HONEY. There has been more demand. Dark to amber has sold at 27/- to 35/-. No public sales have been held.

LOGWOOD continues very slow, and prices are nominal.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. Handpressed is unchanged at 19/- to 20/-. Distilled is neglected; last quotations, 2/9 to 2/10½ per lb., according to quality.

Lime Juice. Only small sales at 2 7½ for good Jamaica raw have been made.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is in good demand, and valued at 13/- to 14/- per lb., but there is still no demand for bitter.

RUBBER. Only a small business is passing. Spot crepe 8½d., sheet 8½d.

SPICES generally have been more active, and the demand is better than it has been for some weeks.

Ginger. A small business in good middling Jamaica has been done at 160/- per cwt. **Pimento** is in better demand. Sales have been made to Hamburg at 24/6 c.i.f. and a good business has been done to that port from Jamaica with buyers at 23/9, and sellers at 24/- c.i.f.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone
CENTRAL 6642

Telegram:
CARIB, LONDON



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E. C. 3
August 30th, 1921.

Major Wood's West Indian Tour.

THE announcement that MAJOR THE HON. E. F. L. WOOD, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, is to pay a visit in the near future to the West Indies will not come as a surprise to those West Indians who have followed closely the recent trend of events. According to the official statement, the tour is to be one of inspection made on behalf of MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL. It will be recalled that recently in the House of Commons questions were asked as to the possibility of such a visit, and although MAJOR WOOD did not give any definite reply, it was evident that he was personally in favour of such a course. In some quarters, in fact, so pressing has seemed the necessity for an investigation on the spot of the present conditions of our Caribbean Colonies, that the suggestion was made of a High Commissioner being appointed for this purpose. Not only will this course not now be necessary, but the West Indies will have this advantage over other Colonies, in that they will have responsible for their welfare a Minister who has had personal experience of their conditions, and a knowledge of their needs and aspirations. In desiring to see for himself those parts of the Empire for whose welfare he is answerable, the present Under-Secretary of State is, in a sense, following an admirable precedent set by COLONEL AMERY, who, it will be recalled, was himself present at the Ottawa Conference in 1920, which resulted in the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. It is announced that MAJOR WOOD will leave for his tour in December. We trust that the time allotted to him for the journey will allow

an opportunity of his visiting all the British Possessions in Caribbean waters, not excluding our two great mainland Colonies, British Guiana and British Honduras. We have no doubt as to the manner of welcome that will be extended by the West Indies to a British Minister of the Crown. We have to thank SIR SAMUEL HOAME and MR. GIDEON MURRAY for having suggested the visit of a prominent official of the Colonial Office to the West Indies, and we may, perhaps, be pardoned for regarding the favourable decision as the aftermath of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE'S banquet to the PRINCE OF WALES, which was made the occasion of securing the practical sympathy of MR. CHURCHILL in the welfare of the British West Indies.

Income Tax Legislation.

IN last issue we published the correspondence which has passed between THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE and the Colonial Office on the subject of the Trinidad Income Tax Ordinance. To-day we present to our readers the text of a letter addressed by the Committee to the Secretary of State regarding the Grenada Tax on Incomes Ordinance and MR. CHURCHILL'S reply. In dealing with this correspondence we should state at the outset that the Committee, in making the representations which they did, were prompted solely by their desire to safeguard the interest of the taxpayer, and by helpful criticism to facilitate the operation of income tax legislation. We mention this because we regret to notice that the Auditor-General and Solicitor-General of Trinidad and Tobago appear to have taken umbrage at the Committee's letter, and have made it the occasion for what we cannot but regard as a most ungenerous attack upon THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE and their adviser in the matter, MR. C. M. LATTE, Barrister-at-Law, who is by common consent in the United Kingdom regarded as one of the greatest authorities on British and Colonial Income Tax law. In a minute published in the local newspapers, these officials state that "MR. C. M. LATTE has evidently had but little experience of the Income Tax laws of the Dominions and Colonies and their administration, under which similar difficulties to those which present themselves in our case for the first time have been encountered and solved." After this very unprofessional expression of opinion one might expect the various suggestions made by the Committee and their adviser to be ruthlessly rejected by the two officials. But what do we find? Out of twenty-three definite points submitted by the Committee, the Auditor-General and Receiver-General admit that fifteen are worthy of consideration when the proposed Ordinance to provide for a permanent Income Tax is drafted! The obvious retort which

occurs to one is that if an adviser of "little experience" could suggest fifteen points of improvement acceptable to Mr. BUSHE and Mr. SLYNE, what would have happened if a more experienced adviser—if such existed—had been retained? If we may, without giving offence and at the risk of incurring the charge of giving voice to the retort of "tu quoque," we would venture to suggest that neither of these gentlemen appear to realise as yet what a thorny subject Income Tax law is, and into what difficult and tortuous paths it may lead the uninitiated. Meanwhile, it is comforting to know that the suggestions and recommendations put forward by the Committee have been regarded in an altogether different light by Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL, who, no doubt, consulted the Board of Inland Revenue regarding them, and that they have been officially submitted for consideration in connection with the forthcoming permanent Income Tax legislation. Similarly, it is satisfactory to learn that Mr. CHURCHILL is in agreement with the Committee that the point which they have raised as to the desirability of obviating the double payment of Income Tax in two Colonies, as well as in a Colony and in the United Kingdom, is an important one. It will be noted that, on the other hand, he does not regard uniformity in respect of West Indian Income Tax legislation as practicable, owing to the differences in the local conditions. Notwithstanding this, we still believe that it would be possible to draft an Income Tax Bill which would meet the conditions of the West Indian Colonies as a whole, though the actual schedule of taxation would necessarily have to be varied by the Colonies accepting the skeleton Bill according to their financial condition.

The German Sugar Position.

THE Department of Overseas Trade has supplied THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE with a copy of a Memorandum from His Majesty's Consul at Hamburg dealing with the subject of the present position and prospects of the German sugar industry. It is stated that the hot summer has been extremely suitable to the growth of the beet, and that the coming crop is expected to be such as to yield 500,000 tons available for export purposes. Further, that in the course of two years this figure will be probably doubled, while when normal conditions are resumed, the pre-war production will be realised. In 1913-14 the crop provided over 1,500,000 tons for export, and it will be remembered what a glut of sugar this gave rise to in 1914 before the war broke out in that year. The memorandum states that the industrial conditions of Germany are quite satisfactory, the supply of labour for field and factory being ample, and no unrest of any importance existing or being anticipated. A further stimulus to production is expected to occur when the Government control of sugar is removed, and, as the result of representations from those connected with sugar production and trade, the unfettering of sugar is anticipated on October 1st. There have been and are rumours of a combine formed of growers and manufacturers, but the memorandum states that as things are this is not likely to materialise.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Pig an him mumma say, wha' mek him mou' long so; him say, ah, no mine nie pickney, dat something mek fe me long so, wil mek fe you mou' long so too."

SIR ROBERT RODEN, Chief Justice of British Honduras, has returned to England on six months' leave of absence.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON, President of the Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce, has been elected Treasurer of the British Imperial Council of Commerce in succession to the Hon. J. C. Jenkins.

THE engagement is announced of Mr. Stanley Macdonald de Freitas, B.A., to Miss Vera Margaret East, of Kettering, Northamptonshire. Mr. de Freitas, who is a barrister, is a son of Mr. M. G. de Freitas, of Georgetown, British Guiana.

MR. HENRY ALFRED YOUNG, K.C., the new Stipendiary Magistrate in British Guiana, was called to the Scottish bar in 1899. Since 1906 he has served in the East African Protectorate as Assistant Attorney General, and latterly as Resident Magistrate.

A REGULAR three-monthly service is to be conducted by the Commonwealth Line of steamers between the United Kingdom, Fiji, and Australia, in each direction. The first sailing from England will be by the *Australrange* (7,250 tons), from London, on September 15th.

MR. F. C. FISHER, having completed his service with the Indian Army, has returned to England, where he intends to make a tour of the textile centres before returning to Jamaica, which he left to come over with the 7th Battalion of the British West Indies Regiment in 1916.

THE price of the Grenada Handbook, 1921, copies of which can be obtained at The West India Committee Rooms, has been fixed by the Government of the Colony at 2/6. A review of this valuable little work was given in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of August 4th, page 330.

MAJOR-GENERAL A. E. SANDBACH, a member of The West India Committee, has been provisionally elected Chairman of the British Legion in Wales. In the British Legion are amalgamated all the principal societies of ex-service men, including the Comrades of the Great War and the Officers' Association.

MR. C. V. A. ESPEUT, who, as announced in last CIRCULAR, is returning to Jamaica, was born in that Colony. In 1894 he was appointed Assistant Engineer in the Jamaica Public Works Department, being transferred to Lagos in 1900. Since 1911 Mr. Espeut has been Director of Public Works of the Uganda Protectorate.

THE ex-German *Moewe*, which achieved notoriety as a raider during the war, has not readily abandoned her bad habits. Re-named the *Greenbrier*, and engaged in the more peaceful pursuit of banana-carrying for Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, she ran into and cut in two the Formby Lightship *Planet* on August 13th.

THE EARL OF HAREWOOD, President of The West India Committee, was seventy-five on August 21st. He kept his birthday at Harewood House, his seat in Yorkshire, where he had hoped to entertain the Prince of Wales in July. The visit was, however, postponed, the Prince being compelled to abandon his Yorkshire tour on account of his need of rest.

THE War Office announces that officers of the West India Regiment compulsorily transferred to British infantry regiments of the line are to receive an allowance (to be limited to £26) towards the cost of providing service dress uniform, and a refund of the actual and necessary cost of alterations to mess dress, which must be carried out as soon as officers have been gazetted to their new regiments.

THE *Arzila*, one of the small steamers with which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company maintained communication between this country and the West Indies after the cancellation of the transatlantic mail contract, ran ashore at Point Detif on her journey from Valparaiso to Punta Arenas on July 18th. After 50 guineas per cent. had been quoted at Lloyd's for her re-insurance, showing how critical her position was regarded, she was successfully salvaged.

LADY HOARE, wife of Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., M.P., Chairman of the Belize Produce and Estates Company, Ltd., has been active in rescuing, as far as possible, the graves in the old churchyard at Overstrand, which is situated on a part of the Norfolk coast into which the sea is making constant inroads, the greater part of the old churchyard being already undermined. The remains collected are re-buried in the adjoining village of Sidstrand, which forms part of Sir Samuel's beautiful country estate.

THE two large sugar refining firms of Henry Tate & Sons, Ltd., and Abram Lyle & Sons, Ltd., are to be amalgamated. The capital of Abram Lyle & Sons, Ltd., is £2,250,000, whilst that of Henry Tate & Sons, Ltd., is to be increased to £4,500,000 prior to the completion of the fusion. For the last financial year on the ordinary shares of Henry Tate & Sons, which are held privately, was paid a dividend of 17½ per cent, following the payment in 1919 of a capital bonus of 100 per cent. from reserves.

SIR HARRY WILSON has retired from the position of Secretary to the Royal Colonial Institute and has been succeeded by Mr. G. M. Boughey, heir to Sir Francis Boughey, of Aqualate. On the occasion of his retirement, after six full years of strenuous work, he was entertained at a luncheon given by

the Council and Staff at the Hotel Victoria. Many Fellows have expressed regret that they, too, were not given the opportunity of testifying to their esteem for a courteous and kindly official and one imbued with the true Imperial spirit.

AN Order has been issued by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury revoking the Orders made by their predecessors declaring the following places, among others, unhealthy under the Superannuation Act of 1876: Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Turk's Islands, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Residents in those Colonies will now breathe freely again. The Superannuation Act, it may be mentioned, provides that the superannuation allowance for permanent Civil Servants shall be calculated on the basis of every two years in an "unhealthy place" being reckoned as three years' service, and less periods in proportion.

THE West Indian group in the House of Commons will be further strengthened if Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., is returned for Oxford City, which he intends to contest in the Labour interest at the next General Election if sufficient support is forthcoming. Sir Sydney, whose term of office as Governor of Jamaica from 1907 to 1913 will be recalled, was in 1890 Acting Colonial Secretary of British Honduras, and Auditor General of the Leeward Islands five years later. In 1896 he was appointed Secretary to the Royal Commission set up to inquire into the condition of the British West Indies, whilst the following year he was sent to Washington on special service in connection with West Indian reciprocity negotiations.

THERE is tribulation in Demerara regarding the five o'clock gun. For many years this has been fired with remarkable punctuality, and, when it was learnt recently that it was to be discontinued, a question was asked, appropriately enough, by the Hon. Nelson Cannon—one of the big guns of the Court of Policy—as to the reason. The Governor stated that there was no intention of suspending the old established custom of awakening the inhabitants of Georgetown, but that the cost of gunpowder being in excess of the amount provided for on the estimates, the Crown Agents had expressed their inability to deliver the goods. His Excellency added, however, that as soon as gunpowder was available, the gun would be fired again.

BANANAS FRIED IN EGG AND CRUMBS. Remove skins from 10 or 12 bananas, brush egg over each, cover with bread-crumbs, and fry in hot fat. This may be served as a savoury or sweet. **FOR SWEET:** Serve with sugar, lemon syrup, or jam sauce.

FOR A SAVOURY.—Sift the following mixture over the banana before coating with eggs and crumbs, and also before serving: 1 teaspoonful of salt, ¼ teaspoonful of dry mustard, ¼ teaspoonful of pepper, a little cayenne, and 1 teaspoonful of red or brown crumbs. Mix well together and shake over the bananas.—"THE BANANA," by William Fawcett, B.Sc. (Just Published, under the Auspices of The West India Committee. 15/- net).

THE MEDICAL CONFERENCE.

BY CAPTAIN G. H. MASON, M.R.C.S. (ENG.),
L.R.C.P. (LOND.), D.P.H., C.T.M.

(Continued from page 341 and concluded.)

As regards the valuable papers read, attention should be drawn to those written by Dr. Q. B. de Freitas, Miss Clapham, Mrs. Minett and Dr. Wishart, the latter two of whom have already been referred to. With reference to the difficulties of medical practice mentioned by Dr. de Freitas, much can be done to assist Medical Officers in large districts by the use of the telephone in out-villages, by installing a qualified dispenser and a midwife, and by providing a motor ambulance to be kept at the police stations, or on the estates, to take patients to hospital, and a motor-car for the doctor. The dispenser might also be the Sanitary Inspector, and the midwife the Health Visitor, and they might be a married couple.

The water difficulty could be met by a free supply from the nearest estate, paid for by the Government, where artesian wells are not available.

The proper examination of meat before it is exposed for sale is absolutely necessary if tuberculosis is to be prevented in any Colony. Also the supervision of the proper housing of the labourers under sanitary conditions, is one of the first duties of any decent Government. Co-operative Building Societies, with Government support, appear to be the best solution of this difficulty. The breeding of flies in manure heaps, and the contamination of milk with bacillus coli, and consequent epidemics of diarrhoea in children, is a problem which looms large in Great Britain, as well as British Guiana. In the absence of pure fresh milk, dried milk ought to be the best type of milk for infants in the West Indies. It is made by the Glaxo Company, of New Zealand, and if the steamers of the New Zealand Shipping Company call at St. Lucia on their way through the Panama Canal, they might arrange to leave a supply for distribution among the islands, if the local supply falls short. The uncertified deaths in country districts is a problem not confined to British Guiana. There is no registration of deaths in Barbados, and in some of the other islands there is registration of deaths, but not certification in all cases. The Conference never referred to this subject. In her paper, Miss Clapham pointed out that the provision of a Nursing Home was essential, and the introduction of a few trained English nurses would be most beneficial. There are West Indian girls, now working as trained District Nurses in London, who would probably welcome the opportunity of serving under the Government in the West Indies, if appointed. The discussions revealed the interesting fact, that in Grenada there is little tuberculosis, and no filaria, but malaria; and no malaria, but filaria and tuberculosis in Barbados. The overcrowding, insanitary dwellings, stagnant water, inefficient meat inspection, and comparative poverty of the labourers in Barbados, may account for the prevalence of filaria and tuberculosis. It is known there are no anopheles there, so there can be no malaria. In Grenada anopheles are found, so there is malaria; but the hilly nature

of the country does not favour the shallow stagnant water beloved of the filaria mosquito, and the general prosperity of the peasant proprietary does not favour tuberculosis. They are too well fed. To carry out the recommendations of the Conference would require a subordinate staff in each Colony of one or more Sanitary Inspectors, subsidised Government midwives, district nurses and health visitors, all under a Medical Officer of Health, or the District Medical Officers. The Medical Officer of Health should hold the Diploma of Public Health of one of the English Universities, and the Certificate of one of the Schools of Tropical Medicine in England. Colonies who cannot afford to pay for the services of such an officer could jointly contribute to his salary and share his services.

One of the ways of finding the money for all this would be to put an export tax on the produce of the Colony, and use the money in promoting the welfare of the people by providing proper health services. Health is better than wealth. All healthy men can work, but not all wealthy men.

Amongst the important subjects which were not referred to by the Conference was the question of the appointment of a Director-General of the Colonial Medical Service, now under consideration by the Secretary of State. It is to be hoped that such an officer will soon be appointed.

No reference was made to the provision of ambulances by the Government to take the sick to hospital. If the Red Cross Society were asked, they would probably present to the Colonial Governments some of the motor ambulances they have in store, in return for the motor ambulances presented to the Army by West Indians during the war. Nor was any reference made to the provision of a Central Lunatic Asylum in the West Indies. This is needed even more than a Leper Asylum, especially for the smaller Colonies.

No reference was made to the shortage of Medical Officers in the Leeward Islands, due to inadequate pay, poor prospects, and lack of proper accommodation for married officers in some districts.

In conclusion, it is suggested that the various Baby Saving Leagues in the Colonies might co-operate in forming a West Indian Health and Welfare Society, whose members could subscribe a minimum annual subscription of one dollar and be under a local Committee. The Managing Committee could reside in London, and be composed of ex-Governors and ex-officials and their wives, and West Indian ladies and gentlemen living in England. Many of these people would be glad to help in such work for the West Indies, and their influence might be very useful in getting things done.

The second Pan-African Congress opened its British Session on August 27th at the Central Hall, Westminster. Sessions are also being held in Paris and Brussels. The chair was taken by Dr. Alcendor, and there were representatives from the West Indies, United States, and Africa, including Dr. W. E. Dubois, who acted as Secretary, and Mr. T. Albert Marryshow.

GRENADA INCOME TAX LAW.

The following correspondence has passed between The West India Committee and the Colonial Office regarding the Grenada Income Tax Ordinance No. 11 of 1921 :-

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE,
June 16th, 1921.

Sir, On April 15th my Committee addressed the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the Trinidad Income Tax Ordinance, No. 54 of 1920.

2. They have since received a copy of the Grenada Income Tax Ordinance, No. 11 of 1921, and beg to submit for the consideration of Mr. Secretary Churchill the following representations regarding it and West Indian Income Tax Legislation generally.

3. With respect to the Grenada Ordinance, I am to point out that several of our members have taken very strong exception to Section 22, which they regard as likely to create a dangerous precedent, it being very undesirable that in a small community members of the Assessment Committee, or their delegates, who might, as the Ordinance now stands, include a trade competitor, should in any circumstances be given powers to enter business premises and examine books, etc. The local Government, we submit, are fully and adequately protected under Section 21 (2) (b), which would appear to render Section 22 unnecessary.

4. With regard to Section 4 (b), I am to point out that this Section does not clearly state the rate at which a person not residing in the Colony is liable to pay tax, though my Committee would be glad if you could ascertain for them whether they are right in assuming that the rate would only be the rate on the proportion of his Income derived from the Colony. They would further point out that there is no differentiation between earned and unearned income.

5. With regard to Section 14, I am to point out that though this Section will presumably obviate the double payment of Income Tax in the United Kingdom and Grenada, there is no provision against the double payment of Income Tax in Grenada and any other West Indian Colony or country. Thus, for example, at present, a Grenada proprietor owning property in Trinidad, or a Trinidad proprietor drawing income from Grenada, would be subject to Income Tax in both Colonies, which would obviously be a disadvantage and tend to place an obstacle in the way of a better understanding between the various British West Indian Colonies, which it has for so long been the aim and desire of The West India Committee to see established.

6. My Committee venture to hope that the representations which they have made to Mr. Churchill with regard to these Income Tax Ordinances will serve to emphasise the desirability of securing uniformity in the scope and arrangement of the various Acts and Ordinances dealing with Income Tax matters in the British West Indies, and in view especially of the fact that several Colonies which have not yet adopted the principle of direct taxation are now contemplating the introduction of Income Tax Legislation, I am to express the hope

that this aspect of the question may receive special consideration.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

ALGERNON ASPINALL
(Secretary).

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Downing Street,
July 30th, 1921.

Sir, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter regarding the Grenada Income Tax Ordinance, No. 11 of 1921, and to inform you that your Committee's representations will be forwarded to the Governor for his consideration.

2. With regard to the question of double payment of Income Tax by persons owning property in two or more Colonies, which you raise in paragraph 5 of your letter, Mr. Churchill is considering this question, which he agrees is one of considerable importance, and he proposes to address the Governors on the matter in the near future.

3. The question which you raise in paragraph 6 of your letter of securing uniformity in the scope and arrangement of the various Acts and Ordinances dealing with Income Tax in the British West Indies will be brought to the notice of the Governors; but it is feared that owing to the different needs and circumstances of the Colonies uniformity will be difficult to attain.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. J. READ.

The Secretary, The West India Committee.

THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

New Under-Secretary of State.

Sir James Masterton-Smith, K.C.B., has been appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to Sir George Fiddes, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., who had held that position since 1916.

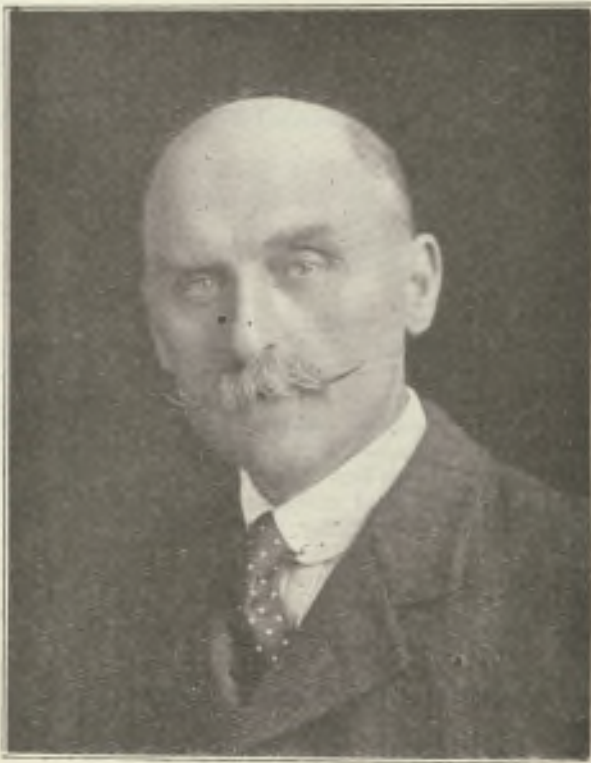
The new Under-Secretary, who is 43 years old, has been in the Civil Service for 20 years, 16 of which he spent at the Admiralty, where he was private secretary in seven years to five successive First Lords. For two years he was Assistant Secretary at the Ministry of Munitions, and after a short term in a similar post at the War Office and Air Ministry, he became, last year, Joint Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour. Lady Masterton Smith, whom he married in 1905, was accidentally killed by a fall from a window a week ago.

In view especially of the fact that the minimum subscription to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE still remains at the pre-war rate, namely, £1 is., it is hoped that every member will contribute towards the Endowment Fund. Contributions may be paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce, or forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3, and every amount will be acknowledged in the CIRCULAR.

OBITUARY.

SIR WILLIAM TROLLOPE, BART.

It is with very deep regret that we have to record the death of Sir William Trollope, Bart., a member of the Executive of The West India Committee, which occurred at Droitwich on August 24th, after a short illness.



The late Sir William Trollope, Bart.

Sir William Henry Trollope, who was born on September 14th, 1858, was the elder surviving son of General Sir Charles Trollope, K.C.B., a brother of the first Lord Kesteven and a son of Sir John Trollope, the sixth Baronet. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he took his degree in 1880, and was called to the Bar as a Member of the Inner Temple three years later. He succeeded to the baronetcy in 1915 on the death of the third and last Lord Kesteven, who died of wounds sustained on board a transport which was attacked by a German submarine off the Algerian Coast. Lord Kesteven was unmarried, and, consequently, when he died the Barony became extinct; but the Baronetcy, which dates back to 1641, devolved upon his cousin, the subject of this memoir. By the marriage of Sir Charles Trollope to Frances, the only child of Mr. John Lord, of Barbados, the Trollope family became possessed of estates in that island, including Poole and Long Bay, and the historic great house known as Lord's Castle, which passed to Sir William on the death of his elder brother, Lieut.-Colonel Francis C. Trollope, late Grenadier Guards, in 1913. Sir William Trollope was elected a member of the Executive of The West India Committee in 1915, and was very conscientious in his attendance at the meetings of that body. Though to a great extent a silent member—and he did not possess the fighting qualities of his brother Frank, which mani-

festated themselves in the long drawn-out Anti-bounty campaign—he was always ready to give counsel and sound advice where it was needed. He visited Barbados in 1913 and evinced a close interest in the island and the welfare of its people, and as an estate's proprietor he was proud of the ancient constitution of the colony. He was an admitted authority on art, and presented to the Committee several valuable engravings and colour prints of West Indian subjects. Possessed of a charming personality and a kindly disposition, he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and by a wide circle of friends. He married, in 1894, Louisa Charlotte Campbell, only daughter of Captain Frederick Ernest Johnston, R.N., who, together with two daughters, survives him. The Baronetcy now passes to Sir William's twin brother, Thomas Ernest Trollope, also a Barrister-at-Law of the Inner Temple.

Sir William Trollope was laid to rest in the family vault at Uffington, in Lincolnshire, and whilst the funeral was proceeding a memorial service was conducted by Canon Mansel-Pleydell at St. Thomas's, Portman Square. Among the members of the large congregation present were Lady Trollope, Mrs. Walter Gifford, Miss Sylvia Trollope, Mrs. Chivers Rower, the Dowager Countess of Jersey, the Hon. Thomas Egerton, the Hon. Mrs. Errington, the Hon. Mrs. Johnston, Major Sir Duncan Campbell, Sir W. F. Marwood, Sir Henry and Lady Harris, Admiral Stewart, Mr. C. Gurney, Deputy Chairman, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, Secretary of The West India Committee, and Mr. Cox Johnson.

AGRICULTURE IN GRENADA.

The Report of the Agricultural Society of Grenada for the year ending December 30th, 1920, states that the cacao crop ending September 30th, 1920, was one of the largest on record, 76,686 bags of 180 lbs. each having been exported, as against 77,275 bags in 1917, when a maximum crop was reaped. The exports of nutmegs and mace showed a decline on those of the previous two years, being 1,876,264 lbs., as against the 1,910,147 lbs. and 2,098,866 lbs. of 1917-18 and 1918-19 respectively. Small quantities of sugar and rum are made in Grenada, but not exported. The twelve licensed distilleries turned out 5,186 proof gallons of rum.

The exports of cotton were the highest on record, 2,348 cwts. of lint having been exported. The industry was practically confined to the cultivation of Marie Galante cotton in Carriacou, although the high prices prevailing caused a stimulus to the planting of this variety of cotton in Grenada. Only a few bales of Sea Island cotton were produced.

A slight extension of the coconut industry is recorded. In addition to the large local consumption of nuts in the green and dry state, 42,850 nuts and 115 cwts. of copra were exported. Carriacou still remains the seat of local enterprize in regard to limes, although one or two factories are erected or are in course of erection in Grenada. The exports of lime products for the year were 327 gallons of lime oil, 1,700 gallons of lime juice, and 22,810 gallons of concentrated juice. Endeavours were being made to encourage the greater production of ground provisions by the peasantry, and the result is stated to have been a plentiful supply during the year.

GRENADA'S CONSTITUTION.

Mr. T. Albert Marryshow, Editor of *The West Indian*, of Grenada, we learn, addressed several meetings in New York, which he visited on his way to England in connection with the movement for securing representative institutions for his Colony. At a large gathering of the members of the Windward Islands Progressive League, he touched on what he called the "absurd proposal that the United States should take over the British West Indies as part payment of Britain's war debt."

West Indians at home, he stated, desired him to say that they hoped that that catastrophic day was not within the womb of the twentieth century. Although the islands showed the need of economic development, West Indians knew what was meant by the saying, "Man cannot live by bread alone." There was no race problem in the West Indies, and in no other part of the world did blacks and whites live so peacefully together. They were all equal in the sight of the law, and rejoiced and prospered in their own Republic of Merit, by virtue not of class, not of colour, but of culture and character. West Indians, the overwhelming majority of whom were coloured, venerated the cold impartiality of British Courts of law—courts inaccessible to racial antagonisms, and courts swift and sure in their justice to whom justice was due.

In an interview with a representative of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, Mr. Marryshow, shortly after his arrival in London last month, said that his object was to press upon the Government the claim of the people of Grenada to representative institutions. The offer of some measure of representation was welcome, but did not go far enough. Crown Colony government had provided excellent training for the Colony, but it was now felt that Grenada had been in leading strings long enough, and what was now wanted was a Constitution such as that enjoyed prior to 1876.

Mr. F. G. Westall has arrived in London on a somewhat similar mission on behalf of St. Lucia. THE CIRCULAR learns from him that St. Lucia would warmly welcome a concession on the lines of that already granted to Grenada.

"CARRINGTON'S."**A Typical Barbados Factory.**

The Carrington Factory, a photograph of which is reproduced on this page, is a good example of the gradual spread of the Central Factory system in Barbados. Five and twenty years ago it turned out only about 800 tons of sugar; its crop now is in the neighbourhood of 5,000 tons of 96 polar crystals, the result of the amalgamation of estates and of the purchase of canes from other proprietors who have given up the actual manufacture of sugar.



"Carrington's" Sugar Factory, Barbados.

The plant consists of one eight-roll mill plant, with rolls 28 in. by 58 in., fitted with hydraulic attachments, a continuous clarification plant, filter presses, a triple effect with 8,000 sq. ft. heating surface, three vacuum pans, respectively 7 ft., 8 ft., and 9 ft. in diameter, six 30 in. centrifugals, and two Stirling boilers, one with 2,480 sq. ft. and the other with 3,480 sq. ft. heating surface. The evaporator and vacuum pans are fitted with Torricellian condensers and dry air-pumps, and the chimney is 133 ft. in height by 6 ft. in diameter. The factory is lit entirely by electric light. The necessary water is obtained from a well 144 ft. deep. As is seen from the large accumulation of megass in the yard, no other fuel is used in the factory. Sugar makers will realise from the above how creditable the work of Carrington's is to both manager and engineer.

One hundred and four members have now been admitted to Life Membership of The West India Committee.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 348.)

The Maker of Modern Port of Spain.

Few traces of old Port of Spain now remain. But there survives an antiquated two-storey building at the corner of the block opposite to that in which the Union Club now stands in Marine Square. It has an overhanging balcony shut in with jalousies, and is very characteristic of the old-time Colonial houses.

Another interesting relic of the past is the weather-worn brick fort which almost faces you when you emerge from the Custom House. Its bastions were formerly lapped by the waters of the Gulf; but since the reclamation of the foreshore many years ago, they have been left stranded, high and dry, in a sea of dust. All that they now protect is the harbour-master's office.

Sir Ralph Woodford, the first civil Governor of Trinidad under British rule, may be fairly regarded as the maker of modern Port of Spain. It is true that the town was rapidly rising, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the great fire when that youthful Baronet (he was only 29 at the time) assumed the reins of government in the island, but he effected many notable improvements in the laying out of the streets, squares, and open spaces, which he adorned with the beautiful trees and palms that still form such a conspicuous and pleasing feature of the place. He himself, it is said, designed Brunswick Square, Trinidad's "Downing Street" and "Whitehall" rolled into one, facing the handsome Government Building, where the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, and the heads of Departments have their offices, where the august members of the Legislative Council hold their deliberations, and wherein also English Common Law—which, after a struggle lasting for many years, was substituted for Spanish—is administered by Sir Alfred Lucie-Smith, the popular Chief Justice, and his Majesty's Judges.

Sir Ralph Woodford was also responsible for the erection of the handsome Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals. They were designed by one of his secretaries, Philip Reinagle, son of the artist of that name, and are still reckoned among the more outstanding architectural features of the capital. In the former the memory of this eminent Baronet-Governor is perpetuated by a marble monument.

Woodford was Governor of Trinidad for no fewer than fifteen years. Consequently his administration was characterised by a continuity of policy such as is rare nowadays, when Governors are usually translated to some other sphere of activity just when they are beginning to know the ropes and to settle down in the saddle. It is one of the tragedies of the present colonial system that it is beyond the power of colonies to retain the services of progressive and constructive Governors, and that they are equally unable to dispense with those of administrators who, as is sometimes the case, care for little beyond completing their term of office and qualifying for a pension, or who show themselves to be out of sympathy with the country and people over which and whom they are sent out

to rule. Trinidad, however, at the time of my visit was fortunate in having a particularly capable Governor in Sir John Chancellor, essentially a strong man, whose recent retirement on the score of ill-health has given rise to very general regret. Moreover, a Commission appointed in 1919 having laid down a definite programme of the steps to be taken for the development of the colony by the construction of roads, the extension of railways, and by the establishment of steamer services, there is every reason to believe that in the case of Trinidad and Tobago, whoever may be chosen to succeed Sir John Chancellor—and it will require a really able administrator with a sound knowledge of finance and business affairs adequately to fill his place—continuity of policy is assured.

Another monument to the memory of Sir Ralph Woodford is the famous Botanic Garden at St. Ann's, to the north of the town, which he founded and established with the assistance of Mr. David Lockhart, who became its first curator, in 1820. This historic garden, enriched by plants and trees transferred to it from Kingstown when the St. Vincent Garden was closed, was for long the pride and wonder of the West Indies. It was probably in its prime in 1869, when Charles Kingsley, then the guest of Governor Sir Arthur Gordon, afterwards Lord Stanmore, visited it, subsequently describing its botanical treasures in his book "At Last," which should have a place on every West Indian bookshelf. A few years ago this garden began to feel the weight of its century of existence. Anno Domini began to tell, and it became a mere ghost of its former self. Mr. W. G. Freeman, the present Director of Agriculture, by judicious cutting down of the shrubberies, which were becoming almost like a jungle, and by the adoption of a vigorous policy of replanting, hopes, however, to restore its glories. Meanwhile, one missed many old favourites, such as the magnificent clump of giant bamboos, over a hundred feet high, each grass of which was as thick as a man's leg, and it would be hard now to find all the plants described with such a wealth of detail by Kingsley, the out-buildings of whose "Cottage ornée" were still, however, to be seen.

Somewhat of a martinet—and it is said that he was known to threaten people with imprisonment if they failed to salute him—Woodford received, wrote, and transmitted his own despatches, relegating his successive Colonial Secretaries, who had hitherto been regarded as persons of importance, to the position of mere clerks. A man of artistic temperament, he certainly showed good taste in the laying out of the new city of Port of Spain, the rebuilding of which was almost complete when he died on board the packet *Duke of York* on his voyage home to England on May 16th, 1828.

Woodford's Port of Spain was not the spick and span and bustling city of to-day. It was neither so well drained nor so admirably paved and lighted as modern Port of Spain, which, even in the last twenty years, has undergone remarkable developments in these respects, until it stands out to-day as the cleanest and best cared-for town in the British West Indies. In this connection it has a reputation to live up to, for did not Sir Robert Boyce, the distinguished authority on tropical medi-

cine and sanitary expert, who visited it in 1909, write, "In my opinion the sanitary condition of this town is excellent, the systems of water and drainage of the city and suburbs having been carried out in a most efficient manner, so as to diminish in a very marked degree the possibility of infection from malaria"?

The Departed "Johnny Crows."

One looked in vain for the hideous, bald-pated "Johnny Crows," which used to be the principal scavengers in Port of Spain. With the adoption of modern methods of drainage and sanitation, the vocation of these ghoulish vultures had gone, and they mercifully appeared to have gone with it. Whereas it used to be a crime to kill "Johnny Crows" which you might see tearing to pieces the bleeding carcasses of cats and dogs in the public streets, it would now probably be regarded as an offence to harbour one. For this thanks are, no doubt, due to the City Commissioners and the Municipality of Port of Spain (not forgetting the late Mayor, the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., and his Worship Major Randolph Rust, V.D., who now fills that post), which had succeeded them since my earlier visit to Trinidad.

Not all the citizens of Port of Spain, perhaps, will be in agreement with Sir Robert Boyce's remarks on the subject of water supply. Truth to tell, that has been a very thorny question, and one gathered that the provision of a more adequate supply of the usually generous fluid known to scientists as H₂O was regarded as a matter of pressing and paramount importance.

After one's experience of Bridgetown it was refreshing to find side-walks, a first-rate service of electric trams, which hummed down the main streets with clanging bells, and a comparative absence of dust. This last advantage is, no doubt, due to the fact that the roadways are paved with asphalt from the wonderful Pitch Lake at La Brea, and are consequently as clean and smooth as the Victoria Embankment and Westminster Bridge in London, which are similarly made of Trinidad asphalt. With a vast supply of this mineral at their very gates there can be no excuse for the abominable state of the roads in some other British West Indian capitals, and it is surprising that the local authorities in the neighbouring colonies do not seek the advice of the Public Works Department of Trinidad, which could tell them how to lay the dust. The electric trams, for whose installation a Canadian company was responsible, are very convenient. They give an unmistakable touch of life and bustle to the town. Motorists, however, were inclined to vote them rather a nuisance, since automobiles were not permitted to pass them when they stopped to set down or pick up passengers—a wise precaution in a community which has hardly as yet learnt the rudiments of the doctrine of "Safety First." A drive down Frederick Street in a car is, therefore, a very doubtful pleasure. For the further protection of pedestrians, the ear was deafened by the incessant tooting of motor-horns and the raucous rattle of the irritating Klaxon.

The main streets, and especially Frederick Street—the Regent Street of Trinidad—have many excel-

lent stores—and that term is used to cover not only what we know as shops, but also stores in the widest sense of the word, where one can purchase every conceivable commodity conducive to the comfort of mankind, from a boot-lace to a motor.

Port of Spain is essentially a cosmopolitan town. In the course of a stroll through its streets one may meet men of many nationalities—English, Scotch, Irish, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Indian, and Syrian, to mention a few only. Those of African descent necessarily predominate, but Indians, who form fully one-third of the population of Trinidad, are also conspicuous. Some of the latter, either unemployed or unemployable, appeared to camp out for the entire day at the far end of Marine Square, thus giving visitors an entirely wrong impression of Indian immigration, which has proved an incalculable benefit not only to the Colony, but also to the Indians themselves.

The people all appeared to be happy and contented. There were no sullen looks, such as one might have expected to see if one had believed the preposterous nonsense which had been published in the English papers about a strike that had occurred a few months before. This labour trouble had been described in certain English newspapers as a "Negro Rebellion," and even a "Revolution," for the digestion of the stay-at-home man in the street. Really it was merely a strike which, regrettable and serious though it admittedly was, was accompanied by no such untoward events as have been known to characterise disputes at home.

Board any tramcar in Frederick Street and it will take you to the Savannah, the playground of the people, and the capital's fashionable residential quarter. Formerly a sugar estate, the Savannah is now a great expanse of rough grass (as yellow as a newly reaped cornfield in the dry season, but refreshingly green after the rains), which is dedicated to the people as a playground. Well over a hundred acres in extent, it has few trees except round the edge, though it is also called "Queen's Park"; but a clump of cabbage palms known as the seven sisters, in spite of the fact that there are only six, stand out conspicuously. Here golf, football, and other games are played, and here the people of Port of Spain and the surrounding country assemble in their hundreds on the occasion of the annual race-meeting, when thoroughbreds from the neighbouring Colonies compete with local blood, and enthusiasm knows no bounds. The Grand Stand remains throughout the year, and is as disfiguring as the huts in the lake of St. James's Park. A herd of Zebra cattle with their quaint humps give an eastern touch to the scene, and beyond rise the glorious mountains in their ever-changing moods. The Savannah is enclosed by simple posts and rails, inside which the open trams, brilliantly lighted after dark, make the circuit of the park from five o'clock until bed time, simply packed with passengers, the women looking delightfully cool in their white cotton dresses. Outside the rails many pedestrians also take the air on what is called the Pitch Walk, which is lighted, not by electricity, but by myriads of fire-flies.

(To be continued.)

EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT.

How the 'Varsities may help.

The Committee appointed last year by Lord Milner, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, to ascertain "What steps can be taken to secure the assistance of the Universities of this country in carrying out the research work which is essential to the protection of the inhabitants of the Colonies and Protectorates from disease, and to the successful development of their veterinary, agricultural and mineral resources," have now presented their report.

Acknowledging the readiness, even the anxiety, of the Universities and teaching bodies of the United Kingdom to assist the development of the Empire by means of scientific research, the Committee, who conducted their inquiry under the chairmanship of Lord Chalmers (the late Joint Secretary to the Treasury), state:—

There are two main directions in which the Universities and allied institutions of this country can assist in the research work essential to the conservation and development of the resources of the Colonies. They can assist (1) in a fuller training of students, from whom would be drawn recruits for Colonial scientific departments, and (2) in the building up of a corps of advanced workers, whose services could be utilised in emergencies and in exploring and solving the more complex problems.

As regards the first point, the Committee consider that for the recruiting of scientific departments in the Colonies, the Universities and allied bodies can assist most usefully by encouraging post-graduate study and by providing facilities in their laboratories for the training of students in the principles and methods of independent research. All the witnesses examined by the Committee urged, for the development of such post-graduate study, the increase of research fellowships or studentships. Mr. Churchill, in forwarding a copy of the report to the heads of Universities, points out that the basis of any such increase must be the provision of funds.

Turning to their recommendation that there shall be built up a corps of advanced workers, the Committee point out that enlarged as may be the prospect of local research, there must still remain investigations which are beyond the scope of a local staff—investigations calling for the best brains of the Empire. For this purpose we can look only to bodies of University rank. To this end there should be such substantial increase of scientific workers in our Universities as will not only foster research among students, but also enlarge the corps of scientific experts, to whom the Empire may turn in the hour of need.

Mr. Churchill—quoting again from his covering letter to the Universities—lays it down that "The general aim to be kept in view should be the establishment at the most convenient centres of schools of research in the different branches of science, which shall gradually come to be recognised as supreme in their own particular fields of research, and possibly of the world."

MAURITIUS AGRICULTURE.

The *Mauritius Almanack and Commercial Handbook* for 1921 is now to hand, and, as usual, teems with valuable and minute information as regards that Colony. In connection with agriculture it is stated that the sugar crop of 1920-21 was 258,000 tons of which 95.2 per cent. consisted of vesou or first sugar, that is to say, white sugar for direct consumption. The amount of commercial sugar extracted from the cane was 10.7 per cent. of the weight of the canes handled. During 1920, fifty-four factories were in operation, in which considerable improvements were effected, consisting of machinery imported from England, France and America, and manufactured in the local foundries. Among the latter were the triple effect, four quadruple effects, six vacuum pans and three boilers. The area under sugar cane was 168,670 acres, a figure practically identical with that of the previous year. The shortage of labour and high wages were much felt during the year, and the position as regards the sugar estates was aggravated by the increasing proportion of the area under cane being in the hands of East Indian small growers. The attention of the proprietors of the sugar estates was, in consequence, drawn to the question of mechanical tillage, and it is stated that considerable saving of labour has been thus effected.

As regards the pests and diseases of the sugar cane, an important decrease is recorded in the incidence of the brown hardback (*Phytalus Smithii*). This was in great measure due to the introduction from Barbados, in 1915, of the parasite* *Tiphia paralela*. In addition, the destruction of the beetles materially assisted the control of the pest, no less than over 70,000,000 annually being destroyed in the three years 1916-17, 1917-18 and 1918-19. The effect of these two causes was well seen in the reduction of the numbers of beetles captured in 1919-20 to 30,969,504. Other sugar-cane troubles were not especially noticeable during the year. With reference to the sugar crop of 1920, it was arranged that not less than 90 per cent. of the vesou crop should be bought by the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply at a price of 90s. per cwt. f.o.b. Mauritius for the finest quality, with a reduction of 1s. per cwt. for the next quality, and a further reduction of 1s. per cwt. for the third quality.

The most important subsidiary industry is that of the production of aloe fibre from *Furcraea gigantea*, the problem of a machine to deal successfully with the leaves having been solved. In 1919, 2,176,521 kilos of fibre were exported.

The Co-operative Credit Societies first established in Mauritius in 1913 are, it is stated, without exception, working satisfactorily, 32 being registered with a working capital to their credit of Rs. 365,857.

The School of Agriculture maintained by the Department of Agriculture, continued operations during the year, the training afforded being assimilated to that which obtains in agricultural colleges elsewhere, although on a much smaller scale as regards student-ship. The hope is expressed that the nucleus thus afforded will pave the way for the establishment of a College of Agriculture and Sugar Technology commensurate with the size and importance of the agricultural industries of the Colony.

*The Report of the Commission appointed in Barbados in 1919 to enquire into the outbreak of *Phytalus Smithii* in that island recommends the introduction of *Tiphia paralela*!

POWER ALCOHOL IN GUIANA.

A Comparison with Petrol.

An interesting and valuable report on the subject of "Alcohol Motor Spirit and Possibilities of its Production in British Guiana" has been submitted to Messrs. Hooker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd., by two members of their technical staff—Mr. E. C. Freeland, B.Sc., chemist, and Mr. W. G. Harry, manager of their motor department.

In this report the general characteristics of alcohol as a motor fuel and its behaviour in this respect are considered, and a comparison is given of petrol and alcohol as motor fuels. The matter is dealt with in a comprehensive and masterly manner, which cannot fail to be of the greatest interest to technologists in the subject. The present position as regards the mixtures now used in connection with power alcohol is also described.

The greatest practical interest, however, centres in the locally conducted trials with alcohol preparations, in which two mixtures were used. These were:—

(a) Strong alcohol denatured to suit the demands of the local Excise authorities. This mixture consisted of 100 gallons of 94 to 95 per cent. alcohol, 8 gallons of petrol, and half a gallon of pyridine.

(b) A mixture made up on the Hawaiian formula, consisting of 55.55 per cent. alcohol, 42.78 per cent. ether, 1.11 per cent. kerosine, and 0.56 per cent. pyridine.

Mixture (a) was tried successfully on both Holt and Cleveland tractors, the results obtained being as follows:—

(1) No difficulty was experienced in starting the motors cold.

(2) Full power of the motor was obtained.

(3) The consumption of the mixture was 50 per cent. greater than with petrol for the same work done.

Tried with a motor-car, the results were:—

(1) A regular, reasonable speed was obtained.

(2) A lack of flexibility was very noticeable, especially when accelerating from 10 to 20 miles per hour. Between 20 to 25 miles per hour, however, no lack of flexibility was noticed.

(3) There was an increased consumption of 50 per cent. as compared with the usual grade of petrol used.

Mixture (b), which was only obtainable in limited quantity on account of lack of ether, was tried on motor-cars. The results obtained were:—

(1) No difficulty was experienced in starting the motor when cold, except in the case of the Overland model "4" touring car.

(2) Full power of the motor was obtained.

(3) The mileage run indicated a probable increase of about 10 to 15 per cent. in favour of the alcohol-ether as compared with the existing grade of Trinidad petrol.

(4) The flexibility of the motor was better than with petrol, and the acceleration from 10 to 20 miles per hour was very rapid.

Discussing the question of the possibilities of motor spirit production in British Guiana, the report states that the imports of petrol into British Guiana in 1920 were 538,968 gallons, and of kerosine 604,986 gallons, and the authors estimate that the molasses from the sugar industry were capable of producing, on the average, 2,040,000 gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol annually. Since 1.09 gallons of alcohol are required to produce one gallon of the alcohol-ether mixture, the total amount of motor spirit of this description which the colony could produce from its molasses would be 1,900,000 gallons, or 1,360,000 gallons in excess of local requirements; or in other words, the motor spirit from 27,000 tons of sugar would supply the present local requirements.

SEEDLING CANES IN TRINIDAD.

The *Bulletin* of the Department of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago (Vol. XIX., Part 2) publishes a report on the seedling cane experiment conducted in 1918-20 by Mr. Joseph de Verteuil, F.I.C., the then Superintendent of Field Experiments.

Out of the seedlings raised in 1918, 2,808 were planted out in the field in 1919, and of these, 162 passed the necessary field and analytical tests and were selected for further trial. The results of the tests showed that the seedlings raised from the Bourbon gave the largest weight of canes, and those from L.511 and B.6835 the best juice. It is recorded that the seedlings raised during 1918 were much better than those of the previous year.

In 1919, 12,000 seedlings were raised, and 2,577 of the most vigorous planted out in 1920. Unfortunately 50 per cent. of these were killed by the drought, which started in the middle of March and continued to June 15th. With regard to the older varieties, it is mentioned that the attacks from frog-hopper were practically nil, and that the cultivation suffered very little from root diseases. It was found, however, that 75 per cent. of the varieties grown at the Experiment Station were attacked by a leaf disease, subsequently identified as the mosaic disease of the sugar-cane, but the damage done was not serious.

The average results of the reaping of these canes as plants and first ratoons at Valsayne and St. Augustine showed that B.6388 gave the best return, 4.28 tons per acre of sucrose in juice being recorded. The next four places were held by B.14761 with 4.10 tons, Ba.6032 with 3.95 tons, M.P.55 with 3.87 tons, and B.H.10 (12) with 3.69 tons. The sixth place was taken by a dark horse with the ambiguous title of H.?, the juice of which registered 3.67 tons of sucrose per acre. The Bourbon came low down in the list with 2.24 tons, while the only two Trinidad seedlings occupied the anti-penultimate and ultimate positions with 1.77 and 1.19 tons of sucrose per acre in juice respectively.

JAMAICA GOVERNORS.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VII.—JOHN, LORD VAUGHAN.

(Continued from page 350.)

In December, 1674, instruction was sent to Vaughan that if, as the King understood, the Spanish Governors in America had, in contravention of the Treaty of Madrid, given commissions to privateers, against British subjects, and he could not get redress for damage done, he was to "give out commissions to privateers sufficient to redress the injury and satisfy those endamaged."

Either on account of his suppression of the pirates, or on account of the avarice, which was charged against him, Lord Vaughan was not at all popular as a Governor. It was said of him that he "made haste to grow as rich as his Government would let him." In May, 1675, the Assembly and Vaughan got to loggerheads over their respective powers. The Assembly wanted the Treasurer to act under the direct authority of the Act of Revenue: the Governor wanted his warrant to be the authority. A deputation from the Assembly, headed by William Beeston, pressed their point on the Council, but in the end the Governor had his way. On their requesting that he would sign in their presence the Acts that had been passed, "the Custom of this place" being urged as a precedent, the Governor said he should "guide himself according to the custom and usage of Parliament in England."

The Speaker (Samuel Long) then said that if the Governor would not sign them in their presence they would take the Acts away again: to which the Governor retorted that, as they had passed them three times, they were "wholly dispossessed of them." The Speaker and Members of the Assembly then withdrew—one imagines, in high dudgeon. After he had signed the Acts, forty-five in number, the Governor sent for the Assembly again; told them he had done so, and prorogued them for six months.

In spite of these quarrels, however, the island was making progress. Peter Beckford, the Island Secretary, wrote home in December, 1675, that "No place the King has is more like to thrive, for they increase in planting to a miracle; guesses the number of planters to be about 8,000," but the revenue was not equal to the current needs. In the same month the Governor issued a proclamation ordering due observance of the laws for regulating slavery in view of recent outbreaks. Every *custos rotulorum* was ordered to see to this, and that every person had one white servant for every ten negroes in accordance with the Deficiency Law. But the rebellion in St. Mary still continued, and rewards were offered for certain negroes, and fresh steps were taken to quell the outbreak, and in February, 1676, martial law was declared.

In December, commissions against Spanish ships were, by the King's orders, withdrawn.

In the following month Secretary Sir Joseph Williamson sent, with a letter of recommendation to Vaughan, Elletson, a barrister whose family was destined to play its part in Jamaica history.

In January, 1676, Vaughan sent home by request of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, a very full account of the island—the laws, rules of government, officers, civil, ecclesiastical and military: the courts of justice, magistrates and parishes. He says:—

"Some ships come from Ireland with provisions and servants, and return with sugar, tobacco and logwood. Several merchants at Port Royal have correspondents at Bristol, Chester, Plymouth, Southampton, who supply servants, coarse cloths, provisions, ironwork. It is to the interests of the Island that the trade of Ireland and these other places be encouraged, to disappoint those of New England, who never brought any servants or would take off any goods, but in exchange of their fish, peas, and pork carried away our plate and pieces of eight; but since the Island has begun to have good store of flesh, they begin to leave off that trade. No vessel come from New York these two months. Between Barbadoes and this place two or three vessels are constantly passing, and every day some people remove hither; from the other Caribee Islands no vessels come unless driven down by storms. There may be about 60 or 70 vessels belonging to the Island, and wholly employed in fetching logwood and salt, turtling and striking manatee, or fishing in the bays of Cuba; others go to Tirise, and the Lagunas of Yucatan; some sloops trade with the French for hides, meat, and tobacco; some have little designs with the Spaniards, and others with Curaçoa. These small vessels built in the Island pay no tonnage, or any duties, and take out their let passes but once a year, or every six months; it being much to the interest of the Island to encourage them, for they employ abundance of men, bring trade to the Island, and constantly give advice, so that no enemy can surprise the Island."

In April, Vaughan sent home the map commenced by Lynch, "all former draughts were only by guess, but in this the sea coast and harbours are exactly laid down, and the islands, rivers and settlements, perfectly described and run with a chain." This was evidently the map included in "The Laws of Jamaica," published in London in 1684. He asked that another frigate might be sent out to take the place of the *Foresight*, and pressed for the return of the laws sanctioned. From May 18th to June 22nd, the Lords of Trade and Plantations considered the laws fully, Lynch being present.

In May, 1676, Vaughan wrote home to Williamson with reference to Morgan:—"What I most resent is, and which I consider is part of my duty to lay before your Honour, that I find Sir Henry, contrary to his duty and trust, endeavours to set up privateering, and has obstructed all my designs and purposes for the reducing of those that do use that curse of life"; and he wrote at the same time to the Privy Seal, the Earl of Anglesea, to the same effect. In August, 1676, there was fear of a Dutch fleet of privateers, assisted by men-of-war, which had defeated the French at Petit Guaves: "If Admiral Binckes come down with his fleet the whole coast will be certainly reduced." In October he sent home a "very exact map" of the town and harbour of Port Royal, showing how strong it would be if the fortifications were completed. He later sent home complaints of the way British subjects were taken and held prisoner in Havannah.

In April, 1677, the Governor had another passage of arms with the Assembly and insisted on their reading Bills three times before they sent them up to the Council; the Assembly wishing to send up after the second reading.

In the same month the Lords of Trade and Plantations sent instructions to Vaughan to apply at Havannah for the discharge of any English then held prisoners—the same request being sent through the British Ambassador at Madrid.

In December the Governor in Council issued an Order forbidding the importation of Indians from New England, as there was "great hazard and danger" should any great number be imported.

The trouble that came to a head in Lord Carlisle's Governorship is indicated by the fact that the phrase, "Be it enacted by the Governor's Council and the Representatives of the Commons of this island now assembled" on the laws sent home by Vaughan, was struck out and the following substituted: "Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the consent of the General Assembly."

Writing home in May, 1677, to Secretary Coventry, in treating of the difficulty he had with the Assembly and even at times with the Council, he said: "His Majesty's interest cannot be secured here but by a Governor whose dependence is only from England, and who has no private interests in Jamaica," and pleaded that he should have power to suspend Members of the Council without the consent of the Council—most of them "old standers and officers of Cromwell's army." He suggests that if he were given seven or eight months' leave of absence he could make matters plain to the King.

In June, 1677, he parted with the frigate with regret, and begged that another might be speedily sent to "preserve trade." On the passing of an Act making it felony to serve under a foreign prince, some three hundred British seamen came in from such service to Jamaica.

In July there was a fierce controversy between the Governor and the Assembly over the signature by the former of the death warrant of one Captain James Browne, a Scots pirate, who, under commission of Ogeon, the late Governor of Tortugas, had taken a Dutch negro ship; the Assembly fearing that his execution would render all the privateers shy of Jamaica. The Governor retorted that he had already pardoned eight of those criminals sentenced to death, and that the pardon of Browne would be of evil example and bad consequence. Yet the Assembly, influenced in some degree by Samuel Long, the chief justice, passed a warrant to the Provost Marshal commanding him in his Majesty's name to forbear the execution of Browne "notwithstanding any warrant issued." The Governor sent orders for his immediate execution, and "the fellow was hanged" half an hour before the Marshal arrived with the Speaker's order to observe the Chief Justice's Habeas Corpus. Then the Governor dissolved the Assembly after having reproved them. In this year an Act which was passed to celebrate on the 10th of May "the Conquest of this His Majesty's Island by the English forces" was ordered to be abolished.

(To be concluded.)

AGRICULTURE IN ST. VINCENT.

The Report of the Agricultural Department of St. Vincent for the period April 1st to December 31st, 1919, late on account of printing delay, states that the results of the cotton manurial plot reaping showed that the best results were obtained with the use of cotton-seed meal, phosphates in the form of basic slag and potash, 808 lbs. per acre of seed cotton being the average return, as compared with 403 lbs., the average return from the unmanured plots, and 764 lbs. from the potash plots. The experiments as to the relative returns of the St. Vincent, Montserrat, and St. Kitts types of Sea Island cotton showed that the Montserrat cotton gave the best return and the local variety the worst.

As regards the chief industries of the island, the Report states that the early part of the season was on the whole favourable for the cotton crop, but the heavy rains that ensued caused considerable damage, the estimate of loss being 25 per cent. from this cause.

The area cultivated by peasants gave a yield of 73.3 lbs. per acre of lint. The area of estate-grown cotton gave an average return of 109 lbs. of lint. The value of the cotton exports in 1919 was £66,782.

The area cultivated by peasants was 1,565 acres, which gave a yield of 73.3 lbs. per acre of lint. The area of estate-grown cotton was 2,774 acres, which gave an average return of 109 lbs. of lint. The value of the cotton exports in 1919 was £66,782.

The quantity of seed-cotton ginned at the Government ginnery was 1,468,834 lbs., and the return of lint 369,449 lbs. This was a considerable increase on the work done during the previous season. 174,243 lbs. of kiln-dried corn were obtained in the Government ginnery, the total amount of corn dealt with being 3,516 bushels.

There was a considerable falling off in the arrow-root crop as compared with that of the previous season, the export being 2,244,570 lbs., as against 5,084,262 lbs. There was, on the other hand, an increase in the cassava starch exports, which were 430,415 lbs., as compared with 332,227 lbs. in 1918.

Although there was no increase in the area of cacao in cultivation it is stated that the health of the cacao trees continued to improve. The quantity of cacao exported for the year 1919 was 219,545 lbs., apparently the normal amount of recent years. The sugar industry is again coming to the front in St. Vincent, taking the form of syrup productions, the value of the exports of which was £10,725 for 1919.

As regards minor industries, it is stated that that of the cultivation of Indian corn was becoming of considerable economic importance, the local consumption being supplied and exports made. The latter amounted to 1,327 bushels in 1919. The young coconut industry is also showing prospects of satisfactory growth.

COLONEL G. G. SANDEMAN CAREY, C.B., C.M.G., commanding the West Indian forces, arrived in Demerara on July 10th. It was Colonel (when Brigadier-General) Carey, who, in the German break through of the Western Front in March, 1918, saved a very difficult situation.

CARRIAGE OF COPRA.

The Dangers of Fire.

The Board of Trade call attention to the risks of fire in copra shipments, and make the following recommendations :—

- (1) Shippers should take care that not only the bags or mats, if any, in which it may be shipped are dry, but that the copra itself is as free as possible from moisture.
- (2) Shipmasters and officers should reject any damp copra and/or bags or mats.
- (3) The copra, if carried in a lower hold, should be stowed up against a bulkhead liable to heat.
- (4) Efficient ventilation should be provided, and where large quantities of copra are carried temperatures should be taken night and morning and a record kept.
- (5) The openings of ventilators should be protected with fine gauze or other contrivance to minimise the risk from sparks.
- (6) Smoking and the use of naked lights in holds or near open hatches should be strictly prohibited.

Experience shows that copra cargoes are not more liable to fire than many other cargoes. As recent fires in copra cargoes are attributable not to spontaneous combustion, but to ignition from sparks, cigarette ends, etc., special care should be taken to guard against fire arising from such cause.

BILHARZIOSIS AND SNAILS.

Recent Discoveries in Guiana.

The Commission investigating the subject of filaria in the West Indies has made some interesting discoveries in connection with the way in which human infection takes place with *bilharzia*, the organism of the Bilharziosis disease. In this instance the vehicle is not a mosquito, nor a fly, but a snail. The egg of *bilharzia* passes through the excretory system of the human being, protected in its passage by its hard shell, and finds its way into the snail, presumably in its food, which seizes the first opportunity which fresh water affords to get rid of its unwelcome guest. After hatching, the parasite finds its way into the human being through the skin and the cycle recommences.

Valuable evidence on this point has been found by the Commission in the relative conditions of Georgetown, the capital of British Guiana, and Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam. In each of these cities there is the same system of open trenches for drainage, and of rain water for drinking and other purposes. But in Georgetown bilharziosis is practically unknown, while in Paramaribo it is prevalent, and coincident with these conditions is the fact that in Georgetown the particular snail which conveys the infection is unknown, while in Paramaribo it abounds.

In one striking instance a pond for the preservation of fish had been newly dug into which snails of the particular variety had found their way. These were discharging as rapidly as possible the *bilharzia* parasite into the water.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

Barbados' Trade in 1919-20.

The General Report on Barbados for the year 1919-20, states that the heavy rains which fell at the close of 1918 and the greater acreage planted as a result of high prices, made the sugar crop a distinctly good one, and the amount of sugar and fancy molasses exported exceeded the previous year's figures by 12,437 tons, worth £553,163. An increased area was also planted in cotton. The revenue collected during 1919-20 was £420,136, leaving a balance of £77,960 over expenditure.

The number of stranger immigrants was as usual, negligible. The departures, however, numbered 3,404, whose destination for the greater part was Cuba. A generous offer made by the Rockefeller Institute to initiate a campaign against hookworm in the Island had to be declined by the Government owing to the necessary condition of improved sanitation in country districts not commending itself to the responsible parochial authorities.

The outstanding event of the year was undoubtedly the visit of the Prince of Wales, on March 25th, Barbados being the first British Possession to be honoured in this way on the tour. In the thirty-two hours which he spent in the Colony the Prince carried out a very full programme, and his departure meant that he "left behind him some 200,000 people who will treasure the memory of this wonderful visit."

The value of the Colony's imports amounted to £3,893,458, compared with £2,986,006 in 1918. Of the total, £739,861 represented goods from the United Kingdom, £1,711,205 from other parts of the British Empire, and £1,717,205 from foreign countries. This proportion does not differ substantially from that of previous years. It is clear that the Old Country had not yet regained her position as regards trade with the Colony since the war, whilst Canada is as yet unable fully to supply the Island's needs. There was an increase of nearly two million pounds in the importation of rice, mainly from India. An increase of 4½ million pounds of flour was divided in about equal proportion between Canada and the United States.

Exports totalled £3,305,382, exceeding the value of those for 1918 by £824,736. Only £348,589 worth of goods went to the United Kingdom, as opposed to £2,002,534 to other parts of the Empire, and £405,919 to elsewhere. 50,312 tons of sugar were shipped, value £1,232,415, and the relative value of molasses being less, only 7,569,830 gallons of this commodity were exported as against 10,683,609 in 1918. In recent years the cotton exports, owing to freight difficulties, have not corresponded to the crops, and the fact that 114,444 lbs., value £22,888, were exported, showing a decrease of 73,919 lbs., does not necessarily indicate that less was grown.

Of rum, the exports amounted to 49,862 gallons valued at £19,943, being an increase of 4,594 gallons in quantity and £14,284 in value. Before the war there was no appreciable export trade in Barbados rum.

Dealing with the question of oil in the Colony, the report states that during 1919 the British Union Oil Company, Limited, leased certain Government land abutting on Carlisle Bay with a view to establishing an oil bunkering station. This Company also has leases covering a large area (approximately two-thirds of the island) and has done sufficient prospecting to warrant the installation of heavy drilling plant for deep testing, which is now being imported and set up.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

By "Agronomist."

A fruitful source of potash is the sunflower; and the ash obtained by burning what remains of the plant after the seeds are gathered contains a large proportion, quite 60 per cent., of this valuable plant food.

An article in *Nicko's* states that, with the aid of electricity, salad materials, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, etc., can be grown in half the time that they can without it. The various seeds should be soaked overnight and the current applied for 15 minutes. The strength of the current is given as "80 per medical coil," which is somewhat indefinite. The quality of the salads thus grown is stated to be very superior to that of those produced by ordinary methods of cultivation.

The *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute, just issued, contains an article on the utilisation commercially of cotton stalks which remain after the cotton is harvested, which gives an account of the trials which have been made in different countries in this direction, in the way of paper-making, charcoal, with its accompanying methyl alcohol, acetate of lime, etc. Surely, however, the best commercial treatment is to return it to the soil, and thus contribute to the maintenance of its tilth.

Dr. C. T. Brues, of the Harvard University, publishes an account in the "American Naturalist" of his study of the selection of food plants by insects. He has found that many lepidopterous insects pick out particular plants for their larval food, some having very especial tastes in this respect. Others, on the other hand, have special proclivities as regards the nature of their food. Genera and even families may have their special plant diet, while in the case of a few species they have actually become carnivorous.

China, with its enormous population of 400 millions, is, with the exception of the United States, the greatest agricultural country in the world. In 1919, says the *Journal* of the Royal Society of Arts, 80 per cent. of China's foreign trade consisted of products directly or indirectly connected with agriculture. The methods employed by Chinese farmers have maintained the fertility of the soil for 4,000 years, but their farming implements are of the same description they employed when the pyramids of Egypt were in course of construction.

The physical condition of the ears of maize in reference to yield has recently formed the subject of investigation by Mr. C. C. Cunningham, late Professor of Agronomy at the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station. Smoothness, he says, is no indication of degeneration; in fact, smooth types may yield better than corn with rough kernels. Continuous selection of smooth and rather short kernels for four generations he found to decrease

the percentage of shelled grain, while continuous selection of rough and rather long kernels increased it.

The prejudicial influence of machinery when used for the preparation of food is well seen in the case of butter. In the old process of butter-making, the milk was allowed to stand for some hours until the cream had risen to the surface, when it was skimmed off and churned. During this period a rich flavour was developed. The centrifugal separator process has largely taken the place of the old hand skimming, with the result that modern butter lacks flavour, and is comparatively insipid compared with the old brand. There is no time for the development of flavour-producing bacilli.

The sewage of Glasgow is subjected to an elaborate process of purification before the clean effluent is finally discharged into the Clyde. The filter beds used in the final treatment are apt to become clogged with a gelatinous mass of bacteria and their products. Suddenly, however, a "spring-tail," a wingless creature about a quarter of an inch in length, and a species of *Achorutes*, has appeared upon the scene and made short work of the gelatinous film. It has been decided to endeavour to prevail upon the visitors to make the filter beds their home, and to abandon their wandering life.

In an article in the *Fertiliser and Feeding-Stuffs Journal* dealing with the diet of horses, Mr. Scott Fowweather states that a satisfactory maintenance ration must contain 6.5 to 7 lbs. of digestible nutrients per day per 1,000 lbs. of live weight, and in this ration the minimum protein requirement is 0.4 to 0.6 lbs. of digestible protein, so that the nitrogen ratio—that is to say, the number of parts of digestible nitrogen-free materials present for each part of digestible protein—will be about 1:14. The health and general condition of the animal, however, Mr. Fowweather states, would be improved by a quantity of protein rather in excess of this minimum requirement, and suggests 0.8 to 1 lb. of digestible protein, giving a nutritive ratio of about 1 to 8.

The question of the cultivation of the coco-nut palm has received considerable attention in Ceylon, and the *Tropical Agriculturist* for June has some valuable remarks on the subject. In the early days of the Ceylon coco-nut industry, it states, ploughing was done at intervals of two years, one year, or even six months, and disc harrowing was carried out regularly every month throughout the year. The first result of this treatment was an increase of crop; but it was subsequently found that this increase was not sustained, and at the present time the general consensus of opinion is against continuous clean cultivation. Speaking generally, Ceylon coco-nut growers are in favour of occasional fairly deep ploughing, coupled with frequent disc harrowing in the dry months of the year. The maintenance of the humus content is considered to be essential, and the custom of green manuring is gradually extending.

HOW TO TEST CACAO.

The *Tea and Coffee Trades Journal* gives the following methods of ascertaining if cacao beans have been properly prepared.

1. The beans should be cut open with a knife. If full fermentation has taken place, the inside of the bean will be of a light chocolate colour, and the veins or "heart" of the same shade as the rest. If these veins are still white, or lighter than other parts of the bean, fermentation has not been complete. If the bean is purple inside, that is also an indication of incomplete fermentation. A "slate" colour also is the sign of an unfermented bean. Sometimes the inside is found to be quite raw in appearance, like the inside of a bean when it is first taken out of the pod. This "raw" appearance seems to be due to the pods having been picked before they were thoroughly ripe, and no amount of fermentation will bring them up to best grade.

2. The beans should be picked to pieces with the fingers, breaking first into the broader end, where the heart will be found. As mentioned in (1), if the heart is white or lighter colour than the rest of the bean, it is not entitled to pass as first grade. When broken, the beans, if full fermentation has taken place, should readily crumble into fragments. If not fully fermented, the fragments will have a more or less pronounced tendency to cling together, and the bean will not readily disintegrate. This unsatisfactory break will also be noticed in beans that have been dried and afterwards re-fermented, which will never come up to first grade. Some samples vary considerably, owing to the beans not having been turned in the sweating boxes, resulting in different degrees of fermentation in different parts of the heap.

3. A handful of the beans should be taken. If fully fermented it will be noticeable that they feel lighter than unfermented beans.

4. The beans should be rubbed between the hands to generate heat. If fully fermented, they will give off an acid aroma. This is not one of the best tests of a small handful only. It is, however, a good test as to the presence of mildew.

5. Taste the beans after removing the outer shell. A well-fermented bean will readily disintegrate in the mouth, and the flavour will be wholesome and nutty, with something like the taste of manufactured chocolate. There should be no suggestion of the bitter taste caused by insufficient fermentation, and none of the mustiness caused by mildew.

The subject of the use of alcohol as a substitute for petrol for power purposes in the United Kingdom recalls the fact that about the year 1871 1,600 acres were planted with sugar beet at Buscot, in Berkshire, the primary object being the production of alcohol. The spirit found no market in this country, and was exported to France, where it realised two shillings and sixpence a gallon. The scheme was carried on in conjunction with stock raising, large numbers of cattle being fed with the exhausted beet pulp. The works were in existence about ten years, but the project proved a financial failure.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

War Medals for Colonial Defence Forces.

SIR,—I have for the past two years, by question and answer in the House of Commons, urged the granting of a war medal to members of the Defence Forces of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates which are not defined as theatres of war, including the Colonies situated in West Indian waters. I regret to say that my efforts have been without avail. I enclose the final letter which I have received from Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, the Secretary of State for War, in the matter, as it will, I believe be of interest to many of your readers in the West Indies

Yours, etc.,

House of Commons,
August 17th 1921.

GIDEON MURRAY

(Enclosure.)

War Office,
13th August, 1921.

DEAR MURRAY,—I have carefully considered your letter of the 4th instant regarding the question of granting war medals to Crown Colonies and Protectorates which are not defined as theatres of war.

While I have every sympathy with the desire of the Volunteer Forces of Crown Colonies to be granted a medal, I am afraid that as it has been decided that a medal cannot be given for Home Service in the United Kingdom, it is not possible to award a medal to the members of the Volunteer Forces of the Crown Colonies who did not enter a theatre of war.

Yours sincerely,

L. WORTHINGTON EVANS.

The Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P.

[Whilst disappointment will be felt in the West Indies with the decision at which the War Office have arrived, thanks are due to the Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., for his persistent efforts to secure the reward of the Colonial Defence Forces for their devoted service during the war. The questions and Answers in the House of Commons on this subject have been recorded in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR from time to time.—ED.]

WEST INDIAN CRICKET.

A British Team to be Arranged.

Efforts to bring about the visit of an English Cricket Team to the West Indies, which were last year unsuccessful, now seem destined to bear fruit. Mr. W. Morrison, of Jamaica, has interested himself in the question, and Mr. E. F. Lacey, the Secretary of the M.C.C., has placed a notice on the Club Board at Lord's calling attention to the proposed tour, and inviting members who wish to submit themselves for selection to subscribe their names. It is believed that a ready response has been forthcoming, and that Mr. "Plum" Warner may himself accompany the team. It is hoped, therefore, that the M.C.C., in conjunction with the West Indian Club, will be able to arrange for a team to visit the West Indies this autumn, and that the difficulties arising from the lack of communication will be successfully overcome.

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 extend Imperial Preference.

Miss Moseley, M.B.E., writing under date August 5th, says that the Bahamas have now fallen into line with the other West Indian Colonies by extending the preference of 25 per cent. granted to Canada last year under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement to any portion of the British Empire whose tariff is on the whole as favourable to the Colony.

Considerable surprise has been occasioned by the reinstatement (as reported in last issue of the CIRCULAR, p. 352) of the Commandant of Police and the Acting Magistrate, who were suspended temporarily from their offices pending the sitting of a Court of Inquiry, and the House of Assembly have passed a memorial to His Majesty the King bringing the facts to his notice and expressing their regret at the Secretary of State's action.

Better Growing Weather in Barbados.

During July, writes Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, there were some good rains, which greatly improved the young crops, but more rains were badly needed, the planters not being satisfied with less than two to three inches. There still remains some syrup made from this year's crop unsold, and the price has advanced from 14 c. to 20 c. per gallon, at which price holders decline to sell, as they look for higher prices.

Balls Estate and Pilgrim Place have gone into Chancery, as, owing to the heavy debts against the properties, the owners find it impossible to carry them on.

The death is recorded of Mrs. Stephen Phillips, wife of the Auditor-General, who succumbed after many weeks' illness to an attack of typhoid fever.

Dr. Gerald Gooding has resigned his post as Medical Officer of St. Philip's, to which he was elected on the resignation of his brother, Dr. C. E. Gooding, two years ago. It is no secret, says the *Advocate*, that if Dr. C. E. Gooding desires to return to the post, he will be elected.

At a meeting of the St. Michael's Highway Commissioners on July 13th, it was decided, from motives of economy, not to proceed further at present with the appointment of a City Engineer for Bridgetown, for whom for several years there has been held to be an urgent demand.

British Guiana Sea Defences.

A Conference was held on July 18th (writes Mr. V. P. Fitzpatrick on the following day) between the Hon. J. P. Auld, Hon. Hector Josephs, and the Council of the Sugar Planters' Association, represented by Hon. T. Smellie, Mr. R. Strang, Mr. M. B. G. Austin, Mr. A. E. Craig, Mr. E. Walcott, Mr. C. Farrar, and Mr. V. P. Fitzpatrick (Secretary). Certain clauses in the draft Sea Defences Ordinance were objected to on behalf of the planting interests, and it was agreed to amend the Ordinance in certain respects, so that the Director of Sea Defences should only have the control of the cost of maintenance of estate sluices and flood-gates opening on to the foreshore, their actual management remaining under the control of the estates proprietors. It was also decided that three of the five persons nominated by the Governor as Commissioners under the Ordinance for districts of more than 5,000 acres accessible at the rate for sugar estates should be

representatives of the sugar industry. An objection to the inclusion of the Demerara River Estates for the purposes of assessment under the Ordinance was not allowed on behalf of the Government.

The question of limiting the manufacture of rum as a result of the glut in the home market is being closely considered. The suggestions meeting with most general approval are that output shall be limited to ten gallons per ton of sugar, and an agreement that no rum shall be exported to the United Kingdom unless a contract has been previously made for its sale, when its price should not be less than 3s. per proof gallon in bond for ordinary quality, with not less than the usual addition for premium marks.

The Government have arrived at an arrangement with the sugar planters in respect of the measures of relief the former is prepared to afford the industry under certain conditions. On their side the planters and merchants agree that certain fixed retail prices shall not be exceeded in the colony.

The weather during July was characterized by very heavy rains interspersed with bright sunshine.

British Honduras Chicle Tax.

Hon. A. R. Usher writes on August 3rd that trade at present is in a very depressed condition, as there is no market for the principal articles of export—mahogany, logwood, chicle, and coconuts.

The question of reducing the export duty on chicle and coconuts will be brought before the Legislative Council shortly, as the American companies are threatening to take their chicle, produced in Mexico, by way of Mexican ports instead of Belize, and the Government are apparently much perturbed over the matter, as this would involve a considerable loss in revenue, which has already shown a deficit during the past four months.

The new Attorney-General, Hon. C. G. B. Francis, has arrived, and is acting as Chief Justice, in which capacity he has already created a good impression. Mr. Francis comes of a family well known in the West Indies, his father, Colonel Francis, having been at one time for a number of years Inspector-General of Police in British Guiana.

Iceless Grenada.

Mr. C. V. C. Horne writes that His Honour G. O'Donnell Walton, the new Chief Justice, has arrived, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, and has taken up residence at Mt. Wheldale. With Mr. Walton's arrival, Mr. Martin reverts to his substantive appointment as Attorney-General, and Mr. A. W. Lewis ceases to act in that capacity. At a meeting of the Legislative Council on July 15th, the Governor announced his intention of offering Mr. Lewis a seat on the Executive Council in the place of the late Hon. W. S. Commissiong.

The *West Indian* voices a complaint as to the inadequacy of the cabled news service, the messages, it says, being often delayed, uninteresting, and lacking condensation.

Rev. Wm. Rattray, who is to act temporarily as Presbyterian Minister, has arrived with his wife and daughter from Glasgow. The Island is having exceptionally nice weather just at present, but the want of a local ice supply is badly needed, for it is only possible to get a few pounds at uncertain periods from supplies received from Trinidad by sloop.

Grand Bras Cacao Estate has changed hands, having been purchased by Mr. J. L. C. Alexis from Mrs. McEwen.

A successful race meeting was held at Queen's Park on August 1st in aid of the Queen's Park Fund.

A large number of friends attended the funeral of Mrs. Anton, the wife of Mr. C. Falconer Anton, of Rose Hill, who died after only a few hours' illness on July 26th.

Jamaica Council debates Federation.

In the Legislative Council on August 4th, a motion, introduced by Rev. W. T. Graham, urging that the views of the other British West Indian Possessions and the Dominion of Canada be obtained on the question of federation of all the British Possessions in the Western Hemisphere, was lost by 13 votes to 4. An amendment, proposing to leave out the Dominion and to substitute West Indies for Western Hemisphere, was defeated by the same number of votes. In the course of debate, Major Dixon made the interesting suggestion that the proper location for the Governor-General of a confederated West Indies was on a battleship, enabling him to travel from island to island. The Colonial Secretary pressed for a definition of Federation, and pointed out that the Western Hemisphere included Fiji, New Zealand, and the Falkland Islands. He said that the question of marketing Jamaica fruit in Canada had already been taken up, and the Dominion Government asked to provide refrigerators on the *Canadian Fisher* and the *Canadian Forester*. The Canadian Government, however, took the view that there was no guarantee that the innovation would prove profitable, and it was first of all desirable that Jamaican exporters should show what opportunities they had for selling their bananas and citrus fruits in the Dominion.

Montserrat's Cotton Crop.

Mr. K. P. Penchoen, writing on August 1st, says that the outlook here just now is very gloomy. Cotton reaping has started with the whole of the last crop unsold in England, where expenses are mounting up all the time for warehouse rent, insurance, etc. We shipped the cotton, even though we knew there was no demand, in our efforts to control the pink boll-worm, as Mr. Ballou said keeping baled cotton was a menace. The coming crop will be a short one, owing to less acreage being under cultivation, and to the fact that with the exception of some favoured districts the weather was very dry when the planting season began.

St. Lucia's Crop Prospects.

Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, writing under date July 25th, says that excellent growing weather has been experienced during the last few weeks, and there have been frequent showers with bright intervals of sunshine. Plauters continue to feel the effects of the general depression due to the slump in European markets, and in some cases difficulty is experienced in meeting obligations. The cacao, lime, and coconut crops are very promising in most districts. The sugar crop is, however, dependent upon the amount of attention it is possible for the owners to give to the cultivation during the next few weeks. Owing to the financial depression it has not in all cases been possible to incur the usual expenditure on weeding, draining, and manuring, and this will naturally be reflected in the reaping.

The Mycologist on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture paid a visit to the Colony from July 9th to 19th, the chief object of his visit being in connection with the Panama disease of bananas.

During his stay he accompanied the Agricultural Superintendent on visits to estates in the Castries, Gros Islet, Soufriere, Choiseul, Laborie, and Vieux-fort districts.

A very large gathering attended the At Home given by His Honour E. D. Laborde, I.S.O., Acting Administrator, at Government House on July 6th, and a pleasant time was spent at tennis, bridge, and dancing. On July 15th H.M.S. *Cambrian*, under the command of Captain Stewart, arrived at this port and remained for four days. This visit was welcomed by the whole Colony, as such visits have of late been very few and far between. Tennis, football, cricket, and shooting matches were arranged between the ship and local teams. 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.

Dr. H. E. Sutherland Richards, M.C., the newly-appointed P.M.O., arrived by the Canadian steamer on July 22nd.

H.M.S. "Cambrian" off St. Vincent.

Mr. Percy W. Verrall, under date July 30th, reports a month's good growing weather, and cotton cultivation is looking healthy. There is, however, a big reduction in acreage.

Vincentians have read with pleasure (says Mr. Verrall) of the very successful banquet given by the West India Committee to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and feel, after reading the speeches of the Royal Guest and the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, that these ancient possessions of the Crown will be kept prominently in mind, and an understanding sympathy with our condition resulting in the advocacy of our Colonial Minister, for the amelioration of the same, is very apparent. St. Vincent, though not perhaps as badly off as some of the sister Colonies, is undoubtedly facing a very critical period in its history. The business houses look in vain for customers, and for the past week the streets of what in normal times is the busiest section bear a deserted appearance.

The Opening Hours Bill, which has come into force, seems to meet with general approval.

An unexpected visit from H.M.S. *Cambrian* (Captain Stewart) led to the usual cricket and football matches being played, at which the warship's men again proved their superiority. St. Vincent, once the home of good cricketers, seems to need an infusion of sporting blood to rejuvenate the old spirit.

The Governor visits Tobago.

Mr. Robert S. Reid writes under date August 11th that the weather continues seasonable, with plenty of alternate rain and sunshine for the ripening crops. Imported foodstuffs are dear, a shilling per lb being charged for beef, as against 5d. in Trinidad, whilst much of the one-and-threepenny mutton has to be labelled as goat, and is tough at that.

His Excellency the Acting Governor is now (says Mr. Reid) at Scarborough on a brief visit, and there was an At Home at Government House on August 10th, but distant residents had not much opportunity of paying their respects.

The soil is in splendid condition for growth, and cacao trees are laden with flowers and young fruit. Good pickings are expected from October, provided there is no unfavourable set-back. It is curious that doubts about sugar prices have induced the peasants to plant more canes than usual, and to revert to making "prehistoric" muscovado.

The death is recorded of Mrs. H. Hislop Tucker, of Speyside, a lady who was esteemed by all and will be greatly missed.

The Bishop of Trinidad has been lately for a few days in the Island, and has visited most of the churches.

Trinidad's Water Supply.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing under date July 25th, mentions the interest many people in the Island have taken in The West India Committee Banquet to the Prince of Wales.

There has been quite an epidemic of fires recently. The factory at St. Augustine was destroyed, with losses amounting to £42,000 falling upon insurance, and now the lumber yard and hardware store of Messrs. Alston & Co., Ltd., has also been burnt flat. This loss is also covered by insurance amounting to about £80,000. Other serious fires have also occurred, bringing the total claims against insurance companies for the current year up to nearly £150,000.

Heavy rains continue, and further harvesting of canes has been abandoned. It now seems certain that the crop will be nearer 50,000 tons than the 60,000 estimated, which is to be regretted from every point of view.

The Trinidad Dramatic Club has staged and presented already to two crowded houses the "Manœuvres of Jane." It was an ambitious effort, as Henry Arthur Jones's plays want "some" acting, but the general verdict is that the company succeeded beyond expectations. The performances took place at the new Empire Theatre, where excellent scenery and stage accessories are available.

Writing on August 2nd, Mr. Tripp says that the Turf Club concluded on the preceding day a very successful two days' meeting. A great deal has been said as to "hard times," but these were not very apparent in the gay concourse of people assembled in the Queen's Park. The racing was excellent, and the entries included competitors from Barbados and Demerara. Mr. Nelson Cannon, the well-known Demerara sportsman, did not, however, meet with any great share of success with his horses.

Mr. Randolph Rust, the Mayor of Port of Spain, has returned, and received a hearty welcome from the City Council.

At the last meeting of that body, Dr. A. H. McShive in a very able speech brought forward the question of the Colony's water supply, and it is very satisfactory to note that he realised that the pumping arrangements at present being instituted will, after all, only result in a comparatively limited supply, and that he supported the Chamber of Commerce's view that it was only by a comprehensive scheme under the Government itself that the question could be properly and efficiently dealt with. Sooner or later this question must be tackled, and the authorities are at last coming round to the view expressed years ago by outsiders that there is only one solution—viz., to tap the practically inexhaustible supplies in the hills to the east of the town.

It is reported that oil has been struck on the Palmiste Estate, the property of Sir Norman Lamont. This will be good news for the whole district, and will appreciate the value of all property in the neighbourhood.

Work on the new scheme of wharf accommodation, which was approved by Sir John Chancellor some months ago, is still delayed, pending a decision on technical points. A start has, however, been made with the increased warehouse accommodation, also recommended by the Chamber of Commerce, space

being available on the edge of the wharf at present being occupied by the Customs Department, for which new offices are being erected.

The large public meeting held in Priuce's Building on August 12th (to which reference was made in last CIRCULAR), in favour of Representative Government, was presided over by Major Randolph Rust, who had convened it as Mayor of Port of Spain. The principal occupants of the platform were gentlemen connected with the City Councils of Port of Spain, San Fernando and Arima. The medical and legal professions were well represented, but prominent merchants and planters were conspicuous by their absence. The proceedings were very enthusiastic and unanimous. Meanwhile leading East Indians have met and formally protested against the suggested change.

More "Wrecking" in Turks Island.

Rain was badly needed in the Turks Islands at the time of the last report of the Direct West India Cable Co. Business generally has been dead, "wrecking" (that is, salvaging), at which the whole community has been in their element, having provided the chief occupation. This has been occasioned by the wreck of the five-masted schooner *General Pershing* on Endymion Rock. A quantity of the stores were salvaged. On July 23rd the Nova Scotian schooner *Arcadian Queen*, while anchored off Grand Turk, caught on fire, and was apparently allowed to burn down to the water's edge and break up.

The West India Development Company closed down their cotton cultivations during August, letting the peasants clean and plant out. Preparations are being made to start extracting sisal on Mr. W. S. Jones's estate in Grand Turk. Shipments of sponge are still being made at frequent intervals to Nassau. Green turtle has been somewhat scarce lately. Large quantities of turtle eggs have been taken, and find a ready sale locally. All the Nassau turtles have returned home after a very good season.

MARRIAGE.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line. Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed "Colonial Bank."

ARMSTRONG—BROOKES.—On August 3rd, at Bromsgrove Parish Church, Worcestershire, by the late Rev. T. C. de la Hay, Ernest Lindsay, son of the late Mr. S. A. Armstrong and Mrs. Armstrong, of Barbados, to Winifred Lucy, eldest daughter of the late Mr. A. E. Brookes and Mrs. Brookes, of Bromsgrove.

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.

GENT. REQUIRES POSITION in West Indies, any capacity. Aged 23. Knowledge figures. Apply: "F. V. B.", c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

THE RECTORY, STOW ST. MARY, MALDON, ESSEX.—The Rector and Mrs. Gordon Smythe offer excellent home, loving care, and experienced tuition to children 6 to 12 years. Beautiful house standing in two acres of grounds in pretty and healthy countryside. Entire charge. References to parents.

The following telegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), August 10th: "Light partial showers." Demerara (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), August 29th: "Weather dry."

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

Jamaica and Banana Duty.

Mr. Wood informed Mr. Hurd on August 18th that he had not received a request from the Governor of Jamaica respecting the proposed import duty on bananas and coconuts entering the United States.

Petition from St. Lucia.

Mr. Wood (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), answering Mr. Percy Hurd on August 17th, stated that a petition had been received from a number of inhabitants of St. Lucia praying for more representative Government and for a voice in the expenditure of public money, and the matter was under consideration. Mr. Wood added that he had on the preceding day received the delegate from Grenada, who had made representations in regard to the number of elected members and other matters connected with the proposed change in the constitution of that Island; but the Secretary of State must consult the Governor before he could express any opinion on the points raised.

The Sugar Commission's Purchases.

Mr. Jesson asked, on August 19th, whether, in view of the fact that Appendix IV. of the Second Report of the Royal Commission on the Sugar Supply disclosed that, in spite of the preference, the price paid by the Commission in 1920 for British West Indies raw sugar was 50.640s. per cwt. c.i.f., as compared with that of 65.690s. paid for Cuban raw sugar, a return could be furnished of the parcels of British West Indies sugar purchased during the year 1920. Sir William Mitchell-Thomson (Secretary of the Board of Trade) in a written reply said that the prices paid by the Sugar Commission in 1920 for British West Indies raw sugar and for Cuban raw sugar were not comparable, as the purchases were made at different periods of the year. In these circumstances the Hon. Member was asked not to press for the return, which would involve an exiguous staff in a considerable expenditure of time and labour.

Trinidad Legislative Council.

Replying to Mr. Gillis on August 17th, Mr. Churchill stated that all the unofficial members of the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago were appointed on the nomination of the Governor. Their names and occupations were: Sir H. A. Alcazar, K.C., barrister; William Gemmill Kay, O.B.E., engineer; Stephen M. Lawrence, M.D., medical practitioner; Alexander Fraser, engaged in commerce; Arthur Henry Wight, engaged in commerce; H. Sydney Fuller, attorney to an oil mining firm; Albert H. Cipriani, M.B.E., merchant and planter; Maurice Rostant, planter; Eummanuel Mzumbo Lazare, solicitor and planter; The Reverend C. D. Lalla, Minister of Religion; Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., planter. The Governor in Executive Council had power under Ordinance Number 10 of 1920 to prohibit the importation of seditious publications, and a Proclamation had been made under this Ordinance in respect of the *Negro World*, the *Crusader*, and the *Messenger*.

The Affairs of Trinidad.

Mr. Wood, replying to a series of questions on August 18th, stated that he had received a memorial from a body styled The West Indian Confederation Committee in Trinidad urging that the Governors of the various West Indian Colonies be empowered to nominate representative delegates for a Conference in London to discuss the question of representative

Government. As, however, the regular procedure of forwarding it through the Acting Governor had not been followed, he was unable to say what weight of public opinion in Trinidad lay behind the suggestions, but he was referring the memorial to the Governors concerned for their observation. He was also asking the Acting Governor of Trinidad for a Report regarding the demand for an eight hours' working day. The Officer administering the Government was being authorised to publish, if he thought it advisable to do so, the conclusions at which the Commissioners had arrived regarding the conduct of the Constabulary during the industrial unrest of 1919 in that Colony. Three British subjects had been deported from Trinidad in the year 1919-20 in the interests of public order and security.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.

Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd.

The Company report that the estimated production of crude oil of Well No. 7, which was brought in last week, was 23,019 barrels in three days.

General Petroleum Co. of Trinidad.

Mr. W. B. Milford presided over an extraordinary general meeting of the General Petroleum Company of Trinidad, Ltd., which was held on August 16th, to approve a provisional agreement for amalgamation with the Trinidad Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., and to increase the capital of the Company by £1,200,000 by the creation of 400,000 additional shares of £1 each. Resolutions to this effect were carried unanimously.

The Company was formed in December, 1919, to acquire oil rights over 590 acres in the Fort George district and 108 acres in San Francisco. Earlier this year it absorbed a group of Trinidad oil concerns, comprising the Amalgamated Oilfields of Trinidad, the San Francisco Oil Company and the Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company.

Furness, Withy & Company.

Presiding at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of Furness, Withy & Company, Limited, Sir Frederick Lewis, Bart. referred to the Company's purchase, last autumn, from the Trinidad Shipping & Trading Company, of three steamers, *Moraval*, *Matura* and *Mayaro*, together with the goodwill of the New York-Trinidad service, and all the auxiliary properties of that business, which included various profit-earning assets. He stated that to enable the best possible supervision over this business, they had opened their own office at Trinidad under the charge of the Hon. A. Fraser. The important feature of this acquisition was that they had been able to establish a community of interest with their Quebec Steamship Company's New York-West Indian service, which would mean more economical operation and more efficient service for the supporters of the two lines. For the purpose of developing the Bermuda and West Indian passenger business, the Company had recently bought the *s.s. Fort St. George*, a sister ship to the *Fort Victoria*.

The West Indian Steamship Company, Ltd., of which Mr. C. A. Campbell is President, Mr. W. R. Cochran, Vice President, and Mr. R. A. Logan, Treasurer, has been incorporated in Jamaica with the object of engaging generally in shipping business and in especial carrying on business between Jamaica, England, Cuba, Hayti, Panama and New York. The authorised capital consists of 10,000 Ordinary Shares, £1 per share, and 10,000 8 per cent. Preference Shares of the same denomination.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS.

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Settler*, August 26th:—

Mr. & Mrs. H. J. E. Anderson
 Mrs. H. de Pass
 Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Dunlop
 Mr. J. E. Kidman
 Mrs. A. K. Lupton
 Mr. A. D. Measins

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Counsellor*, August 19th:—

Mr. C. Jorline
 Mrs. L. Shand & Son
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Forbes
 Mr. C. S. Kysh
 Mr. A. Lucie Smith
 T. Ed

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in s.s. *Coronado* August 15th:—

Sir John Bland-Sutton
 Lady Bland-Sutton
 Mrs. A. J. Cornaldi
 Rev. D. Davis
 Mrs. G. H. Deere
 Mr. M. B. Donald
 Lady Evans
 Miss G. Evans
 Miss I. M. Ewen
 Mr. R. H. Fletcher
 Mr. J. W. Fletcher
 Mr. J. Hespels
 Mr. L. V. Houseman
 Mr. L. de Pinto
 Miss A. L. Ronney
 Mr. J. H. Thursfield

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Patura*, August 23rd:—

Mrs. J. Arrott-Law
 Rev. & Mrs. J. G. Harrow
 Mrs. E. M. E. Bewley
 Mr. D. H. Campbell
 Mr. A. C. Clarke
 Mr. E. D. Clarke
 Miss H. A. Dawn
 Major & Mrs. P. K. Henri
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Jimeno
 Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Kieffer
 Mr. J. Malabre
 Mr. G. Ogg
 Miss M. Turner
 Mrs. M. E. Wren
 Mr. T. G. Williams
 Mr. L. K. Willis
 Mr. W. R. Wrench
 Mr. D. B. Tomham

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. *Camito*, Avonmouth, August 21st

Rev. F. D. Ansley
 Mrs. M. Austin
 Miss R. Bermudez
 Mr. V. A. Bird
 Dr. & Mrs. J. A. L. Calder & family
 Mrs. D. Cook & infant
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Dillon
 Miss F. Dillon
 Miss E. A. Eily
 Mrs. Paul Ehinger
 Mr. M. J. J. Gordon
 Miss A. Hartwell
 Mr. A. E. Hawkins
 Mrs. M. Hall
 Mr. A. Hanna
 Mr. D. K. Hodgson
 Miss I. Hooper
 Mr. C. Hurst
 Mr. S. Irvine
 Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Issa
 Mrs. & Mrs. E. Jabour
 Mrs. M. Jackson
 Mr. J. G. Korteling
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Lora
 Mr. H. Lawrence
 Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Mason
 Mr. & Mrs. G. MacAnslan & family

Mrs. A. E. Meigs
 Miss C. Mitchell
 Mrs. S. Penagoton
 Mr. J. T. Powell
 Mr. & Mrs. R. Quinn
 tana and family
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Shoucair
 & family
 Mrs. A. Sheperdson
 The Misses
 Shepherdson (2)
 Mrs. S. Smith & family
 Mr. L. Schweiger
 Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Wall
 Mr. F. C. Webb
 Mrs. E. J. Welch

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Venezuela*, August 27th:—

Mr. H. W. C. Amable
 Capt. & Mrs. Barnett
 Mr. & Mrs. Biffen
 Mr. H. Bond
 The Rev. & Mrs. A. J. Cocks
 Mrs. Elder
 Capt. & Mrs. Goodwin
 Mr. Gurrindona
 Mr. Haden
 Mr. R. E. Henry
 Mr. Hoeking & family
 Mr. Hopper
 Mrs. & Miss Kenyon
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Kerr
 Mrs. Leo-Wolf
 Mr. & Mrs. Little
 Mr. & Mrs. Lopes
 Miss Lopes
 Mr. J. C. MacGillivray
 Mr. Moze
 Mr. Munich
 Mr. F. Murray
 Mr. G. Mitch

Miss Noble
 Mr. H. F. Panton
 Mr. Parker
 Captain Purvis
 Captain Radford
 Mrs. Rankin
 The Misses Rankin (2)
 Mrs. & Miss Smith
 Mr. J. W. Stegous
 Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Twose
 Mr. J. W. Weil
 Mrs. Winshurst

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Jan Van Nassau*, Plymouth, August 16th:—

Mr. & Mrs. George Arthur
 Miss C. Arthur
 Miss O. F. Rose
 Miss C. Hoxel
 Rev. & Mrs. Clemens
 Miss H. L. Clemens
 Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Cross
 Dr. & Mrs. Derez
 Miss Gladys Duffuss
 Mr. F. J. Dunsire
 Mrs. Frances Golding
 Mr. John Raigh
 Mr. & Mrs. Win Hobell
 Miss Lacock
 Mr. P. S. Laing
 Mr. C. T. Milton
 Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Peterkin
 Mr. C. Reece
 Mr. Cyril Turpin

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, August 27th.

Mr. & Mrs. F. Allen
 Mr. A. Austin
 Miss S. Bakenhorn
 Miss M. Barcellos
 Miss F. Brewster
 Miss E. Hurl
 Miss K. Carpenter
 Miss M. Chattel
 Mr. A. Cloick
 Mr. A. Davies
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Deve
 Mr. K. Earle
 Mr. J. English
 Mr. E. D. Errey
 Mr. R. Falconer
 Hon. & Mrs. E. A. Grantham
 Mr. W. Greig
 Mr. P. Halvad
 Miss C. Hutson
 Mr. & Mrs. F. July
 Miss H. July
 Miss V. Kinsley
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Knowles
 H. E. Sir Edward and
 Lady Merewether
 Mr. D. McIrdie
 Mr. & Mrs. R. McKenzie
 Miss M. Murray
 Mr. & Mrs. T. Gordon
 Rose
 Mr. T. Skinner
 Mrs. N. Thompson
 Misses Thompson (2)
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Todd
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Watson

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, K.C.
 Mr. G. E. Anderson
 Mrs. S. Archer
 Mr. G. H. Arthur
 Mr. Bruce Austin
 Mr. H. B. C. Austin
 Sir Henry A. Bovell
 Mr. E. W. Bowen
 Mr. W. Bowring, M.D.F.
 Hon. R. E. Brassington
 Mr. James Brown
 Mr. A. S. Burligh
 Mrs. M. T. Camacho
 Miss F. L. Carrington
 Mr. Gerald O. Case
 Mr. C. H. Chambers
 Mr. Albert Cherry
 Mr. C. A. Child
 H. E. Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G.
 Mr. Joseph Connell, Jr.
 Dr. J. H. Cooke, B.A., M.B.
 Mr. J. K. Corbin
 Mr. Robert Craig
 Mr. Paul Cressall
 Mr. Jack Culmer
 Mr. D. C. C. Da Costa
 Mr. A. H. D. Costa
 Hon. D. S. De Freitas
 Mr. H. Deverill
 Mr. G. P. Dewar
 Mr. E. A. Donelan
 Mr. John Dopson
 Mr. G. C. Du Boulay
 Mr. Gay C. Edgehill
 Mr. A. F. G. Ellis
 Mr. C. G. S. Elvey
 Mr. W. H. Farquharson
 Mr. A. J. Findlay
 Mr. E. C. Fisher
 Hon. J. Freeland Foote
 Mr. Alexander Fraser
 Capt. A. K. Fellowes
 Dr. P. H. Grewand
 Mr. W. Gordon Gordon
 Hon. G. E. Grabham
 Hon. E. A. Graunum
 Mr. J. T. Greg
 Mr. A. J. Greig
 Mr. W. Greig
 Mr. D. M. Hahn
 Mr. J. H. Haigh
 Mr. A. J. Hamblin
 Mr. C. W. Haynes
 Mr. E. K. L. Henderson
 Mr. L. M. Hobson
 Mr. E. E. C. Hosack
 Mr. W. P. Humphrey
 Mr. N. Macleod Laiden, West View, Mungavie, N.D.
 Mr. George B. Evelyn, 112, Norbury Court Road, Norbury, S.W.
 Mr. John M. Fleming, The Hermitage, Hadlow, Kent.
 Mr. Archibald Gordon, c/o Messrs. John Leckie & Co., 84, Fore Street, E.C.
 Mr. James Miller, 17, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
 Dr. R. D. O'Neale, c/o Mrs. Salmon Moss Lea, Colinton, Midlothian.
 Mr. A. M. Reid, South Circus, Cirencester, Glos.
 Mr. H. Blin Stoble, Crediton, Devon

Mr. E. P. Hutchinson
 Mr. T. W. Jouis
 Lt. Col. Francis Jenkins, C.M.G.
 Mr. G. C. Johnston
 Mr. A. C. Johnson
 Mr. A. S. Kerahan
 Mr. J. G. King
 Mr. Lynch King
 Mr. J. Knox
 Mr. H. A. Lake
 Mr. E. J. Larrouy
 Mr. C. Hope Levy
 Hon. J. Challinor Lynch
 Mr. W. E. Mackay
 Mr. J. G. Mackenzie
 Mr. C. M. Manning
 Mr. H. P. C. McVieille
 H. E. Sir Edward Merewether
 K.C.V.O., C.M.G.
 Mr. W. McMillan
 Mr. W. Morrison
 Mr. C. V. Newton
 Mr. P. Noble, A.M.I.C.E.
 Mr. John O'Connor, M.C.
 Mr. G. O'Reilly
 Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C.
 Dr. A. T. Ozzard
 Mr. A. J. Pavitt
 His Hon. Major H. Peebles D.S.O.
 Dr. J. Aldric Perez
 Mrs. M. A. Perez, M.B.B.
 Mr. G. M. Peter
 Hon. J. R. Phillipps
 Hon. G. Laurie Pile
 Dr. F. G. Pilgrim
 Mr. Kenneth Reid
 Lieut. W. M. Richards
 His Hon. Sir Robert Rolan
 Mr. T. Gordon Rose
 Mr. E. Hauchon Sanguinetti
 Mr. Ivan J. Scott
 Mr. G. Elliott Sealy
 Mrs. H. H. Sealy
 Hon. A. P. Sherlock
 Mr. D. Grafton Simpson, A.M.I.M.E.
 Dr. E. M. Skeete
 Mr. A. Blackburn Smith
 Mr. W. Blackburn Smith
 Mr. Eric V. Solomon
 Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer
 Mr. Thomas Thornton
 Mr. C. Forbes Todd
 Mr. R. S. Tutton
 Mr. T. G. Westall
 Mr. Hugh F. Wildy
 Mr. Percy K. Wilson
 Mr. W. Harold Wright

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Pachare</i>	Sept 5
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Navigatnr</i>	" 5
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Motagna</i>	" 6
West Indies	London	<i>Intaba</i>	" 9
B'dos & T'dad	Liverpool	<i>Antillian</i>	" 10
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	<i>Stuyvesant</i>	" 10
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Bayano</i>	" 12
West Indies	London	<i>Senator</i>	" 21
St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	<i>Huiti</i>	Oct 1
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Caraquet</i>	" 14
B'inas, Jaca & B'idas	Montreal	<i>Canadian Fisher</i>	" 18

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.

Telegrams—
"Carib, London"



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
August 30th, 1921.

BANK RATE 5½ per cent., as from July 21st.

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Aug 15th	Aug 20th.		Aug. 15th	Aug. 20th
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	15 1	15 3	In Spain	1 1 5	1 2 8
France	1 17 1	1 17 6	Germany	15 4 5	15 16 2
Belgium	1 18 11	1 19 0	Austria	124 17 94	137 2 0
Italy	3 6 41	3 8 0	Holland	19 56	19 6

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 6s. 2½d.

SUGAR. The New York market has been steady during the fortnight, price of Cubans, landed duty paid, remaining at 1.86 c., equivalent to 2.25 c. c.i.f. Futures were quoted yesterday for Cubans landed in bond, for September 2.92 c., December 2.59 c., March 2.47 c., May 2.52 c.

There has been a fair demand in the home market. Spot West Indian crystallised was valued yesterday at from 44/- to 51/-; Muscovadoes at from 36/- to 42/-. American granulated was valued at 56/- spot; White Java, September-October shipment, 23/- c.i.f.; White Mauritius spot, quoted at 52/6. The terminal market is steady. On the old terms the values were: October 17/3, November 16/74, and December 16/3. On the new terms the values were: October 17/6, November 16/9, December 16/9.

Four factories are still at work in Cuba.

The West Indian Sugar statistics in London on August 20th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919	
Imports	38,361	39,490	34,116	Tous.
Deliveries	29,865	29,760	28,444	"
Stock	16,900	17,806	12,164	"

RUM. The home market remains in a lifeless condition, but there has been a fair enquiry for export. Values are nominal. In our last issue we gave the imports of rum for the first seven months of 1920 as 250,611 proof gallons. The figure should have been 2,506,611 gallons.

The stocks in London on August 20th were:—

	1921	1920	1919	
Jamaica	11,692	11,643	6,684	Puns
Demerara	17,872	12,884	11,280	"
Total of all kinds	39,765	34,438	26,166	"

CACAO generally is quiet, but there has been a good demand for low-priced cacao. Fair sales of ordinary Grenada have been made at 47/- to 50/-, but fine Grenada and St. Lucia are slow at 55/- to 56/-. Middling Red Trinidad has sold at 50/-, and plantation at 55/- to 60/-.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing from Trinidad under date July 31st, reports that the market was steady with a firm tendency throughout the month. The shipments of cacao for that month he gives as follows:—

Destination.	Weight in lbs.		
To all countries	6,698,987		
Shipped previously	48,459,502		
Total from 1st January	55,158,489		
To same date 1920	53,379,208		
" " 1919	51,369,624		
" " 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 August 20th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.	
Trinidad	25,936	55,092	40,265	Bags.
Grenada	21,622	29,755	17,049	"
Total of all kinds	172,145	306,868	151,336	"

ARROWROOT. A better enquiry for low priced has resulted in fair sales at 3d. per lb. Quotations nominally 2½d. to 6½d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is quiet but steady. Good quality spot 3/7, and 3/3 c.i.f.

COFFEE is steady but quiet. Home trade qualities have been in good demand at full to dearer rates. Fine bold Blue Mountain has sold up to 205/6, and fine Peaberry up to 225/6. Good to fine ordinary Jamaica has been in better demand at 60/- to 65/-.

COPRA is steady but quiet. There are buyers of West India f.m.s at £34 10s. September-October c.i.f. Rotterdam

COTTON. There has been an improved demand during the past week, with an advance in prices for some qualities. West Indian Sea Island remains neglected at unchanged rates—medium 23d., fine 31d., and extra fine 41d. Imports in the 34 weeks ending August 25th, 4,323 bales.

HONEY. Rather more interest has been shown in the cheapest qualities of Jamaica, and prices show slight improvement, but the demand generally is still disappointing. Values range from 30/- to 55/- according to colour.

LOGWOOD. Dull, unchanged. Continental business has been stopped by fluctuating exchange.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed unchanged 19/- to 20/- nominal. **Distilled** is neglected at 2/9 to 2/10 nominal. **Limo Juice,** Itaw. Good to Fine 2/6 to 2/9.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is quiet at 13/- to 14/-, whilst there is no demand for Bitter.

BAY OIL. Holders ask 14/-.

PETROLEUM. The wholesale price of **Petrol** was reduced by 5d. per gallon on August 18th. The retail price is now quoted 2½/- for 1st quality, a fall of 6d. Heavy **Fuel Oil** has dropped from 90/- to 75/- ex wharf as from August 19th.

RUBBER. First crepe on the spot 8½d., ribbed smoked sheet 8½d. spot.

SPICES. Some small sales of Jamaica Ginger have been made at 125/- for wormy, and 160/- to 165/- per cwt for middling sound **Pimento.** The demand from Hamburg has continued fairly active, and sales have been made from Jamaica up to 23/9 c.i.f. Spot is quiet with sellers at 2½d per lb.

TRINIDAD OIL. The production figures of the Trinidad oil producing concerns whose returns are available are given below:—

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS, LTD

July—11,000 tons.

Year to June 30, 1921 ... 157,350 tons.

TRINIDAD CENTRAL OILFIELDS, LTD

Year to Dec 31, 1920 ... 14,000 tons

UNITED BRITISH OILFIELDS OF TRINIDAD.

July—2,985 tons

Year to Dec. 31, 1920 ... 49,500 tons

Jan 1 to July 31, 1921 ... 26,300

APEX (TRINIDAD) OILFIELDS, LTD.

July—3,200 tons

Total to July ... 23,600 tons

NEW TRINIDAD LAKE ASPHALT CO., LTD.

(underlying companies of).

Year to Dec. 31, 1918 ... 32,868 tons

" " 1919 ... 23,710 "

" " 1920 ... 51,830 "

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).

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB LONDON



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

September 13th, 1921.

Agriculture in British Honduras.

MR. W. R. DUNLOP, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, who visited British Honduras in 1920 to investigate the Economic and Natural Features of the Colony in relation to Agriculture and to submit proposals for development, has now presented to the local Government a very comprehensive Report, which may be described as a most valuable epitome of the natural, social and industrial features of that outpost of Empire. MR. DUNLOP remained in the Colony from February to November, and appears to have explored very thoroughly its possibilities. After describing the natural features of British Honduras, he gives an interesting account of its people. It would appear that the original inhabitants of the Colony were the Maya Indians, descendants of whom still live in the interior. From a period before Christ until the Sixth Century there existed what is known as the old Maya Empire, which had a civilisation of a highly artistic and architectural order. This race, however, was starved into emigrating to Yucatan, and the country remained practically deserted until the Thirteenth Century, after the Toltec invasion of Yucatan. To this day thousands of mounds of all sizes, burial mounds, kitchen middens and temple mounds are found scattered all over the Colony wherever the land is at all suitable for cultivation; nor can one turn up the soil anywhere without finding evidences of former civilisation in potsherds, rubbing stones, flint chips and fragments of weapons and jade. This new Empire received the official *coup de grace* by the Spanish conquest,

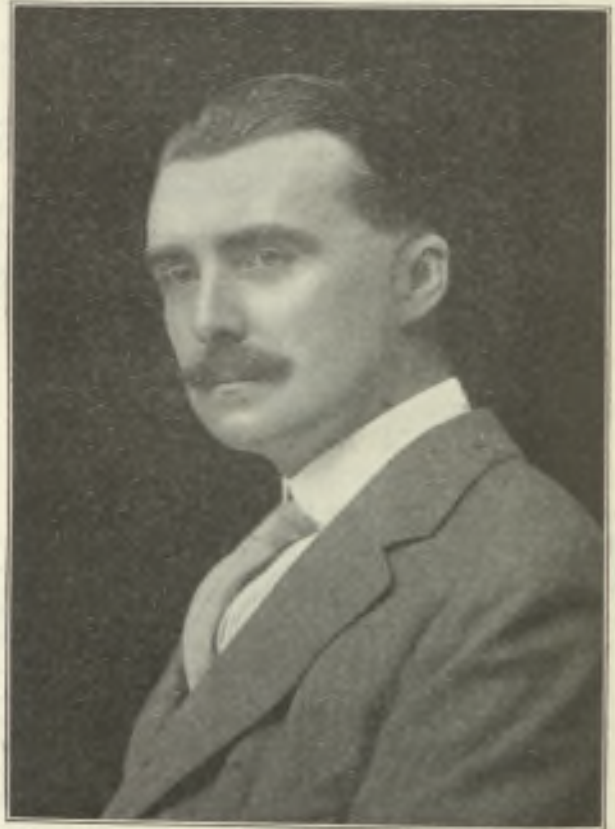
after which the population became a declining factor. To-day it is only 45,000, or 4.5 to the square mile, comprising representatives of many nationalities, African, Spanish, Indian and Carib, descendants of those who were exiled after the Carib wars in St. Vincent. The Great War demonstrated the dangerous dependence of these people on imported foodstuffs. The lesson of the Maya exodus had been forgotten. Agriculture has now only a scanty following, the high wages offered by the forest industries of mahogany cutting and chicle gathering proving a superior attraction to the more modest rates which agriculture affords. Another reason adduced for the backward state of agriculture is the fact that over three-quarters of the productive land of the Colony is privately owned. This, it may be recalled, was the difficulty in St. Vincent to which the Norman Commission of 1897 called attention with such satisfactory and practical results, many large estates having been acquired by the Government and a happy and contented peasantry settled upon them. MR. DUNLOP points out that the private ownership of land in such large areas in British Honduras has engendered wasteful, extravagant and careless practices, and he strongly advocates the settlement of people on the land, which he regards as the most effective means of increasing the population. It is, he believes, more important to make the people realise that facilities can only be provided for agricultural advice and assistance under conditions of closer settlement, and, he adds, that the Government policy should be to secure land at points where industries and facilities exist, and then endeavour to persuade or attract those people at distant, and often unhealthy, points by the riverside or in the bush to come down and settle where they may live a decent life and also make a safe and profitable living. With regard to the forest industries, he points out that exploitable trees are becoming more and more inaccessible, demanding the investment of capital in railways, and he sounds a note of warning regarding chicle, which is showing signs of rapid decline, owing to the drop in prices and the discovery of cheaper substitutes for the manufacture of chewing gum in other countries. With regard to the elusive cohune nut, it would appear that the several attempts made in recent years to collect these nuts and to extract the kernel eventually proved a failure owing to the cost of collection and the difficulties of extraction, though during the war they enjoyed some measure of success in consequence of the demand for vegetable fats; and it is interesting to note that a small soap-making plant has been erected at Stann Creek Station, with a view to the manufacture of soap from cohune oil for sale in the Colony. The banana industry in the Stann Creek Valley is, unfortunately, doomed owing to the Panama disease, for which no remedy

has been found; but it is satisfactory to learn from MR. DUNLOP that with strict quarantine and sound methods of production banana-growing could, in his opinion, be continued on suitable new lands in areas like Monkey River and Sittee River, where the disease has not yet manifested itself, and he also believes that the pest could be controlled at Riversdale. MR. DUNLOP avoids discussing political matters generally; but he discloses the existence of a dangerous state of affairs with respect to education. Most of the primary schools are in the hands of American Jesuits, and in the few cases where teaching is done by priests the results are satisfactory; but many of the outlying schools are very primitive and unquestionably inefficient. He significantly expresses the opinion that while Spanish may well remain the domestic language in many parts of the Colony, it is desirable that all children should be able to understand and speak English, and be led to appreciate the history and conditions of the British Empire. While this is provided for in the Education Code, it is apparently not always carried out in practice owing to the strong American and Spanish-American influence. This recalls the scandal of the use in Jamaica of exercise books bearing the emblems of the United States, to which THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR recently called attention with satisfactory results. In regard to agricultural teaching, little has been or is being done. In concluding his Report, MR. DUNLOP advocates the establishment of a local Department of Agriculture, and it will be deplorable if effect is not given to this very practical recommendation. The need for such a Department is very obvious, and we believe that when it is formally established its power for good in this little-known Colony will be very great. We understand that this proposal has been temporarily (and we hope it may be only temporarily) set on one side on the score of "hard times"; but hard times are surely the psychological period for endeavouring to secure development! At the present moment there are many thousands of Jamaican labourers stranded in Cuba, and it is significant in this connection that MR. DUNLOP looks to Jamaica as a possible source of supply of agricultural labourers. If MR. DUNLOP's proposals for land settlement had been given effect to some years ago it would have been possible to have offered these men opportunities for settlement in Honduras, and not only thus would the need for the adoption of a costly scheme of Public Works for the relief of the unemployed have been obviated, but the neighbouring Colony would have benefited. We must still hope that MR. DUNLOP's very valuable and interesting Report will prove the starting-point for schemes of Agricultural development which will bring British Honduras into line with other West Indian Colonies as an exporter of tropical produce generally and not only forest products, which must be regarded as the country's capital since they are exhaustible.

THE Jamaica-Porto Rico cable was interrupted again on September 12th. Messages are being routed via Jamaica, Santiago and Hayti at increased rates.

Mr. WILFRED JACKSON. Colonial Secretary of Barbados.

Mr. Wilfred Edward Francis Jackson has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Barbados, in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Francis Jenkins, C.M.G. Mr. Jackson, whose portrait appears on this page, is a son of the late Sir Henry Jackson, K.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, and grandson of the late Bishop of Antigua. Born in 1883, he was educated at Stonyhurst and Lincoln College, Oxford, where he was a classical scholar. In 1906 he went out to Trinidad as



Mr. Wilfred E. F. Jackson.
The new Colonial Secretary of Barbados.

personal secretary to his father, the then Governor of the Colony, and from September in that year until October, 1907, he was private secretary to the Governor (Sir William Grey Wilson, K.C.M.G.) and clerk to the Executive Council of the Bahamas. From Nassau he went to Uganda as assistant collector, and after serving as District Commissioner and Acting Assistant Chief Secretary he was transferred to Bermuda in 1916 as Colonial Secretary. Mr. Jackson was recently married to Mrs. D'Estamps Vallancy, widow of Captain Vallancy, R.F.A.

Mr. Jackson will be the guest of the West Indian Club at a dinner to be held at 4, Whitehall Court on September 21st, at which Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E., will preside. He leaves for Barbados on the 26th inst.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN bud (bird) fly too fas' him pass him nes'."

SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, M.P. (Coalition Unionist) for the City of Chester Division, has intimated that he will not seek re-election at the next General Election owing to pressure of business engagements.

MR. F. H. WATKINS, I.S.O., Magistrate of Nevis, has returned to Antigua as Acting Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, a position which he held during the war, pending the arrival of the new Governor.

MR. G. CAMPBELL ARNOTT, Agricultural Chemist and Specialist in Fertilisers, has now embarked on business on his own account at Kingsbury, London, N.W., his appointment as Technical Advisor to the Fertiliser Manufacturers' Association, which he has filled since 1908, having terminated.

THE marriage arranged between Andrew Menzies, eldest son of the late W. J. Menzies and Mrs. S. H. Evershed, Albury House, Burton-on-Trent, and Rosalie, daughter of the late Richard Lano Newman and Mrs. R. L. Newman, of Barbados, will take place at Bridgetown on October 26th.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR ALLAN EVERETT has been appointed First Naval Member of the Commonwealth Navy Board at Melbourne, and will be leaving for Australia in October. When in command of the 8th Cruiser Squadron and flying his flag in H.M.S. *Calcutta* he made a host of friends in the West Indies, who will join with the CIRCULAR in wishing him *Bon Voyage!*

FATHER A. FINOULST, of Dominica, has been paying a flying visit to London after an absence of thirteen years. A modern embodiment of Père Lubat, he has resided in Dominica for twenty years, during which time he has only twice returned to his native country, Belgium. He was secretary to the late Bishop of Roseau, is the Editor of the *Dominica Guardian*, and has a pleasing personality. He returns to Dominica on September 21st.

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Sir Charles H. Bedford, LL.D., D.Sc., M.D., to be his honorary adviser on questions relating to power and industrial alcohol in the Colonies and Protectorates. Sir Charles Bedford was the first General Director and Secretary of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, and he has had wide experience of the manufacture and control of alcohol in India.

THE Government of Jamaica has wisely decided to cut its loss in connection with the proposed sugar factory in St. Thomas. Though a considerable outlay had already been incurred, the scheme has now been definitely abandoned, in view of the condition of the produce markets and the urgent need for economy in Government expenditure. The factory

was to have had a capacity of 10,000 tons of sugar, and the cost would have been £300,000.

It is proposed to erect a granite cross twenty feet high on a piece of land granted by the local Government for the purpose, at the head of St. John's, Antigua, to the memory of Antiguans who made the Great Sacrifice in the Great War. The local Committee, of which Mr. H. Petrie Hay is Hon. Secretary, has been formed to collect funds for the purpose, and they hope to receive the support of Antiguans and of those interested in the Island who may be resident in the old country.

MR. WILLIAM MORRISON represented Jamaica at the recent meetings of the Imperial Cricket Council, held at Lords, and took a very active part in the discussions. He joined with the English and South African representatives in protesting against Australia's proposal to have 8 balls in an over, which was duly vetoed. Mr. Morrison was very struck with the warmth of the interest displayed by the Members of the Council in Imperial Cricket generally and their keen desire to foster the game throughout the Empire.

LIEUT. COLONEL OGILVIE, in his entertaining Diary, "With the British West Indies Regiment," now appearing in serial form in the *Jamaica Times*, gives an amusing instance of the rivalry between the various battalions. The 11th wore as a distinguishing shoulder-badge a lion, whilst the 7th sported the crocodile of Jamaica. The author heard one Westie say to another: "Lord! de King of Beast going eat up de Alligata today." The immediate reply being, "Chough! de alligata gwine pull the lion ina de sea an d nyam him up."

MR. J. W. STEPHENS, of Trinidad, has offered to Sir Francis Watts the handsome contribution of one thousand pounds towards the funds of the West Indian Agricultural College. Messrs. Cadbury, of Bournville, and Messrs. J. S. Fry & Co., of Bristol, have also promised to contribute jointly the sum of five hundred pounds a year for two years towards the establishment of a Chair in the College for the study of the diseases of the cacao tree. It is hoped that other private benefactors will also come forward with offers of support towards the West Indian Agricultural College.

THERE is a strong likelihood of some extensive developments in connection with the sugar-growing industry in Zululand. According to the *Manchester Guardian*, Colonel Reitz and a Parliamentary party, accompanied by the Government irrigation engineer, recently visited the Umhlatuzi River, in the neighbourhood of Nlambonano. The conclusions arrived at were that a considerable tract of land could profitably be put under cultivation by irrigation from this broad river, which is full of water even in the driest season. That sugar-cane under irrigation has many advantages has been amply proved in other sugar-cane-growing lands; crops and seasons can be controlled, as well as cutting and other details of production.

MISS AUDREY JEFFERS, of Trinidad, while on a visit to British Guiana was the recipient of a silver salver at the Town Hall, Georgetown, on August 5th, in recognition of her work for the British West Indies and West African Regiments. Being in England for her education during the war, Miss Jeffers rendered particularly valuable assistance to the West Indian Contingent Committee, organising a Comforts Fund and visiting sick and wounded men in hospital. The presentation was made by Licut. I. S. Davis, late B.W.I.R., at the request of the Hon. Hector Josephs, K.C., Attorney-General, who presided; and the Hon. P. N. Browne, K.C., the Hon. A. B. Brown and Mr. E. F. Fredericks, who was associated with Miss Jeffers in her good work, also spoke on this auspicious occasion.

IN a paper read at the recent Medical Conference, Miss Clapham, Superintendent of Nurses at the Georgetown Public Hospital, gave a remarkable instance of the superstition which still prevails in some parts of the world. One of her nurses, she said, a day or so before her examination, visited an obeah man. She was told to take hair from a fellow student's head and send it back to him. He then played what he called "tricks," and returned the hair to the girl, telling her to wear it round her right arm the day of her examination. This, he told her, would enable her to pass, but the nurse from whom the hair was taken would be too wild in the head to write anything but nonsense. This result did actually happen, and this story came to Miss Clapham's hearing in a letter written from the village in which the girl lived, the object of the writer being to expose the girl for not having paid the obeah man his fee.

The *Fertiliser and Feeding-Stuffs Journal* gives the following details respecting the amount of ammonia products manufactured in the United Kingdom, expressed in terms of sulphate of ammonia in tons:—

	1920	1919	1918
From Liquor produced in Gas Works	176,197	173,501	173,547
Iron Works	10,431	10,877	12,712
Shale Works	54,290	48,618	58,311
Coke Oven Works	157,908	144,367	164,448
Producer-gas and Carbonising Works	20,046	20,150	23,534
Total	418,882	397,513	432,552

Of the above total quantity of ammonia products the equivalent of 40,207 tons was manufactured as concentrated ammoniacal liquor. The balance of 378,674 tons consisted of other ammonia products, such as sulphate, chloride, nitrate, etc.

THE *Ste. Madeleine Quarterly Review*, the first two numbers of which have just reached us, is an enterprising new publication whose object is to record and comment on the affairs of the great central factory in Trinidad whose name it bears. Disclaiming any pretensions to literary ambition, the *Review* sets forth in attractive guise an account of the many activities, both business and social, of the *Ste. Madeleine Company*, a special feature

being made of reports from the various heads of departments—the chemist's, the engineer's, the medical, etc.—over the initials of their writers. Whilst mainly appealing to those associated with the company, it includes many articles of general interest to the sugar industry, as, for example, a life history of the froghopper pest and a useful summary of Trinidad's legislation affecting the agricultural community. It is interesting to find from the first number that the production of "plantation white" sugar, which has been so constantly advocated in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, is being taken up in earnest at the Malgretout factory, where, after a number of experiments, an output of 1,417 tons of this class of an excellent quality was obtained last crop before closing down.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: "An object lesson regards refiners' yellow crystals was given recently at a grocer's shop in a prominent London thoroughfare. A bowl piled up with these, in all the glory of their brilliant though borrowed colouring, had been exhibited in the window. Rain, with a damp atmosphere had supervened, with the result that the colour had 'run,' patches of dirty white taking the place of the yellow, revealing thoroughly its fictitious nature. In this connection it may be remarked that the yellow of these crystals is far more pronounced than it used to be. Formerly, the makers aimed at imitating the colour of the 'down under the canary's wing,' which was the colour attribute of high-class 'Demerara' sugar in its palmy days; now the colour of refiners' yellow crystals is one which would have satisfied the most ardent longing of the Red Indian in search of war paint.

THE explanation of this probably lies in the fact that a love of bright colours, especially among females, is a feature of the times; and the house-keeper whose mind runs on brilliancy of colour, rather than on quantity or quality of material in her clothes, would naturally be attracted by the present day colouring of refiners' crystals. But why should the colouring of sugar stop at yellow? It is quite on the cards that a purple, or green, or scarlet sugar would appeal to the housekeeping mind with greater effect than a yellow, and there is no reason why their sale should not be permitted by the food authorities, who allow artificially coloured imitation crystals to be sold without demur. It is quite on the cards that future market reports may give quotations for Byle's crimson crystals, Martin's green granulated, and Bate's purple cubes." As a matter of fact about twenty years ago a well-known firm of refiners in Liverpool did place pure cane cubes coloured with every hue of the rainbow on the English market.

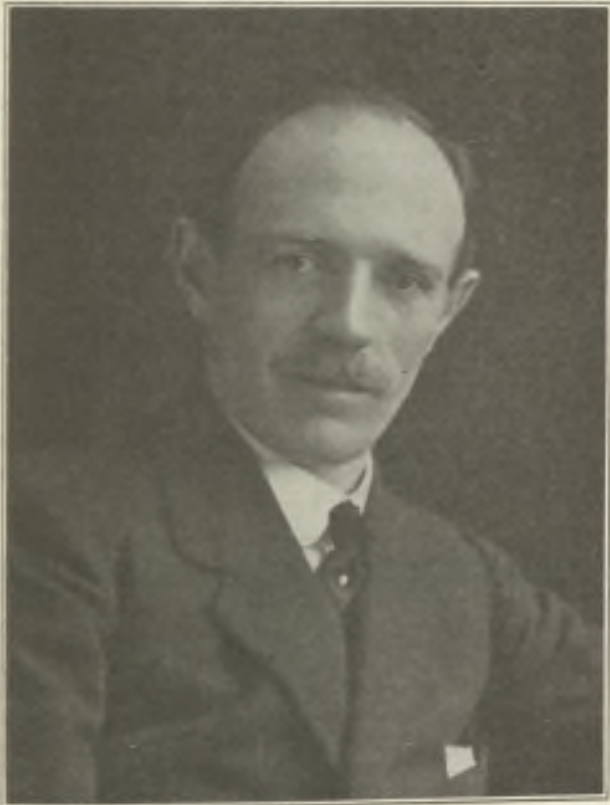
MATRIMONY.—Take a star-apple and break it in two (it should never be cut). Remove the seeds and thoroughly mix the pulp with orange juice. Sweeten with sugar to taste and add rum, sherry (or brandy), and serve up iced. A characteristic post-prandial preparation in Jamaica.

THE HON. EDWARD F. L. WOOD, M.P.

His coming West Indian Tour.

Hon. Edward F. L. Wood, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, kindly granted an interview to a representative of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR at the Colonial Office on September 8th.

As announced in last CIRCULAR, Mr. Wood proposes to pay an official visit of investigation to the British West Indies. He now stated that his tour would be undertaken at the request of Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, who, owing to the many calls upon his time, was unable



The Hon. Edward F. L. Wood, M.P.

Mr. Wood is the only surviving son and heir of the 2nd Viscount Halifax. He has represented the Ripon Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire in Parliament since 1910, and succeeded Mr. L. S. Amery as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies this year.

to visit the West Indies himself. He pointed out that since the visit of the Prince of Wales to those Colonies last year West Indian affairs had been brought prominently to the front, and the many questions and discussions which had taken place in the House of Commons indicated that there were many matters connected with their development which required attention. There was, for example, the question of constitutional changes, a problem which could be better and more satisfactorily investigated on the spot. Meanwhile the policy of the Colonial Office, as laid down by Lord Milner, had been that changes in the direction of representation should only be seriously considered when there was ample evidence of the existence of a

general desire for them, as had undoubtedly been the case in Grenada, which had recently been granted some measure of representative Government. Then, again, there was the important question of closer co-operation between the various Colonies regarding matters of common concern. Problems of communication both by telegraphy and steamships had also to be discussed. His policy would be to learn from people on the spot, and not only officials, their views, that he might be better able to advise the Secretary of State for the Colonies on his return. With regard to the West Indian Agricultural College, Mr. Wood spoke with enthusiasm regarding the movement as one which would prove an important factor in the development of the agriculture of the West Indies as a whole in the future. He would also study the question of emigration from India and the steps now being taken and to be taken for the preservation of health in the tropics.

Asked when he expected to start on his mission, Mr. Wood stated that he hoped to leave England early in December. It was probable that he would proceed first to Jamaica, but his itinerary was not yet definitely settled. He expected to be absent for at least three months, but the duration of his tour necessarily depended upon facilities for getting from Colony to Colony. Mr. Wood, in the course of the interview, made it very clear that it is the earnest desire of the Government to promote in every possible way the welfare of the West Indian Colonies and their people, and he said that he was looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to visiting the Colonies of which he had heard so much since he succeeded Colonel Amery as Under-Secretary of State. The representative of the CIRCULAR was able to assure him that he would receive a very hearty and cordial welcome in the West Indies. It was satisfactory to learn that Mr. Wood will be accompanied on his tour by one of the permanent officials of the Colonial Office, for, though a General Election is not in sight, political changes do occur, and these might involve the transfer of Mr. Wood to some other sphere of utility; but the official who will accompany him will remain, and in consequence the West Indies are bound to benefit from this interesting new departure.

In an interview with a representative of *Facts about Sugar*, General Menocal, the late Cuban President, expressed regret that the United States should have chosen a time when the Cuban sugar industry was experiencing unusual difficulties to raise her import duty on sugar. "Cuba," he said, "cannot but feel that this action is aimed directly at her principal industry, in view of the fact that she supplies practically all the sugar required for the United States except that of domestic production. With the high rate of duty charged against Cuban sugar entering the United States," General Menocal went on to say, "there is little advantage to Cuba in the reciprocity treaty, and it undoubtedly will become necessary to seek a new agreement which will be mutually equitable and advantageous."

WEST INDIAN FREIGHT RATES.

Following the correspondence between The West India Committee and the Association of West India Transatlantic Steamship Lines, which was published in the CIRCULAR of August 4th, the Committee on August 5th addressed a further letter to the Association. This is now published below, together with the reply:—

August 5th, 1921.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to our correspondence on the subject of West Indian Freight Rates, I am directed to inform you that your letter of July 28th was laid before a meeting of my Executive Committee held on the 28th ult.

I was instructed to say that they much regret that the shipping lines trading with the West Indies do not see their way to make a general reduction in freight rates at the present time.

My Executive are aware that reductions have been made during the last few months, but in their view, these reductions are certainly not adequate, having regard to the great fall which has taken place in the market values of the various West Indian staples.

They are at a loss to know what justification there can be for retaining the West Indian freight rates at a level so greatly above that prevailing between West Africa and the United Kingdom. The rate for cocoa from Trinidad to the United Kingdom, for example, being 110s. per ton, plus 10 per cent. primage, as compared with 60s. per ton, without any primage, from Accra.

With reference to the question of primage, it was pointed out at the meeting that owing to its incidence, merchants are often precluded from chartering for sugar for fear of injuring clients interested in other kinds of products through the sacrifice of the deferred rebate.

In the circumstances I have been directed again to request that a further general reduction may be made in West Indian Freight Rates, and to point out that unless this is granted the obvious result will be to divert West Indian produce into other channels.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) ALGERNON ASPINALL.
Secretary.

The Association of West India Trans-Atlantic Steamship Lines.

August 19th, 1921.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 5th instant, No. 5,883, I beg to say that the question of rates of freight from Demerara and the British West Indies to U.K. is engaging the consideration of the Association, who are prepared to deal with any case of hardship brought under the notice of the Members.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. HICKMAN,
Secretary.

It is satisfactory to note that since the above correspondence took place there has been a further reduction in West Indian freight rates, as is indicated by the following figures which are given as examples:—

	RATE EFFECTIVE ON April 15th, 1921	PRESENT RATE
ARKWROOT	90/- plus 10% per ton weight.	75/- plus 10% per ton weight.
COTTON	75/- plus 10% p. ton measurement.	65/- plus 10% p. ton measurement.
COCOA	110/- plus 10% per ton weight.	90/- plus 10% per ton weight.
LIME JUICE	7/- per gallon plus 10% on full capacity.	6/- per gallon plus 10% on full capacity.
MORASCUIT.	6/- p. ton gross weight.	6/- per ton gross weight.
RUM.	7/- per gall. on full capacity.	6/- per gall. on full capacity.

SHIPPING CONFERENCES.

Shipping Committee and Rebates.

The question of the shipping rebate system, which has come recently into prominence in the West Indies owing to the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce having brought the matter to the notice of the local Government, has been engaging the attention of the Imperial Shipping Committee. By this system shippers receive a rebate on the freight charges paid by them provided during a given period they have not sent cargoes by any line outside the "Conference" serving their routes. The Imperial Shipping Committee, of which Sir Halford Mackinder, M.P., is Chairman, and Mr. T. Harrison Hughes, a director of the Harrison Line, one of the members, have not yet finished their enquiry into the general question of rebates, but have issued an interim report dealing with a specific complaint from the Australian Government to the effect that exporters shipping by the Commonwealth Government Line, which is outside the ring, besides incurring the loss of rebate, ran the risk of being penalised by having cargo shut out by some of the Conference Lines from ships which were not full. They find that some such cases have occurred, but that these were due to unauthorised action on the part of subordinate officials in certain of the Conference Lines. Evidence was given on behalf of the Australian and New Zealand Conferences entirely repudiating any such policy of intimidation or discrimination, it being understood, however, that, *ceteris paribus*, shipowners are free to give a preference to their more regular customers.

SEA CARRIERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Conference Settles Pilferage Question.

At the recent meetings of the International Law Association at The Hague, Sir Henry Duke, Chairman of the Maritime Law Committee, presiding, an International Code was approved, defining the risks to be assumed by sea carriers under a Bill of Lading to be known as "The Hague Rules, 1921." Great dissatisfaction has been caused in commercial circles by shipowners contracting themselves out of all liability on bills of lading from loss, or damage to, through negligence of goods carried.

Under these new Rules shipowners will be liable up to £100 for each package carried. The feeling of the Conference was that the transference of all liability from the merchants was not needed, but only the transference of such liability as to ensure the adoption by the shipowners of every possible safeguard against pilferage and loss of the goods entrusted to them.

It was further proposed to incorporate the new Rules on bills of lading as from January 1st next. The shipowners did not themselves take part in the discussions, but were represented by Counsel, and it is understood that following an examination of the new Rules, all interests concerned now approve of them.

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

The West India Committee have recently been receiving many representations regarding the Certificates of Origin required by the various West Indian Governments in connections with the new preferential tariffs. Shippers complain that in some Colonies the signatures of the manufacturers are insisted upon, and they point out that this Regulation is impracticable for various reasons. Others state that Trinidad, on the other hand, has been accepting signatures of suppliers, and not unnaturally all object to disclosing names of manufacturers and suppliers, regarding these as trade secrets; and the suggestion that the Certificates of Origin might be forwarded direct to the Customs as confidential documents does not satisfy them. This question engaged the attention of the Imperial Customs Conference held at the Board of Trade, February-March last, and the representatives of the Dominions and Colonies, etc., together with the Board of Trade, Board of Customs and Department of Overseas Trade then agreed for general acceptance a form of a combined Certificate of Value and of Origin, to be used on invoice of goods for exportation to the British Dominions. It is understood that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has now addressed a Despatch to the various West Indian Governors recommending the adoption of this form, which is printed below for purpose of reference.

APPENDIX A.

COMBINED CERTIFICATE OF VALUE AND OF ORIGIN TO BE WRITTEN, TYPED OR PRINTED ON INVOICES OF GOODS FOR EXPORTATION TO THE BRITISH DOMINIONS.

I (1) of (2) of (3) manufacturer of the goods enumerated supplier in this invoice amounting to hereby declare that I (4) have the authority to make and sign this certificate on behalf of the aforesaid manufacturer supplier and that I have the means of knowing and do hereby certify as follows:—

VALUE.

1. That this invoice is in all respects correct and contains a true and full statement of the price actually paid or to be paid for the said goods, and to the actual quantity thereof.
2. That no different invoice of the goods mentioned in the said invoice has been or will be furnished to anyone; and that no arrangements or understanding affecting the purchase price of the said goods has been or will be made or entered into between the said exporter and purchaser, or by anyone on behalf of either of them either by way of discount, rebate, compensation or in any manner whatever other than as fully shown on this invoice, or as follows (5)

- (1) Here insert Manager, Chief Clerk, or as the case may be.
 - (2) Here insert name of firm or company.
 - (3) Here insert name of city or country.
 - (4) These words should be omitted where the manufacturer or supplier himself signs the Certificate.
- Paragraph 2 can be deleted in the case of exports to New Zealand.
- (5) Here insert particulars of any special arrangement.

3. That the domestic values shown in the column headed "Current Domestic Values" are those at which the above mentioned firm or company would be prepared to supply to any purchaser for home consumption in the country of exportation and at the date of exportation identically similar goods in equal quantities, at (6)..... subject to per cent. cash discount, and that such values exclude the cost of outside packages, if any, in which the goods are sold in such country for domestic consumption.

4. That the said domestic value includes any duty leviable in respect of the goods before they are delivered for home consumption, and that on exportation a drawback or remission of duty amounting to has been allowed by the revenue authorities in the country of exportation.

ORIGIN.

[IN THE CASE OF GOODS EXPORTED TO NEWFOUNDLAND THE FOLLOWING PORTION OF THE CERTIFICATE DEALING WITH ORIGIN SHOULD BE STRUCK OUT.]

(Delete whichever of 5 (a) or 5 (b) is not applicable. If 5 (a) is used delete 6 and 7. If 5 (b) is used insert required particulars in 6 and 7.)

5 (a) That every article mentioned in the said invoice has been wholly produced or manufactured in (7).....

5 (b) That every article mentioned in the said invoice has been either wholly or partially produced or manufactured in (7).....

6. As regards those articles only partially produced or manufactured in (7).....

(a) That the final process or processes of manufacture have been performed in that part of the British Dominions

(b) That the expenditure in material produced in (8) and/or labour performed in (8) calculated subject to qualifications hereunder, in each and every article is not less than one fourth of the factory or works costs of such article in its finished state.

7. That in the calculation of such proportion of produce or labour of the (8) none of the following items has been included or considered -

- "Manufacturer's profit or remuneration of any trader,
- "agent, broker or other person dealing in the articles
- "in their finished condition: royalties: cost of outside packages or any cost of packing the goods thereinto; any cost of conveying, insuring, or shipping the goods subsequent to their manufacture."

8. With regard to bottle, flasks, or jars, being containers of goods mentioned in the invoice, that such bottles, flasks, or jars are of United Kingdom manufacture, and if purchased from bottle exchanges have distinctive marks or features which enable me to certify to their United Kingdom origin.

Dated at this day of 19...

Witness Signature

(6) Here insert "warehouse," "factory" or "port of shipment"

(7) Insert "United Kingdom" or name of other part of British Dominions.

(8) Insert "United Kingdom" in case of exports to Australia if justified by facts; or name of part of British Dominions in case of exports to other destinations.

Paragraph 8 may be struck out in all cases except where goods are exported to Australia.

FORM OF INVOICE.

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

Tariff to be the Election Issue

Country of origin.	Marks and numbers on packages	Quantity and description of goods	Current domestic values in currency of exporting country (see pars 3 and 4 of certificate)		Selling price to purchaser.	
			@	Amount	@	Amount

Enumerate the following charges and state whether each amount has been included in or excluded from the above current domestic value:—

	Amount in currency of exporting country.	State if included.
(1) Cartage to rail and/or to docks		
(2) Inland freight (rail or canal) and other charges to the dock area including inland insurance.		
(3) Labour in packing the goods into outside packages		
(4) Value of outside packages		
(5) If the goods are subject to any charge by way of royalties.		

State particulars of Royalties below:—

Accompanying the above draft is an explanatory memorandum, the full text of which is published with the Report of the Imperial Customs Conference (cmd. 129), published by H. M. Stationery Office. In this it is stated: The certificate on the invoice must be signed, in his personal capacity, by the supplier or the manufacturer or any person having authority to sign on behalf of the supplier or manufacturer. The witness to the signature need not necessarily be a magistrate, notary, or other public official, but may be any person competent to sign as a witness to signatures on ordinary business documents.

Members of the Conference submitted a suggested form for adoption as follows:—

POSTAL PACKAGES.—The following short form of certificate will, in general, be accepted as satisfactory evidence of origin for admitting at the preferential rate of duty in the case of post parcels arriving from the United Kingdom, where the contents are not merchandise for sale and do not exceed £10 in value.

“The contents of this package are not merchandise for sale, and every article herein to the extent of at least one-fourth of its present value is *bona fide* the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom.”

Dated at.....this.....day of.....19...
.....Sender.

(Concluded at foot of next column.)

Mr. Meighen announced at London (Ontario), on September 2nd, that the Canadian Parliament would be dissolved within three months. As the census returns would not be available until December, and as a winter election campaign would be unthinkable, the proposed Measure for the redistribution of seats would not be introduced before the General Election.

Mr. Meighen, according to the *Times'* correspondent, stated that the tariff was the issue upon which the election would be fought. The cleavage between the advocates of a policy of moderate Protection and its enemies, the Free Traders, the Farmers' and the Liberal Parties, was never before drawn so clearly or forcibly. The Government fought for the policy upon which the present greatness and prosperity of Canada had their foundations, and which had built up Canada as a self-sufficient nation.

Mr. Meighen pointed out that during the last ten years many advances had been made towards reciprocal trade with the United States, but suddenly the Americans had changed their minds, and now many Canadian products were practically excluded from the American market. This was not a new experience, but a repetition of the lessons which Canada had been taught for sixty years, and while not speaking in any spirit of hostility to the United States, he held that we must guard jealously the industrial structure and integrity of the Dominion, and this could be done only by a tariff made by Canadians for Canadians and not resting on the insecure foundation of arrangements with the United States. He believed that in Canada, as in Great Britain, the time would come when, as in the United States, the farming community would be found staunchly supporting Protection.

A correspondent, writing to the CIRCULAR from Halifax, N.S., states that the political situation there is by no means clear. The difficulty is leadership, and there is a possibility of the country being divided into three or four parties, none sufficiently strong to take the lead. The West Indian trade may be greatly affected by the result of the election, as it is certain that the Government ownership of steamers will be one of the matters which will have to be settled one way or the other, and in this connection will arise the question of further subsidising the steamer service between Canada and the West Indies, or alternatively the Government taking over the route and running it with Government mail and passenger steamers.

(Concluded from preceding column)

An explanatory memorandum regarding signature of certificates on invoices states:—

The certificate on the invoice must be signed, in his personal capacity, by the supplier or the manufacturer or any person having authority to sign on behalf of the supplier or manufacturer. The witness to the signature need not necessarily be a magistrate, notary, or other public official, but may be any person competent to sign as a witness to signatures on ordinary business documents.

MORE ABOUT SUGAR IN PERU.

By C. I. ROYLE, F.C.S., AGR. CHEMIST, THE CARTAVIO SUGAR CO.

There has appeared in the "Sugar Press" lately several articles on this country written by sugar men who have been out here for more or less short periods. On reading them over the impression was left that none did the country, from the sugar point of view, due justice. It is not proposed, even now, to fill the gap all at once; but just to add a little more information, and as the writer has been connected with the sugar industry in Peru for now close on ten years, perhaps a short article will be of interest.

Now, I may as well start by repeating that on the Peruvian littoral it never rains, and so all crops are grown by irrigation. The climate is hardly tropical, as the temperature is only a bit up for three months. Then with two temperate months the rest of the year may, for these latitudes, be called cold. Just now (May), in the middle of the day my wall thermometer reads 70 deg. F.; at night it drops at 45 deg. F., and a light overcoat is essential. The atmosphere is damp as there is generally a strong breeze blowing directly off the sea, which at times is saturated.

Of course, every one knows that the blame for all this is put upon the Humboldt Current; and it is a fortunate thing that the Government cannot be pilloried for this, nor usurp any *kudos*.

It may as well be stated that this article applies to the Hacienda Cartavio, which is run by the house of "Grace," their General Manager-Director, Mr. C. MacDougall (by whose courtesy it is contributed). Mr. MacDougall has been here for over 24 years, so that this place represents a continued growth and development under one management for that time, and has not suffered like so many estates by continual change.

The soil of the valley of Chicama is rich in plant food, and as there is practically no leaching going on the fertility does not drop; on the other hand, it really increases. The only trouble is in keeping down the "salitre," which, in spite of the best efforts, is always with us. Fortunately, there is little sodium carbonate, the salitre consisting chiefly of sodium sulphate. In all other essentials the soil is rich.

I know that we are often disbelieved, but not to the extent which prevailed at one time, when if it was mentioned that Peru or Cartavio often got a yield of over 70 tons per acre, not on a little patch, but on fields of 200 acres or more, one's attention would be called to the fact that there existed a semi-seafaring population somewhere.

The cane here is usually planted in February to May, and takes about 18 months to mature. It ratoons and holds up in yield remarkably well; in fact, we sometimes get a better yield from the second cut, or first ratoons, than from plant cane. We have a field that throughout its history showed little or no drop although ratooned eight times, the last cut giving 59.79 metric tons to the acre, equal to 7.601 tons of sugar per acre. This field is just over two hundred acres, so is not a small plot. Unfortunately, they are not all like this, but drop,

and when the yield has dropped to 30 or 35 tons per acre the field is thrown out of cultivation and left in fallow, and this is a figure a good many parts of the world would be content to start in with. Generally the cane is ratooned six times.

The short node phenomenon mentioned in the article by F. J. L. Mure* is, I take it, due to the cold and not much to the manure or the want of it. Temperatures of 40 deg. F. have been registered here, and that is some few feet off the ground, so what the equivalent to "on the grass" would be can be imagined. Estates here should cultivate more avenues of trees transversely to the direction of the wind, when not only would this phenomenon be reduced, but it might reduce the time to mature by keeping the cane warmer. To come to average figures which, after all, are the only valuable ones, let us take the past five years, and these show up as follows:—

	CANE PER ACRE.		
	METRIC TONS.		
	Max.	Min.	Average.
1916	77.31	29.09	48.48
1917	74.74	30.47	49.90
1918	62.07	40.67	50.98
1919	71.64	27.17	45.08
1920	72.97	27.48	48.85

	SUGAR PER ACRE.		
	METRIC TONS.		
	Max.	Min.	Average.
1916	10.110	4.49	6.748
1917	8.806	3.995	6.247
1918	7.691	4.668	6.183
1919	8.954	2.967	5.897
1920	10.090	4.451	6.251

The sugar referred to is 96 deg., and is the sugar actually sacked. The factory gives us about an average of 96 per cent. sucrose extraction, and we recover about 86 per cent. of the sucrose in the cane. Whilst on weights and measures, it should be mentioned that Fanegada, in Peru, is 7.16 acres, and not about one and two-thirds of an acre, as has been stated.

The factory, known as the "Chicama Central," is quite up to date; being entirely new, and is being enlarged by the addition of a Fulton 5-tandem mill, with double crusher, when it will be able to grind about 2,500 tons a day instead of 1,500, as at present. This extension will be ready in a few months as all the material is on the spot. We run Fowler's steam ploughs for the field work, and light tractors for the manuring and general cultivation. A very full, if not elaborate scientific control of both field and factory work is maintained.

Labour here is following in the footsteps of its northern and eastern brethren, indulging in strikes and all the latest, only with this difference: that the workmen and labourers are not on the same educational level as the brethren referred to, and there is danger that the agitators may find their followers too devout. When treated properly by the "haciendados," as he generally is, the Peruvian workman is a good enough fellow. It is the agitators who, from want of experience of labour, its rights and obligations, who keep the poor fellow in a state of unrest.

*See The West India Committee Circular, No. 587, March 31, 1921, p. 124.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

The following account of the steps adopted by the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company to encourage cane-farming in Trinidad is taken from the "Ste. Madeleine Quarterly Review," a new and welcome addition to the West Indian Press.

The particular function of the Cane Farming Department is to encourage the growing of canes by private parties.

Large areas of lands belonging to the Company are rented to persons called "estate farmers" for the purpose of growing canes. Also, a large number of people grow canes on their own lands or on lands rented from estates that have no factory and sell to the Usine; these are called "outside farmers." The estate's lands are given out in parcels that vary much in size. Our largest estate farmer works as much as 70 acres, but the large majority of them work a very much smaller area. The size of the average holding is probably 3 acres. As a rule farmers prefer working the Company's lands to renting from private parties, one reason for this being that the rent charged for the land is lower. The rent charged by the Company is \$10 per quarre an old Spanish measurement which still prevails and is equivalent to 3 1-5 acres. The rent charged by many private estates is \$5 an acre. Estate farmers enjoy other privileges which need not be mentioned here.

To give the reader an idea of the magnitude of the Cane Farming Industry, it may be mentioned that last year canes were purchased by the Usine alone from 7,100 separate parties. They supplied over 86,000 tons of canes— not far short of half the 1920 crop.

As mentioned above, it is the duty of the Cane Farming Department to do all in its power to increase this tonnage. The staff includes a Cane Farmers' Superintendent with seven chief assistants. Each assistant has his own block to supervise. Several schemes are in operation to bring about the desired end. They may be divided into two main classes: (a) Educational, (b) Financial assistance.

Without adequate financial assistance much of the educational work would be wasted, as most improved methods require increased capital—so we will deal with (b) first.

The majority of our cane farmers are men of small means. To carry on their cultivation most of them require financial assistance between the crop of one year and that of the next. Especially has this been the case during the past year with the very high cost of living which prevailed during the greater part of the period. This financial assistance can be secured in several different ways. The farmer can become indebted to outside parties as shopkeepers and moneylenders, or he can receive assistance to a limited extent from the Company, or, if a member of an Agricultural Credit Society, the Society may be prepared to make the advance required. The objection to the first method of being financed is the high rate of interest charged. The usual rate is 36 per cent. per annum, but one

comes across many instances where much higher rates of interest are charged. No industry can thrive if it has to be financed on such lines. The second method, that of advances made under the Cane Farmers' Advance Ordinance by the sugar estates, is the chief system in vogue throughout the Island, and up to two years ago was the only method available to the farmer to secure advances at a reasonable rate of interest. The objection to this method is that the purpose for which loans can be granted is very limited and, in fact, is confined solely to the cultivation of cane and rice.

The success achieved through the operation of Agricultural Credit Societies in other countries led the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co. to give this method a trial. It is too early yet to declare emphatically that the operation of these societies, of which we have twenty in our district, has been an unqualified success, but the outlook is promising. On some future occasion an article on the working of these societies will be submitted for publication. A member of one of these societies can with the minimum of inconvenience to himself secure loans adequate to meet all his agricultural requirements. Prior to making advances either by the Company or by the various societies an inspection of the holdings is made by a member of the cane farming staff and reports submitted. The facilities for giving financial assistance are indeed ample, and we may now pass on to a description of the educational work performed by the department.

Cane-farmers' competitions are held annually in most of the districts. Farmers who have reasonably good cultivation are allowed to enter these competitions; their holdings are inspected from time to time, suggestions are made for their improvement, and at the end of the growing season substantial prizes are awarded to the best cultivators. We hope to achieve considerable success through this method as time proceeds.

Several cane-farmers' demonstration plots have been begun, and the farmers are encouraged to make periodical visits to these. A system of rotation of crops suitable to cane-farmers is practised on these plots.

The lighter form of agricultural implements are used in the cultivation of these demonstration plots, and practical demonstrations are carried on periodically, to which farmers are invited. Left to themselves, but few farmers would attend these demonstrations, so of late we have dropped on the idea of holding these demonstrations immediately before the payment of loans—a form of compulsory education which has ensured a much better attendance at the demonstrations.

When holding the general meetings of the various Agricultural Credit Societies three or four times a year, a favourable opportunity presents itself to talk to the people on agricultural matters. These opportunities are never missed.

Educational work is always slow, and patience is required before results are forthcoming. Especially is this so with the class of people we have as farmers. There is, however, such ample scope for improvement that we are hopeful of good results in a comparatively short period of time.

COCA CULTIVATION

The cultivation of coca, says the United States Trade Commissioner in Bolivia, is one of the principal industries of the Yungas district of that country. There are no large plantations of coca, but it is grown on terraces, an acre or two in size, built up on the hillsides. These terraces are about 10 inches wide and are protected by a rampart of earth of about the same width and about six inches in height. The ramparts are generally faced on the outside with stones or with a rough cement. The use of terraces not only prevents the heavy rains from washing the whole plantation down the mountain side, but it tends to hold the moisture about the roots of the plants. The plants are usually set at intervals of from six to ten inches. The unit of measurement for lands devoted to the cultivation of coca is the cato, which is equivalent to about one-fourth of a hectare, or 0.62 acre.

The coca plant is a shrub two or three feet in height, though, when allowed to mature, it reaches four or five feet. However, it is cut down to the ground before attaining that height, as the quality of the leaves deteriorates with the height of the plant. The young shoots are grown under a cover of dried banana leaves, and are transplanted to the terraces. The plant begins bearing at two years, and continues for about 20 years. The leaf, in which lies the commercial value of the plant, is oval in shape and light green in colour; it is about 1½ inches long and about three-fourths inch wide.

Three or four crops of leaves are picked from the same plants during the year. Each cato planted to coca will produce from seven to fourteen cestos of leaves annually. (The cesto is equivalent to about 25 lbs. Two cestos make a tambor, which thus contains about 50 lbs. of leaves.) All the coca is packed for shipment in units of 1 tambor.

After the leaves are picked they are dried in the sun on a floor made of slabs of slate. They are then pressed into bales of uniform size and weight (1 tambor, or 50 lbs.). The dimensions of these bales are about 20 by 14 by 12 inches. They are wrapped with dried banana leaves and burlap to protect them against the weather and rough handling. The coca is carried to La Paz by mules, each mule carrying a load of four tambores, or about 200 lbs.

The total production of coca in the Department of La Paz is about 3,700 tons annually. The production of the Department of Cochabamba is much smaller, the 10 tons of coca leaves carried by the Oruro-Cochabamba line during 1919 being a fair index of the yield of the Yungas of Cochabamba.

Coca is known chiefly as the basis of the anæsthetic cocaine, none of which is manufactured in Bolivia, though some is made in Peru. Most of the Bolivian production is consumed within the country, where it is widely chewed by the natives of the plateau for its narcotic effects. The natives mix it with the ashes of the quinoa plant, which serves as a condiment. Its use enables the Indian to go without food for a considerable time and work for long stretches without rest. However, its pro-

longed use deadens the nerves and other sensibilities of the organism, and is thus a potent factor in the degeneration of the Indian race of the plateau. The coca habit is also widespread among the inhabitants of some parts of northern Argentina and in certain districts of northern Chile.

BAHIA'S BOOM IN CACAO.

Crop Doubled in Eight Years.

The cultivation of cacao in Bahia is expanding very rapidly, from 451,357 bags (of 132 lbs. each) in 1893 it rose to 844,949 bags last year. The actual crops for the last eight years in bags of 132 lbs. each were as follows:—

1913	451,357	1917	737,123
1914	613,981	1918	598,479
1915	694,218	1919	822,589
1916	650,000	1920	844,949

In an article published in the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* Mr. Thomas H. Bevan gives the following table to show the destination of the crops:—

	Bags of 132 pounds				
	1913	1914	1918	1919	1920
United States	172,082	186,139	427,318	526,918	403,708
Great Britain	172,333	191,256	37,703	42,901	3,338
France	55,168	69,450	61,956	108,926	97,805
Denmark	—	32,871	—	31,394	28,400
Netherlands	2,000	7,800	—	27,700	87,646
Norway	100	3,000	11,045	20,267	10,035
Belgium	—	—	—	20,806	27,633
Argentina	15,000	10,000	45,282	16,837	39,088
Uruguay	2,990	1,425	5,565	2,551	5,250
Spain	—	—	—	—	500
Germany	41,127	100,447	—	2,500	106,226
Italy	5,525	3,050	1,600	1,500	6,128
Sweden	—	—	5,000	12,797	22,450
Chile	—	—	—	—	500
Coastwise	7,640	15,099	—	7,492	6,242
Total	473,965	623,537	598,479	822,589	844,949

He points out that it has been reliably estimated that not over 5 per cent. of the cacao-producing lands in the State of Bahia is actually under cultivation. The increase in the Bahia crop has been very small in comparison with that of the Gold Coast of Africa, the largest cacao-producing district in the world, which has more than doubled its production during the past three years. During 1918 and 1919 the United States imported 93,473,106 and 158,713,898 lbs. of cacao from the Gold Coast, as compared with 66,007,884 and 69,990,057 lbs. from Brazil.

With a view to increasing production, perfecting the quality of cacao, and promoting the use of modern agricultural machinery, the Syndicate dos Agricultores da Cacao was recently organised. The Credito Rural da Cacao, constituted in the State assembly on August 2nd, 1919, has announced its intention of establishing an information bureau on the world cacao market quotations, stocks, and tendencies. Growers realise that they must adopt modern measures.

CACAO AS A SHADE TREE.

Protecting Vanilla in Madagascar.

The *Journal of the Station Agronomique de la Guadeloupe*, now edited by Mr. J. Sydney Dash, the Director, contains an interesting article on the cultivation of vanilla from the pen of Monsieur Marast. The question of shade for this plant has for a long time, states that authority, caused the Colonists to hesitate to embark on its cultivation. That question would now appear to be solved. The ideal shade tree for it is the cacao tree. Far be it from us, however, writes M. Marast, to advocate planting cacao trees to serve exclusively as cover for vanilla; but nevertheless the planting of a cacao walk under certain conditions with a view to establishing vanilla would prove profitable. Excellent results have already been obtained in this direction by a planter in Madagascar, whose example might well be followed.

The cacao walks laid out in this way stand some kilometres from the sea on soil formed by recent alluvial deposits. The soil is naturally moist, sandy underneath, and consequently very permeable. The cacao trees are planted at distances of from 7 to 10 metres apart, and the vanilla is established when the cacao trees have reached a certain stage of development. The leaves should cross one another and thoroughly shade the ground, and the trunks of the cacao trees should be completely stripped for at least two or three metres in height. Each space between the cacao trees can accommodate from two to four rows of vanilla. Any more than that injures both forms of cultivation. Room must be left for the passage of labourers and carts to carry the ripe cacao and vanilla pods during the crop. The shade given by the cacao tree proves sufficient in the dry season, which is particularly marked in the North-West of Madagascar, and the ventilation is ample during the rainy season.

THE TRADE OF BARBADOS.

The value of the trade of Barbados for 1920 was £10,011,317, made up of imports £5,145,587 and exports £4,865,780, an increase in all of £2,812,477 on the 1919 figure. The trade with the United Kingdom has increased very greatly. In 1918 the value of the imports from that source was £597,571, in 1919 £739,861, and in 1920 £1,559,498. Similarly, the value of the exports to the United Kingdom rose from £342,887 in 1919 to £1,055,346 in 1920. The trade with Canada as regards imports increased from £728,194 in 1919 to £941,580; but the exports diminished from £1,470,193 to £1,266,134. The trade with other parts of the British Empire remained much the same as before, being £635,915 for imports and £300,165 for exports. The United States figures showed an increase, both as regards imports and exports, the former being £1,839,426 in 1920, as against £1,551,919 in 1919, and the exports £87,290 and £567,251 for the respective years.

THE JAMAICA CENSUS.

Increase of Five Women to One Man.

The difficulty of estimating population is shown by the Report of Mr. David Balfour, the Registrar of Jamaica, in his Report on the Census of 1921, which was taken on the night of April 24th last. Since 1911 his estimate has been made by adding to the census figures of 1911 the excess of births over deaths, and by adding thereto or deducting therefrom the gain or loss caused by emigration and immigration as shown by the returns thereof made by the Collector-General and others. The estimates so made exceeded the census figures of 1911 and 1921 by 13,438 and 46,291 respectively. If the gain and loss caused by emigration and immigration had not been taken into account during the last decade the estimate of the population on April 24th last would have exceeded the number found by the census by 76,022 instead of 46,291, as above mentioned.

The actual figures of the last two censuses were:—

Year	Males	Females	Total
1921	401,923	455,998	857,921
1911	397,439	433,944	831,383
Increase	4,484	22,054	26,538

No explanation is given for the remarkable preponderance of the increase of females over that of males. No doubt emigration has something to do with it, but one cannot help thinking that many men may have slipped through the meshes of the enumerators' nets.

The rate of increase for the decade is about 3.2 per cent. Decreases have taken place in the parishes of Port Royal, Portland, St. Mary, Trelawny and Manchester, while Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Hanover, Westmoreland, Clarendon and St. Catherine have increases, and St. Ann, St. James and St. Elizabeth have done little more than hold their own. The figures for each parish are as follows:—

	1921	1911
Kingston	62,562	58,406
Port Royal	1,004	1,268
St. Andrew	54,592	52,773
St. Thomas	42,511	39,330
Portland	48,970	49,360
St. Mary	71,404	72,956
St. Ann	70,922	70,651
Trelawny	34,602	41,376
St. James	41,862	35,463
Hanover	38,360	37,432
Westmoreland	68,853	66,456
St. Elizabeth	79,381	78,700
Manchester	63,942	65,194
Clarendon	82,455	73,914
St. Catherine	96,501	88,104
	857,921	831,383

HEAVY "blows" are reported from Grenada, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Jamaica, Turks' Islands, Porto Rico and Cuba.

BRITISH GUIANA'S CURRENCY.

A West Indian Coinage Advocated.

The question of British Guiana's currency has been the subject of investigation by a Commission comprising the Hon. C. Clementi, Mr. Clifton Grannum and Mr. L. A. R. Davis, who have now produced a comprehensive report. Their recommendations, which are far-reaching in character, are summarised as follows:—

1. That there shall be a common West Indian silver and nickel bronze coinage minted for and at the expense of the Colonies, the seigniorage thereon to be credited to the Colonies concerned, if after due enquiry such a scheme is found to be economically sound.

2. That in the event of the proposal referred to in (1) being for any reason rejected, then all coins used in the Colony below the florin in value shall be minted for and at the expense of the Colony, the seigniorage thereon to accrue to the Colony.

3. That the local coins shall consist of the florin, half-florin, quarter-florin, ten mill piece, five mill piece, two mill piece and one mill piece.

4. That all notes issued after, say, December 31st, 1923, shall be of a face value of one pound or a multiple or part of a pound.

5. That the Royal Bank of Canada's notes shall be withdrawn from circulation in the Colony from and after February 2nd, 1924.

6. That the Government shall from and after February 2nd, 1924, issue high denomination notes to the extent now allowed to the Royal Bank of Canada.

The adoption of the Commissioners' proposals, says the Report, will produce annually for the Colony from its currency a net revenue of approximately \$150,000 a year if the proposal for a common West Indian coinage is adopted, and if Colonel Davson's estimate of the profits from such a scheme is realised. Of this amount \$106,000 will, it is estimated, accrue from coinage, \$22,000 from the proposed high denomination note issue and \$22,000 from the Government's \$1 and \$2 notes. If, on the other hand, the proposal for a common West Indian coinage is not adopted, but the Colony issues its own coins of face value below the florin, the annual revenue will be approximately \$72,000, of which, allowing for the expenses in connection with the issue, and for a contribution of 1 per cent. of the cost price of the securities to a depreciation of investment fund, \$28,000 is estimated to be derived from the seigniorage on local coins, \$22,000 from the proposed high denomination note issue, and \$22,000 from the Government's \$1 and \$2 notes. Either of these sums will, of course, be an appreciable addition to the Colony's present meagre revenue, but the Commissioners look almost more to the future than to the present in submitting their proposals for securing to the Colony the revenue derivable from its currency. Like many of its inhabitants, the Commissioners feel that the Colony has reached the turning of the tide, and is standing at the commencement of a period of progress and development, and it will, in their opinion, be a

great misfortune for the Colony if it is debarred from benefiting to the full from the large increments of revenue that will accrue from its currency if and when such development takes place. The Commissioners are deeply impressed in this connection by the figures relating to the currency notes issue of the Straits Settlements, where, as the results, apparently, of a policy of development such as is hoped for in British Guiana, the face value of the Government's notes has increased in twenty-two years from a little over \$3,000,000 to more than \$170,000,000.

A NEW COLONIAL LOAN.

Guiana's Sound Financial Position.

The Government of British Guiana is inviting applications for \$5,000,000 6 per cent. Debentures to be issued at par. The Debentures, which may be of various denominations, from \$50 to \$5,000, will be for a term of 50 years, with the option to the Government to redeem them at any time after the expiration of ten years from the date of issue on a twelve-months' notice being given.

The Loan, which is secured on the General Revenues and Assets of the Colony, is required to meet the cost of sea defence works, railway improvements on the Coast, pure water supply and sewage scheme for Georgetown and other public works, some of which have already been carried out and the cost charged temporarily against surplus revenue and other balances pending the raising of the Loan.

In the prospectus it is pointed out that the Public Debt of the Colony amounted at December 31st, 1920, to \$5,495,502, or \$603,736.59 less than the revenue for 1920, which amounted to \$6,099,238.59. The Colony's surplus of revenue of expenditure for the year 1920 amounted to \$1,265,411.27, and the total balance of the credit of the Surplus and Deficit Account at December 31st, 1920, was \$2,122,445.87. The Combined Court has approved of \$500,000 of this balance being placed to the credit of a Special Reserve Fund to be drawn upon only in times of emergency, such fund to be kept separately from the working balance and other funds of the Colony.

The first payment of interest, which will be payable half-yearly, will be made on July 1st, 1922.

It is hoped that this Loan will be as successful as Trinidad's £1,000,000 6 per cent. Loan, which was considerably over-subscribed at the close of last year.

MR. GUY C. A. WYATT.

It is with deep and sincere regret that we have to announce that Mr. Guy C. A. Wyatt died in a nursing home at Cheltenham on Sunday, September 11th. Mr. Wyatt, who had been in indifferent health for some time, was taken seriously ill in August. A memoir of this valued Member of The West India Committee, who was for many years resident in British Guiana and latterly interested himself in West Indian affairs generally, will be published in next issue.

THE HAWAIIAN PINE.

How it was First Introduced.

The problem as to how the pineapple was introduced into Hawaii is raised by the *American Grocer*. Says our contemporary: One theory, that of Cruise Carrick, is that they were brought to Hawaii by the traders or whalers in the beginning of the nineteenth century. Another is that they were brought there by Don Francisco Paulo y Marin, a Spaniard, who came to Hawaii from Mexico, settled there, and introduced many fruits and trees. Whalers did make it a practice to visit the Kona coast of the island of Hawaii in the early days, and the first authentic mention of pineapples in Hawaii is that they were being planted in 1813 by 'Don F. de Marin,' states the *Hawaiian Annual* for 1906.

Another rather attenuated theory is that they were brought to Hawaii by a Spanish vessel wrecked on the Kona coast. A squadron of three vessels carrying 110 men as reinforcements to the Moluccas sailed from Mexico, October 31st, 1527, under the command of Don Alvarado de Saavadra. Of these, two of the vessels were lost, but Don Alvarado continued safely on his voyage. Hawaiian tradition is responsible for the statement that in the reign of Keliokaloa, son of Umi, there was a foreign vessel wrecked at Keeki, South Kona, on the island of Hawaii. Keliokaloa was probably born about the year 1580, so it is reasonable to presume that he was king at the time the Spanish ships were lost. Such vessels, leaving Mexico, might well have included pineapples in their stores and, if wrecked, these would have been thrown ashore.

Regardless of how pineapples reached the islands, the first ones introduced grew in favourable localities, especially around Kona, in a half wild condition. They were abundant and there was some preserving of them for home consumption. This continued for an indefinite period, until some white settlers perceived the commercial possibilities in the fruit and began their cultivation.

It was then that Charlie Hensen began to ship the pineapple with his bananas to the mainland, and it was to obviate the necessity for transshipment at Honolulu that some of the Kona variety of pineapple were set out on the island of Oahu by Captain John Kidwell, an English horticulturist, who thus established the first pineapple "plantation" in Hawaii in 1885.

The United States Department of Agriculture took up the study of the many native varieties of pineapple over twenty years ago, and since that time has made a study of breeding of hybrids, producing larger fruits of good qualities, good shippers, and fruits that resist disease.

Meanwhile pineapple cultivation has practically dropped out altogether in the West Indies.

We learn with regret from St. Kitts of the death of Mr. S. V. Meggs of pneumonia at the early age of 29 on August 13th. Mr. Meggs was one of the most promising young merchants of the island. He leaves a widow and three young children.

WEST INDIAN CLUB CUP.

Shooting Competition Revived.

The competitions for the "West Indian Club Challenge Cup" for shooting, which were suspended during the war, are to be resumed. The cup, which is a handsome silver trophy, is to be shot for on Empire Day, or fourteen days before or after that day. It is to be competed for by



The West Indian Club Shooting Cup.

teams of ten, the best eight scores to count, from either the Militia, Local Defence Force, Police, Volunteers, Rifle Clubs, or Rifle Associations of at least one year's standing, or a team made from a combination of these forces, of any island of the British West Indies, including the Bahamas, British Guiana, and British Honduras, and will be a home and home shoot. The present holders are the Infantry Sports Club of British Guiana. It is hoped that the next competition will be thoroughly representative in character. Those qualified bodies wishing to participate in it are requested to communicate with Captain F. F. C. Messum, Hon. Secretary the West Indian Club, 4, Whitehall Court, who will be glad to send them a leaflet giving the precise conditions of the contest.

Mr. W. E. Jackson is to be guest of the Club at a dinner on September 21st.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

No less than 5,126,633 acres are under soya bean cultivation in Manchuria, which yield about 108,000,000 bushels. The annual increase in production is calculated to be at the rate of 2,000,000 bushels.

The preparation of ginger for export is carried out in India as follows: Drying is done either by first plunging the ginger into boiling water for some minutes and then drying in the sun, or by first scraping it with a knife till the black outer skin is removed, and then sun-drying. That prepared by the former method is known as "black" ginger, and by the latter "white" ginger. Cochin ginger is considered the best variety in India.

Nicklo's states that good results have been obtained in Australia in the growing of bananas by planting banana butts about a foot under the ground instead of using ordinary suckers; further, that there is a close connection between the "bunchy-top" disease of bananas and the root fungus (*marasmius sacchari*) of the sugar cane, the former disease appearing in bananas which had been planted on abandoned sugar land.

The word "manure" is derived from the French "manœuvre" and means work done by hand. This suggests that it was originally applied to tillage, possibly the work done in burying weeds, foliage or plants grown for the purpose of green manuring. In its modern sense it is applied to natural organic products, such as guano, stable manure and dried blood, the term fertiliser being reserved for artificial inorganic products, such as sulphate of ammonia, basic slag, etc.

As already mentioned in these columns, the nipa palm is a fruitful source of alcohol in the Philippines, and the *Sugar News* of those islands states that the Natalite Company of Australia, which has acquired the production rights for that form of power alcohol in the Dutch East Indies, Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay Straits, has leased several thousand acres of nipa palm lands for that purpose. Most of the palms are on lands belonging to the natives, who will collect the sap and deliver it to the central distillers or collecting stations.

In Mexico vanilla beans are dried by allowing the pods to lie in the sun for several hours until thoroughly heated, when they are wrapped in blankets and left until the following day, the operation being completed several times until the greater part of the moisture has been evaporated. Mr. E. R. Barnes, however, in the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, says that experiments which have been made in properly drying the beans at a low temperature, preferably in vacuo, show that a bean is thus produced which furnishes an extract of better colour and flavour than when the sunning process is adopted.

The production of rice in the Philippines has increased from 528,054 tons in 1910 to 1,019,999 tons in 1920, the imports falling from 184,619 tons in the former year to 11,018 tons in 1920. This increase in production has to a large extent been brought about by using the seeds of selected varieties adapted to local conditions, and it is calculated that the yield from the present area in rice can be raised 16 per cent. by the extension of this practice.

The mango tree borer, *Batocera rubus*, also known as the violin beetle, on account of the sound it produces when irritated, resembling the notes of that instrument, has done considerable damage in Mauritius to the mango and other trees, its partiality for kapok having been to a large extent the cause of the discontinuance of kapok cultivation in that Colony. Heavily infested trees should be felled, split into pieces and all the larvæ destroyed. With slightly infested trees the larvæ should be dug out. The life of the larvæ is stated to be not less than one year.

AN interesting Report has been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on the sugar crop of Louisiana for the year 1920. The quantity of sugar produced was 151,006 long tons, as compared with 108,036 tons in 1919. The number of factories at work was 122, one more than in 1919. The amount of sugar extracted from the cane as a commercial product was 7½ per cent. A considerable quantity of canes were used for the manufacture of syrup, the area devoted to this industry being 7,657 acres, 90,933 tons of canes producing 2,111,928 wine gallons of syrup.

It is a recognised practice to preserve eggs by immersing them in lime water, and, with perfectly fresh eggs, carefully washed, and with pure lime, this method will preserve eggs for fourteen months, provided that they are kept in a cool place. The slight taste which eggs thus preserved acquire is due, not to the penetration of small quantities of lime into the interior of the egg, but to impurities in the lime, especially soda and potash. Eggs may also be preserved by rubbing the washed shells with lard containing 1 per cent. of salicylic acid. If each of the eggs thus greased is wrapped in oiled paper, the loss of weight may be reduced from 5 per cent. to 3 per cent. in the eight months of preservation by the dry method.

Sisal is cultivated to some extent in Java, the area planted in 1919 amounting to 23,080 acres. The cultivation is comparatively simple. Young plants remain in the nurseries until they are from one to two years old, when they are transferred to the field. Planting is done in rows 12 feet apart, the distance between the plants being 8 feet. The plants are kept free from weeds during the first three years, the soil between the rows being constantly and deeply hoed. Harvesting begins when the plants are two years old, and continues until the plant blossoms, which occurs when it is six years old. The yield of fibre for the first reaping is about 2 per cent. of the leaf, and the following three harvests average 3½ per cent. of fibre.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 365.)

The Savannah is flanked on the west by the capital's "Park Lane." This street, sometimes rather maliciously called "Bankrupts' Row," on account of the fate of two of its former residents, consists of a number of handsome, though for some tastes too ornate, mansions indicative of the wealth of Trinidad. One in particular strikes the eye, it being a cross between a Scotch Baronial castle and a German Schloss, which would have rejoiced the heart of the late Prince Consort. On the east side, the Savannah is bordered by less pretentious villas standing in their own gardens with their backs to the Dry River, a water-course which is actually dry until the rains fall, making it a rushing torrent. These West Indian gardens differ very materially



Government House, Trinidad.

from those to which we are accustomed at home. They have no trim lawns—owing to the ravages of the mole-cricket and the scorching rays of the sun—and few sweet-smelling flowers, for though roses bloom, they lose their exquisite fragrance in the tropics. The absence of these advantages, is, however, more than compensated for by gorgeous poinsettias, with their large scarlet leaves, hibiscus of many forms and hues, purple and brick-red bougainvilleas, yellow allamandas and widely-variegated crotons, which gladden the eye with a feast of colour. Palms, too, of many kinds grow in profusion—thatch, groo-groo, aeta, talipot, and the graceful areca palms, a variety particularly characteristic of Trinidad, which look like Brobdingnagian feather-brooms, but have been more aptly described by a Hindu poet as "arrows shot from heaven."

On the north side of the pleasure ground stands in solitary grandeur among the trees and shrubberies of the Botanic Gardens the stately Government House, the residence of the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago, designed after the Indian model, and

constructed in 1875 of coral rock at a cost of £75,000. The position of this official residence is a positive misfortune for those who have to live in it, for it is effectively shut off by the hills and mountains behind it from the prevailing winds from the north and north-east, which temper the heat of the sun for residents on the other sides of the park. It is recorded that our present King, who stayed in it on one of his visits to Trinidad, wrote home that he had spent the night in the hottest room in the hottest house in the hottest island of Queen Victoria's Dominions. Anyone who has slept, or tried to sleep in the "Admiral's Room" will certainly endorse His Majesty's indictment. After spending a fortnight in that house as the guest of the late Sir Hubert Jerningham, and after partaking of the hospitality of Sir John Chancellor there on several occasions, one could appreciate the need which exists for a Hill Station to which the

Governor and his Court could withdraw during the "dog days." Sir Norman Lamont deserves well of Trinidad for having raised this question in the local Legislative Council. In May, 1919, he moved a Resolution in favour of providing a hill residence for the Governor (who was at the time in England) and his successors, affirming that the Morne Bleu Ridge was a suitable site for such a house, and requesting the Government to prepare the necessary plans and estimates. The motion was carried *nem. con.*, and it is satisfactory to know that effect is to be given to it, a vote of £3,000 having been provided in this year's estimates. The Governor's new country seat will stand at the head of the Arima Valley, near the Arima-Blanchisseuse Road, where the very capable Surgeon-General, Dr. K. S. Wise, has also built himself a mountain cottage, to which he

repairs for the week-ends—a circumstance in itself bearing testimony to the healthiness of the spot. Colonel A. de Boissiere and the Hon. "Auchie" Warner have similarly constructed hill residences for themselves in recent years, and with the consummation of Sir Norman Lamont's proposals the movement should become general.

A little to the West of Government house is the "Lady Chancellor Road," which is slow but surely working its way into the hills behind it. This gently sloping road, which is being made by convict labour, affords truly magnificent views of Port of Spain, with the Gulf and Bocas beyond, and has already become a very popular evening drive. Its conception was a masterpiece, and its construction, which could not be better accomplished by the Italians or Swiss, who are reputed to be the best road-makers in the world, will reflect lasting credit on the Department of Public Works.

At the south-east corner of the Savannah is the Little Savannah, on which stands, some way back from the roadway, Prince's Building, a long.

single-storeyed hall, resting on tall, stilt columns, like the houses in British Guiana. It was erected in 1861 in anticipation of a visit to the Colony by the Duke of Edinburgh, which never materialised. The present Government House was then being built, and there being no suitable place in which the Royal visitor could be entertained, this building was erected in feverish haste for the purpose. Great was the disappointment when it was learned that the Duke's visit must be postponed; but the Council of Government nevertheless decided that the building should be completed in a substantial and durable manner and remain as a memorial of the Prince's still anticipated visit, and afterwards as a place of public amusement for the general use of the inhabitants of the Colony. Then followed the death of the Prince Consort and the final abandonment of the tour; but the building was destined to be used for the entertainment of the Duke of Edinburgh's great nephew, the Prince of Wales, on the occasion of his memorable visit to Trinidad in 1920.

For some years Prince's Building housed the Royal College; but it is now devoted to theatricals, concerts, and public meetings. The scene which it presents when used for the latter purpose is very animated. There is little for the proletariat to do after dark, and consequently public meetings are popular. The hall on such occasions is packed to suffocation, the audience bubbling over on to the balconies, some enthusiasts hanging on to the windows in their eagerness to catch the winged-words of their favourite speakers, whom they cheer to the echo. But however animated and acrimonious the proceedings may be, they are invariably brought to a close by the National Anthem, which is rendered with great fervour.

Next to the Prince's Building was my Merchant Prince's building, more villas, and the Queen's Park Hotel. This hotel is very properly regarded as one of the best houses of entertainment for travellers in this part of the West Indies, but it is much too small for the growing needs of Trinidad. All its available accommodation seemed to be absorbed by oil magnates, engineers, and geologists, who sat in rocking chairs on its steep front porch until far into the night discussing anticlines and rotary drills, and the prospects of the enterprises with which they were connected. It was, indeed, even said that more reports emanated from the writing-room of the Queen's Park Hotel than from the oilfields themselves. With such an agglomeration of oilmen, it was not to be wondered at that tourists were experiencing some difficulty in finding a place in which to lay their heads; but plans were already under consideration for enlarging the building, and more rooms have since been added. Still a much more spacious caravanserai will have to be built if tourists are to be attracted to Trinidad in really large numbers.

My Merchant Prince's palace was indeed palatial, with its lofty rooms open day and night to the winds of heaven, and a splendid bath fully seven feet deep, which must have taxed the resources of the local water authority to the utmost during my visit. For ten days it—the house and not the bath—was

my headquarters, and with such considerate hosts as Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gordon, who made no tire-some engagements for me, it was impossible to experience a dull moment.

Never for a second did time hang heavily on my hands. Every morning there were business calls to be made and old friendships to be renewed. Every afternoon more visits, and then, after the very necessary siesta—an observance which has survived from the old Spanish days and is still followed by those who can afford the time—a motor run into the country. One day it would be through the densely-crowded Indian village to Carenage, to see the superb sunset over the Five Islands; on another, farther afield to Macquarrie Bay, an exquisite little sandy cove almost shut in by steep cliffs covered with tangled masses of tropical vegetation. At this secluded bay, so characteristic of the tropics, it only required a slight stretch of imagination to picture a pirate sloop riding at anchor and her crew in their red caps and buckled belts, and armed to the teeth, rolling rum puncheons up the beach and landing a rich cargo of merchandise; but there was not even a solitary bather nor a single fisherman to disturb the quiet of the scene, and the only sign of life was a flock of dove-coloured pelicans which flew across the bay in a perfect V-shaped formation.

Another favourite drive was over the Saddle, a pass which separates the Maraval from the Santa Cruz Valley. A merry family party, with the addition of two officers from the *Calcutta*, we made that expedition on the night of our arrival, profiting by the light of the moon, which was shining with a brilliancy unknown to those who have never been fortunate enough to visit the tropics. For part of the way the road is fringed with tall bamboos arched overhead like the vaulting of a Gothic Cathedral, and coco-nut trees, whose leaves sparkled and shimmered in the light of the moon. It then cuts right into the heart of the mountains until it reaches the pass. There for a distance of about twenty or thirty yards it runs on the level through a narrow cutting with precipitous walls at the summit of the mountain into the broader Santa Cruz Valley beyond, through which a silvery stream threads its way among many rich cacao plantations. In this valley lives our old friend, Edgar Tripp, and great was his astonishment when with song and laughter we drew up at his door and roused him and his family from an after-dinner nap. Our visit over, there was no need to go back on our tracks, for the road runs on down the valley among pleasant country villas until it reaches the little hamlet of San Juan, whose entire population appeared to be strolling about in the middle of the road with their domestic pets, and thence to our starting-point.

A shorter afternoon drive was along the Circular Road past Champs Elysées, the storied home of the de Boissiere family, and the old barracks of St. James, approached by avenues of saman trees of great beauty. Here a company of the Royal Sussex Regiment was quartered. Mere boys the soldiers looked, but one learnt that their behaviour, despite the many temptations of the tropics, was exemplary. It was good to see them, and equally satisfactory to pass a camp where Germans had been interned during the War.

(To be continued.)

JAMAICA GOVERNORS.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

VII. JOHN, LORD VAUGHAN.

(Continued from page 369 and concluded.)

On the 11th of March, 1678, he had a farewell meeting with the Council, at which he stated that he had been much indisposed in his health of late. Three days later he left, after just three years' residence. He evidently intended to return as he spoke of the King's permission for his "return and repairing to him," and he handed over to his old enemy, Sir Henry Morgan, as "His Majesty's Deputy Governor in his absence." Morgan acted till the 19th of July, when the Earl of Carlisle arrived.

Vaughan was apparently under no disgrace at home. Secretary Sir H. Coventry wrote that he would doubtless be able to give Lord Carlisle "sufficient reason to applaud the method you have used in your government," but Vaughan, denying himself the pleasure of waiting till Carlisle arrived, demitted office.

He was consulted, in 1679, by the Lords of Trade and Plantations, together with Sir Thomas Lynch and Sir Francis Watson, on the government of Jamaica since the Restoration. On the occasion of the Assembly's protesting against the adoption of Poyning's law for Jamaica, Lynch sent in a very able report and Vaughan agreed with it on almost every point. In 1680 he attended the Lords of Trade and Plantations and gave evidence concerning a charge against Long that he had erased the King's name from the Revenue Bill.

He succeeded to the Earldom of Carbery on the death of his father in 1686. He was President of the Royal Society from 1686 to 1689. Like his father, he was married three times, but he left no male heir, and with his death on January 12th, 1712-13, the Baronetcy of Vaughan, and the Earldom of Carbery became extinct. His first wife, Mary, daughter of George Brown, of Green Castle, in Carmarthenshire, had no children. His only daughter, the child of his second wife, Anne, daughter of the first Marquis of Halifax, married the third Duke of Bolton.

The portrait of Lord Vaughan, a mezzotint engraving by I. Faber, 1793, after a painting which Sir Godfrey Kneller executed for the Kit Cat Club, of which Vaughan was a member, is in the History Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica. Burke's *Extinct Peerage* (3rd Edition, 1846) gives his Arms as: Or a lion rampant gules; but his Arms as given above appear underneath the engraved portrait.

SPECIMENS of the cohune palm in the Botanic Gardens and outside Raffles Museum, at Singapore, have just distinguished themselves by fruiting for the first time. It is believed that the trees are from 25 to 30 years old, and that the Curator of the gardens is jubilant at his palms having, so to speak, wiped the eye of those at Peradeneya, Ceylon, which have not yet produced any fruits.

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 Days in Antigua.

Hon. Donald McDonald, writing on August 6th: During the past fortnight the Island generally has had fairly good rains and already vegetation has taken on a green and flourishing appearance, absent from the Island now for a very long time. It is hoped that continual rain to the end of the year will save the 1922 crop. Coupled with the break in the dry weather the slightly better tone to the sugar market has put some little more confidence in the sugar industry, and the purchase of the small estate "Harts and Royal," recently for the sum of £3,000 showed a little better feeling as regards owning land under sugar cultivation.

The lighting of St. John's by electricity which has hung fire for a long time is again being revived and everyone in the Island, whether shareholder or not, sincerely trusts that the work may be successfully carried through. Formed in 1917, the Company experienced difficulties from the outset as owing to the war machinery could not be imported from England and of that obtained from the United States then, nothing very satisfactory can be said generally. Besides this the company has experienced other difficulties. In 1917 a draft agreement with the Government provided for erecting of posts and running wire through St. John's. At the same time formal sanction from the City Commissioners was obtained, but in 1920 this permission was revoked. Advantage is being taken of the presence in Antigua of engineers who have established lighting systems in St. Croix and St. Thomas and have the contract for the lighting of Basseterre in St. Kitts (where every assistance and encouragement has been given to the promoters) to discuss the question thoroughly, and it is hoped this important enterprise will now be successfully carried through.

His Excellency Sir Edward Merewether and Lady Merewether left for England on July 31st. It is understood that His Excellency is retiring and will not be returning to this Government. Lieut-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, Colonial Secretary, has assumed the reins as Acting Governor, and the Hon. F. H. Watkins, I.S.O., who has been acting Magistrate of Nevis has been appointed Acting Colonial Secretary.

Some dissatisfaction has been felt by importers owing to the fact that the preferential duty given to England and Canada by the new tariff has not been extended by the Government of this Presidency to the other West Indian Colonies, although it was understood all along that it was an Imperial Preference. The other West Indian Governments have as far as we know framed their Tariff Act with the preference extended to all goods from the British Empire. Antigua, although in possession of these tariffs not having been "officially informed," refused to do the same. This preference affects the intercolonial trade in rum, rice, cocoa, gasoline and kerosene oil, and also all goods such as dry goods bearing an *ad valorem* duty which are now to some extent imported from Trinidad. The Agricultural and Commercial Society has drawn the attention of the Government to the loss caused by issuing money orders on Canada and the United States at a rate so far below the present rate of exchange.

The Antigua Branch of the Overseas Club has opened a club room at Buxton Grove, and it is hoped this will eventually prove useful to visitors to the Island as well as to residents. The Annual Commemoration Service and Speech Day of the Antigua Grammar School took place on the 4th August. At the service in the Cathedral the Very Rev. The Dean preached a useful and inspiring sermon on loyalty to the boys. At the prize giving, at 11 a.m., His Excellency Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, Acting Governor, gave the boys similar sound and useful advice as to school opportunities and advantages, and in the afternoon a very large gathering of parents and friends attended at the athletic sports which went off most successfully. Mrs. St. Johnston kindly presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

Crop Condition in Barbados.

The weather for the fortnight ended August 9th was extremely hot and the island has had very little rain, according to the *Barbados Advocate*, but on the whole the canes are healthy, but in some districts they are very low and unequal, this is especially the case in the southern part of St. George, and the north and eastern parts of St. Michael. So far the total rainfall is considerably below the average. The shortage of water continues and the restrictions of its use remain in force. There has been no improvement at the Government water works pumping stations.

A typhoid epidemic still prevails in St. Michael's and is also severe in some other parishes though the death rate from it is mercifully low.

The Income Tax Bill is still being debated in the House of Assembly. Dr. C. E. Gooding, after representing St. Philip's for twenty-seven years, has resigned his seat, to general regret, and Mr. Bovell, of Four Square, has been invited to stand in his place.

The first census return shows a surprising fall in the population, Mr. H. W. Lofly's figure being 159,000 against 171,000 in 1911.

Dr. E. B. Carter, of McGill, has been appointed Junior Surgeon to the General Hospital.

Captain A. R. and Mrs. Fellowes have taken Sir Gilbert Carter's house, Haro Court, for two years and intend to reside in the island.

The following team has been selected to represent Barbados in the Inter-Colonial Cricket Tournament, which is to be revived: J. H. Tarillon (Capt.), G. Challenor, H. W. Ince, C. F. Browne, C. A. Browne, J. Hoad, B. I. Gilkes, H. C. Griffith, K. Mason, F. L. Archer, J. B. Emtage, H. F. K. Greaves, J. M. Kidney.

Great improvement is reported in the position of the Agricultural Bank. Since the opening of the financial year it has reduced its indebtedness to the banks making advances on its security by nearly a quarter of a million sterling, so that in a short time normal conditions should be restored.

The Immigration Question in Guiana.

The decontrol of the rice industry has caused much satisfaction and the action taken by THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE in this connection is greatly appreciated.

The East Indian Association had intended to urge the Indian Government to send a deputation to the Colony and have now been glad to learn that such a visit is to take place if the necessary arrangements can be made.

In an interview published in the *Argosy*, Hon. R. P. Stewart, Acting Immigration Agent-General, stated that as far as he could see this Colony was favourably regarded by public opinion in India, and in support

of this statement he said that in spite of the great outcry against allowing immigrants, who had gone to India, to return to other Colonies, immigrants were not prevented from coming to British Guiana. Perhaps what was still more interesting was the fact that the immigrants who had returned to the Colony from India in July last were accompanied by thirty immigrants who had returned to India from Natal. Mr. Stewart also stated that the local authorities were endeavouring, though with some difficulty, to keep the return passage service to England as regularly as it had been so that immigrants coming to the Colony need have no fear of not securing an opportunity to return.

The Hon. A. P. Sherlock has returned to the Colony and has received a cordial welcome. The Hon. Cecil Clementi, the Acting Governor, has left Georgetown for a visit to the cattle ranches and proposes to go over the cattle trail from Ituni Bradge to Arakwana.

Mr. V. Fitzpatrick reports (August 6th) a serious fire at Pln. Leonora, belonging to the Demerara Company. A large part of the factory has been gutted, but the full extent of the damage is not yet known. It would appear very doubtful whether Pln. Leonora will be able to take off her autumn crop, but it is possible that its neighbour Pln. Uilvlugt will be able to assist in the matter.

The local syndicate estates have agreed to subscribe to and conform with the agreement arrived at between the home proprietors to limit the output of rum for export to United Kingdom to 10 gallons per ton sugar.

Fever in British Honduras.

A cablegram reports an outbreak of yellow fever. It is stated that sixteen cases have been notified, but that every possible measure is being adopted to check the spread of the fever.

Chief Justice Walton in Grenada.

The Committee appointed to enquire into last year's outbreak of enteric attributes the cause mainly to defective sanitation, the existing system being, in their opinion, at fault.

A Committee has been appointed to inquire into and report on Primary Education, its members comprising the Very Rev. Father Gurrin, Vicar General; Hon. F. Harford, Mr. Vernon Mahy, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. C. R. Fleming and Mr. C. H. Lucas.

Mr. G. O. D. Walton, the new Chief Justice, was welcomed by Bench and Bar at the sitting of the Supreme Court on August 10th, the Bar being represented by Hon. N. J. Paterson, K.C., Attorney-General; Hon. A. W. Lewis, K.C.; M. E. H. Martin, Esq., C. F. P. Renwick, Esq., F. M. Henry, Esq., A. A. Richards, Esq., and Guy Renwick, Esq.

In responding to the welcome His Honour referred to the high standard of justice and purity prevailing in the Courts of the British Empire and to the reputation and strength of the Grenada Bar.

The Jamaica Government Factory.

A body entitled the "Jamaica Representative Government Association" has been formed with a view to endeavouring to secure for the Colony a greater measure of self-government, and it is proposed to send a deputation to England on the subject.

The decision of the Government to drop the proposal to erect a central factory in St. Thomas has met with general approval. It is understood that the preliminary expenses have involved the Colony in a loss of several thousand pounds, the salaries of experts, etc., having been paid, but this is regarded as better than

three or four hundred thousand pounds which might have been involved if the scheme had been proceeded with.

Canadian Line Quarantines St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson reports under date July 22nd and 29th, that cotton picking has begun and that so far the pink boll-worm has not made its appearance in any new districts. The next few weeks should prove whether the measures taken at the beginning of the year to prevent its spread have been effective. About a fortnight ago about 50 returning labourers arrived from San Domingo and this week a sloop from the same place brought 31 more. Unfortunately this last batch brought a case of smallpox and the whole 31 are now in the quarantine station. As the outcome, though there is no smallpox in St. Kitts, the Canadian mail going north which was to have picked up 1,000 tons of sugar and passengers, including Rev. J. Emery, who has not been home for twenty-five years, made no communication with the shore. The Canadian steamer on her voyage south will not drop mails. The Quebec line is not so squeamish; otherwise the island would be cut off. Nice rains are falling.

Mr. Churchill and St. Vincent's Estimates.

Good weather was reported on August 11th from all over the Island. Cotton, states the local *Times*, is bolling beautifully. The area under this crop has been reduced, corn taking its place.

Dr. Irvin McDowall is returning to England after a visit of three months, to the general regret of his numerous friends. Dr. Eustace Greaves, the Colonial Surgeon, has returned from leave.

Mr. Churchill, commenting on the Estimates, has sounded a note of warning against over-estimating revenue, and has urged the desirability of building up a substantial reserve. He does not favour loans for the smaller Crown Colonies.

Mr. T. A. V. Best's visit to Tobago.

Mr. T. A. V. Best, the Acting Governor, has been spending almost a fortnight in the Island, writes Mr. R. S. Reid (August 25th). An "At Home" and dance were given at Government House. He was the guest of Roxburgh House at the Cricket Match on August 13th between Scarborough and Roxburgh. The weather and surroundings must have been enjoyed by the visitors, which included the Warden and Assistant Warden, Inspector Walcott (a war "veteran" now in the constabulary service), Mr. Link of the Botanic Gardens, and Mr. Phillips, the acting A.D.C., also an ex-service man. Trips to Man-o'-War Bay and the North Coast had to be postponed for lack of time, and another visit to Tobago is promised by the Acting Governor at an early date. Rev. C. H. Dick, of the Scots Presbyterian Church, Port of Spain, and author of "Highways and Byways in Galloway," is paying another visit to the Island. He was able to inspect "Little Tobago" and saw one of the female birds of paradise, but none of the males were visible at the time. He is now at Leeward, with note book and camera. Officials from the P.W.D. have been searching for a water supply for Scarborough and it is reported that a favourable gravitation source has been found on the hill streams about seven miles distant. Roads and bridges are also receiving attention, but Windward people won't be happy till there is a motor road right round the Island. Road material is gratis and free of cartage, and all that is needed is energy and £ s. d. A fair portion of the Development Loan

was set aside for this purpose and no doubt it will come in time. Captain MacHorton, an Australian, is reported to have purchased Mount St. George Estate. We only lack a South African to make Tobago a microcosm of the "United Empire," as the other Colonies and every section of the Homeland are represented here.

The weather is seasonable, although rather uncomfortably hot at times. We get almost daily showers in this district and cultivations look thriving. Peasants complain that insects are eating up their corn, and some planters report very erratic crop indications on the cacao trees, but if prices would only get above water level, other things would appear more cheerful.

Mr. Freeman, Director of Agriculture, has been attending the annual meetings of the Agricultural Credit Societies, which now circle the Island. I was invited to attend the Delaford meeting and was pleased to hear of the progress of the society, although rather concerned at the comparatively large total of loans. After the words of caution and encouragement from Mr. Freeman, the members have in their own hands the ultimate success or failure of this generous Government experiment. Tobago is quite calm on the subject of Representative Government, the only sentiment expressed being regret that the speeches at the "Monster Meeting" were so personal.

The Water Question in Trinidad.

Writing on August 25th, Mr. Edgar Tripp states that the long delayed building of the terminal railway station and Custom House in Port of Spain have been begun. With regard to the water question, all anxiety until the next dry season is removed. Some new pumps ordered by the City Council to tap the corcorite supply will be erected very shortly, and are expected to add considerably to the present supply. It is generally believed, however, that all such measures will be only tentative, and that the necessity exists for tackling the question in a thoroughly comprehensive manner, and by gravitation, from the plentiful sources which are known to exist in our hills.

With reference to the Resolution of the Chamber of Commerce annulling a previous Resolution in regard to the Shipping Conference question, to which I referred in my last, another meeting has been held, in which it was pointed out that under the Articles of Association the Chamber could not rescind a Resolution previously passed unless by the vote of a special meeting called for the purpose. The last Resolution, therefore, on the subject, was declared *ultra vires*, and the question of the adoption or rejection of the Committee's report will again be submitted to the Chamber.

Intercolonial cricket matches are about to be revived. The present holder of the International Cup is Barbados. The next contest is to be held here in September, when teams from Barbados and Demerara will arrive here about the 10th. Demerara and Trinidad will play first, and the winner will then play Barbados for the cup. There has been no contest since before the war, but it is known that there are some very formidable "wielders of the willow" in the three Colonies, Barbados especially. Trinidad, however, is not without hopes of once again seeing the Cup if only temporarily in our possession. Besides cricket, football, tennis, and golf, are all in full swing here, despite weather which is daily not far off 90° in the shade, which caused all of you in London such serious depression the other day.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Postal Rates to the West Indies.

September 1st, 1921.

SIR,—I think it would be a great help to West Indians in England if you would periodically publish in the CIRCULAR the postal rates to the West Indies. These rates—especially those on parcels—vary considerably and often; sometimes, I fear, at the sweet will of the lady at the counter. A month or so ago I handed in a parcel, for the West Indies, weighing 6½ lbs and was charged 2s. postage. Last week I handed in one weighing 6 lbs. and was charged 3s. To-day I handed in one weighing 5¼ lbs. and was charged 3s. 9d.

It is possible that some of the "limpets" that the Daily Mail and other papers are so anxious to get rid of kill time by playing with the Colonial Postal rates, and if so, they would probably be glad to give you notice of alterations, as that would fill in a bit more of their time, and so help to justify their existence.

I am, etc.,

"A WORRIED WEST INDIAN."

[The Post Office needs another unofficial P.M.C. like Henniker-Heaton to restore its prestige and efficiency. "A Worried West Indian's" complaint is not the only one that we have received regarding its present shortcomings. A correspondent in Cheltenham, misinformed by an official circular regarding the postal rates subsequently learnt that the tariff had been published before the rates were submitted to Parliament. The rates were amended, but he could get no refund of postages overpaid. The following table of rates now in force will perhaps save "Worried West Indian" expense and worry:—

Letter Rate to all British Possessions and Virgin Islands of the U.S.A.

For the first ounce ... 2d.
For every succeeding ounce or fraction thereof 1½d.

Letter rate to other West Indian Islands Cuba, Martinique and Guadeloupe: For the first ounce ... 3d.
For every succeeding ounce or fraction thereof 1½d.

Parcel Rates.

	Not exceeding			
	2 lbs.	3 lbs.	7 lbs.	11 lbs.
Bahamas	2 0	2 0	3 9	5 0
Barbados	1 6	1 6	3 0	4 3
Bermuda	2 0	2 0	3 9	5 0
British Guiana	1 9	1 9	3 0	4 3
British Honduras	1 6	1 6	2 9	4 0
Grenada	1 9	1 9	3 3	5 0
Jamaica	1 6	1 6	3 0	4 3
The Leeward Islands	2 0	2 0	3 9	5 0
St. Lucia	1 9	1 9	3 3	5 0
St. Vincent	1 9	1 9	3 3	5 0
Trinidad and Tobago	1 6	1 6	3 0	4 3
Turks & Caicos Islands	2 0	2 0	3 9	5 0
Cuba	2 9	4 0	4 0	4 6
Martinique and Guadeloupe	2 6	3 9	3 9	4 3
Virgin Islands of the U.S.A.	2 0	2 0	3 9	5 0

[Ed W.I.C.C.]

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Intaba*, September 9th

Mr & Mrs. Atkinson	Mrs & Miss Groll	Miss Robson
Miss N. Alexander	Dr J. Groll	Mrs & Miss Rodrigues
Mr G. Baker	Mrs. A. N. Hayward	M & Mrs. Seaford
Mr. G. Ball-Greene	Miss H. Hayward	Mr & Mrs. Smart
Miss H. Bell	Mr & Mrs. S. Heath	Mr & Mrs. Simmons
Mr. S. E. Bedford	Miss H. Hombersley	Anderson & J children
Miss E. Brown	Mr F. Larraway	Mr G. W. Sutherland
Mr C. Bucks	M G. Manly	Mr & Mrs. Wildy
Mr A. F. Deller	Mrs J. N. May	Mrs N. Temple
Mr & Mrs. S. Deerly	Miss C. Medford	Miss L. M. Venner
Mr. E. A. Douolan	Mr. J. Miller	Mr & Mrs. Wells & child
Mrs R. E. Downs	Mr T. P. Moore	Mrs. Wilson
Mr J. Ferguson	Rev. H. Pike	Johnson
Mr & Mrs H. Fleming	Mr H. Rodrigues	Dr. W. J. Wiukler
Mr F. Fritas	Mrs. F. & Miss Reid	
Miss P. N. Gay	Mr W. H. Richardson	

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Motagua*, September 6th

Miss L. Angus	Mr. D. F. Davis	Mr. & Mrs. T. Mumford
Sir George Reilly	Mr J. Pousepa	Mr & Mrs T. Niebling
Mr & Mrs. J. H. Cargill	R. v. W. W. Hardie	Mrs W. K. Smith
Mr J. T. Calder	Dr & Mrs S. J. Huakin	Miss M. Smith
Commander & Mrs S. C. Douglas	Miss Humkin	Miss M. P. Schor
	S. Q. M. Sergt. H. J. Lamacraft	Mr. G. L. B. Wiehen
	Miss I. M. Morin	

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in s.s. *Cumito* August 29th:—

Mr J. L. Delgado	Mr & Mrs. H. Machin	Dr & Mrs B. C. W. Pasco
Mr C. V. Espeut	Mr. J. C. Nisbet	Mr. E. B. Paul
Mr W. R. Grainger	Mr I. H. Owen	Miss B. Sale
Mr. J. L. Grainger	Mr. S. A. Pato	Mr M. V. Townsend
Miss D. C. Gray	Mrs L. M. de Jimenez & family	Mrs V. Turner
Mrs L. W. Hutchens		

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Bayano*, Avonmouth, September 14th

Mr N. A. Bertram	Mrs C. M. Harding	Mr. R. Re Chow
Mr W. J. Brandy	Mr W. Head	Mr. T. Rumbey
Mr & Mrs. A. Castig and family	Mrs W. Head	Mrs T. R. Starkey
Mr J. Candler	Col & Mrs J. Horakins	Col & Mrs Stuart
Dishon DeCarteret	Miss R. Horskins	Miss G. Stuart
Mr & Mrs. S. H. Doubletlay	Mr D. Henderson	Mr L. J. Stone
	Miss V. Johnston	Mr R. J. C. Shipley
Mr A. Fershel	Mr M. Jimenez	Mrs F. Voelcker
Mr A. Greaves	Mr E. Martinez	& family
Mr J. Gutierrez	Mr O. Martinez	Mr & Mrs R. Wilson
Miss F. H. Hall	Mr C. Millet	Miss J. Wilson
	Mr. F. Page	Mr. W. Woolseroff
	Mr. Robertson	

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	<i>Barranca</i>	Sept 19
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Changuinola</i>	" 20
West Indies	London	<i>Senator</i>	" 21
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	<i>Van Rensselaer</i>	" 23
Jamaica	Bristol	<i>Coronado</i>	" 26
West Indies	Liverpool	<i>Logician</i>	Oct 4
West Indies	London	<i>Settler</i>	" 5
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	<i>Crynssen</i>	" 7
West Indies	Glasgow	<i>Specialist</i>	" 10
St Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St Nazaire	<i>Haiti</i>	Oct. 1
West Indies	New York	<i>Parima</i>	" 14
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Caracuet</i>	" 14
West Indies	Halifax	<i>Chaudiere</i>	" 28
B'mas, J'aca & B.H'das	Montreal	<i>Canadian Fisher</i>	Nov. 10

The few outstanding subscriptions to The West India Committee should now be paid without delay.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
September 13th, 1921.

BANK RATE 5½ per cent, as from July 21st

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Aug 21st	Sept 13th.		Aug 28th.	Sept 13th
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	15 3	17 4	In Spain	1 2 6	1 1 11/2
France	1 17 8	2 0 5	Germany	15 16 2	19 2 5
Belgium	1 19 0	1 19 8	Austria	137 2 0	158 2 0
Italy	3 8 0	3 8 7	Holland	19 6	18 4

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 5s. 11½d.

SUGAR. The Board of Trade returns for the United Kingdom for the eight months ended August 31st show:

	1913	1920	1921
Imports	27,020,417	19,133,674	18,104,532
Consumption	23,254,712	16,176,623	18,519,167

In August last the imports were 1,591,621 cwts., while the quantity entered for home consumption was 2,225,949.

The news of the European beet crop which has reached the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* is generally pretty good. It is said that Belgium will have sugar to export, the sowings having been considerably larger than was anticipated. In Holland, in spite of the drought, the cultivation is in a good state, and it must not be forgotten that that wonderful little country has the advantage of irrigation, which is practically automatic, a considerable area of its territory being under the sea level. From Germany the news is satisfactory, and in Czecho Slovakia the crop will be below earlier estimates, though up to the average.

The West Indian Sugar statistics in London on September 3rd were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	39,616	34,751	36,052 Tons.
Deliveries	32,710	53,662	31,286 "
Stock	15,340	27,047	10,958 "

During the past fortnight prices have been maintained at former levels.

RUM. The home market remains in a lifeless condition, but there is a small export enquiry. The stocks in the United Kingdom on August 31st reached the record figure of 18,780,000 gallons.

Imports for August, 210,678 proof gallons, against 328,913 and 361,440 for the same periods in 1920 and 1913 respectively. In the first eight months of the year the imports are still ahead of those for the same period in 1920, the figures being 3,596,136 proof gallons and 3,034,508 respectively. Deliveries are still small, amounting to 90,659 proof gallons, against 176,551 for the same period in 1920. The fine hot summer has undoubtedly checked the demand. The West India Committee are co-operating with the Wine and Spirit Trade Association in pressing for a reduction of the present high duties; but it is very clear that there would be no possibility of differentiation in favour of rum as against whiskey.

The stocks in London on September 3rd were.

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	14,744	11,902	7,185 Puns.
Demerara	17,741	13,628	14,649 "
Total of all kinds	39,841	35,448	26,872 "

CACAO generally is very quiet, but steady. Owing to exchange difficulties, export business at the moment is slow, after having shown much activity. West Indian sorts are quiet. Plantation Trinidad has sold at 56/- to 62/- according to quality, or to arrive 53/- c. & f. There are sellers of fine Grenada at 55/-.

The stocks in London on September 3rd were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	25,300	54,201	40,342 Bags.
Grenada	19,862	31,189	16,756 "
Total of all kinds	168,901	303,532	142,158 "

For the first eight months of the year imports have been:

	1913	1920	1921
	Cwts	Cwts	Cwts
Ecuador	39,789	146,725	14,513
Brazil	70,473	7,308	3,442
British West Africa	119,764	1,269,027	718,177
Ceylon	40,558	26,008	12,305
British West Indies	128,598	246,827	130,952
Other Countries	98,015	119,805	42,665

Imports	497,197	1,845,700	922,351
Entered for Home Consumption	461,445	712,510	579,923

BANANAS. 6,378,433 bunches were imported into the United Kingdom for the first eight months of the current year, as compared with 5,161,752 and 4,952,091 for the same periods in 1920 and 1913 respectively. This would appear to indicate that the taste for this fruit is growing.

ARROWROOT. The market has been cleared of low priced qualities, and quotations are now 3½d. to 6½d.

BALATA is quiet, but steady. West Indian sheet spot 3/7, forward position 3/3 c.i.f.

BAY OIL. Holders are asking 14/- per lb., but the demand is very slow.

COFFEE. The demand during the past fortnight has been good, and full prices have been paid.

Imports from January 1st to August 31st:—

	1913	1920	1921
From	Cwts	Cwts	Cwts
Mexico	24,361	962	376
Central America	301,577	172,963	151,973
Colombia	41,983	16,805	53,825
Brazil	129,841	103,949	52,008
Other Foreign Countries	28,872	117,839	19,950
British India	66,521	64,614	92,102
British West Indies	5,114	4,804	4,093
Other British Possessions	11,240	142,187	111,924
Imports	609,509	624,423	486,251
Entered for Home Consumption	179,873	200,275	206,596

COPRA is quiet, with buyers of West Indian f.m.s. for September-October shipment at £34 10s. c.i.f. Rotterdam.

COTTON has been very active, and during the past week prices for most descriptions have shown a further rise. A small business has been done in West Indian Sea Island, and the quotations remain unchanged at: medium 99d.; fine 31d., and extra fine 41d. Imports in the 35 weeks ending September 1st, 4,471 bales.

HONEY. At auction on the 8th inst. a fair quantity of fresh arrivals was offered and met with a good demand at advancing prices. Jamaica liquid palish sold at 68/- to 70/-, amber to palish amber 50/- to 65/-, black to dark amber 30/- to 41/- per cwt. Old parcels were difficult of sale, and worth 15/- to 20/- less.

LOGWOOD remains dull, but steady. Last nominal quotation £10 per ton.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is quiet and unchanged at 19/- to 20/- nominal. There are sellers of Distilled at 2/6 to 2/9 per lb., according to quality, but no demand. **Lime Juice.** Raw is not in demand at present, with sellers of good Jamaica at 2/6. Concentrated is quiet with sellers at £13 nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is valued at 11/- per lb. for good quality Jamaica, but there is still no demand for Bitter.

RUBBER remains dull at 8½d. spot crepe, and 8½d. spot sheet.

SPICES. During the past fortnight **Pimento** has been very quiet, and only a small business has been done to Hamburg at 23/- per cwt. c.i.f. for September-October shipment. To day there are sellers at 22/6, but no buyers. Spot remains unchanged at 2½d. sellers. **Nutmegs** and **Mace** are steady.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB LONDON.



15, SKEPPING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
September 27th, 1921.

The West Indian Agricultural College.

SINCE we last went to press, the Governing Body of The West Indian Agricultural College has been constituted. This auspicious event took place at a meeting held at the Colonial Office on September 21st, over which the Hon. EDWARD WOON, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, presided in the first instance. It was then announced that The West Indian Agricultural College had been formally incorporated under the Companies Acts. Mr. WOOD in a few apt phrases took the opportunity of congratulating those present upon the comparative speed with which the proposals for establishing the College had been brought to fruition, mentioning especially the names of SIR NORMAN LAMONT, SIR FRANCIS WATTS, MR. MOODY STUART, and others who had done so much towards bringing this about. He also emphasised the importance of agricultural education, of which, as a Member of Parliament representing an agricultural constituency in Yorkshire, he had had no little experience. The Governing Body then proceeded to the election of Officers, and as was to be expected, SIR ARTHUR SHIPLEY, Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, and LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR DAVID PHAIN, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, who served in a similar capacity on the Agricultural College Committee, were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, MR. G. MOODY STUART, a Trinidad nominee, being appropriately appointed to the position of Hon. Treasurer. SIR FRANCIS WATTS, who was

one of the first to suggest the desirability of the West Indies having their own Institution for the teaching of Tropical Agriculture, and has since consistently advocated the establishment of a College on the lines now being followed, was unanimously appointed Principal of the College, and our readers will, we may feel sure, agree with us when we state that no better appointment could possibly have been made, inasmuch as apart from SIR FRANCIS'S scientific attainments, he will, in his new position, ensure the closest possible co-operation between the College and the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the headquarters of which will be transferred to Trinidad at an early date. It may be well to recall the objects which the Governing Body have in view. In the first place, it is intended to give general agricultural instruction to youths of the West Indies who propose to embark upon agricultural careers as a means of livelihood. Modern tropical agriculture is an extremely complex business. Its outlook is constantly being enlarged, and in the light of modern scientific discoveries it is no longer possible for the farmer engaged in tilling the land to depend upon tradition for his knowledge if he is to command success. To be really successful, he must be equipped with some understanding of insect and fungoid pests which attack his crops, and of how to meet them. He must know the precise effect which manurial treatment will have on his soil, and must otherwise keep abreast of the times. This he will be able to do directly or indirectly through the medium of the College. Besides the general work of bringing up young agriculturists, it is proposed to provide opportunities for training those who intend to devote themselves to scientific study for the benefit of others. Experts are being constantly required for service in the various Agricultural Departments. Indeed, the demand exceeds the supply within the British Empire, with the inevitable result that recourse has to be made to the services of men trained under a foreign flag, which is obviously most undesirable. These Departments need the services of men capable of giving sound advice concerning the actual cultivation of crops and their preparation for market, and regarding pests and diseases to which tropical plants are liable. They require, too, the help of men capable of investigating the condition of soil and climate in which crops are produced in the tropics—pioneer work in connection with which there is a constant demand for the services of chemists, physiological botanists, and others. It is surely very essential that such workers should gain their knowledge and experience in the tropics, and that they should be intimately familiar with the crops and their pests and diseases, and also with the influence of tropical environment under present conditions. Where scientists have necessarily to

obtain their training in educational institutions in temperate climates, in countries in which information concerning tropical crops and conditions can only be furnished by books and museums, it frequently happens that scientific workers are sent to undertake particular duties in the tropics without ever having had the opportunity of seeing the plants with regard to which their advice is required, growing under natural conditions. The result is that such scientists have to spend many months acquiring specific local knowledge before they are qualified to do the work expected of them. This waste of time and energy will be obviated to a great extent when The West Indian Agricultural College opens its doors and scientists will be able to receive their training on the spot. We would emphasise again, however, that the College will not only cater for the Post Graduate class. It will be open to residents in the West Indies, and no doubt many young men wishing to embark on an agricultural career will resort to it, while estates proprietors will avail themselves of the Institution by sending their own overseers and managers to it for a short course of training. Reference has already been made to the Sugar School which is to be established, thanks in a great measure to the generosity of the British Sugar Machinery Manufacturers, who have already consented to contribute to it machinery that would cost at least £20,000 to buy. This Sugar School is likely to have a very important and far-reaching effect on the development of the British West Indian sugar industry, and that reason alone, apart from other equally cogent considerations, should induce British Guiana and Jamaica to consider favourably the invitation already extended to them to participate in this important movement. We trust that they will do so, and will thus demonstrate once more that British Guiana and the British West Indian Islands, though not a single unit politically, are closely united where common interests are concerned.

The Power Alcohol Regulations.

THE Regulations made under Section 16 of the Finance Act, 1921, with respect to the manufacture, storage, removal, sale, use and supply of power methylated spirit, and the importation, removal, storage and use of spirits to be used in its manufacture, have now been issued by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. As regards the manner of import, provision is made for the introduction of power spirits in the form of bulk cargo, provided that they are contained in tanks which form part of the structure of the ship, and that all manholes, hatches, pipes and other openings in the tanks are capable of being secured by revenue locks or otherwise to the satisfaction of the Commissioners. The spirits to which the Regulations refer are defined as:—

(a) Unsweetened spirits or rum, and, with the prior sanction of the Commissioners,

(b) unsweetened spirits or rum mixed with petrol or other substances, or combination of substances.

The point which West Indian producers must bear in mind is that alcohol for power purposes

from overseas must be denatured by a licensed methylator in the United Kingdom before it can pass into consumption. The Regulations give in minute detail the necessary obligations connected with the removal of spirit from the ship to the premises of the licensed methylator, which are merely an extension of the ordinary Excise Regulations to meet the special requirements of the case, and made with the view of safeguarding the spirit from the public until it has been duly denatured, and for its previous warehousing by the importer. Provision is also made for the conversion of the spirit thus warehoused into power methylated spirit on the premises by a licensed methylator, or for its removal in drums or tank wagons to his premises. Special provision is made for re-distillation by the methylator for the purpose of concentration, and for the conversion of a portion of the spirit into ether for subsequent admixture with the alcohol. The processes adopted must, however, be approved of by the Commissioners and be subject to special conditions. The Regulations expressly lay down that all spirits to be used in the preparation of power methylated spirit must be of a strength not less than 66 per cent. overproof, and at no time shall the quantity of spirit used for making power methylated spirit be less than 2,500 bulk gallons. The Commissioners have decided as to how spirits are to be denatured in the preparation of power alcohol. Plain spirit is to be mixed with not less than 2½ per cent. of wood naphtha (methyl alcohol), ½ per cent. of crude pyridine, and 5 per cent. of benzol. If, however, the alcohol has been imported mixed with benzol, petrol or other substance or combination of substances and imported with the sanction of the Commissioners, the latter have the power to prescribe specially the way in which denaturing is to be carried out. It is expressly enjoined that though power methylated spirit may be distributed without restrictions for the purposes of generating mechanical power, it may not, without permission, be used for any other purpose.

Mr. EDWARD F. L. WOOD, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, will be accompanied on his West Indian tour by Mr. R. A. Wiseman, one of the Principal Clerks of the Colonial Office.

Proposals for the visit of an M.C.C. team to the West Indies during the coming winter are making satisfactory progress, thanks largely to the efforts of Mr. F. E. Lacey, Secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club, Mr. William Morrison, of Jamaica, and Mr. Harold B. G. Austin, of Barbados, who are co-operating with the West Indian Club in making the necessary arrangements. The following cricketers have, up to now, accepted the invitation to represent the M.C.C. on the West Indian tour:—

Colonel J. C. Hartley, *Captain* (late Sussex County), Mr. A. W. Carr (Notts.), Mr. R. St. L. Fowler (Army), Mr. G. R. Colman (late Oxford University and Norfolk), Mr. W. G. Lowndes (Oxford University), Lt.-Col. L. H. W. Troughton (Kent), and the Hon. F. S. G. Calthorpe (Warwickshire).

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"WHEN crab no hab hole him neber get fat."

DURING his stay in Tasmania last week Lord Northcliffe was the guest of Sir William Allardyce, formerly Governor of the Bahamas.

A CUBAN commercial mission, headed by General Menocal and Dr. Torriente, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Cuban Senate, is expected to visit England towards the end of October.

MR. WILFRED JACKSON, C.M.G., the new Colonial Secretary of Barbados, left Dover for Bridgetown on Saturday last. Owing to an attack of acute synovitis, he was unable to dine with the West Indian Club on September 21st, as he had hoped to do.

MR. J. SYDNEY DASH has resigned his appointment as Director of Agriculture at Guadeloupe, and has taken up the post of Tobacco Pathologist at the Central Experiment Farm at Ottawa, where he will have as a colleague Mr. F. L. Drayton, of Barbados, who is Plant Pathologist there.

DR. J. B. FARMER, F.R.S., one of the newly-appointed Governors of the West Indian Agricultural College, having been suffering from over-work, proposes to spend a short holiday in Trinidad. He will as at present arranged leave for Port of Spain by the Dutch mail steamer on October 22nd.

SIR GEORGE V. FIDDES, who has now relinquished the duties of Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, will carry with him into retirement the good wishes of many friends connected with the West Indies, though he was never brought so closely into touch with those Colonies as he was with other parts of the Empire.

MESSRS. THOS. & JAS. HARRISON announce that they propose to send their s.s. *Intaba* to the West Indies about six weeks after the *Ingoma*. That is to say, early in December. This will be good news for passengers wishing to reach the West Indian Colonies at Christmas time, and also to West Indians wishing to come home early in the New Year.

MR. F. W. DRAYTON retires from the Colonial Bank on December 5th next, after over forty years' service with that institution. Born in Barbados, Mr. Drayton first joined the Bridgetown branch as a junior local clerk. He subsequently served in Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, and St. Kitts, and finally became manager of the Barbados branch of the Bank.

An anonymous writer has been contributing to the *New York Herald* from Nassau an entertaining

account of how the bootleggers run cargoes of spirits to the Atlantic seaboard. He claims that "if all the liquor clearing Grand Bahama for Montreal were to arrive in that city it could wash the streets with booze every week and still leave enough to keep all the drinking classes in a comatose condition for the rest of that class's life."

ONE of the queerest cargoes sent for examination to the Royal College of Surgeons consisted of several boxes of remains from the Government geologist at Trinidad, states Professor Sir Arthur Keith, in his annual report. One box contained an entire burial, still embedded in the earth matrix from an ancient shell mound. From the pottery accompanying the remains it was inferred that the people represented belong to a period before the discovery of America by Columbus.

THE Fulton Ironworks Company have published a Bulletin (No. 300) giving a full explanation of the adjustment of their Corliss Valve Gear with single and double eccentrics. Every engineer knows the value of the Corliss gear in contributing to the economy of fuel and the satisfactory working of engines, and should obtain from the Fulton Ironworks Company a copy of the seven quarto page Bulletin, in which full details of their especial form of this valuable engine adjunct are given.

SIR JOHN BRAMSTON, who died at his residence, 18, Berkeley Place, Wimbledon, on September 14th, at the advanced age of eighty-eight, was for over twenty years Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. The son of Mr. T. W. Bramston, M.P., his mother was a daughter of Sir Eliah Harvey, who commanded the *Temeraire* at Trafalgar. In 1892 he became Registrar of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and at his retirement in 1897 he received the K.C.M.G.

MR. ALLISTER MACMILLAN, F.R.G.S., has returned to London from the West Indies, where he has been gathering material for a new volume dealing with the history, commerce, industries and resources of the islands of the Caribbean. This will form one of the series of books which Mr. Macmillan has produced regarding various parts of the British Empire and other parts of the world. It will be published by Messrs. W. H. & L. Collingridge, The City Press, Aldersgate Street, early next year.

MAJOR H. W. PEEBLES, D.S.O., Commissioner of Tortola, Virgin Islands, is paying a short visit to England. Though Tortola is almost the same size as St. Thomas, it is not heard of so often as the American island, but under Major Peebles' administration it is rapidly progressing. Its revenue, as was shown recently in an article by Mr. Levo published in these columns, exceeds its expenditure by a substantial figure, and on March 31st of this year the Presidency had a surplus of £10,283 and no debt.

IN a recent issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, it was suggested that possibly there might exist in the West Indies or British Guiana a tree like the mahua, bearing a flower containing a large quantity of fermentable sugar. Sir John Harrison now writes to say that there is no such specimen in the British Guiana Botanic Gardens, but that such a tree would probably flourish on some of the high plateaus of the *dolerite* and *gabbro* hills of the far interior of the Colony. A letter on the same subject has also been received from the Imperial Department of Agriculture to the effect that there they have no knowledge of such a tree in the West Indies.

THE Panama Canal completed seven years of operation at the close of business on August 14th, 1921, having been opened on August 15th, 1914. During the seven years of operation the total number of commercial vessels which made the transit through the Canal was 13,416. The aggregate net tonnage of these vessels, according to the rules of measurement of the Panama Canal, was 45,869,942. The cargo which they carried totalled 51,578,920 tons of 2,240 lbs. This traffic was made up of 6,388 vessels, of 21,933,325 net tons, carrying 22,215,402 tons of cargo, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and 7,028 vessels, of 23,936,617 net tons, carrying 29,363,518 tons of cargo, from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

MR. F. A. MITCHELL-HEDGES, the explorer and sportsman, sailed on September 12th for Jamaica, bound on a "big game" fishing expedition. He will start operations off the coast of St. Thomas on the East of the island, where the waters are populated with great tarpon and jew-fish, afterwards investigating the Central American shores of the Caribbean Sea. Mr. Mitchell-Hedges believes that whilst on land, the great beasts, such as the mammoth dinosaur and megalosaurus, became extinct as human civilisation advanced, there still exist great prehistoric fish in the depths of the oceans, which contain opportunities for research hitherto untouched—certainly as far as the wide expanses of the Caribbean Sea with the adjoining Gulf of Mexico are concerned.

WITH reference to the suggestion made by the writer of the article, "The West Indies Revisited," that more use might be made of the Travellers' Tree in the West Indies for ornamental purposes, Dr. H. A. Tempany writes from Mauritius to sound a note of warning. The tree (*Ravenala Madagascariensis*) was, he says, introduced into that island by one of the Queens of Madagascar who was seeking refuge from trouble in her own country. It spread to the better and uncultivated tracts and has become an unmitigated nuisance. "It is," he adds, "of very little commercial value and occupies thousands of acres which ought properly to be afforested. Under favourable conditions the tree spreads like a weed. I do not deny its great ornamental value, but if it is planted it should always be kept under control. Anything like extensive planting should be discouraged."

AT the request of the Surgeon-General of Trinidad, made through the American Consul in that island, the Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service has, with the consent of the Treasury Department, undertaken to send to Trinidad a quantity of the chaulmoogra oil preparation used by that service for the treatment of leprosy. The amount to be supplied will be sufficient for 500 treatments. Commenting on this, the *British Medical Journal* of September 10th says: The courtesy of the United States Government departments concerned must be freely acknowledged; but the fact that the Government of the United States was applied to by the medical authorities of an important British Colony for this assistance appears to show that there is something lacking in the relations between the Colonial medical authorities abroad and at home, and in the co-operation between the different British Government departments, more particularly as the researches on the therapeutics of chaulmoogra oil in leprosy have been largely carried out by distinguished officers of the Indian Medical Service.

IN science, as in travel, it happens that the accepted discoverer is not usually the actual pioneer. The truth of this is strikingly illustrated by a life of Louis Daniel Beauperrhuy (1807-1871) from the pen of the late Professor Blanchard, published in a recent number of *Archives de Parasitologie*. The devoted labours of Manson, Ross, Reed, Carroll, Agramonte and Lazear, in demonstrating the mosquito theory as opposed to the miasma theory of the transmission of malaria and yellow fever, are well known; but it is not generally recognised that their hypotheses were to a large extent anticipated by Beauperrhuy, who insisted as far back as 1854 that, contrary to the then almost universal belief, the miasma theory was chimerical, and that marshes were only dangerous because they bred mosquitoes. "The great Beauperrhuy of Guiana," as Sir Rubert Boyce called him, was born in Guadeloupe. As regards malaria and yellow fever, his teaching fell on deaf or sceptical ears, and subsequent recognition of the mosquito theory was made independently of his researches, although he was acknowledged to be its originator in 1901 by Aristides Agramonte, now the sole survivor of the famous Commission that went to Cuba the year before. Beauperrhuy believed also that cholera and leprosy are insect-borne. His reputation in the treatment of the latter disease gained him the post of Director of the British Guiana Leper Hospital, which he held till his death.

RED COCKTAIL.—Take a full teaspoonful of white cane sugar; add to it a cocktail glass of water; melt the sugar, and add 2 or 3 teaspoonfuls of Angostura bitters. Swizzle well, and then add according to taste a cocktail glass of either good old rum, brandy, whisky or gin; to this add as much pounded ice as will make it very cold. Swizzle well until a white foam is raised, then strain and serve at once. These directions should be followed in detail if a good cocktail is to be the result.—H. GRAHAM YEARWOOD.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Sir William Trollope, Bart.

At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee on September 22nd, the Chairman referred to the death of Sir William Trollope, Bart., in whom, he said, they had lost a valued colleague and he personally an old friend. Sir William, he continued, took a keen interest not only in the West Indies, and especially Barbados, but also in the work of The West India Committee, showing by his regular attendance at their meetings how much he considered their views and aspirations identical with his own. His loss would be very greatly felt.

Mr. Rutherford concluded by moving the following resolution, which was unanimously carried:—

"That the Executive of The West India Committee in meeting this day assembled, desire to record the deep regret with which they have learnt of the death of their colleague, Sir William Henry Trollope, Bart., and that a letter of sincere condolence be addressed to Lady Trollope and the family."

Over 300 Members elected this Year.

At a meeting of the Executive on September 22nd, the twenty-three candidates whose names are given below were admitted to membership of The West India Committee, bringing the number elected this year to 311. The total membership of the Committee is now 2,327.

Names.	Proposers and Seconders.
Mr. J. Woolley Slack (Jamaica).	Mr. T. Geddes Grant.
Mr. H. A. Boyce (Barbados).	Mr. Fred G. Grant.
Mr. Thomas E. Guy (British Guiana).	Mr. T. Geddes Grant.
Mr. John Dopson (Trinidad).	Mr. Fred G. Grant.
Constitutional Trust, Ltd. (London).	Mr. L. M. Hobson.
Dr. Christopher G. Gooding (Barbados).	Mr. Julius Vigour.
Rev. C. Julian (St. Kitts).	Mr. I. M. Hobson.
Mr. F. Landreth Smith (St. Kitts).	Mr. M. Hamel Smith.
Mr. J. B. Simmons (St. Kitts).	Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, M.B.E.
Mr. Stanley Veira (St. Kitts).	Mr. H. A. Bovell.
Davies, Turner & Co., Ltd. (London).	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. F. A. Donaldson (Trinidad).	Mr. Clarence Wattlely.
Mr. H. S. Metzgen (British Honduras).	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. Frederick Williams (Camerouns).	Mr. Alan Shepherd.
Mr. James C. Bovell (Barbados).	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson.
Mr. Percy G. Glendinning (Trinidad).	Mr. P. E. Ryan.
Mr. Cyril C. H. Cuff, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. (E.) (St. Lucia).	Mr. B. Rutherford.
	Mr. Athelstan Watson.
	Mr. C. B. Sayles.
	Mr. John Grant.
	Mr. P. Stanley Woods.
	Mr. F. R. Dragten.
	Mr. F. Evans.
	Mr. W. K. A. J. C. Hunter.
	Hon. A. Percy Haynes.
	Mr. John R. Bovell.
	Mr. Dickson Fraser.
	Mr. D. McBride.
	Mr. Archibald Brooks.
	Hon. W. Peter.

Dr. C. Bruce Dear (St. Lucia).	{ Mr. Archibald Brooks. { Hon. W. Peter. { Hon. R. E. Brassington. { Mr. E. R. Campbell. { Mr. R. Rutherford. { Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. { Dr. R. Wellesley Bailey. { Mr. R. Rutherford. { Capt. G. Hudson Lyall, M.B.E. { Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall. { Mr. J. J. Kirke. { Mr. R. Kirke.
Willock, Reid & Co., Ltd. (Glasgow).	
Joseph Travers & Sons, Ltd. (London).	
Mr. V. Pinnock Bailey, D.D.S. (U.S.A.).	
Mr. Addison Lankester (Jamaica).	
Mr. C. S. T. Spence (Dutch Guiana).	

No Change of Premises yet possible.

Owing to the exorbitant rents still being asked for property in the City of London, which for modern premises are as much as £1 to £1 10s. per square foot, the Executive of The West India Committee have reluctantly decided to continue the tenancy of their present offices at 15, Seething Lane, for the further period of a year from last Michaelmas, in the belief that next year rents will be more reasonable, in view of the trade depression and the many new buildings which are being erected. Meanwhile The West India Committee Endowment Fund will remain open, and it is hoped that in view especially of the fact that the subscription to The West India Committee remains at the pre-war figure of £1 1s. every member will contribute towards it. Since the last list was published the following additional contributions have been received:—

THIRTY-FIFTH LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Amount previously acknowledged ...	£23,118	17	6
Hon. Donald McDonald (2nd gift)	5	5	0
Charles Spence, Esq. ...	5	0	0
E. S. Bailey, Esq. ...	2	0	0
E. G. Bennett, Esq. ...	1	1	0
"R. G." ...	1	1	0
J. A. Davis, Esq. ...	1	1	0
F. D. Dobridge, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Major A. E. Harragin, D.S.O.	1	1	0
W. E. Mackay, Esq. ...	1	1	0
C. S. Morrison, Esq. ...	1	1	0
H. D. Scudamore, Esq. ...	1	1	0
D. Morris Skinner, Esq. ...	1	1	0
Archibald J. Brooks, Esq. ...	1	0	10
P. D. Guyadeen, Esq. ...	1	0	10
Reuben R. Gomes, Esq. ...	1	0	0
C. W. J. Imbert, Esq. ...	1	0	0
J. A. Meade, Esq. ...	10	6	

Contributions may be paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce, or forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3, and every amount will be acknowledged in the CIRCULAR.

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 the Committee on application. The minimum subscription is £1 1s., or \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$30.10).

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. Governing Body's Inaugural Meeting.

Mr. Edward Wood, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, attended the inaugural meeting of the Governing Body of The West Indian Agricultural College which was held at the Colonial Office on September 21st. Presiding at the outset, he expressed his hope and belief that the enterprise would mark an epoch in the history of the West Indies, prove of far-reaching benefit to their agricultural industries and general interests, and exert a great influence upon the development of tropical agriculture in the Empire at large.

The necessary document signed by the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association having then been read, Sir Arthur Shipley was, on the motion of Mr. E. R. Darnley, seconded by Lieut.-Colonel Sir David Prain, unanimously elected Chairman of The West Indian Agricultural College. Sir Arthur Shipley, having taken the Chair, moved the appointment of Lieut.-Colonel Sir David Prain to be Vice-Chairman, and the resolution was seconded by Mr. Moody Stuart and also carried unanimously.

Sir Francis Watts was then, on the motion of Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., seconded by Sir Frederic Hodgson, appointed Principal of the College. Mr. Algernon Aspinall having then been appointed Secretary, the Governing Body proceeded to discuss the various matters on the agenda, which included the selection of an Architect for the College Buildings. From a number of competitors, Major H. C. Corlette, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., was unanimously selected, and it is understood that a meeting is to be held at an early date to consider the question of the erection of the College buildings.

The Governing Body of the West Indian Agricultural College as at present constituted is as follows:—

Nominated by the Secretary of State:

Lt.-Colonel Sir David Prain, C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.S.

Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., D.Sc.

E. R. Darnley, Esq., B.A., B.Sc.

Nominated by the Colonial Governments:

Sir Norman Lamont, Bart., Trinidad.

G. Moody Stuart, Esq., Trinidad.

E. A. Robinson, Esq., Trinidad.

S. C. Thorne, Esq., M.C.P., Barbados.

Hon. J. T. de la Mothe, The Windward Islands.

A. E. Collens, Esq., F.I.C., F.C.S., The Leeward Islands.

Nominated by Academic Institutions:

Sir Arthur Shipley, G.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S., Cambridge University.

Professor F. O. Bower, Sc.D., Ll.D., F.R.S., Glasgow University.

Professor J. B. Farmer, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., The Imperial College of Science.

Nominated by Contributing Industries:

W. H. Himbury, Esq. (Cotton).

W. Scott Heriot, Esq., A.M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst. M.E. (Sugar Machinery).

Co-opted:

Mr. Robert Rutherford.

The Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P.

SIR ARTHUR EVERETT SHIPLEY was the Chairman of The West Indian Agricultural College Committee. He has been Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, since 1910, and was Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University from 1917-1919. He is a very distinguished scientist, biology and entomology being his special branches. He is the author of many works on economic biology, zoology, etc. He visited the Bermudas in 1887 to investigate a plant disease. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society in 1904, and created a G.B.E. last year.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR DAVID PRAIN has been Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, since 1905. He entered the Indian Medical Service in 1884, and filled thereafter many important posts in India in connection with botany. He is a past President of the Linnæan Society, a Fellow of the Council of the Royal Society, and was last year President of the Association of Economic Biologists.

SIR FRANCIS WATTS is well known as the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the British West Indies. Before succeeding Sir Daniel Morris in that position, he was Government Analytical Chemist in Antigua 1889-98, Jamaica 1898-99, and returned to Antigua as Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands in 1899. He was created a K.C.M.G. in 1917.

MR. E. R. DARNLEY is an Assistant Secretary and head of the West India Department of the Colonial Office. He was a scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his B.A. degree as sixth wrangler. He also proceeded to the degree of B.Sc.

SIR NORMAN LAMONT, BART., is a Trinidad Estates Proprietor and Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad. He represented Ruteshire in Parliament from 1905 to 1910, and was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, from 1906 to 1908.

MR. G. MOODY STUART is a partner in the firm of Messrs. Henckell Du Buisson & Co., West India Merchants, and the Chairman of the Board of the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, the Naparima Oilfields, Ltd., the Antigua Sugar Factory, Ltd., and the St Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Ltd.

MR. E. A. ROBINSON is a Trinidad Estates Proprietor with large interests in cacao and sugar.

MR. S. C. THORNE is a member of the House of Assembly of Barbados and an Estates Proprietor in that island.

MR. J. T. DE LA MOTHE is an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of Grenada and an Estates Proprietor in that island.

MR. A. E. COLLENS is Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands.

MR. W. H. HIMBURY is Manager of the British Cotton Growing Association.

MR. W. SCOTT HERIOT is a member of the Committee of Applied Chemistry and Metallurgy, and Founder of the Sugar School connected with the Royal Technical College of Glasgow.

PROFESSOR F. O. BOWER has been Regius Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow since 1885. He is President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and has been twice President of the Botanical Section of the British Association. He holds the Linnæan Gold Medal.

PROFESSOR JOHN B. FARMER is Professor of Botany at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. He was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a First Class in the final Honours School of Natural Science. He was fellow of Magdalen from 1889 to

1897 and Assistant Professor of Biology from 1892-95. He has published many books on biological subjects.

MR. R. RUTHERFORD is Chairman of The West India Committee and The West Indian Club. He is senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller, West India Merchants, and a Director of the Colonial Bank.

THE HON. GIDEON MURRAY, M.P., represents St. Rollox, Glasgow, in Parliament. He was successively Administrator of St. Vincent (1909-15) and St. Lucia (1915-17).

The West Indian Agricultural College is now incorporated under the Companies Act, 1908-1917 as a "Company limited by guarantee" with licence of the Board of Trade to omit the word "Limited" from its title. The principal objects, as defined under the Memorandum of Association, are:—

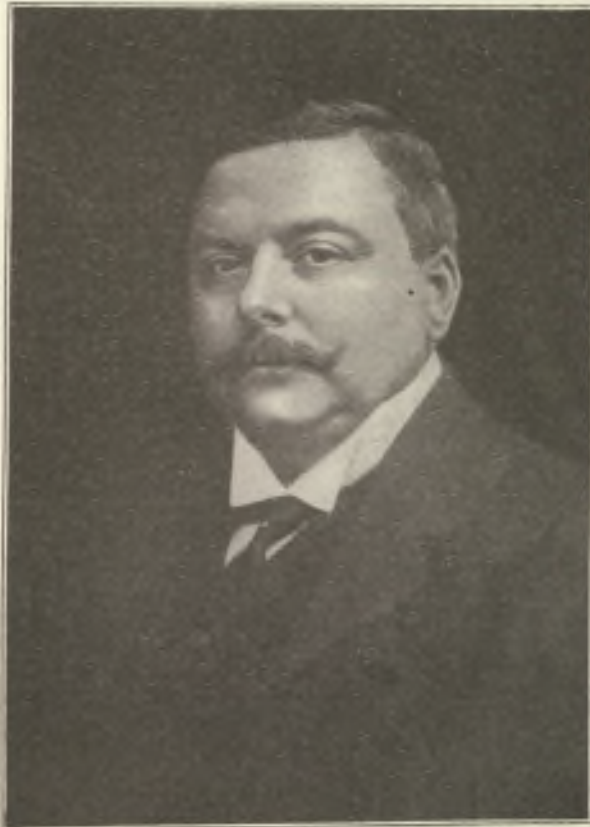
To found, establish, carry on, maintain, and conduct an Agricultural College in the British West Indies, to be called The West Indian Agricultural College, to promote the study of agriculture and other branches of learning; to provide instruction in the principles of agriculture, and in the cultivation and preparation for market of tropical produce of every kind, including sugar and its by-products, rum and molasses, cacao, coffee, cotton, coconuts, rice, citrus and all other fruits, dyewoods and all vegetable, mineral and marine products of the British West Indies, including British Guiana and British Honduras; to make 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, of chemists, of mineralogists, and of scientific advisers possessing an intimate knowledge of the means of combating pests and diseases, and to found, establish, carry on, maintain and conduct, and amalgamate with other colleges or institutions of a similar character and having objects similar to any of the objects of the Association, and which may prohibit the payment of dividend or profit to its members to the extent to which payment of dividend or profit to the members of the Association is prohibited by this Memorandum of Association.

Apart from the above, the usual wide powers of a general kind are also taken. The Articles of Association provide for the establishment of a Governing Body, the appointment of the principal lecturers, teachers, etc., Finance and Executive Committees, the latter of which is to be in the Colony in which the College is situated, and an Academic Board, and defines the procedure to be adopted at meetings, etc.

The *Times*, which has shown much interest in the Agricultural College movement, devoted a leading article to the West Indian Agricultural College in its issue of September 22nd, from which the following is an extract:—

"That the college has plenty of work before it, needs no explanation to those who realise the extent of the dependence of the West Indies on the fruits of their soil, the rich diversity of those fruits, the necessity of their being protected from pests and diseases, and the intrinsic importance of scientific cultivation generally. But if it is successful, the College will radiate its benefits over a larger area than that of the West Indian Archipelago. Hitherto, despite all its interests and commitments in tropical areas, the Empire has had no centre actually situated in the tropics where tropical agriculture and its problems can be studied under natural conditions. Students of tropical agri-

culture have been forced hitherto to make the best of a makeshift, and to be satisfied with such knowledge, preparation, and training as can be obtained from educational institutions existing mainly in temperate climates. This is obviously a deficiency in Imperial organisation which deserves to be made good, and a reproach on Imperial enlightenment which should be removed. Apart from these considerations the West Indies deserve all the encouragement they can get from Imperial statesmanship. Happily, there are several signs of an awakened interest in their needs, and the establishment of the West Indian Agricultural College is full of promise."



Sir Arthur Shipley, O.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S.
Chairman of The West Indian Agricultural College.

MISS KATE MILDRED, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Arthur, of Barbados, was married on September 22nd at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, to Mr. E. Kenneth Page, M.C., R.F.A.

PATIENTS suffering from any form of tropical disease may now make application to the Secretary of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases and London School of Tropical Medicine for treatment. The Hospital is specially equipped for the treatment of medical and surgical cases from the tropics, and offers special facilities to those who may be taken ill on board ship or are invalided from the tropics with malaria, dysentery, sprue, or any form of fever or tropical disease. The Hospital is chiefly maintained by charitable contributions, and subscriptions are invited, but those who can afford it are expected to pay towards the cost of their treatment. The address of the Hospital is Endsleigh Gardens, Euston Road, N.W., and our advice is, "When found, make a note of."

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

The Colonial Office's Prompt Action.

The West India Committee addressed the following letter to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, regarding Certificates of Origin, on September 15th:—

Sir,—

We understand that Mr. Secretary Churchill has recommended to the various West Indian Governments the acceptance of the Certificate of Value and of Origin provided for under Appendix A of the report of the Imperial Customs Conference, for general use in connection with their British Preferential Tariffs.

2. As you are no doubt already aware, shippers regard the regulation insisting upon the manufacturers' signatures being appended to Certificates of Origin as impracticable for various reasons. They also take exception to giving the signature of their suppliers, inasmuch as they state that the source of supply of their goods is a trade secret, the disclosure of which would greatly prejudice their interests. It was suggested that this difficulty might be overcome by shippers sending Certificates of Origin direct to the Customs Department in the West Indies, but it is claimed that in small communities it would even then be difficult to prevent such information from being disclosed to trade competitors.

3. Much would appear to depend on the definition of the term "suppliers," and if this were taken to connote firms of export merchants, the objections of shippers would, no doubt, be to a great extent overcome. Alternatively, if suppliers were permitted to authorise the shipper to sign on their behalf, without disclosing their names, under the terms of Section IV., Clause 18, of Appendix "B," appended to the Report of the Imperial Customs Conference, such shippers would presumably be satisfied, and we should be obliged if you would inform us whether either of these two alternatives would be acceptable to the West Indian Governments, or failing that, if Mr. Secretary Churchill would recommend their consideration.

4. Apart altogether from this, the views of our members interested, who have been consulted, is that the Certificate of Value and Origin submitted for acceptance is somewhat complicated, and that the simpler forms in use in the West Indian Colonies until recently are better calculated to facilitate trade.

5. In conclusion, I am to express the hope that pending a decision regarding the precise form of Certificate of Origin to be used in the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, the various Governments concerned may be advised to accept the signatures of shippers when guaranteeing the country of origin of the goods imported.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

ALGERNON ASPINALL,
Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

To the above letter the following reply has been received:—

Downing Street,
September 23rd, 1921.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 15th (6,808) regarding the Certificates of Origin required by the Governments of the West Indian Colonies for goods entered under the British Preferential Tariff, and to inform you that the Governments of Grenada and the Bahamas have agreed to adopt the new form of certificate referred to in paragraph one of your letter, and that the Governor of Barbados proposes to invite the Colonial House of Assembly to agree to its adoption and has, in the meantime, given discretion to the Comptroller of Customs as to accepting evidence of origin.

2. Mr. Churchill has telegraphed to the Governments of the remaining West Indian Colonies asking what decision has been arrived at, and whether, if no decision has yet been reached, discretion can be given in the meantime to the local Customs authorities to accept the certificates of shippers.

I am, Sir, etc.,
G. GRINDLE.

The Secretary,
THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following transfers and promotions made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies have been officially notified:—

Mr. Wilfred E. Jackson, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary, Bermuda), Colonial Secretary; Barbados.

[An account of Mr. W. E. Jackson's colonial career was given in last issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. Mention should, however, have been made of the fact that he received the C.M.G. in 1919.]

Mr. Austin H. Kirby (Senior Superintendent of Agriculture, Nigeria), Director of Agriculture, Tanganyika Territory.

[Mr. A. H. Kirby was lecturer in Science in Antigua under the Imperial Department of Agriculture from 1903 to 1909, in which year he became Scientific Assistant in the Department, and Director of Publications. In 1913 he was transferred to the Southern Provinces of Nigeria. He is the author of several works on tropical agriculture.]

Mr. L. R. Wheeler, R.Sc. (Assistant Master, Queen's Royal College, Trinidad), Science and Mathematics Master, Straits Settlements.

[Mr. L. R. Wheeler entered the Colonial Service as Science Master at the Queen's Royal College, Trinidad, in December, 1914. He returned to England with the 1st Trinidad War Contingent in September, 1915, and received a Commission in the 1st British West Indies Regiment, from which he transferred to the R.A.F. in 1917. He served in France and Salonica, and returned to Trinidad in 1920.]

Mr. R. O. Williams (Superintendent of Agriculture, Grenada), Curator of Royal Botanic Gardens, Trinidad.

[Mr. Williams now returns to the position which he held before he went to Grenada in 1919.]

THE DISTILLATION OF WOOD.

A Possible Industry for Dominica.

BY EDWARD P. CORNER.

Dominica is the most densely wooded of all the Caribbean islands, and amongst the many varieties of trees which grow luxuriantly under the influence of high rainfall and super-fertile soil there are great numbers of exquisite woods which, in the hands of the cabinet-maker, are capable of becoming magnificent pieces of furniture, finding a ready sale in the markets of Europe.

There have been several attempts to establish a timber industry, but in every case failure has been directly attributable to the want of expert advice from those who know the island, as to both type of machinery and site of plant.

Dominica's great obstacle to success in any attempt to reach and exploit her inner wealth lies in the steepness of her mountains and the narrowness of her valleys, with the consequent difficulty of transport. But to those who know the country, and by the aid of specially designed machinery, the difficulties can be overcome.

Any plant put down to deal with timber in Dominica must first be designed with a full knowledge of local conditions. The fine cabinet-wood trees do not grow in clumps or patches, but are widely scattered here and there amongst other trees, trees which are in themselves useful for other purposes, but for the working of which special precautions must be taken in designing the machinery owing to their abnormal sap content, etc.

There are square miles upon square miles of densely wooded land awaiting the coming of a syndicate or company having sufficient capital and intelligence to reap the rewards of a magnificent timber industry, but the essentials of success lie in the careful pre-attention to detail, the thoroughly organised campaign, the survey and careful planning of transport, and the just as careful design of the plant, and the writer lays particular stress on the necessity for the co-operation of local experts, men who know the country and the difficulties, but who can now visualise methods of bridging them once capital comes to their aid.

The majority of failures of outside companies in the West Indies, especially those which set out to establish new industries, must be laid at the door of ignorance of local conditions. How can engineers, designers, or organisers, sitting in an office some thousands of miles away, plan or design campaign or machinery to combat obstacles and difficulties of which they have no accurate knowledge?

The writer desires to put forward a roughly outlined scheme with the hope of interesting capital, and so open up a thriving industry in this island. The scheme is a far-reaching one, certainly, but one which is particularly valuable at the present time, in that it may be successfully taken as a whole, or piecemeal; and, in fact, the latter, quite probably, may be the better method.

In order to place this scheme rapidly before the minds of his readers, the writer proposes to enu-

merate a series of vital points, and then attempt to give an outline of the method of co-ordinating them:—

(1) Charcoal is a fuel which is particularly fitted for use in the West Indies, and in fact it is the staple fuel of the islands at present. Any kind of timber makes good charcoal, whilst the best qualities are obtained from hard woods, which are abundant in Dominica. (All the charcoal used in the West Indies is obtained by the obsolete and wasteful method of pit-burning, without recovery of by-products.)

(2) Methyl-alcohol or wood-spirit, is quite suitable for use as a motor spirit, and has been used for this purpose with very good results. With petrol at its present price and decreasing in supply, this product should be a valuable rival. Wood-spirit is also used for the manufacture of varnishes, gums, etc., and for denaturing industrial alcohol.

(3) Wood-tar is a valuable preservative for timber, is used for curing fish, hams, etc., and makes a very good fuel for heavy-oil engines. With further refining it gives cresote oils, and pitch.

(4) Acetate of lime is greatly used in the manufacture of paints, and also for the production of acetone, acetic acid and chloroform.

(5) Wood pulp, as is well known, is a valuable commodity, used for the manufacture of paper, artificial silk, etc.

(6) Cabinet woods, hard woods, and woods for boat and house building are all easily disposed of at good prices in European markets.

(7) The cutting down of the forest provides cleared land ready for the settler, and for planting fruit trees, food plants, grain, hemp, and other commercial agricultural projects.

(8) The elimination of the forests also reduces rainfall (this is on the average 280 inches on some of the higher lands of Dominica) thus reducing the cost of upkeep on roads and transport systems, and benefiting the estates and gardens in those regions.

Having given these points, let us attempt to construct a scheme for making use of the facts.

Let us imagine that a company is formed for the exploitation of Dominica's forests, and that it is composed of men who are far-seeing, careful, and gifted with plenty of sound common sense, enabling them to carry through a scheme from small beginnings to the conclusion of a large conception.

To begin with, a wood-distillation plant of moderate size is erected on a site selected after careful survey as to present and future requirements, in which survey every possible use is made of the knowledge of local experts who have had years of experience of the country. The plant is designed on the most modern lines, with the necessary modifications to suit local conditions of labour, fuel, etc.

The transport system, both for raw material in the form of cordwood and for products of the plant, is designed and built, again with an eye to the future, and with the help of local knowledge.

The plant produces:—

Charcoal—saleable locally.

Wood-spirit—saleable locally or exported.

Wood-tar—saleable locally or exported.

Acetate of lime—exported.

A balance-sheet showing what might reasonably be expected to be the results of the operations of such a plant is appended. The profits are worked

out per ton of wood distilled, and the total profits for a plant having a capacity of 10-tons of wood per day are also given. These figures are carefully compiled from local current prices, and from the writer's own experience of wood-distillation operations on both large and small plants.

As the cordwood is cut the overseers or foremen take careful note of the types of trees met, and those which are of value are felled, their limbs removed for distillation, and the trunks transported to the coast to season. Those of no value as timber are split into cordwood for distillation.

At the end of the first year, the company has on hand a valuable stock of timber, some seasoned ready for the sawmill, some in the process of seasoning, and some which can be exported as logs immediately.

Besides this they are in possession of a fair amount of cleared land (roughly 100 acres, when working a plant of the size mentioned). This land may be sold to settlers or planted by the company. (The land originally costing as Crown land 10/- per acre, would now be worth anything from £4 to £5 per acre.)

Then there is a direct cash profit of, approximately, 30 per cent. to 35 per cent., at least, on the original capital.

The company would now realise as much as possible of its assets in the form of timber, land, etc., and, together with, say, 50 per cent. of the year's profits, and if necessary additional capital, they would procure sawmilling machinery, adding this department to the existing wood-distillation plant, and the next year's campaign would be started with the scheme well under way.

In a few years' time there would be nothing magical if one found the company erecting a wood-pulp plant, or having one already in operation. Hand in hand with this there would be required jam and marmalade factories, and factories for the manufacture of hemp-rope, sisal thread, and various other side issues, which might be run by the company for produce from their own gardens, or as central factories for the settlers to whom they may have sold their cleared lands.

Then, with the advantage of cheap power obtainable from the numerous large waterfalls, it is likely there would be a good opening for a plant to produce fertilisers by nitrogen fixation from the air. It is often said that the labour problem is the bugbear of the West Indies, and in some parts this is undoubtedly true, but in Dominica the necessary labour can be obtained, and, in fact, would be increased as the years passed, providing the people had good industries capable of paying them a reasonable wage, and giving them an attraction greater than the magnetism of high wages in Cuba and other larger islands. It is an undoubted fact that the principal reason for any labour shortage in these smaller islands is the absence of industries which are continuous in their call upon labour, and the low wages which our present industries can afford, causing a constant drain of immigration to wealthier places. The people are intensely fond of their native island, and the writer knows of many

cases in which people who were on the point of immigrating have delayed their departure, awaiting the expected establishment of a new factory in which they hoped for constant and reasonably remunerative employment.

As a practising consulting-engineer, visiting all the islands from time to time, the writer knows of no scheme or industry which promises so well as that outlined above, and trusts that this article may be the means of establishing a really sound and thriving industry, or group of industries, in a place so long striving for development.

Estimated Balance-sheet of Costs and Profits. For Wood-distillation plant, distilling 10 tons of wood per diem.

Costs of working per ton of wood distilled—		£	s.	d.
Wood (for distillation in retort)	...	10	8	
Wood (for fuel)	...	5	0	
Labour	...	4	0	
Chemicals	...	2	0	
Depreciation and repairs	...	3	0	
Sacks and containers	...	4	0	
Incidentals (oil, waste, etc.)	...		8	
Insurance	...	1	0	
Salaries (including selling charges)	...	3	0	
Total				£1 13 4

Profits per ton of wood distilled—		£	s.	d.
6 cwts. of charcoal at 6/- per cwt.	...	1	16	0
4 gallons of wood alcohol at 3/- per gallon	...	12	0	
11 gallons of tar at 1/6 per gallon	...	16	6	
1½ cwts. of acetate of lime at 6/- per cwt.	...			
Lab.	...	9	0	
Total				£3 13 6

Say net profit £2 per ton of wood distilled.

Annual profits on 10-ton plant working 300 days per annum would thus be £6,000 (say six thousand pounds).

Larger plants would have correspondingly lower working costs and larger profits.

The approximate cost of a 10-ton plant erected and ready to start operations would be £12,000, and allowing for eventualities by capitalising to, say, £15,000, the dividend would be 40 per cent. per annum.

Larger plants cost less in proportion to capacity.

The figures for costs of working are based upon long experience of operating such plants, together with a knowledge of local conditions. They are, if anything, on the high side, especially in the case of the cost of wood. This item should be capable of a fair reduction. Figures for profits are based upon current selling prices of the various products, and are in all cases kept below what might be obtained, so as to ensure the capture of the markets and certain sale.

The cost of plant is based upon experience, in both design and construction of such, and previous known manufacturers' quotations and prices.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Charles Guy Austin Wyatt.

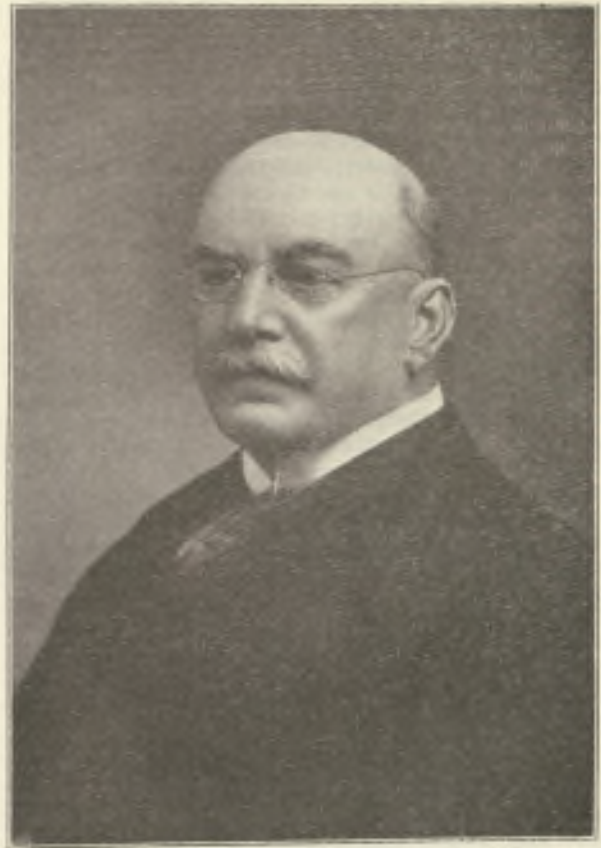
By the death of Mr. Charles Guy Austin Wyatt, which, as announced in last issue of the CIRCULAR, took place on September 12th, the British West Indies have lost a friend who never tired of endeavouring to promote their welfare.

Born at Plaisance Rectory, East Coast, Demerara, in 1854, Guy Wyatt was the eldest son of the Ven. Archdeacon Francis James Wyatt. He was educated in England at Spring Grove, a school kept by his uncle, Mr. George Wyatt, and, returning to British Guiana at the age of eighteen, he became a clerk in Mr. Bridge's office at New Amsterdam. Showing unusual commercial ability for one so young, he was selected by Messrs. Sandbach, Parker & Co. to fill a junior position in their business, with which he was associated for the rest of his career. A great favourite in the "Street," he made rapid progress, and in 1894, on the retirement of the late Mr. W. H. Sherlock, became Co-Attorney with Mr. J. R. Laing, continuing in that position until his colleague left to become Manager of the British Guiana Bank in 1905, when he assumed sole control of Messrs. Sandbach, Parker & Co.'s business in Demerara. Throughout his life he never enjoyed really robust health, though he was an active member of the Cricket and Rowing Clubs in his younger days, and it was largely due to his enterprise that the Georgetown Cricket Club have their fine ground at Bourda to play upon to-day. When he took a holiday in New York, Canada, or elsewhere, he frequently worked even harder than when he was in the Colony. In January, 1912, he was appointed a member of the Executive Council of British Guiana, but later in the year, after a period of ill health, he left for Canada and England. During that visit he resigned his Attorneyship as from March 31st, 1913. He returned, however, to the Colony to "hand over" to Mr. Paul Cressall, who succeeded him, and when he finally left Georgetown it was with the good wishes of a host of friends. Though he retired from business, Guy Wyatt was a man who could not lead an inactive life, and consequently he devoted what proved to be his closing years to a personal campaign of propaganda in favour of various schemes for the betterment of the West Indies, his declared policy including a speedy "all-red" steamer service via Canada, a closer relationship between the West Indies and Canada—and he had represented British Guiana at the Ottawa Conference of 1910—and the development of a British sugar industry by means of a guarantee of a preference in the duties in the markets of the United Kingdom for a definite period of years. So enthusiastic was he over the question of trade with the Dominion that he was known affectionately by his friends as the "High Commissioner of Canada." These aims he never ceased to ventilate by leaflets and letters to the Press until within a very short time of his lamented death. It was due to his constant advocacy of such a step that an office was opened in Montreal to represent Messrs. Sandbach, Parker & Co. and Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co. in that city, and he was also one of the moving spirits in securing the establishment of the Pickford & Black Line between Halifax (N.S.) and Demerara. After retiring from business he lived at Cheltenham, and it was only quite recently that he decided to give up his residence there, so that he might feel less tied. His death deprives the West Indian community in England of a valued friend.

Flight-Lieut. Godfrey Thomas, D.F.C.

It may not be generally known that there was a Jamaican in the R 88 when she was wrecked, on August 24th. This was Flight-Lieut. Godfrey M. Thomas, D.F.C., R.A.F., son of Mr. Herbert T. Thomas, Inspector of Constabulary in Westmoreland, Jamaica.

Flight Lieut. Thomas, who was not among the survivors, was born at Falmouth, Jamaica, on September 10th, 1895, and after being educated at Bedford, he entered Osborne as a Naval Cadet in 1908. Proceeding to Dartmouth, he left that College in 1913 as Senior Chief Cadet Captain, and on passing out was awarded the King's Gold Medal and Dirk as the best all-round Cadet of his term. After the usual training



The late Mr. Charles Guy Austin Wyatt.

cruise in H.M.S. *Cumberland*, he was appointed as midshipman to H.M.S. *Colossus*, of the First Battle Squadron, and was in her at the outbreak of war in August, 1914. In February, 1915, he was transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service, in which he served for upwards of three years, in the Dardanelles, the North Sea, and other theatres of war, until the Armistice. On the amalgamation of the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps into the one body now known as the Royal Air Force, he elected to remain with the latter, instead of returning to the navy. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bombing and sinking in the North Sea in September, 1918, a German submarine with all hands. Flying Cadet Godfrey Thomas is the fourth son lost by Mr. Herbert T. Thomas since 1916.

THE JAMAICA COUNCIL.

Governor opens the New Session.

In his address to the Legislative Council on the occasion of the opening of a new Session on August 30th, the Governor referred at the outset to the coming visit of inspection to be paid by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. His Excellency proposed that the Memorandum, written in connection with the preparation of the Estimates, should be laid before Mr. Wood as a convenient starting-point for his investigations, although it did not mention many desirable reforms and improvements, such as, for example, the substantial advantages which Spanish Town possessed as a seat for a West Indian University. As regards any proposed change in the Constitution, documents should be carefully prepared showing the precise nature of the change desired. His Excellency suggested that as the Council was directly interested in this matter, a Committee should be appointed similar to that set up in 1919-20, to consider the whole question.

Turning to the St. Thomas Central Sugar Factory scheme, Sir Leslie Probyn said that the proposal having been abandoned, he had directed that all further expenditure should cease, save that needed to bring to completion survey work already begun.

The Railway Commission ought to be strengthened by the addition of an independent member having an intimate knowledge of railway working, and he proposed to reply in the affirmative to an enquiry of the Secretary of State as to whether a gentleman who had held high office in the Great Western Railway for many years should be approached with a view to ascertaining his willingness to serve on the Commission. The terms tentatively put forward in this connection were £1,000 honorarium, together with cost of passage to and from Jamaica. Although the Railway Commission was expensive, it was useful in giving general confidence that the railway was being efficiently and economically managed.

Sir Leslie stated that the Government agreed with the specially appointed Commission as to the desirability of amalgamating the Kingston General Commissioners and the Mayor and Council into one body, and a Bill would be drafted to bring the alteration into effect. There were difficulties to be encountered before this could be done, notably in the choice between two conflicting policies, when it came to deciding the composition of the new body. Should this contain "ex-officio" and "nominated" members, as recommended by the Commission, or be wholly representative, and responsible only to the electorate? The second alternative was more consistent with the recent decision of the Government not to interfere with the representative character of the parochial boards, but had this demerit, that the present boundaries of Kingston were highly artificial, and the new Corporation would exercise certain powers outside the electoral district: consequently a large number of persons would have to pay money to a Corporation over which they had no power as voters.

WHERE EAST MEETS WEST.

Indians in Guiana and Trinidad.

The Reports of the Protector of Immigrants for Trinidad and Tobago for 1920 and the Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana for 1919 have appeared almost simultaneously, Mr. R. P. Stewart, the Acting Agent for British Guiana, explaining that his delay has been due to heavy work and shortness of staff. He makes up for this delay, however, by giving a very useful summary of the recent history of the Indian immigration question from the date of Mr. McNeill and Mr. Chimman Lal's visit to the Colony on behalf of the Indian Government, and their favourable report to the ban on emigration imposed by the Indian Government in 1916, and the proceedings of the British Guiana Colonisation Deputation.

Apart from this the Report is only of real value for reference purposes, being now so much out-of-date. It may be recorded that the total East Indian population on December 31st, 1919, was 180,854, as compared with 134,785 on the same date in 1918. All indentures were finally cancelled on April 15th, 1920.

To show how eager repatriated immigrants often are to get back to the Colony again, Mr. Stewart quotes some characteristic letters received from them in Calcutta, of which the following are specimens:—

"I am perplexed," writes on January 6th, 1920, a man who emigrated from India about 20 years of age in the *Imus* in 1896, "and do not know what to do. You are in a position to send for me. I am in distress. I still have all the money I brought and have bought goods with it. One rupee in goods will be worth to me \$10 in Demerara. I shall perish if you do not acquiesce in my wishes. I require no money, but want you only to deposit my passage money with the Immigration Agency in British Guiana for transmission to the Agent in Calcutta. I will return it to you on my arrival."

"Never come to Calcutta," writes another on February 25th, 1920, "which is good for rich people only."

Lieut.-Colonel A. de Boissiere's Report on the Immigration Department of Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1920 was completed as early as April and published with commendable promptitude by the local Government.

In Trinidad the East Indian population numbered 130,028 on December 31st, 1920, as against 129,756 on the same date in 1919. No immigrants arrived during the year and 89% were repatriated and 3,267 died, but against this births numbered 4,432, showing a much more satisfactory state of affairs.

Indian politicians should note that Colonel de Boissiere points out that the occupations of free Indians are the same as that of the rest of the community. They are employed in the Government and Mercantile services; as legal and medical men; as ecclesiastics, mechanics, chauffeurs, etc., etc.; many are large and wealthy proprietors, and there are numerous smaller ones.

This single sentence means a great deal. Nowhere is there a happier community than that of the East Indians in Trinidad.

WEST INDIAN STEAMER SERVICES

Interesting Suggestion from Bermuda.

The Annual General Report on Bermuda for 1920 contains an interesting suggestion regarding the problem of the West Indian steamer services. "If," it states, "a service from Jamaica to the United Kingdom which passes by Bermuda could be so arranged as to meet at Bermuda the ships of the projected improved Canada-West Indies service for the transfer of passengers, a considerable development of the passenger trade might result, and an excellent alternative route between the West Indies and the United Kingdom would be afforded. Moreover, communication between Jamaica and the other West Indies would be made possible without proceeding to Northern ports to change steamers."

In this connection it may be noted that the steamers of Messrs. Elders and Fyffes have on several occasions lately called at Bermuda on their homeward voyage from Jamaica.

The report further states that the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line continued to give a fortnightly service of exemplary regularity with Halifax and the West Indies. Imports from Canada by these vessels continue to increase, and there is a growing demand for passenger accommodation, which exceeds the supply for a large part of the year. The provisions of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, 1920, which was signed by the Bermuda delegates but was not ratified by the Legislature, provide for an extension of this service affording weekly trips to Bermuda and the larger West Indian Colonies and an improved type of vessel. The proportion of subsidy allotted to Bermuda was £2,000 per annum. At present the line is subsidised by the Canadian Government only.

LORD FREDERICK HAMILTON, in his new book, "Here, There and Everywhere," recounts an amusing experience in Port of Spain with a cab-driver who hailed from "Little England." This man, when General Baden-Powell was due to arrive in Trinidad to inspect the Boy Scouts there, with many others struck work in order to greet the Chief Scout. Asked by the author what the excitement was, the cabby replied: "You ask me dat, sir? You not know dat our great countryman, General Badian-Powell arrive to-day, so we all go to welcome him?"

The *Louisiana Planter* describes a new use for megass in a species of artificial building board called Celotex. The project has reached the stage of practical operation, a \$500,000 plant having been erected opposite New Orleans. In preparing Celotex the megass is "chipped," "cooked" and "washed" in succession, the last two operations being carried out in a single machine. The pulp is then sent to the "beaters," where it is worked until the fibres are of a proper length. The refined pulp is next run through a machine of special patented design, which turns out a board twelve feet wide. At this stage the megass is stated to have lost all its moisture. After being cut into proper length the slabs are packed.

CANADA AND JAMAICA'S TRADE.

Good Steamer Communication Essential

Mr. H. A. Chisholm, Canadian Trade Commissioner, deplures the fact that Jamaica's trade with Canada has been stationary in recent years, while that with England and America has gone ahead rapidly. He attributes this to several causes, the principal being the condition of steamship communication. Probably no single physical condition, he writes, has assisted American trade more than the regularity and frequency of the services maintained by the United Fruit Company between Jamaica and New York and New Orleans. During recent years, when prices were subject to such violent fluctuations, Jamaican merchants bought where they could get rapid delivery. They preferred, for example, to buy flour in New Orleans rather than in Canada, because they knew that in two or three weeks after the placing of the order, the shipment would be delivered on the Kingston docks. Meanwhile, Canada's direct communication was limited to a monthly service between Halifax and Jamaica, good in itself but woefully inadequate. The situation was improved to some extent in 1919, when a service was established by the Canadian Government Merchant Marine. Shipping conditions were such, however, that regular sailings could not be maintained, and many merchants who depended on this routing for their Canadian goods went back to American markets for their purchases. During recent months, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine steamship service has become regularised, and the Canadian exporter is now able to depend on a three-weekly service from Montreal to Kingston via Canadian Black from Halifax to Kingston and the more important outports of the island. A Kingston shipping man told him that seldom in his twenty-five years' experience has he found cargo better and more intelligently handled than by the Canadian Government Merchant Marine—at point of shipment, in the holds, and in unloading. Canadian shippers will have to follow this example, and increased refrigerator space must be provided in the steamers.

When the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement is passed by the Legislature of Jamaica and goes into effect, the Dominion should, Mr. Chisholm thinks, be able to supply Jamaica with nearly everything Jamaica now buys from the United States. The West Indies Agreement provides for the entry of Canadian goods at a reduction of 25 per cent. off the general rate, which at present is 16½ per cent. ad valorem on lines not subject to specific duties. That is, Canadian goods will get a net advantage of over 4 per cent. on the declared value, as compared with American. With the discount on Canadian currency at 12 per cent., a Canadian firm could therefore quote a price of \$116 for a Jamaican customer and undersell an American quoting \$100. C.I.F. Kingston quotations should be made, either in Canadian funds or in pounds sterling.

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 Census.

The first returns for the census taken this year give the population of the Colony as 53,031 as compared with 55,944 in 1911. This is the first decrease recorded since 1838, when the decennial Census was first instituted—a result to be attributed to the large amount of emigration to Florida. San Salvador, one of the most fertile islands of the group, has been the heaviest loser, New Providence coming next.

It is announced that as a result of the Government's efforts to secure a regular steamship service with New York, the Ward Line have made tentative plans for placing two of their steamers on the Nassau route. This service will be fortnightly until January, when it will be weekly to cope with the tourist traffic.

British Guiana and Certificates of Origin.

Reconstruction of the Leonora buildings, which suffered extensively from the fire, is proceeding apace, and it is hoped to have the factory in normal working order by the end of this month.

The question of certificates of origin under the British Preferential tariff, which has been the subject of successful representations on the part of The West India Committee (see p. 408) was brought before His Excellency Cecil Clementi by a deputation from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce on August 30th.

East Indians have been advised that the proposed delegation from India in connection with colonisation is expected to arrive in British Guiana in January.

Mr. Frank Stell, who last year was appointed Assistant Botanist and Mycologist attached to the Department of Science and Agriculture, has accepted an appointment as Assistant Mycologist in Trinidad.

The annual report of the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Experiment Stations Committee for 1920, which has just been published, gives an account of the steps taken since the Committee was started in June, 1919, to extend the promising varieties of cane in cultivation in the Botanic Gardens and to search for new varieties. Part of the Plantation Sophia, which had been in cultivation from early times till 1891, when it was abandoned, was leased for the purpose. A strenuous year's work, under the Superintendent, Mr. J. Crabtree is recorded, the results of which cannot fail to be valuable later on to the planting interests.

British Honduras Tariff Amendment.

Prompt and energetic measures have been taken to stamp out the outbreak of yellow-fever, from which the Colony had been free since 1905. The first three casualties, who all died, were natives of Guatemala employed at St. John's College, Loyola Park, where the Rev. F. Tallmadge was also stricken with the disease, but hopes were entertained for his recovery.

An ordinance has been passed in the Legislative Council with the object of obtaining additional revenue by amending the Customs tariff. The *ad-valorem* duties are accordingly raised from 15 to 20 per cent.

Mr. J. A. Price, the Stamm Creek agent of the United Fruit Co., was married on August 23rd to Miss Jessie Schnarr, daughter of Major H. S. Schnarr.

Mr. Rolle dies in Dominica.

In announcing in the official Gazette the death of Mr. Hamilton Rolle, who had been an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council for ten years, the Administrator states that he "has lost a personal

friend, and the community the services of a very upright and honourable gentleman."

A New Jamaica Loan.

Following the formation of the Jamaica Representative Government Association as reported in last CIRCULAR, another body having much the same objects and styled the Jamaica Political Constitution Reform Association was inaugurated at a public meeting held on August 29th, which was presided over by Mr. W. Baggett Gray and addressed by Hon. H. A. L. Simpson, O.B.E. and Hon. A. E. French. The latter stated that it was not necessary to "go back to the Constitution which was in existence in 1865, or to get a Constitution similar to what they had in the Bahamas or Barbados. What they wanted was an elegant Constitution worthy of an island like Jamaica."

Mr. R. Nosworthy is acting as Colonial Secretary in the absence of Colonel H. Bryan, C.M.G., who on September 9th left for three months' leave in England.

The Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to revise the Customs tariff in accordance with the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, have now completed their task, and the proposed new scale of duties, giving a 25 per cent Imperial preference, will be presented to the Legislature for adoption. A considerable increase in the duty on imported tobacco is foreshadowed, in order to protect the local industry.

A loan of over half a million pounds is to be raised in London to make provision for capital works on the Government Railway and other public works, the latter including the extension of the Government sisal plantation and the installation of machinery for the manufacture of hemp at the factory. Rope and twine makers of Canada are said to have expressed a desire to take all the fibre that can be produced.

Proposals for the conversion of rum into alcohol for industrial purposes, are now being taken up in earnest, and plant for the purpose is to be imported, which it is proposed to instal in the outskirts of Kingston. The manufacture of alcohol for use in motor vehicles is not suggested, the scheme contemplating the production of rectified spirits for shipment to Canada.

A movement is on foot to secure a reduction in local wharfage rates, which, it is claimed, were raised when prices were high, but have not been lowered to conform with present produce conditions.

Trinidad and the Panama Disease.

Investigations, in which it is believed that the Government of Jamaica will agree to participate, are to be undertaken by the Government into the causes and control of the Panama disease of bananas. The researches are expected to last three years at a cost of £2,000.

On September 2nd the Auditor-General introduced a Bill to amend the Tax on Incomes Ordinance, 1920, which was the subject of representations on the part of The West India Committee. The amendments contained in the new Bill are mainly concerned with the measure of relief to be granted to persons already paying income tax in the United Kingdom.

East Indians are apparently divided on the question of Representative Government. Prominent East Indians at San Fernando recently expressed their satisfaction with the present form of constitution. On the other hand, at a large gathering of East Indians at Couva, on September 1st, at which the Hon. Rev. C. D. Lalla spoke, a resolution was passed pledging East Indian support to the cause of Representative Government "on the distinct understanding that such a representation will procure for all people their full measure of proportional or communal representation."

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 395).

Trinidad has an excellent system of roads. The island's two main arteries are the Eastern and Southern Main Roads, which follow the directions indicated, and are "fed" by many branch roads, bridle tracks and traces. Both are one and the same as far as St. Joseph, where the Southern Main Road turns South, the Eastern Main Road pursuing its way across the island to the East Coast. Consequently, whatever expedition you may choose to make from Port of Spain, unless it be by the Western Main Road, which skirts the coast to Chaguaramas Bay and beyond, or into the mountains behind the capital, you are certain to find yourself at some stage of your journey in the quaint and unsophisticated little town of St. Joseph.

Founded in 1577, San Josef de Oruña, as it was then called, enjoys the distinction of having been raided by Sir Walter Raleigh. Following close on the heels of Sir Robert Dudley, who had landed from the *Bea* and had marched across the island and back "through a most monstrous thick wood" in February, 1595, Sir Walter Raleigh entered the Gulf through the Serpent's Mouth with two sail on March 22nd, and, after investigating an Indian village, anchored off *La Brea*, which the natives called "Pitché." Here he caulked the seams of his vessels with pitch, from the Pitch Lake which he was the first to discover, and here he noticed for the first time tree oysters—the delicious bivalves which grow on the roots of the mangrove trees, and are to this day at once a source of wonderment and of gastronomic delight to newcomers to the West Indies. Anchoring for a while off Anaparima, a solitary volcanic cone, round the base and up the sides of which San Fernando, the second town in the island, now straggles, he proceeded to the Indian village of Conquerahia, afterwards, as we have seen, Port of Spain. Then, with a small force of one hundred men, made up of natives and the crews of his vessels, he ascended the Caroni River with the object of attacking the Spanish "city" of St. Josef de Oruña. Lest the reader should picture to himself a walled and strongly fortified Spanish town like those whose remains on the South American Continent still bear witness to the former greatness of Spain, it should be mentioned that St. Josef at this period consisted of forty houses only, while the strength of its garrison did not exceed thirty men, whose only fort was of mud. This being the case, it is hardly surprising then that the Elizabethan adventurer should have succeeded in putting his enemy to the sword and in releasing five Indian chiefs who were confined in the *Casa Real* by the "illustrious" Governor, Don Antonio de Barrero, whom Raleigh described as an "execrable tyrant . . . cruel and illiterate, not knowing the east from the west." The statement that the town was "plundered" on this occasion must also be regarded in the relative sense, for it is hardly believable that forty houses could have contained a wealth of merchandise or much gold, silver and precious stones.

Just over two hundred years later, in 1797, to be exact, San Josef was really a place of more importance, for it was in the drawing room of Valsayn, a residence quite near the town, that Don Josef Maria Chacon, the last Spanish Governor, and his conquerors, Sir Ralph Abercromby and Admiral Henry Harvey, appended their signatures to the Articles of Capitulation for the surrender of Trinidad to "his Britannic Majesty."

St. Joseph is now a sleepy little town of rather ramshackle wooden houses gathered round its picturesque churches on slightly rising ground below the lower slopes of the Northern Range. Standing as it does at the junction of two main roads and two branches of the railway, one running to Sangre Grande and the other to San Fernando, it is a favoured marketing town through which much produce from the surrounding district passes.

Those of a morbid frame of mind may experience a thrill by recalling that it was near the Savannah in this little town that stood the old barracks which witnessed the mutiny of the free black recruits of the West Indian Regiment under Donald Stewart, or Dāaga, in June, 1837, the circumstances of which are so graphically described by Joseph.

Dāaga, who was the adopted son of the King of an African race, was captured by some Portuguese by treachery while he was transferring to them some slaves whom he had taken during a predatory expedition. The Portuguese vessel on which he was entrapped fell into the hands of the British, and he and many other captured Africans were induced to enlist in the West India Regiment. Dāaga nurtured in his heart deep resentment, and, unable to discriminate between the Portuguese and the English, persuaded the recruits to rise. Happily they were unskilled in the use of firearms; otherwise the bloodshed—about 40 lives were lost—would have been far greater. Many deeds of valour were done, not the least of which was the ride of Adjutant Bently from the Officers' Quarters to the Barracks under a rain of bullets, and happily the mutiny was suppressed. After a court-martial, Donald Stewart, Maurice Ogston, and Edward Coffin, the ringleaders, were executed before the barracks.

The mutineers marched abreast. The tall form and horrid looks of Dāaga were almost appalling. The looks of Ogston were sullen, calm and determined; those of Coffin seemed to indicate resignation.

At eight o'clock they arrived at the spot where three graves were dug; here their coffins were deposited. The condemned men were made to face to westward. Three sides of a hollow square were formed, flanked on one side by a detachment of the 89th Regiment and a party of artillery, while the recruits (many of whom shared the guilt of the culprits) were appropriately placed in the line opposite them. The firing-party were a little in advance of the recruits.

The sentence of the Courts Martial and other necessary documents having been read by the Fort Adjutant, Meehan, the chaplain of the forces, read some prayers appropriated for these melancholy occasions. The clergyman then shook hands with the three men about to be sent into another state of existence. Dāaga and Ogston coolly gave their hands; Coffin wrang the chaplain's hand affectionately, saying, in tolerable English, "I am now done with the world."

The arms of the condemned men, as has been before stated, were bound, but in such a manner as to allow them to bring their hands to their heads. Their night-caps were drawn over their eyes. Coffin allowed his

to remain, but Ogston and Dāaga pushed theirs up again. The former did this calmly; the latter showed great wrath, seeming to think himself insulted, and his deep metallic voice sounded in anger above that of the Provost Marshal, as the latter gave the words, "Ready! Present!" But at this instant his vociferous daring forsook him. As the men levelled their muskets at him, with inconceivable rapidity he sprang bodily round, still preserving his squatting posture, and received the fire from behind; while the less noisy, but more brave, Ogston, looked the firing party full in the face as they discharged their fatal volley.

In one instant all three fell dead, almost all the balls of the firing party having taken effect. The savage appearance and manner of Dāaga excited awe, admiration was felt for the calm bravery of Ogston, while Edward Coffin's fate excited commiseration.

Just beyond St. Joseph the Eastern Main Road and the railway skirt the land on which the West Indian Agricultural College is to be established. The site is very conveniently placed in a fork formed by the two railway lines, which, as already stated, diverge at St. Joseph, one going east and the other south. Standing with your back to St. Augustine, the station next to St. Joseph on the Sangre Grande line, you see before you a spacious and park-like Savannah. This is the pasture of St. Augustine which the Government of Trinidad has generously offered to lease to the Governing Body of the West Indian Agricultural College for one hundred and ninety-nine years at an annual rental of one shilling. A road runs across the pasture to the estate's residence, embowered among the trees at the further end, which was formerly occupied by Professor P. Carmody when he was Director of Agriculture.

The actual site of the College is just on the right-hand side of this road. Here will shortly rise a group of handsome buildings in the old Spanish Colonial style which will strike the eye of every traveller by either of the two main branches of the railway or the Eastern Main Road. In the corner of the pasture, near the apex of the fork formed by the railway, is the old hospital, where sufferers from yaws used to be treated. Beyond this building, which will no doubt be brought into the general scheme, and beyond the San Fernando Railway Line, is the Government Experiment Station, covering 134 acres alongside the Southern Main Road. Next to that is the Government Stock Farm, now standing on the historic estate of Valsayn, across the orchard of which Raleigh marched with his men after he had landed on the left bank of the Caroni River prior to his great exploit referred to above. The old residence in which the Articles of Capitulation were signed has gone the way of all things, and there is not even a solitary tablet—and surely one might have been placed on the manager's house near, or where, the old residence stood—to recall the historic episode.

At the Experiment Station sugar-cane, cacao and manurial experiments are conducted on a large scale. On the occasion of my visit research work in connection with Mosaic disease of sugar-canes was also being carried on, besides trials of various minor products which might possibly be added to the list of commodities already yielded on a commercial scale by the fertile soil of Trinidad. The

Stock Farm similarly aims at improving the breed of horses and cattle in the island, and includes in its stud many animals whose names are a household word in Trinidad and the neighbouring Colonies. It boasts, too, a pure bred Zebu bull, whose kind is well represented in the paddocks attached to the property. The farm has also many milch cows, which generously supply all the Government institutions with good and wholesome milk and also a surplus which readily sold to private families. It also furnishes an object lesson with a corn dryer and milling machinery, which serve as a reminder that the West Indies might make themselves far less dependent on imported maize, or "com," as they always call that product, than they are at present.

The advantage to the College in having in such close proximity to it a large scale experiment station, as well as a great stock farm, will certainly be incalculable.

Standing now on the site of the College, and lifting up your eyes to the hills to the north, you will see at the summit of one peak, a large white building almost in the clouds. That is Mount St. Benedict, a Benedictine monastery, perched 2,000 feet above the sea-level, which is reached by a tortuous road with many hair-pin turns. In this remote spot the worthy Lord Abbot and the Brothers of the Order dispense the hospitality so characteristic of their class to their visitors, to whom they delight to show a flower-decked grotto, the shrine of Notre Dame de Lourdes. At a lower elevation the monks have more recently erected a Sanatorium, so beautifully situated that it could afford little inducement for the invalid residing in it to endeavour to regain his health. Lower down again, on the foothills, are the Crown Lands of Santa Margarita and Santa Rita, where, amid healthy surroundings, the Principal, the members of the Staff and the students of the Agricultural College will live when the necessary residences have been erected for them.

To the south of the Stock Farm, and separated from it by an estate belonging to Mr. E. A. Robinson, we were shown a large tract of land densely cultivated under giant bamboos, an experiment which, very properly, is being watched with close interest. The owners of this remarkable bamboo brake, which covers nearly 1,000 acres, are Thomas Nelson & Sons, the well-known publishers of Edinburgh, whose object it is to provide a fresh source of supply of pulp for the manufacture of superfine paper for their many publications; so some day, when we are reading the latest novel from their Press, we may be holding in our hands a specimen of the growth and produce of Trinidad.

It is perhaps just as well that this very beautiful glade of leathery grass should be to leeward and not to windward of the site of the College, since there is just a possibility that as the bamboos are cut down their stumps, which will necessarily hold water, may harbour the larva of mosquitoes—though no doubt the efficient medical and sanitary services will be able to cope successfully with such a contingency should it arise.

(To be continued.)

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

According to *Nickols's*, the new Australian agricultural paper, one result of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held at Adelaide recently was that the Commonwealth Government was to be asked to prohibit the exportation from Australia of blood, bone and fresh manures, or any mixture containing any of these substances, and of sulphate of ammonia.

In preparing orange and lemon oil for flavouring purposes, alcohol is used as a solvent. This has led to trouble in the United States in view of the intemperate campaign being carried on there against this old and valued friend of man. It is, however, now announced that a mixture of syrup and glycerine can take the place of alcohol in preparing the oils for these purposes.

Epicurus, the great Apostle of Taste, ranked as an expert on manuring. Indeed, the Romans, who, as *The Fertiliser and Feeding-Subs Journal* points out, were always anxious to place every action of life on a sound business footing, nominated a special god, "Stercutius," to look after the interests of the fertiliser trade. Over two thousand years ago, also, Virgil, in his *Georgics*, gives theories as to rotation of crops, values of manures, etc., which stand to-day, while Pliny mentions the semi-barbarous Gauls as using chalk, marl and ashes for agricultural purposes.

The Sea Island cotton is being cultivated in the Virgin Islands belonging to the United States, and the Department of Agriculture of that country states that, from the small area as yet devoted to it, an average yield of 1,000 lbs. an acre of seed cotton was obtained, while at one of the Government Experiment Stations, under exceptionally favourable conditions, the yield was equivalent to 4,450 lbs. an acre. It is stated also that hybrids have been produced which, while retaining the prized silky quality of the Sea Island cotton and the resistant quality to disease of other varieties, give greater average yields than the parents.

In the manufacture of cocoa or chocolate from cacao, the beans, after being roasted and peeled, are brought to a temperature of about 170° F., kept there for some time, and then subjected to hydraulic pressure, which squeezes out a portion of the 50 per cent. of fat (cacao butter) they contained. The residual cake now holds about 30 per cent. of fat, the balance consisting of starch, albumen, water, sugar, cellulose, mineral matter, cacao pigment and theobromine, and is capable of forming a syrupy mass with water. West Indian cacao, however, made without the removal of any of the fat, makes a most grateful beverage, of great flavour and richness.

An interesting account of the pineapple industry in Cuba is given in the July number of the *Cuba Review*. This industry is of considerable importance, at one time 1,250,000 crates being shipped annually, although the sugar boom caused a considerable reduction. Nearly all the pines grown for export, except those grown on the Isle of Pines, are produced on the light red soils of the Havana Province, although a considerable number are cultivated on a somewhat heavier type of red soil. The varieties grown are the Red Spanish, the Sugar Loaf and the Smooth Cayenne. The use of fertilisers is not general, but tests with them have invariably shown favourable results, both as regards the quantity and quality of the fruit.

The *Australian Sugar Journal* of May 6th reproduces a circular issued by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company to cane-growers as to losses of sugar which have occurred through the faulty reaping of canes. It was found that not only was the actual recovery of sugar seriously affected by the impurities introduced into the juice by an undue proportion of green tops, but that the value of the canes, which were purchased on the basis of the amount of sugar present, was unduly inflated thereby, with considerable loss to the purchasers of them. This, it may be remarked, is one of the results that might be expected from the adoption of a system of purchase based on cane analysis.

In his address on the subject of the "Laboratory of the Living Organism," at the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. M. O. Forster, the President of the Chemical Section, spoke of the relationship between the chlorophyll of the plant and the hæmoglobin of the blood. "Even the most detached and cynical observer of human failings," he said, "must glow with a sense of worship when he perceives this relationship and bring himself to acknowledge the commonest of green plants among his kindred. Because," he went on to say, "just as every moment of his existence depended upon the successful performance of the chemical duties of the hæmoglobin of the blood corpuscles, so the life and growth of green plants hinge on the transformation of its chlorophyll."

The Bacterial Spot disease of tomatoes is caused by a monoflagellate bacteria, which is described in a paper on the subject in the *Journal of Agricultural Research* as *Bacterium exitialis*. The damage done is mainly due to the injury to the fruit, but the disease is also destructive among seedlings, and occasionally a foliage trouble in the field. The fruit lesions are small, black scablike spots, usually superficial, and sometimes crateriform. The leaf lesions are at first translucent, later black and greasy, with translucent margins. The control measure advised is the disinfection of the seed with mercuric chloride solution of a strength of 1 in 3,000, to be followed by thorough washing.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORTS.

British Honduras as an entrepôt.

The delay in the publication of the British Honduras Annual Report for 1919 which is just to hand is explained as being due to the many changes of officers holding the acting office of Colonial Secretary in the Colony, to the shortage of staff, and the difficulty experienced in the conduct of public business in temporary office accommodation resulting from the loss of the Public Buildings in 1918, a loss which has not yet been made good. The riot in Belize in July of the year under review had a temporary paralysing effect on schemes proposed in the public interest, and cost the Colony over \$180,000.

The Report shows that the revenue for the year was \$1,065,622, and the expenditure \$981,816, an increase of \$311,079 on the figures for the previous year. The total value of trade was \$9,144,025, which exceeded that for 1918 by \$1,909,952, and that for 1913 by \$932,480. Trade with the United Kingdom only accounted for \$1,072,897, as compared with \$6,402,918, which was the trade with the United States, and represented 70 per cent. of the Colony's total trade. The latter figure is misleading, including as it does all the mahogany shipped, although this was only sent to the United States for re-shipment to the United Kingdom.

Imports were valued at \$4,695,216, as compared with \$3,565,416 in 1918. They include \$66,759 worth of cattle imported from the Republics of Honduras and Guatemala. From Canada came chiefly whisky, of which \$20,423 worth was brought into the Colony during the year. From Jamaica came sugar to the value of \$70,492.

The value of the Colony's exports amounted to \$4,448,809, or \$780,152 more than in 1918. Nearly half the former amount represents goods which were the produce of other countries, showing that the entrepôt trade of British Honduras has come practically to rival its own production. Shipments of coconuts, mahogany and chicle were higher than in previous years, while exports of bananas were lower. There were no shipments of logwood.

The Trend of Grenada's Trade.

Mr. Herbert Ferguson's report on Grenada for 1920 is framed on the new model recommended by the Committee on Blue-books, and is consequently more readable than the usual run of these publications. Moreover, it was presented within six months of the close of the year—a further matter of congratulation to its compiler, and it may be remarked for purpose of comparison that no report nor Blue-book has been issued for the neighbouring colony of St. Lucia since those for 1915-16 and 1918-19 respectively.

The revenue and expenditure of Grenada since 1915 have been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue	Expenditure.
	£	£
1915-16	96,420	103,992
1916-17	114,525	108,078
1917-18	106,138	109,390
1918-19	110,387	108,252
1919 (nine months)	87,295	107,011
1920 (year)	134,128	148,174

The public debt is £223,670, against which there is an accumulated sinking fund of £57,283, while £54,535 of the latest Loan issue remains unexpended. The net indebtedness under Loan Funds is thus £111,852. The

assets at 31st December stood at £105,725, and the liabilities at £79,976, showing a credit surplus of £25,749 as compared with a surplus of £39,795 at the opening of the year. No allowance for depreciation of investments has, however, been taken into account.

The total trade of the Colony during the year was £1,236,877, imports amounting to £620,378, and exports to £616,499. This is the high-water mark of the Colony's trade, and is more than double the value recorded in any pre-war year. It is due solely to the increase in prices, as there has been no increase in volume. Owing to the extent to which the Colony is already developed, there is little scope for augmentation of existing crops, or introduction of new ones.

The United States takes the leading place in regard to imports, 34.3 per cent. coming from that country as compared with 31.3 per cent. from the United Kingdom. Since 1913 the United States of America percentage has grown from 31 to 34, while that of the United Kingdom has declined from nearly 40 to 31. This diversion of trade is still more noticeable in the case of manufactured goods, the importations from the United States of America having increased in the seven years from 13 to 54 per cent. The Collector of Customs reports that notwithstanding the high rate of exchange certain classes of goods can be obtained of as good a quality and cheaper from the United States of America than from the United Kingdom. Such articles include drills, shirtings, Oxfords, and hosiery of all kinds, also dress materials and boots and shoes in good styles and greater variety. Certain classes of hardware are also said to be as good as and cheaper than British manufactures. American medicines and drugs, perfumery, toilet soaps and common soap are also displacing importations from the United Kingdom.

Notwithstanding the substantial preference of 33½ per cent. on all goods of Empire manufacture provided for in the new Customs Duties Ordinance to which reference has been made, it still appears that the United States of America can compete successfully with the United Kingdom. Unless prices of goods manufactured in the United Kingdom become considerably reduced, the diversion of trade to the nearer New York market will continue, especially when the rate of exchange falls to a normal figure.

With regard to exports, cocoa to the value of £372,135 went to the United Kingdom, and £66,284 to the United States of America, the total value of cacao exports being £466,658. All the cotton, to the value of £40,950, was exported as usual to the United Kingdom. Much of the trade in spices was transferred to the United States of America and Canada, where better prices appear to have been obtained. Nutmegs to the value of £36,625 were exported to the United States of America and £11,939 to Canada, the exports to the United Kingdom being £9,969. Seven hundred and twenty-four hundredweights of mace exported to the United States of America were estimated at the value of £5,230, and 1,206 cwts. to the United Kingdom were recorded at £6,852. Ninety-nine hundredweights went to Canada at a value of £969. The exportation of lime juice was considerably less than in 1919, and was of the value of £9,025. The cultivation of limes has not proved a permanent success owing to unsuitable land having been planted under this crop.

Under the heading "General Observations," Mr. Ferguson places on record an interesting account of the Prince of Wales's visit to the island. The Prince, he states, has endeared himself to the people of the Colony, and has deepened and strengthened in Grenada, as elsewhere, the devoted loyalty of the people to the Throne.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.

Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Ltd.

The report of the company for 1920 states that the year's operations resulted in a loss of £10,038. Deducting the balance brought in, £9,011, a debit balance of £1,027 was created, to which must be added reserves for income-tax in respect of 1919 and 1920, £9,846, increasing the debit balance to £10,873. The heavy loss was largely accounted for by the continuance of the drought, which involved a very serious falling off in the production of balata, especially as regarded the spring expeditions. Shortage of labour, increased cost of supplies, the unfavourable rate of exchange, interest on advances, and shrinkage in transit and warehouse contributed also to the losses sustained.

In February last Major A. P. Stockings paid a visit to British Guiana, and made a thorough investigation of the company's business. He has furnished the board with a valuable report, which will be of great assistance in deciding as to future operations. He also visited Trinidad and reported upon the oil interests of the company. In this connection an amalgamation of various companies, including that in which this company is interested, has recently been effected, with the result that this company's holding will be converted from 9,600 shares of \$5 each in the Anglo-Trinidad Co. into 19,200 £1 shares in the General Petroleum Co. of Trinidad, Ltd. Major Stockings, in reporting upon the properties now held by the General Petroleum Co. expresses the opinion that all the properties are well situated and offer very favourable prospects for the production of petroleum on a large scale.

[A report of the general meeting of the General Petroleum Company on August 16th, at which the above amalgamation was referred to, appeared in the CIRCULAR of September 1st, page 376.]

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
Jamaica	Liverpool	Nicoya	Oct. 3
Jamaica	Bristol	Patuca	" 4
West Indies	London	Speaker	" 5
West Indies	Liverpool	Logician	" 8
B'dos & T'dad	Dover	Crynsen	" 8
Jamaica	Bristol	Camito	" 10
West Indies	Glasgow	Specialist	" 17
West Indies	London	Ingoma	" 20

G'ada, T'dad & Demerara	New York	Matura	Oct. 18
West Indies	Montreal	Chaudiere	" 28
West Indies	New York	Guiana	Nov. 2
St Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Puerto Rico	" 2
B'mas, J'aca & B'H'das	Montreal	Canadian Fisher	" 10

WANTS.

Small "Want" advertisements will be accepted for publication under this heading at the rate of 8/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line.

NURSE-MAID offers her services in return for passage to Jamaica.—Apply "C. A." c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

(Continued at foot of next column)

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies from Cardiff, in s.s. *Senator*, September 23th.

M. John Dodds Rev. E. J. Lee Mr. D. Douglas Stewart
Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, September 27th:

Sir Henry & Lady Alcazar & Family	Lieut. Col. Howell	Miss Pantin
Mrs. Rellett	Miss Inghis	Mrs. O. Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Child	Mr. & Mrs. Jackson	Mr. S. Prescott
Mr. & Mrs. Dakyns	Mr. & Miss Joukinson	Mrs. & The Misses Kapsky
Mr. & Mrs. J. Eidsen	Mr. & Mrs. J. A. King	Mr. Robotham
Mrs. Fawcett	Mrs. & Miss Mackenzie	Mr. S. S. Rogers
Miss S. Fernandes	Mr. & Mrs. Manger	Miss G. W. Slater
The Rev. Foley	Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Martin Sperry	Mrs. Townsend
Mrs. C. Goddard and Child	Mrs. & Miss Miller	Doctor Valance
Mrs. G. D. Gray	The Rev. T. L. O'Kelly	Mr. Wight
Mr. & Mrs. E. Henderson	Mr. & Mrs. Pantin	Mr. & Mrs. Williamson
		The Rev. J. C. Wippell

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Crynsen*, Plymouth, September 9th—

Mr. Withstandly Allsop	Mr. F. S. Guise	Mr. Wm. McDonald
Mr. Duncan Allsop	Mr. J. W. A.	Mr. Wm. McGie
Mr. J. Barron	Glendinning	Mr. Wm. McLean
Mr. Herbert E. Bradshaw	Mr. Woodford Holder	Mr. A. McMillan
Mr. Marcus Clarke	Mr. G. F. Houkinson	Mr. William Owen
Mrs. & Miss Clarke	Mr. M. Hutchinson	The Misses Packer (2)
Mr. S. W. Crickett	Mr. Leonard Hutson	Mr. J. H. Kapsky
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Duity	Mr. Hoo Kai	Mr. L. L. Rollock
	Mr. Mohammed Khalil	Mr. J. H. D. Sellier
Mr. Eckel	Mr. J. A. Kerubahu	Mrs. Marie I. Sellier
Mr. Harold Edwards	Mrs. Margaret Kimber	Mr. Bruce Skinner
Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Frazer	Mrs. Florie King	Mr. John Stephaun
Mr. Carl Oskar Godrup	Mr. Chung Co Lee	Mr. A. R. Thompson
	Mr. William Lynch	Mr. Wm. Thompson
	Mr. Fred A. Mendes	

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Changuinola*, September 20th—

Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Haylla	Capt. H. R. Dobbs	Rev. & Mrs. R. Morton-York
Rev. & Mrs. A. F. Blandford	Mrs. G. R. Groom	Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Newman
Mrs. K. H. Bourne	Mr. T. J. Hazlett	Miss D. L. Newman
Mr. & Mrs. T. Bradshaw	Mr. C. F. G. Higley	Mr. C. H. Overall
Mr. E. H. Chealloy	Mrs. E. Hollander	Mrs. Rivas
	Mr. A. Lankester	Mr. J. M. Townsend
	Dr. N. P. MacPhail	

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Bayano*, September 12th—

Mr. H. G. Bevan	Mr. S. M. Jacobsen	Mr. Spencer J. Portal
Lady Richmond Brown	Miss A. G. Land	Mr. D. Simmons
Mr. R. C. Douglas	Mrs. S. F. May	Mr. E. A. M. Stewart
Mrs. M. Hall	Mr. F. A. Mitchell	Mr. R. A. H. Stone
Col. & Mrs. Hillary	Mr. F. A. Mitchell Hedges	Mr. & Mrs. G. L. N. Walker & family
The Misses Hillary (3)	Dr. C. A. Moseley	
	Mrs. R. A. Muir & Son	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. *Changuinola*, Avonmouth, September 11th—

Mr. S. G. Carroll	Mr. & Mrs. D. Reyes	Mr. & Mrs. Steven
Mrs. K. E. Jeffery	Mr. H. N. Squire	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Coronado*, September 18th—

Mrs. G. F. Bedford	Mr. C. H. Browne	Mr. R. T. Michelin
Sir John & Lady Bland-Sutton	Mr. W. Freire-Marteco	Mr. C. Michellu
Miss R. Braham	Mr. W. H. Fisher	Mrs. S. Moxsy
Mr. E. G. Bradbury	Mr. I. V. Houshian	Mr. John MacDonalld
	Mr. C. Lopez	Mr. C. D. Rowe

WANTS.

(Continued from previous column)

THE RECTORY, STOW ST. MARY, MALDEN, ESSEX.—The Rector and Mrs. Gordon Smythe offer excellent home, loving care, and experienced tuition to children 6 to 12 years. Beautiful house standing in two acres of grounds in pretty and healthy countryside. Entire charge. References to parents.

QUALIFIED SECRETARY.—A member of the First Trinidad Merchants' Contingent, too ambitious to return home, desires secretarial or similar post in England or France.—Apply "L. M. M.," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
September 27th, 1921.

BANK RATE $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as from July 21st
EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Sept. 13th.	Sept. 27th.		Sept. 13th.	Sept. 27th.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	17 4	15 4	In Spain	1 1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 8
.. France	2 0 5	2 1 1	.. Germany	19 2 5	21 4 0
.. Belgium	1 18 9	2 2 1	.. Austria	188 2 0	187 6 11
.. Italy	3 8 7	3 11 3	.. Holland	18 4	19 3

The intrinsic value of the sovereign is £1 6s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

SUGAR. In the New York market the prices of Cubans are nominal. Porto Ricans were sold yesterday at 4.12c. c.i.f. Futures are quoted at, for Cubans landed in bond: October 2.65c., December 2.46c., March 2.34c., May 2.11c.

The home market is steady, with fair enquiry. The value of West Indian crystallised is 42/- to 48/-; yellow imitations are worth 48/-. Home granulated sold yesterday at 53/-; American granulated, spot, 51/9 to 52/-; white Javas c.i.f. are quoted at 21/-. In the terminal market the values yesterday for 96 deg. sugars were: October 17/10, November 16/8, December 16/4 $\frac{1}{2}$. For white sugar: October 21/9, November 20/9, December 20/1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Four centrals are still at work in Cuba.

The following figures show the official production and consumption of sugar in Germany during the past nine years:—

	Production tons.	Consumption tons.
1913-14	2,715,900	1,286,000
1914-15	2,510,100	1,523,700
1915-16	1,515,300	1,523,600
1916-17	1,557,900	1,198,200
1917-18	1,541,100	1,328,000
1918-19	1,327,700	1,138,800
1919-20	715,920	930,720
1920-21	1,100,000	—
1921-22	{ 1,400,000 to 1,500,000 }	estimated.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on September 17th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	42,743	55,921	41,766 TONS
Deliveries	34,991	40,542	31,542
Stock	16,146	23,515	13,416 "

RUM.—During the past week the deliveries have amounted to 731 puncheons—home consumption, 448 pun.; export, 283 pun. These figures appear to indicate that at last this market is reviving.

The stocks in London on September 17th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,676	11,686	7,809 PUNDS.
Demerara	17,603	14,591	14,403 "
Total of all kinds	39,636	36,143	27,354 "

CACAO generally is rather quiet, with a fair business in low qualities. Fine Trinidad sold today at 59/- to 61/-. Grenada quiet at 55/- to 58/-.

The stocks in London on September 17th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	24,592	52,573	36,485 BAGS.
Grenada	20,952	31,519	16,653 "
Total of all kinds	166,886	206,642	135,017 "

ARROWROOT. Only a small business is passing. Values are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is quiet, but firm. Good quality is valued at 3/7 to 3/8 per lb. spot; forward, 3/2 to 3/4.

BAY OIL. The value is tending lower than the last quotation of 14/- per lb. (holders)

COFFEE is rather quiet, and with the exception of selected sorts trading is of a retail character. Owing to exchange difficulties, export business is quiet.

At auction, a further consignment of Blue Mountain Jamaica in barrels was offered, and met with good competition. Prices paid ranged from 120/- for smalls to 210/6 for fine bold. Fair to good ordinary is worth 65/- to 69/-.

COPRA is quiet. West Indian f.m.s. is valued nominally at £33 c.i.f.

COTTON.—The market continues active, and quotations for most descriptions show a considerable advance. A fair business has been done in West Indian Sea Island, and quotations generally are raised 400 points at: medium 29d., fine 34d., and extra fine 41d.

HONEY continues to improve. At auction about 500 packages were offered, two-thirds of which sold at dearer rates for good amber and pale. Jamaica 30/- to 43/- for very dark to darkish amber; 50/- to 70/- for palish amber to pale liquid. Business was done to Hamburg at 35/- c.i.f. for sound Jamaica, irrespective of colour.

LOGWOOD is quiet and very little offering. St. Lucia is worth about £11 to £12 ex store.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is slow of sale, and unchanged at 19/- to 20/- nominal. There is no demand for Distilled. **Lime Juice.** Raw is not in demand, with sellers of good Jamaica at 2/6. Concentrated is slow of sale at £25 nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Spot sales of Sweet have been made at 14/- per lb., but Bitter is not required for.

RUBBER is fairly active. Spot crepe 63, spot sheet 83.

SPICES. In London there is still practically no demand for **Pimento** but small sales have been made in Liverpool at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The quotation for direct shipment to Hamburg has dropped to 22/- sellers. The market for Jamaica **Ginger** is firm, with first-hand supplies nearly exhausted. Good common to bold is quoted at 140/- to 160/- per cwt. **Nutmegs.** Sound nuts 6d. to 8d. per lb. according to size; wormy 5d. per lb. Red to pale **Mace** is quoted at 4d. to 11d. per lb., pickings 4d. to 5d. per lb.

TRINIDAD OIL. Production for August: Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., 11,800 tons. Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd., 13,490 tons (estimated). United British Oilfields of Trinidad, 1,291 tons.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following telegram has been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—Demerara (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), September 17th:—"Too dry Barbice; favourable elsewhere."

COPIES OF "CIRCULAR" No. 590. The Manager will gladly pay 6d. each for unsoiled copies returned to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.

The annual report of this company for the year ended June 30th shows a credit balance as the net result of the year's working of £14,601 as compared with £17,748 for the previous year. A dividend of 3 per cent. free of income tax, is recommended, making the total distribution for the year 6 per cent. This leaves £96,050 to be carried forward.

The West India Committee Circular

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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 8s per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEething LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
October 11th, 1921.

A Clear Case for Uniformity.

IN a recent issue we published the text of the Certificate of Origin recommended by the Imperial Customs Conference, which met earlier in the year, for adoption in connection with Preferential Tariffs throughout the Empire. Following many complaints which reached them from THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and other bodies in the United Kingdom, that the regulations set under the new Preferential Tariffs in several of the West Indian Colonies were very undesirable, even if practicable, the Colonial Office readily communicated with the various West Indian Governments, advocating the adoption of the form submitted by the Customs Conference. The main objection which traders lodged against the form lately brought into use in several of the West Indian Colonies was that the signature of manufacturers was required. It would be laying a great and unnecessary burden on the shoulders of exporters

from the United Kingdom if they were compelled to obtain the signature of every manufacturer contributing goods to consignments which they were sending out to the West Indies. Apart altogether from this, it was shown that the export merchants' business is a highly specialised one, which could only be learnt by years of experience, and that to disclose the names of the manufacturers by whom he was supplied with goods would be to disclose a valuable trade secret. In reply to this latter argument, it was suggested that exporters could send certificates confidentially direct to the Customs, instead of through the party to whom the goods were sold, but though one would not wish to suggest that the Customs Authorities in the West Indies are open to suspicion, it must be admitted that there would be a danger in comparatively small communities of such information leaking out, since it would necessarily have to be known by all through whose hands the documents passed. But apart altogether from this, the Certificate of Origin, when sent to the manufacturer for signature, would disclose to him the name of the consignee, and it would be open to the manufacturer to get into touch direct with the actual consignee of his goods, which would be detrimental to the merchants and upset the whole system on which overseas trade is at present so successfully conducted. We are glad to learn that the West Indian Colonies generally are showing their readiness, and even anxiety, to endeavour to facilitate (rather than to put impediments in the way of) trade with the mother country, and that they are adopting the form of Certificate of Origin recommended by the Imperial Customs Conference, and endorsed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which requires the names of manufacturers or suppliers. Trinidad and Tobago, the Leeward Islands, Grenada, St. Vincent, the Bahamas, and British Honduras, have already agreed to adopt the form of certificate recommended by the Imperial Customs Conference, those Colonies which have not already passed the necessary legislation or Orders-in-Council, in this connection having agreed to exercise discretion, which should insure the acceptance of certificates signed by shippers, while Jamaica has adopted the new certificate in respect of cotton piece goods, the only goods at present receiving preference in the Colony. There is, however, we regret to state, an exception to this consortium, since the Government of British Guiana is still holding out, and is insisting upon the signature of the manufacturer in the case of manufactured goods. We hope that the Colony will not long remain in its state of splendid isolation in this matter, but that in the interests of the development of Imperial trade it will adopt the

recommendations made by the Imperial Customs Conference, which was attended by expert representatives of every part of the Empire, including Mr. T. F. BURROWES, C.B.E., himself a citizen of British Guiana, where he was born, who specially watched over the interests of the Crown Colonies. It must be admitted that the certificate recommended by them for general adoption appears to the layman somewhat complicated, but that disadvantage is small compared with the great advantage resulting from the acceptance of the alternative given to users of it by submitting the signatures of manufacturers or suppliers, and we assume, of course, that the term "supplier" will be interpreted in its widest sense to include exporters and shippers. The Colonial Office will earn the thanks of the mercantile and trading community if it is successful—as we believe it will be—in securing uniformity throughout the West Indies in respect of this matter, which is one of pressing and paramount importance if trade between the Mother-country and the British West Indies is to be developed to the full extent.

The West Indian Club.

SO many London Clubs have found themselves in low water as a result of circumstances arising out of the war, some having, indeed, been compelled to close their doors, that residents in the West Indies should congratulate themselves upon the fact that their own social organisation of the kind, The West Indian Club, has survived. Founded in 1898, as the outcome of a suggestion made by that enthusiastic West Indian worker, Dr. G. B. MASON, this Club, which celebrated its majority in the year succeeding the termination of hostilities, is now advancing steadily towards the comfortable period of middle age. We can recall that the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, the first Chairman of The West Indian Club, used to say that if it could survive for ten years, it would become firmly established. His prophecy proved correct, for though its Committee have had an extremely difficult problem to face owing to the increase of rent and wages, they have, thanks to the loyal support given them by a majority of the members, been enabled to carry on successfully. It may be recalled that one of the aims which the founders had in view was to afford facilities for organising, in connection with the West Indies and British Guiana, cricket matches and other kindred amusements recognised by our English Universities and Public Schools. This declared object has been faithfully carried out, and we would remind our readers that the Club financed the first two representative Cricket Teams to visit this country, in 1900 and 1906. In co-operation with Mr. R. A. BENNETT, Mr. A. F. SOMERSET, and the M.C.C., they also assisted in the arrangements for the visits of several English teams to the West Indies. As recently announced, they gave a Challenge Cup for Inter-Colonial Shooting, the competitions for which, suspended during the war, are now to be resumed, while for West Indians who may happen to be in London, they hold an annual Billiard Competition, for a handsome Challenge Cup, presented

by the late SIR ALFRED JONES. Another phase of their activity is represented by their periodical dinners to distinguished visitors. On another page in the present issue we publish a report of one of these functions, which was presided over by the Hon. GIDEON MURRAY, M.P.—who, by the way, took the opportunity of contradicting a rumour that he was going to take up an official appointment in the West Indies the guest of the evening being SIR FRANCIS WATTS, who was greeted officially for the first time, as Principal of The West Indian Agricultural College. We hope that the résumé of SIR FRANCIS'S speech on this occasion, which we now publish, will be read throughout the West Indies, inasmuch as it sets out very clearly the objects and aims which the College has in view, and the difficulties which must be faced before the students can be formally admitted to that pioneer institution. SIR FRANCIS laid very great stress on the fact that the primary object was to provide agricultural education for West Indian youths, and for this reason especially, the movement should commend itself to the West Indian Colonies generally. He also stated as an interesting fact, that if the buildings were up, he could take with him to the West Indies, for which he leaves on October 22nd, at least ten or twelve students eager to complete their education with a sound knowledge of Tropical Agriculture. Though he will not be accompanied by students, SIR FRANCIS WATTS will have with him a *companion de voyage* in the person of PROFESSOR JOHN BRETLAND FARMER, F.R.S., a member of the Governing Body of the College, who, as stated in a recent CIRCULAR, is proceeding to Trinidad in search of a much needed rest, after a period of over-work. PROFESSOR FARMER is a very distinguished botanist and head of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. That he will receive a cordial welcome in Trinidad, goes without saying, and it will certainly be an immense advantage to the college that this learned scientist, who is a prominent member of the Governing Body, should have an opportunity of seeing for himself West Indian conditions. No doubt on his return, The West Indian Club will take the opportunity of extending the hand of hospitality to him also, and of learning his views regarding the Colonies whose welfare is their constant object. With MR. RUTHERFORD on the bridge and CAPTAIN F. F. C. MESSUM at the helm, The West Indian Club having now passed through the stormy seas of the war, has once again entered smooth water, and is making excellent progress.

A MEETING is to be held at the London School of Tropical Medicine, Endsleigh Gardens, on October 19th, at 5.15 p.m., at the instance of Dr. G. B. Mason, with the object of inaugurating a West Indian Health and Welfare Society. Sir George Le Hunte will preside, and Sir Edward Davson, Mr. Robert Rutherford, and Mr. G. Moody Stuart will be among the speakers. Each of the West Indian Colonies will be represented on the Committee which will then be appointed to draw up a scheme of action, Dr. G. C. Low, Senior Physician of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, acting, it is understood, as Chairman.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"MONKEY know which lim' he a cline 'pon."

MR. FRANCIS W. LEWIS has joined the Board of Messrs. A. Boake, Roberts & Co., Ltd., with which he has been associated for the past twenty five years.

THE subscriptions of members of The West India Committee elected during this or succeeding months of the present year will, when paid, not be renewable until January, 1923.

A FRESH interruption in the cable system of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company has to be recorded. On October 5th it was announced that the Grenada-Trinidad cable had given out.

THE first large shipment of Jamaica oranges reached Liverpool last week by Elders and Fyffes steamer. It comprised 12,000 cases, and arrived in splendid order. During the autumn and winter regular shipments are expected to arrive.

MR. FRANK STELL, who went out to British Guiana last year, has been appointed mycologist to the Trinidad Department of Agriculture. Like Mr. W. Nowell, with whom he will be associated, he comes from Hebden Bridge, in Yorkshire.

THE steamer *Steel Ranger*, of the Isthmian Line, passed through the Panama Canal on September 4th with a 7,600 tons cargo of canned pineapples, from Honolulu for American ports. The British West Indian pineapple industry should be revived.

SIR GEORGE FOSTER, who has been appointed to the Senate of Canada, has been succeeded at the Ministry of Trade and Commerce by Mr. H. H. Stevens in Mr. Arthur Meighen's reconstructed Cabinet. The Canadian Prime Minister has himself taken the portfolio of external affairs.

MR. W. H. BUSHELL, who was for twenty-one years with Messrs. Joseph Travers & Sons, Ltd., has established a business as produce merchants, under the name of Messrs. Bushell Bros., Ltd., at 15, Philpot Lane, E.C.3. The firm will specialise in canned goods, cereals, coffee, dried fruits, spices, etc.

MR. EUAN W. LUCIE-SMITH, M.C., whose engagement to Miss Joyce d'E. Wheeler, of Worthing, is announced, is the second son of Sir Alfred Lucie-Smith, Chief Justice of Trinidad. Mr. Euan Lucie-Smith, who now holds a Commission in the Palestine Police, served during the War as a captain in the Royal Field Artillery.

LIEUTENANT GEOFFREY SOUCHON, 17th Lancers, who met his death during the firing which, in spite of the "truce," broke out in Galway on the night of September 3rd, was the third son of Mr. Louis

Souchon, who has been for many years a member of The West India Committee. Much sympathy will be felt for the parents of this gallant officer.

A FLYING squadron of prohibition agents has been despatched from Washington to New York, with the object of attacking the international rum traffic. Supporting the flying squadron, says the *Troy N.Y. Evening Record*, of August 31st, will be Customs officials and the United States coast-guard service, which has men and cutters scattered all along the coast.

IT is announced by the Board of Trade (Licensing Section) that as from September 8th, 1921, an open general licence has been issued permitting the export of sulphate of ammonia and of compound manures having sulphate of ammonia as the only export-prohibited constituent. Applications only, therefore, no longer be submitted to the Imports and Exports Licensing Section in respect of these commodities.

IN the auditing of some parish accounts in the Bahamas, it transpired that the reason a school-mistress did not herself sign the receipt for her salary was because "she could neither read nor write." The explanation of her activities was that she taught cleanliness. There is something reminiscent here of the method of instruction at Dickens' Dotheboys' Hall, where Wackford Squeers used to say, "C-L-E-A-N, clean . . . W-I-N, win, D-E-R, der, winder. When the boy knows this out of the book, he goes and does it."

MR. LONGFIELD SMITH has resigned from the position of Agronomist in charge of the United States Experimental Station in St. Croix, which he held for ten years, and has settled with his wife in Florida, where he recently purchased the citrus grove at Dunedin, Florida. Before he went to St. Croix, Mr. Longfield Smith was attached to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and his botanical knowledge and experience should serve him in good stead in his new venture.

MR. C. FRED WORTERS, who retired on September 30th from the firm of C. Czarnikow, Ltd., with which he had been associated for nearly forty years, will carry with him in his retirement the good wishes of many friends. During the war Mr. Worters was Chairman of the Committee of West Indian Brokers, a position which he filled with unflinching tact. Mr. Worters possessed a fund of information about sugar, and his kindly presence will be greatly missed in "the Lane."

THE *Trinidad Guardian* of August 19th states that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has directed that all the banks which have not already received permission to issue notes in this Colony be warned that they must not expect to receive the right to issue notes merely because the existing banks possess that privilege; that each case will be considered on its merits, and that any bank which may open in anticipation of receiving the privilege must be

prepared for a refusal, and should first therefore ascertain whether the right will be granted, if importance is attached to the privilege.

* * *

THE report of the expert who visited Jamaica to report on the possibility of the establishment of a Government cement factory is of academic interest only inasmuch as the proposals in this connection are understood to have been "turned down." It may be mentioned, however, that the site suggested for the factory lay to the west of Kingston at Port Henderson. The main ingredients of cement—clay and limestone—exist there in large quantities, but for a 30,000 ton output (which, incidentally, could not be absorbed in the island) would require 12,500 tons of coal, or 7,500 tons of fuel oil, and the outlay, including working capital, would be £210,000.

LIEUT.-COL. M. D. HARREL, Inspector-General of Police in Barbados, in his annual report lays great stress on the need for a larger staff of officers for the force under his command. He attributes the difficulty experienced in finding suitable candidates for the local police to the inducements held out to young men to emigrate to Cuba and the United States. During 1920 there were 11,517 prosecutions for various forms of crime, as against 10,573 in 1919, but the figure for last year is swollen by the increase of praedial larceny cases from 999 to 1,361. Two men have been trained as instructors in "Jiu-jitsu," and nearly all the N.C.O.'s now know a few simple holds.

* * *

"CUPID'S KISSES" is the title of a valse composed by Mrs. Woolward, the wife of Mr. F. Woolward, who recently retired from the position of Manager of the Colonial Bank in Dominica. The composer, before her marriage, was Miss Gertrude Helen Shankland. Her father was Manager of the Barbice branch of the Bank, and her brother, Mr. W. C. Shankland, is now Manager of the Government Loan Banks of British Guiana. Our musical expert reports very favourably on the valse, which is published by A. Weekes & Co., 14, Hanover Square, where it can be obtained for the modest price of 2/6 per copy. Mr. and Mrs. Woolward are now en route for the West Indies.

* * *

A VALUED correspondent suggests that the high rates charged by the fire insurance companies operating in the West Indies should be countered by the establishment of mutual insurance companies. He writes: "There are at present nearly 2,000 farmers' mutual fire insurance companies in the United States, with outstanding risks aggregating \$6,000,000,000. This enormous volume is carried at an average cost, for the country as a whole, of only 25 cents for \$100 per year, and, in individual cases, companies of this kind have furnished high-class protection to their members for half a century or more at a cost of less than 10 cents per \$100 per year. This result has been achieved, in part, by the elimination of unnecessary expenses of operation, of the so-called 'moral hazard,' and of physical hazards involved in farm risks."

MR. A. BEEBY THOMPSON, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., has returned from Barbados, Trinidad, and Demerara, where he has spent three months on the oilfields and in conferring with the Government of British Guiana regarding the water supply of that Colony. His scheme for providing Georgetown with pure water is being adopted, and the question of a sewerage system, which was dealt with by Mr. Howard Humphreys, M.I.C.E., is also to be dealt with. Mr. Beeby Thompson speaks with enthusiasm of the prospects of the Barbados Oilfield, where drilling is being actively conducted in eight different sections of the island simultaneously. Meanwhile, in all wells good indications of oil have already manifested themselves.

* * *

AT the recent Rubber Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, the exhibits from the Portuguese island of St. Thomé occupied 1,000 square feet, and were very attractive, including as they did cacao, coffee, coco-nuts, copra, barks for dyeing and medicinal purposes, kola nuts, quinine, cotton of the highest quality, kapok, fibre, oil seeds, vanilla beans, and valuable hard wood. Although rubber is not one of St. Thomé's agricultural industries, the opportunity for ventilating its agricultural possibilities afforded by this Exhibition, and by doing so stimulating its agricultural industries, was not lost by the island. This affords a striking contrast to the attitude of the West Indies in connection with the Exhibition. The area of the British West Indies is 12,228 square miles; of British Guiana, 89,480 square miles; of British Honduras, 8,598 square miles. The area of St. Thomé is 520 square miles only, and yet that comparatively small island thought it worth its while to make a substantial exhibition in a foreign country which, in its Customs tariff, legislates against its product, cacao.

* * *

THE total acreage under cinchona in Bengal is 3,286 acres, of which 2,340 are under six years of age. The approximate total number of trees is 5,400,000. The total harvest was 501,018 lbs. of dry bark. The *Indian Trade Journal* reports that the plantations are still suffering from the effects of the war drain, but the results are not quite so bad as superficially they seem to be. In 1918, when things were at their worst, it was seen that the uprooting of immature trees for the sake of an immediate harvest could not go beyond a certain limit. At the same time, in view of the probability of the world's supply of cinchona bark—except for the comparatively trivial amount of Indian-grown bark and the small produce of British estates in Java—being controlled by a few Dutch firms, it was most desirable that some means should be found of allowing a reasonable amount of bark to be harvested while yet giving the plantations a chance ultimately to yield an approximately full quantum.

SWEET POTATO ROLLS.—Rub into three pints of flour, two tablespoonfuls of butter, two tablespoonfuls of lard and one gill of yeast. When light, rub in a large boiled sweet potato while hot. Work out the rolls lightly and bake for about one hour.—MISS SKINNER.

THE WEST INDIAN CLUB.

Sir Francis Watts Entertained.

The West Indian Club entertained Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture for the West Indies, and Principal of the West Indian Agricultural College, at a dinner on October 5th. The Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., who presided, proposing the toast of the guest on this occasion, remarked that he had known Sir Francis, officially and personally, for ten years, and that his work in the West Indies had always been influenced for the good of those Colonies. As head of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, Sir Francis Watts's work had all the time been of direct value to the Windward and Leeward Isles, whilst, both directly and indirectly, he had been of great assistance to the larger Colonies of Trinidad, Jamaica, and British Guiana. The Imperial Department had been a focussing department in the West Indies for co-ordinating agricultural data and information, and often in providing technical assistance. Agriculture was the mainstay of the West Indies. Trinidad had oil and asphalt, there were other minerals in British Guiana, and, in a limited number of parts, coal produced a certain revenue. But in the long run all these places must stand or fall by their agriculture, and by the way this was fostered and looked after. Consequently, the latest movement to create a West Indian Agricultural College was of wonderful importance to the West Indies, and the fact that Sir Francis Watts was to be associated with it in the capacity of its first Principal should be an index of its success. For it was chiefly due to Sir Francis's initiative, enterprise, and courage that the College had materialised at all. That the Prince of Wales should be taking such an interest in the promotion of this College was also another proof of its value, emphasising as it did its Imperial aspect.

Sir Francis Watts, responding, recalled the fact that twelve years ago he had been the guest of the Club on the occasion of his succeeding Sir Daniel Morris as Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, and he hoped that since that time much useful work had been done. In the immediate future the Imperial Department would work in affiliation with the newly constituted West Indian Agricultural College. It was hoped and expected that this would prove of mutual benefit, in that it would expand the scope of the work and afford better facilities for carrying it on, especially on the side of research. Until recently, much of the scientific work of the Department had been concerned with the study and control of the pests and diseases of crops, so that his chief scientific officers had been entomologists and mycologists, and he referred to the good work done by such men as Lefroy, Ballou, and Nowell in this capacity. Until recently there had been no chemist and no botanist on the staff, but Mr. F. Hardy had recently been appointed chemist, and Mr. T. G. Mason botanist. At present the laboratory equipment was meagre, and it was expected that when transferred to the College, as Professors, the scientific staff, in addition to teaching, would be able to expand scientific investigation with ad-

vantage. The Agricultural College was now constituted after many years of patient and persistent work. As far back as 1912, or perhaps earlier, Mr. Gideon Murray had helped him by discussion and advice regarding schemes for agricultural education, and later Mr. G. Moody Stuart took up the campaign, and had aroused interest and enthusiasm, which had culminated in the establishment of the College as it was to-day. The College was duly constituted, the Governing Body was appointed, but the classrooms and laboratories had still to be built and the course of instruction to be mapped out. This instruction would take many forms. In the first place, it would be provided for the youths from the West Indian schools with a view to giving them a better insight into agricultural work and practice. Then there would also be a higher form of instruction on similar lines, framed to meet the needs of those who could afford to give longer time to study; to giving more extended training of an advanced character. It was expected that the College would be resorted to by many students who had received their general education elsewhere, but who desire to obtain special instruction in matters pertaining to tropical agriculture. There was very great need for an institution capable of giving this instruction in connection with the growing of tropical crops and the understanding of pests and diseases to which such crops were liable. Training of this kind should be particularly valuable in connection with the education of men for the Government Agricultural Services, and for large estates. Government Agricultural Departments were now part of the recognised official establishments, but there were few places where men could receive proper training in tropical subjects before being sent out to take up appointments in the tropics. In the West Indies, Agricultural Departments had been established in recent years, one of the pioneer workers in this field being Sir John B. Harrison, whose work in the West Indies began some years before his (the speaker's), and from whom he received much valuable help and judicious advice. Mainly through the generosity of the leading British makers of sugar machinery, it was hoped to establish a first-class model sugar factory for the purpose of giving instruction in sugar technology. This would form a special feature of the College, and should be of real value in its work. In its present stage of development, the College, like an infant, was only capable of producing noise and demands for sustenance, but if its cries were listened to and that sustenance duly provided, there was every reason for believing that it would grow into a vigorous youth, capable of repaying all the care and attention devoted to it.

The company present included: Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., Mr. H. B. G. Austin, Mr. Claude T. Berthon, Mr. E. H. Cunningham Craig, Sir Edward Davson, Hon. Alex. Fraser, Captain G. Hudson Lyall, M.R.E., Mr. C. C. Manton, Mr. Howard Marsh, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Dr. G. B. Mason, Captain F. F. C. Messum (Hon. Secretary), Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. G. Parrott, Mr. H. F. Previté, General Rice, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. D. Grafton Simpson, Mr. L. J. Stone, Mr. A. Moody Stuart, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. W. A. S. Vickers, and Major Claud Wallace.

CUBA'S SUGAR PROBLEM.

A Plea for Restriction of Output.

The desirability of artificially restricting Cuba's next sugar crop is being seriously canvassed. Our contemporary, *Facts About Sugar*, in its issue of September 3rd, dealing with the island's sugar problem, points out that the difficulty that now confronts Cuba in finding an outlet for the balance of her 1920-21 sugar crop and the probability that a substantial portion of it will have to be carried over into 1922 is a direct heritage of the sugar buyers' stampede of last year. The magnet of high prices drew to the United States market almost a million tons of outside sugars that were not needed there but could have been used in the various quarters of the world from which they were drawn.

The flooding of the market with this great over-supply displaced a million tons of domestic and Cuban production that had to be carried over into the current year. The presence in the market of this quantity of sugar that should have been consumed last year has in turn held back consumption of the crops produced during the past season. Under normal conditions the overstocking of the market last year would have been relieved by heavier sales to European and other markets this year, but this has not been possible because of the fact that some of the countries most in need of sugar are unable to find means of paying for it.

After setting out the circumstances which have led to the present glut of sugar, our contemporary proceeds: The argument advanced in favour of crop restriction is that a reduced output would command a moderately remunerative price, and would yield a larger net return than could be obtained from a heavy crop which would have to be sold at or below the cost of production. It is possible, of course, that lack of credits and other financial difficulties may operate to restrict production to 3,000,000 or 3,250,000 tons, without any concerted or official action.

The practical difficulty with any programme for restricting production is in devising a plan which will insure equal treatment to all producers and that will command observance by all. Various proposals have been put forward, but have attracted little support because they failed to meet one or both of these two requirements. Limitation by voluntary agreement has been shown as the result of many attempts to be unworkable. If the size of the crop or the length of the grinding season is to be restricted it appears that it must be brought about by action on the part of the Government. The latest plan is to defer the opening of the grinding season until January 15th or February 1st, and to prohibit new crop shipments until February 15th or March 1st. It is suggested that such a law could be enforced by placing a prohibitive tax on sugar produced before a certain date. Supporters of the plan assert that it would have the effect of limiting the grinding season to the period when the cane gives the best yield and that, while reducing the total output, it would make it possible for the smaller crop to be produced at a lower relative cost.

The suggestion for the limitation of Cuba's sugar production contemplates, of course, only a temporary restriction that probably would not extend beyond the coming season. If adopted, it would be as an expedient to permit the absorption of accumulated stocks and to lead to the restoration of a more nearly normal relationship between supply and demand, disrupted by events attending and succeeding the period of war.

Another argument advanced in favour of postponing the commencement of the grinding campaign and the shipment of new crop sugar to a later date than usual is that it will afford opportunity to find a market for a larger quantity of old crop sugar before new crop production comes into competition with it.

INDIA'S SUGAR PRODUCTION.

Her Appetite for Imported Sugar.

Mr. Wynne Sayer, Secretary of the Sugar Bureau at Pusa, reviewing the sugar trade of India, states that it is clear that India has a capacity for consumption of 748,544 tons of foreign sugar. And she is perfectly capable of finding the money to meet her additional sugar purchases from abroad. As the prices of sugar began to fall in September, 1920, a distinct tendency to import more became evident, despite the extra duty imposed, which leads one to infer the somewhat curious fact that 15 crores of rupees (say £11,250,000) represents about the amount India is prepared to put into purchases of foreign sugar and the lower the price the higher the tonnage.

As India's production of refined sugar is at present only 177,569 tons, it is obvious that there is ample scope for many years for the number of factories in India. The prospect before the Indian sugar industry is very hopeful as it can choose the most favourable parts of the country for supply for many years to come, and with the increased duty on foreign sugar, coupled with heavier freight and handling charges, it would be well if capitalists devoted their time and attention more and more to developing the industry on a sound and scientific basis. There is ample scope, and the rise in the cost of production throughout the world both of raw material and of the finished product has told heavily in India's favour, as all commodities which have to seek a distant market are taken toll of by conditions which a producer working in a home market never experiences.

Meanwhile, as has already been stated in the CIRCULAR, India's taste is mainly for "gur," a raw, uncrystallised sugar, the production of which in the last seven years was as follows:

	Tons.
1913-14	2,052,000
1914-15	2,182,000
1915-16	2,342,000
1916-17	2,453,000
1917-18	3,049,000
1918-19	2,200,000
1919-20	2,651,000

The increasing consumption of sugar in India is an encouraging sign.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Its Architect's Work in Jamaica.

Major H. C. Corlette, O.B.E., F.R.I.B.A., who, as stated in last CIRCULAR, has been appointed architect for The West Indian Agricultural College, has had much tropical experience, having designed, with Sir Charles Nicholson, the Law Courts, General Post Office and Treasury Buildings in Kingston, and King's House in Jamaica, which was erected after the earthquake of 1907, besides having advised the Government of that Colony regarding the laying out of streets and squares in the capital. He has also executed work at New College, Oxford, Clifton College, Winchester College, besides various buildings in domestic architecture.

Born in New South Wales, he has identified himself with the Colonies as a member of the British Colonial Society of Artists, and a Major in 1st King Edward's Horse, afterwards the King's Overseas Dominions Regiment (Special Reserve Cavalry). During the war he was attached to the

THE ROADS OF TRINIDAD.

Havoc caused by Lorry Traffic.

In his Report for the year 1920, Mr. A. G. Bell, Director of Public Works in Trinidad and Tobago, replies to critics who have animadverted on the state of the roads in outlying districts.

"It must be remembered," he says, "that primarily Trinidad is an agricultural country. The whole road policy of the Colony has been based on the principle that the main need is the quick construction of light roads aimed to open up new lands and carry the light traffic their cultivation creates, and it is impossible with the wave of a wand to turn these roads into highways capable of carrying heavy industrial traffic; nor is there the labour or material available to make them so under a number of years, and only then if lorry and char-a-banc owners will recognise that they must compel their drivers to go at very low speed. The position is incapable of misapprehension. The resources at



King's House, Jamaica.

This handsome building was designed by Major H. C. Corlette, who has been appointed architect for The West Indian Agricultural College in Trinidad.

Royal Field Artillery, and was latterly employed on Staff duties. A specimen of his work in Jamaica is shown on this page. It depicts the King's House, the residence of the Governor, which is situated about four miles from Kingston on the Liguanea Plain in St. Andrews.

In designing this house, Sir Charles Nicholson and Major Corlette had constantly before them the importance of making the new buildings capable of resisting earthquake shocks and fire. With this object in view, they recommended the adoption of reinforced concrete as the building material. As a further precaution, King's House was erected on a raft composed of strong slabs and beams uniting the various footings of the walls and pillars in such a manner that the entire work may now be regarded as practically monolithic. No such elaborate precautions will be necessary in Trinidad, though no doubt the possibility of earthquakes will not be lost sight of.

our disposal in material, transport, labour and supervision are entirely inadequate for more than the maintenance of existing highways for slow-moving traffic if we are to carry out also the large programme of development which the general interests of the Colony are calling for. If, therefore, any industries or transport services impose on part of the road system more than the roads are capable of carrying, there are only two alternatives—either we must restrict their traffic or they must accept specific responsibility for the supply of what is required beyond what the general interests of the Colony justify being devoted to this part of the Colony's road system. Many Companies recognise this and are in no way niggard in accepting responsibility, and I only refer to this factor in the problem of road maintenance so that all, and the number of those interested increased extraordinarily in 1920, may know what the position is."

THE CROWN COLONIES.

Mr. Churchill urges their Development

Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, speaking at a dinner of the Gold Coast Civil Service Club, on September 27th, asked why it was we had let so many years pass by, decade after decade, leaving neglected, or only very tentatively developing, those great possessions which with great foresight and wisdom had been placed under the aegis of the British Crown? After all these years, he continued, I am shocked to see in how small a way the British Parliament has played the game in developing its great tropical States. In all these years they could have been earning large sums in increasing revenues and general augmentation of the assets which the nation possesses, but years have passed and you see the same things now being considered, and now costing double and trouble as much. Now we see a new situation has been created. Many of our old customers have disappeared. We have killed a lot of them, and others we have put in the bankruptcy court, and owing to this inconvenience they are unable to renew their monthly or yearly orders with regularity and abundance which we had a right to expect. Why do not we look in the great circle of the British Empire? Here are assets in which you could sink £200,000,000 in the next 10 years with the certainty of getting back every penny you invested.

When I see plans being discussed by local authorities for building roads about which they have some doubt, and for developing this or that public work which they do not feel any enthusiasm for, I wonder whether something might not be done to relieve the present lack of enterprise, lack of initiative, in the business and industrial world by putting out orders for locomotives and rails and all the apparatus which is needed to get these great fertile countries with active populations and immense natural resources on a scientific basis. At any rate, it seems to me that the development of our Crown Colonies is one of the factors which ought to be used in solving the temporary collapse and breakdown of the markets and purchasers. (Cheers.)

Commenting on Mr. Churchill's speech in a letter to *The Times*, the Hon. Gideon Murray, M.P., complains of the inadequate time devoted to the discussion of Colonial affairs in the House of Commons, only two days being allotted last Session for this purpose, and of those two days one and a half were given up to questions concerning Mesopotamia, a mandated territory.

"This left only a few hours" (he continues) "in which to deal with any matters connected with the large number of Crown Colonies and Protectorates, including the vexed problem of Rhodesia, which is neither one nor the other. If Mr. Churchill will use his powerful influence to obtain more time in Parliament for the discussion of Colonial affairs, then Parliament will have an opportunity to rid itself of the slur which now rests upon it. But if, in the future as in the past, one or at the most two days a year are to be devoted to discussing the affairs of our

Crown Colonies and Protectorates, with their huge potential undeveloped resources, large populations, and many and diverse problems, I cannot see how Parliament is even to take any appreciable part in their development or even to acquire a reputation for considered responsibility towards them.

"Whilst blaming Parliament for her lack of foresight and enterprise and doing, as I trust he will, all he can to remedy this, Mr. Churchill will doubtless not forget that the Colonial Office likewise cannot evade its share of responsibility for the policy which has left the Colonies insufficiently developed. I wonder, for instance, if he remembers a dispatch that quite recently went out in his name to the West Indies in which he laid it down as a policy that he does not favour loans for the smaller Crown Colonies. I wonder, further, how this policy is reconcilable with his expressed desire, which is shared by many of his countrymen and countrywomen, to witness a more rapid development of those Colonies, which can obviously only be procured by the greater outlay of capital. Caution must admittedly be observed in dealing with the finances of these small Colonies, but there is such a thing as over-caution, and this in the case of partially developed places usually spells stagnation.

"One ventures therefore to hope, from Mr. Churchill's utterances last night, and on other occasions since he has assumed the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies, that so soon as he is firmly seated in the saddle, under his vigorous guidance not only Parliament but the Colonial Office will more amply fulfil their obligations to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates."

ENGLAND-HALIFAX IN FOUR DAYS.

A scheme for linking up the Dominions with the Mother Country by means of an accelerated and State controlled mail and passenger service has been submitted to the Imperial Shipping Committee by Mr. R. J. Turner, principal of the firm of Turner, Davidson and Co., the London representatives of the Commonwealth Government Line of Steamers. He contemplates a fleet of eight fast steamers, with a ninth in reserve, with high-powered turbine engines, burning oil fuel, and steaming from 25 to 26 knots. Of a gross capacity of 50,000 tons, 900 feet in length, and 34 feet draught, they would be the largest vessels afloat, and have accommodation for 600 first and 3,000 second class passengers. With such boats it would be possible to establish the following accelerated services between England and Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa respectively. The Canadian service would be between Liverpool and Halifax, the distance being covered in four days as against seven at present.

It being improbable that shipping companies could afford to undertake these services, which would involve the expenditure of £27,000,000 in construction alone, Mr. Turner suggests that the necessary funds might be supplied by the Imperial Government as a loan to the four Dominion Governments named, at 2½ per cent. interest, plus 1 per cent. sinking fund.

Action regarding these interesting proposals has been deferred pending the receipt of representations from the Governments concerned.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

British Shipping and the Waterway

In the statistics of the Panama Canal, shipping under the British Flag takes second place immediately after that of the United States. In the fiscal year 1921 approximately one-third of the whole traffic was British, figured either by the number of vessels, net tons Panama Canal measurement, or tons of cargo. To be accurate, 33 per cent. of all vessels passing through the Canal were British, 34 per cent. of the total net tonnage was British, and 32 per cent. of all the cargo handled was carried in British bottoms. Approximately the same percentages apply for 1918, 1919 and 1920. During the first three years of Canal traffic, i.e., 1915, 1916 and 1917, British shipping represented from 41 to 45 per cent. of the total. The relative decline is explained, says the *Canal Record*, by the rapid development of American shipping during and after the war in Europe. The following table shows the number of British vessels passing through the Canal in either direction during the fiscal year since the opening of navigation and the relative importance of British shipping in the total traffic.

BRITISH SHIPPING BY FISCAL YEARS 1915 TO 1921.

Year	Atlantic to Pacific	Pacific to Atlantic	Total British	Total all flags	Percentage British
1915	226	239	465	1,088	42
1916	193	165	358	787	45
1917	371	409	780	1,876	41
1918	303	396	699	2,130	33
1919	306	296	602	2,025	30
1920	393	380	773	2,478	30
1921	500	472	972	2,892	33
Totals	2,292	2,337	4,629	13,276	34

The development of the traffic in the early years was retarded by slides in the Gaillard or Culebra Cut. The war at first impeded traffic, and then stimulated it along certain routes. This latter effect is apparent in the figures for 1918, which represent a temporary peak. During the last three years there has been a gradual increase in the number and aggregate tonnage of all vessels using the Canal, and a corresponding increase in tonnage under the British flag, which has maintained its relative position. Approximately the same number of British vessels pass the Canal in either direction; but this applies to the aggregate trade only. Over specific trade routes, as shown in the following table, there is often a marked preponderance of traffic in one direction, but since the difference is sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other the total approach a balance.

In view especially of the fact that the minimum subscription to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE still remains at the pre-war rate, namely, £1 is., it is hoped that every member will contribute towards the Endowment Fund. Contributions may be paid in at any branch of the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, or the Canadian Bank of Commerce, or forwarded direct to the Hon. Treasurers, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. 3, and every amount will be acknowledged in the CIRCULAR.

COCOA CO-OPERATORS.

Trinidad "C.P.A.'s" Results.

The Report of the Cocoa Planters' Association of Trinidad, which was adopted at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the members on August 24th, states that owing to "the greatest trade slump ever experienced," cocoa taken over on valuation at June 30th, 1920, realised \$10,428.12 less than estimate, or 7 per cent. of the total valuation of \$144,890.10. The deficiency thus made will form a charge of 16½ cents per fanega (110 lbs.) on 7,047,090 lbs. of cocoa handled during the twelve months under review. The expenses of working the Association absorb a further 11 cents per fanega, leaving a net return to members on the year's working of \$10.00.44 per fanega, with no unsold stock at June 30th, 1921.

The Directors regard the price realised an excellent one. They add, "It only goes to show the efficiency of the 'C.P.A.' as a selling organisation, and proves to the planter that there is wisdom in entrusting the sale of his cocoa to us." The crops handled by the Association in bags of 165 lbs. each in each of the last five years ended June 30th, were 42,710, 39,180, 39,071, 25,227 and 26,557.

The registered membership of the "C.P.A." on July 1st last was 131 estates, with crops approximately 42,250 bags.

The cocoa was disposed of in the following manner:—

Sold in	Number of Bags	Weight (165 lbs. each)
New York	25,616	
Hamburg	5,654	
Trinidad	4,777	
London	3,700	
Havre	2,267	
Rotterdam	242	
Amsterdam	242	
Bremen	182	
Total	42,710	

The Report is signed by Mr. A. Cory Davies, Chairman, and Mr. Joseph D'Abadie, Director.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts for the half-year ended June 30th show a net profit of £75,600 for the six months (as compared with £67,437 and £126,578 for the same periods in 1919 and 1920 respectively), making with the balance brought forward from the preceding half year a total of £114,615. After carrying £10,000 to the Staff Pensions Fund, and providing £30,000 for bad and doubtful debts, the Directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent., less income tax, being at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year. After deduction of dividend (absorbing £45,000), a balance of £29,615 is left to be carried forward, as compared with £31,312 in 1919, and £36,578 last year.

In their report the Directors announce the resignation of Mr. A. J. McConnell from the court on his retirement from business. They state also that a branch of the bank has been opened at Bekwai (Gold Coast), and that premises have been secured in Hamburg, where it is intended to open a branch very shortly.

GUIANA'S SEA DEFENCE.

Mr. Gerald Case's Proposals.

In a paper read before the Society of Engineers on October 3rd, Mr. Gerald O. Case, Consulting Engineer to the Government of British Guiana, reviewed the history of the reclamation work carried out in that Colony. The Dutch, he said, owing to their experience of the fertility of reclaimed land in Holland, quickly recognised the possibility of reclaiming and cultivating the immense area of marsh and tidal forests which they found on their arrival in Guiana. The reclamation of the coastlands was commenced by the Dutch about the year 1750, and afterwards continued under British rule. "If," said the lecturer, "the coastlands had been left in their natural condition it was probable that the rate of erosion, due to the gradual inland movement of the shell barrier, would have been small. The empoldering of the land, however, and man's interference with the natural drainage condition, caused erosion to take place, and as a result the landowners in the Colony for many years past had been continually fighting the sea in order to prevent erosion and the flooding of the land originally won from the sea."

In 1883 the Director of Public Works was empowered to make regulations for protecting the foreshore, to supervise all coast protection work, and, with the assent of the Government, to compel the execution of works necessary for preventing erosion. In 1906 a body of Sea Defence Commissions were formed, with the Director of Public Works as chairman, and all sea defences on the East Coast were vested in the Commissioners, who were given power to levy assessment to pay for work done. In 1913 the Ordinance was amended, and all sea defences were vested in the Director of Public Works, and it was provided that the Public Works Department should execute all works, and that one-fourth of the cost should be defrayed by the Government, and the remaining three-fourths by the villagers and proprietors of estates. Erosion of the foreshore, however, steadily continued, and consequently the difficulties and cost of protecting the sea dams steadily increased. An idea of the enormous amount of money spent in attempts to combat erosion may be gained from the fact that in 1915 the annual maintenance expenditure was \$276,381. In the spring of 1916 it was agreed, as a result of a Commission's report, that expert advice should be obtained on the best means of permanently defending the foreshore against erosion by the sea, and the author was engaged by the Government to make a report and prepare a comprehensive scheme of protection works.

Proceeding to deal with the methods by which the reclamation of large areas of tidal marsh and forest lands was originally accomplished, Mr. Case said earth dams were built a short distance behind the seaward edge of the marsh or tidal forest. Dams were also constructed at right angles to the sea dam up to the high land behind, or to an inner dam parallel to the sea dam. Sluices were constructed in the sea dam to discharge the drainage water at low tide.

After carefully considering the formation of the coast land, the changes in the outline of the coast which had taken place, the forces causing the movement of the foreshore materials, the causes of erosion and of littoral drift, and the available supply of

material for building up the shore, Mr. Case advised the Government to do the following work: (1) Where possible to straighten the line of protecting dams by abandoning the existing outer protecting dams and building new dams further inland. (2) Build a reinforced concrete sea wall in place of an earth dam on the most exposed part of the coast. (3) Where the earth dams were liable to be attacked by wave action, to face them with reinforced concrete. (4) Construct new reinforced concrete drainage sluices in line with sea wall or concrete-faced earth dam. (5) Construct training walls or groynes on each side of the drainage outlet to guide the water direct out to sea. (6) Construct a system of low groynes in front of all exposed sea walls or dams to build up the foreshore. (7) Remove all existing structures, such as wave-screens, high groynes and vertical sheet piling, which were causing erosion. (8) Encourage the growth of suitable vegetation in front of the dams. (9) Prohibit the removal of shell from the front of the sea dam; and (10) Prohibit the destruction of any useful vegetation. The recommendations made were for the protection of over fifty miles of the coastline, and the estimated cost was \$4,476,558. The works were commenced in 1916 and are now nearly completed.

In this connection it may be noted that a Bill to provide for the maintenance and construction of the Colony's sea defences has been recently introduced into the Court of Policy. This measure is meeting with considerable opposition, several of its clauses being of a confiscatory nature. Indeed, in the opinion of some proprietors it constitutes an attack on the Colony's system of freehold tenure. By section 17 it is proposed to enact that the land in any District from fifty feet backwards from the centre line of the top of any dam or the coping of any wall of any existing sea defence (which, as elsewhere defined, includes any dam, wall, bank, sluice, flood-gate, koker, culvert, groyne intended as a defence against tidal waters, together with the sea- or river- or canal-bed whereon any sea defence is constructed) shall be deemed to be Crown land, whilst section 21 denies all right of compensation in respect of such compulsory transfer to the Crown.

SIR GEORGE McLAREN BROWN, European General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, asked by the CIRCULAR for information regarding a statement cabled from Jamaica to the effect that representatives of the C.P.R. were investigating the possibilities of opening a steamship line between Jamaica and Canada, stated that he had no advice of such a mission having proceeded to the West Indies. He added that the cablegram probably had reference to a proposed pleasure cruise to the Caribbean by a C.P.R. steamer. The White Star Line is arranging a series of three cruises from New York to the West Indies, Panama Canal, and South America during the coming winter by s.s. *Megantic*, which carried many tourists on this trip at the beginning of this year. Sailings will be on January 17th, February 16th, and March 18th, and the places visited will include Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama Canal, Venezuela, Trinidad, Barbados, Martinique, the Virgin Islands, and Porto Rico. The actual itinerary, including dates, will be published in an early issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

OBITUARY.

MR. LUKE M. HILL.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Mr. Luke Mullock Hill, B.E., M.Inst.C.E., died at his residence, 6, Imperial Square, Cheltenham, on September 25th.

Mr. Luke M. Hill, who at the time of his death was seventy-one years of age, filled the position of Municipal Engineer and Town Superintendent of Georgetown for no fewer than 32 years, until he retired in 1910. Born in Ireland in 1849, he was the son of Thomas G. Hill, of Tarbert, co. Kerry. He was educated in Limerick and at the Queen's University in Belfast, where he took his B.E. degree. His first business appointment was with Messrs. Ewing & Co., of Glasgow, and in 1870 he went out to British Guiana. There he worked for Messrs. Sandbach Tinne & Co., until he was appointed Town Superintendent. On leaving the Colony in that year he was presented with an illuminated address and a service of plate by the citizens of Georgetown, as a mark of esteem and in appreciation of his faithful and arduous services. After his retirement he still gave his services ungrudgingly to the Colony, advising the municipal authorities regarding water and sewerage schemes, and assisting them by selecting officials and otherwise. He was married in 1877 to the daughter of Captain Thomas E. Plant, of the *Fairlie* and other well-known ships of Messrs. Sandbach Tinne & Co.'s old West Indian fleet. His wife was an earnest churchworker in Georgetown, and Mr. Luke Hill never really recovered from the shock of her death, which resulted from heart failure on Easter Monday, April 5th, 1920. He, too, suffered from his heart, and it is a tragic coincidence that he and Mr. Guy Wyatt, who had arranged to travel together to London to attend the banquet to the Prince of Wales, on June 24th, should both have been prevented by illness, which subsequently ended in their deaths. Mr. Luke Hill was devoted to the West Indies and a frequent contributor to the columns of *THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR*. The West Indies were always in his thoughts, and it is a curious coincidence that in December, 1913, he dreamt that the Lombard Street district of Georgetown was in ruins and the streets cut up and swamped with water, learning two days later that it had been destroyed by fire. A man of very sterling qualities, he will be greatly missed.

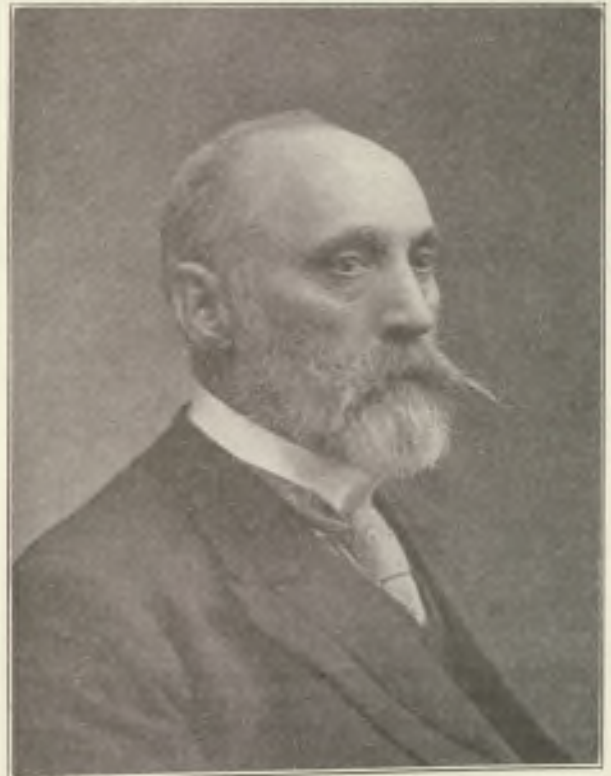
BARON HARCO THEODORE HORA SICCAMI.

We regret to state that Baron Siccama died at The Hague on October 1st.

Baron Harco Theodore Hora Siccama, who was born at The Hague on August 9th, 1842, was son of the President of the Audit Chamber of the Netherlands, and grandson, on his mother's side, of Admiral Van Capellen, who co-operated with Lord Exmouth in liberating the Christian slaves on the occasion of the siege of Algiers in August, 1816, for which the Admiral received the thanks of the British Parliament. His aunt, Madame Tinne, nee Van Capellen, was the widow of Philip Frederic Tinne, Government Secretary of Demerara under the Dutch and British flags successively, and his cousin was Miss Alexine Tinne, the celebrated African traveller. Another aunt, Madame Tinne's sister, was married to Mr. William Robertson Sandbach, formerly a partner in the firm of Messrs. Sandbach, Tinne & Co., of Liverpool. Baron Siccama's early years were spent at sea in Java and in the Dutch Dragoons. He then came to London and joined the engineer's department of the

London and North Western Railway Company at Euston. When the sea defence problem in British Guiana was causing much anxiety in 1878, he was appointed Hydraulic Engineer to that Colony, and his valuable reports and work in that capacity proved of great value in the emergency. He subsequently became Colonial Engineer, during the tenure of which post he designed and erected the new Law Courts in Georgetown. After his retirement he acted for some time as private consulting engineer to King William III. of the Netherlands in Holland; but he never lost his interest in the West Indies and often discussed with the writer his proposals for removing the bar which obstructs the mouth of the Demerara River.

He was convinced that by narrowing and directing the course of the river, coupled with dredging, it would be possible to remove the bar, which to this day forms such a serious obstruction to navigation, pre-



The late Mr. Luke M. Hill, B.E., M.I.C.E.

venting as it does, steamers of any real size entering the river, and necessitating much delay in the case of smaller vessels, which have to wait for the tide until they can reach the Stellings. His main scheme would have involved an expenditure of \$3,000,000, but he also submitted an alternative scheme on a less ambitious scale, which could have been carried out for \$1,700,000. With the adoption of the larger of the two proposals, British Guiana would have possessed at this day a port second to none in the West Indies.

MR. WILLIAM MORISON, J.P.

As we go to press we learn with much regret that Mr. William Morison, J.P., died at his residence, Newmilln, Perth, on October 9th.

Mr. Morison was the proprietor of Marionville Plantation in British Guiana. He went out to that Colony many years ago as an overseer and left it as an estates proprietor ten years ago.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The Danes have always been noted for their interest in the study of natural history, and Dr. Bergensen has now published the last part of his comprehensive work on the "Marine Algæ of the Danish West Indies." The work contains the descriptions of many new species, and is very thorough.

The *Sugar News* of the Philippines, speaking of the Fiji disease of the sugar-cane, which is doing so much damage in those islands, states that cuttings taken from a diseased cane will always result in the production of diseased canes. "This was true," it is said, "even though a comparatively healthy stool was taken from a plant which had other stools which were diseased."

A new industry is in prospect in the form of the manufacture of oil from the seeds of the citrus fruit. Professor Bartolo, of the University of Catania, has recently made an especial study of lemon seeds, which manufacturers of citrate and citric acid have hitherto thrown away or used as manure. From 30 to 35 per cent. of the seed is obtained in the form of oil, which is of a light yellow colour, rather fluid and of a very pleasant scent.

Garino-Canina has recently been experimenting with the use of phosphates in alcoholic fermentation and arrives at the conclusion that phosphorus is an important factor in yearly growth, and attributes the want of "sparkle" in wines which possess it to the absence of phosphates. In this connection it may be of value to record that experiments with phosphates in rum manufacture in British Guiana showed that no advantage was gained from the addition of phosphates to wash.

The subject of the sterilisation of soils by heat with the view of destroying objectionable bacteria protozoa has recently been made the object of investigation by Mr. J. Johnson. The results showed that heating soils to 100°-115°C. retarded with all soils both seed germination and plant growth. This retardation, however, is followed by increased vigour of growth, the degree of this varying according to the soil, seed and plants used, and to the conditions under which the experiments are carried out.

The black fly pest of the orange, grape fruit and lime trees is, says the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*, now pretty well spread over Jamaica, its intensity varying with the seasons, being more prevalent in dry than in heavy wet seasons. The natural enemies spoken of are the "red-headed" fungus and an ant with the Scotch nomenclature of "Dugald Campbell," which would seem to be, as the *Journal* states, "a bit of a mystery." The former appears to be, as might be

expected from its name, very hot stuff, and a very efficient exterminator of the pest.

Bee-keepers whose stock is attacked by foul brood are usually those who take their honey too early, or who use composite hives arranged with a view of obtaining excessive quantities, encouragement being thus given to the queen bee to lay at the very time she ought to be prevented from doing so. For these pernicious methods M. Robert-Aubert, in *L'Agriculture*, substitutes one which he claims is an infallible remedy against the disease, as the result of twenty-five years' experience. He uses Layens hives with 20, 22 and 25 frames. He cleans out the hives in May, divides any food that is left, and replaces useless frames with sections containing beeswax. The hives are not opened again until September, when the honey is removed.

The leaves of the papaw are well known for their digestive effect on meat, and about five years back a well-known scientific authority on cheese-making in this country experimented in conjunction with the writer with the object of ascertaining whether they would afford a substitute for rennet. Fresh leaves were obtained from Kew, and extracts prepared on similar lines to the rennet used in cheese-making. These were found to produce some "setting" in milk, as with rennet, but the quantity of extract required was so great as to place it outside of practical politics. The impression left on the minds of the experimenters was, however, that the subject was worth pursuing where an abundant supply of fresh papaw leaves was available.

Valuable chemical work has been done of late years in connection with the colours of flowers. It has been found that the different shades of colour presented by different parts of the same flower are caused by various derivatives of one substance. Thus the blue of the cornflower is the potassium derivative of a violet compound which is also convertible into a red form by combination with an acid. Further, the colour producing body of blossoms contains a combination with two molecular proportions of glucose. These researches throw much light on the peculiar absence of blue in the flora of the West Indies, so marked in the Colonies where lime exists in small quantities in the soil.

The Australian Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations has published an account of a new moth-borer of the sugar cane. The canes are attacked by it at a very early period of their growth, the most injury being done to ratoon canes. The damage to these is stated to correspond in general appearance to that caused by the moth-borer, *Phragmatocaphila truncata*; the destruction of the central or heart leaves being a conspicuous and certain indication of internal trouble. On removing the few short basal leaves surrounding the bottom of an affected ratoon, one or more tiny pin-holes in the side near or under the ground are usually discernable, and the central core is found to be completely severed.

JAMAICA'S PRECIOUS MARBLES.

Blocks measuring 200 Cubic Feet.

An interesting find of marble has been made on Serge Island Estate, in Jamaica. In 1919-20, the enterprising proprietor, Mr. Henry Holgate, developed the water power, creating a small lake by throwing a dam across the river. This gave them access to a part of the estate which they knew nothing about before, and it was found to possess a large deposit of marble. Mr. H. Holgate writes that he has had some of the samples cut and polished at Montreal, and that they have been pronounced by architects and marble exporters to be the most beautiful that they have seen of their class.

Mr. Thomas Treleaven, an English sculptor, at present in Jamaica, engaged by the Government in erecting a monument to the men of Jamaica who lost their lives in the war, has reported to the Director of Public Works as follows: "It is my pleasure to report to you that I have found samples of marble at Holgate Lake that are equal to any of the counterparts which I know of. I have seen blocks of solid material here that measure two hundred cubic feet. The marble at Island Head—on which I have been working two weeks—is only an ordinary example of a variety which is common in Italy; it is primordial, therefore shaky. At Holgate Lake there is Breche Violet, Breccia Mauve, also Skyros and Cipollino in separate characters, and these again are intermixed with Belgian varieties. On a facial inspection I must certainly say that these marbles promise to rank with the most beautiful productions in the world."

It may be noted that the existence of marble in Jamaica is no new discovery. Sawkins, in his report on the geology of the island published in 1869, records that a great variety of that substance exists in the island, specimens of marbles for polishing purposes having been collected from forty different localities. He refers specially to a beautifully striped kind (white or grey with brown or red) and a green variety in St. Thomas in the East (the parish in which Serge Island is situated), and also "the most notable of all," green serpentine rocks, largely prevailing on the southern slope of the Blue Mountain district extending upwards of five miles in length, commencing near Monklands in the same parish, traversing Armtully Gap, descending to Wovern Lawn, then rising above the great landslide or break away and extending to the north-west to Radnor (St. David's). He also located many beautiful porphyries suitable for polishing and economical purposes.

Mr. Holgate is a very enterprising Canadian, and he will be rendering valuable service to Jamaica if he is able to devise means of marketing this marble.

ACCORDING to the *Indian Scientific Agriculturist*, British refiners are flirting with sugar properties, and may follow the example of American refiners and acquire them. They have, our contemporary states, gone to India to look into the matter of possessing raw-sugar factories.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 416.)

Trinidad Government's Bargain.

In passing it may be remarked that when, in the year 1890, the Government of Trinidad acquired the St. Augustine group of estates upon which their Experiment Station and Stock Farm now stand, they made an uncommonly good bargain. Developed as a sugar property, their factory was closed, and though it contained machinery which had cost, apart from buildings and tramways, £30,000, the Government was able to acquire the whole property, comprising about 4,500 acres, as it stood, for £9,100. Such are the vicissitudes of the sugar industry! But that is not the end of the story. In his last report Mr. Freeman was able to show that the St. Augustine Estate had already not only repaid the cost of its purchase, but had, in addition to the value of the property still in hand, a cash balance of close upon £10,000.

One of the most important of the recommendations of the Development Commission, to which reference has already been made, was the extension of the railway running between St. Joseph, the local "Clapham Junction," and Sangre Grande to Balandra Bay on the east coast. The Commissioners pointed out that the new line would run through or near a valuable forest of Mora trees, and would serve the settled districts of Matura, Balandra, and Salybia, which have been brought under cultivation in recent years, and now bid fair to be included among the richest centres of production in the colony. They showed also that it would bring the advantages of railway communication within the reach of the fertile lands on the southern and eastern slopes of the Northern Range, and would, moreover, enable the jaded workers of Port of Spain, and also the tourists whom it is hoped to attract to the island in increasing numbers when suitable accommodation is provided for them, to enjoy real surf bathing in the free Atlantic from the sandy beaches of the east coast. The Commissioners also indicated that the extension would have an important bearing on the question of steamer communication with Tobago, it being suggested that Balandra Bay might ultimately become the port of departure and arrival of the Government steamers which are eventually to link up Trinidad with her island Ward.

One Sunday afternoon, with our party reinforced by Mr. H. F. Previté and his nephew, a tall, complacent youth enjoying a West Indian tour before embarking on a professional career, we explored the country through which the new railway line will run, crossing the island to Salybia, where our host, with true business acumen, had acquired a property and a charming seaside residence. By road the distance from Port of Spain to the coast is 44 miles; but that did not seem a single mile too many, so much was there to interest us on the way. Leaving St. Joseph behind, the Eastern Main Road runs nearly parallel with the railway through the

little village of Tacarigua, and Arima, a small town of some importance, since it is one of the principal centres of the colony's flourishing cacao industry, and has a Mayor and Corporation of its own. In this connection, by the way, it has achieved a record which no town in the United Kingdom can ever hope to beat, a single individual, Mr. W. Beckles, having remained in the undisputed possession of its Mayoral chair for no fewer than fourteen years. Here every year, on August 31st, a day dedicated to Santa Rosa, the entire population of four thousand turns out to attend the races and other festivities held on the local Savannah in honour of the town's patron saint. Arima is one of the earliest settlements in the island, having been established by native Indians before Columbus's time. These aborigines handed down to their descendants the art of basket-making, and "Arima baskets" are still largely used in Trinidad.

Arima was one of the four principal Indian "missions" in the island. Finding that they were unable to subjugate the Carib Indians by force, the Spaniards endeavoured to accomplish by missionary effort what they had failed to effect by arms. Capuchin missionaries were introduced from Spain between 1680 and 1706, and sites for missionary stations were selected and laid out with due regard to the healthiness of the surroundings and fertility of the soil. These missions became virtually agricultural colonies, the inhabitants being compelled to devote themselves to the cultivation of the fields and to raising cattle and fowls. Their principal crop was cacao, which had recently been introduced into the island either by the Governor, Don Tiburcio de Aspe y Zuñiga, from Caracas, or by the Dutch from the island of Curaçao, or from Guiana. They also produced maize, cassava, bananas, and other food crops, which they raised in the plantation between the young cacao trees, just as is done to-day. The cacao plantation was the common property of the mission, and after the decoration of the church and the purchase of the furniture and equipment of the presbytery, the tools and agricultural implements, the rations of the missionaries, and the clothing of neophytes (who until they entered the mission wore the garments of Adam and Eve) had been provided for, the balance of receipts from the sale of produce was credited to the Capuchins' common fund. The Indians were made to work for the first four days of the week, the remaining two days being applied to the cultivation of cacao for their own use and the construction and maintenance of their cottages, whilst Sundays and feast days were always devoted to religious instruction and the practice of piety. This ample supply of labour, obtained at so little expenditure, made these agricultural undertakings very profitable, and year after year they increased in importance. The Indians in the "missions" lived subject to the authority, temporal as well as spiritual, of their missionaries, and the civil arm of the law was only applied at the express request of the monks, who themselves applied corporal punishment to their charges, when necessary, by whips, vine stalks (still popular as riding whips under the name "Supple Jacks"), and irons. But by means of confession the missionaries often ob-

tained avowals which civil tribunals could only have extracted by torture. Their powers were absolute, but their government paternal. In the development of Trinidad these village communities played no mean part.

In the neighbourhood of the town are some of the finest cacao estates in the island, whose fertility shows how wisely the old missionaries selected their land. Glancing through the wind-breaks of tall dracaenas—so immensely tall that the very thought of the tiny hot-house plants at home seemed ridiculous—we could see the stout cacao trees, with their yellow and red pods (containing the beans which provide us with the grateful and comforting beverage known as cocoa, as well as chocolate) pullulating not only from their branches, but also from their stems.

A Glimpse of the "High Woods."

From the small hamlet of Valencia a bridle-path runs straight to the coast; but though this trace is to be widened, it is not yet available for wheeled traffic, and consequently motor-cars and carriages proceeding to Salybia have to go many miles out of their way before they get there. The road makes a long detour in a south-easterly direction to Sangre Grande and thence north again to its destination on the coast. At one part, appropriately called the "Long Stretch," it runs for a distance of fully five miles without the slightest bend—no Roman road could, indeed, be straighter. Sangre Grande, the present terminus of the railway, is very busy when the cacao crop is being reaped, but at other times it is a dead-and-alive place, with no special features of interest beyond the characteristic rum shops, each with its entire frontage open to the street, and sundry dry goods stores.

Beyond this little town the road enters the virgin "high woods," the great Mora forest, whose giants will some day fall to the axe of the woodman and be transported overseas. The forest looked dark and impenetrable, its huge trees being festooned with lianes and creepers, which resembled the cables and rigging of some great wreck. Again we could see few signs of life, the absence of birds being perhaps accounted for by the depredations of the ubiquitous mongoose, which in Trinidad, as elsewhere in the West Indies, having accomplished the purpose for which it was introduced—namely, the destruction of rats—has become as much of a pest in its own particular line as the rabbit in Australia. From out of the forest would dart a mongoose. He would cross the road in a jiffy; but our host told us that if you shot at the spot at which he disappeared you could invariably bag him, since the inquisitive little creatures always stop to have a look round after crossing the road—which we found to be a fact.

After passing Matura village, the road reaches large areas of new cultivation. During the last ten years this district has been rapidly planted up, and work in this direction is still actively proceeding. As far as the eye could reach were coco-nut palms in every state of development from far inland right down to the sandy beach.

(To be continued.)

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VIII. Charles, Earl of Carlisle.

The governorship of the Earl of Carlisle is inseparably connected with the attempt made by Charles II. with the advice of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, to force on Jamaica the method of law-making applied to Ireland by Poynings, and yet all that is said of his residence in the Colony in his life in the "Dictionary of National Biography" is: "From 25 Sept., 1677, to April, 1681, he was Governor of Jamaica." Even these dates are incorrect. His Commission as Governor was dated March 1st, 1678, and his Instructions March 30th; he left England on April 27th, and landed in Jamaica on July 19th, 1678. He left Jamaica on May 7th, 1680. Lynch's Commission as Governor was dated August 6th, 1681.

Charles, second son and heir of Sir William Howard, Kt., of Narworth, Cumberland, and Mary, eldest daughter of Lord Eure, was born in 1629. In 1650 he was made high Sheriff of Cumberland. Though a professed supporter of the Commonwealth, he was known to be loyalist at heart, and charges of disaffection were brought against him, but he seems to have cleared himself. He bought Castle Howard, a Crown revenue, and became Governor of the town. At the battle of Worcester he fought well for the Parliament. In 1653 he was elected member of Parliament and was made a member of the Council of State. He was employed to check the inroads of the Scots, and became Commissioner to try the rebels in Yorkshire. In 1657 he was made a peer by Cromwell, as Baron Gilsland and Viscount Morpeth. At the fall of Richard Cromwell he was arrested on a charge of high treason, but he was soon let free, and in April, 1660, he was elected member of Parliament for Cumberland. After the Restoration he was made a Privy Councillor, *custos rotularum* of Essex, and Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland and Westmorland. In April, 1661, he was created Earl of Carlisle. In 1663-64 he was Ambassador to Russia, Sweden and Denmark, and other high offices were given to him. In 1672 he became Lord-Lieutenant of Durham and Deputy Earl Marshal of England.

It had been intended as early as 1674 that the Earl of Carlisle should be Governor of Jamaica, and Instructions were drawn up for him in that year, but they did not take effect until four years later. He had had a voice in settling some of the details. He was the first peer of his rank to visit Jamaica as such. He brought with him letters to Lord Vaughan, but on his arrival he found Vaughan gone and Morgan acting as Governor.

He came in the *Jersey*, accompanied by his countess (Anne, daughter of Edward, first Lord Howard of Escrick) and Sir Francis Watson, the Major-General, and two companies of English troops. A quarrel between Jamaica and the Mother Country was then raised, which was not settled for many years.

Carlisle met the Council on the day of his landing. There were present Sir Henry Morgan, Sir Thomas Watson, Colonel Thomas Modyford, Colonel Charles Whitfield, Colonel Thomas Fuller, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Byndloss, Hender Molesworth, John White and Samuel Long. On the following day Colonel John Coape and Colonel Thomas Freeman were also present. He then, on the advice of the Council, decided to summon the Assembly for September 2nd. Later, Colonel William Ivey, Colonel Thomas Ballard, and John Rall were sworn in of the Council. Unfortunately, there is a gap in the Council minutes (a manuscript copy of the original minutes) in the Colonial Secretary's office, from the meeting of September 3rd, 1678, to that of May 15th, 1682.

In his opening speech to the Assembly, Carlisle, in sugaring the pill, said that the King looked on Jamaica as "his darling plantation, and has taken more pains to make this island happy than any other of his Colonies."

The Governor had brought with him forty Acts which Charles had drawn up (to which had been affixed the Great Seal of England) in lieu of the Acts which the Assembly had passed under Vaughan, and he was instructed to get the House to pass them. This plan was suggested in a letter written in England by a Mr. Nevil (who was evidently acquainted with Jamaica) to Carlisle just before he started to take up his appointment, and had been adopted because—to quote the words of the Lords of Trade and Plantations to the King in Council—"of the irregular, violent and unwarrantable proceedings of the Assembly."

The virtual point was this, that under the original Constitution the island (through the Governor, Council and Assembly) made its own laws in accordance with what it conceived to be its needs and sent them home for approval, they remaining in force for two years until the Royal pleasure was known; while under the new arrangement, based on Poynings' Law, or the Statutes of Drogheda, in use in Ireland, the laws were to be made in England (on the advice of the Governor and Council) and remitted for the approval of the Assembly, and that when assented to the Governor was to give at once the Royal assent. The style of enactment was altered from the "Governor, Council and Representatives of the Commons assembled," etc., to the "King's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the consent of the General Assembly." By this the Council's function as a legislative body was to be abrogated, it acting only in its advisory capacity before the laws were submitted to the Assembly.

This proposed change—which had been decided on by the Lords of Trade and Plantations in opposition to the advice of Lynch, who knew Jamaica well—the Assembly resisted with might and main, and the Council were also opposed to it, and were of opinion that the best way of arriving at a satisfactory settlement was that a deputation should go to England.

William Beeston, Speaker of the Assembly, and later Governor, in a sworn statement, said of Carlisle that "in this Assembly (1678) and the

other that followed, his Lordship was pleased very often, on several occasions, to call them fools, asses, beggars, cowards, and many other appellations, which management they took so ill from a wise Lord, considering the capacity they were then in, doing their King and Country service, that it set their hearts much against him, and did no good to the public affairs."

The Governor, because the Clerk of the Assembly, Charles Boucher, would not divulge the reasons of the Assembly for throwing out a certain Bill, threatened to lay him by the heels and put in another clerk. But in justice to Carlisle it must be said that, in his despatches, he appears to have represented the case of the opposition very fairly, which action did not by any means meet with the satisfaction of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, who were determine to fight the matter out, and, if need be, reduce Jamaica to the position of the military control which existed before Doyley was made civil Governor.

After sitting all through September and part of October, and finding many reasons why individual Bills should not pass, the Assembly presented an address to the Governor, pointing out that the King's proposed method and manner of passing laws for Jamaica was absolutely impracticable on account of the distance, the changeable nature of Colonies, an Englishman's right to take part in making his own laws, and the objection of placing too much power in the hands of the Governor.

They adduced nine reasons, of which the following is an abstract given in Sir Thomas Lynch's Report, read to the Lords of Trade and Plantations on December 22nd, 1679:—

- (i) Being English subjects, they were entitled to be governed as such;
- (ii) that in the proclamation brought by Lord Windsor they were granted freedom and denization;
- (iii) that for 16 or 18 years they had been governed by the laws of England;
- (iv) that all British Colonies have Assemblies from which their laws take their origin;
- (v) that the fresh method would be too tedious by reason of distance;
- (vi) that the Irish method was designed to support the English against the Irish, but they of Jamaica were all English;
- (vii) that the change would cause many to desert the island;

(viii) that they alone of all the Colonies should not be retrenched of their privileges;

(ix) "in this the planter who must defend and improve the Colony, and agreeable laws will but persuade him to do it."

At the meeting of his second Assembly, convened to meet on August 15th, 1679, Carlisle told the Assembly that the Council of Trade thought the model of Ireland was most fit for the place; but that he had sent Sir Francis Watson home to negotiate for the old forms of making laws; he being fain to confess that distance from England rendered the Irish system impracticable for Jamaica, and stating that if Watson did not convince the Home authorities he would go himself.

(To be continued.)

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' Laws to be Revised.

A drinking fountain has been erected in Rawson Square, Nassau, by the local Chapter of the Daughters of the Empire, in memory of Lady Allardyce. The fountain was declared open by the Governor on September 7th.

The *Nassau Guardian* sounds a note of protest against the sensational stories regarding the Colony and its connection with the liquor-running traffic that have lately been appearing in the New York press, characterising them as the irresponsible vapourings of ill-informed critics.

Sir Daniel Tudor, K.C., the Chief Justice, and the Hon. Harcourt Malcolm, O.B.E., Speaker of the House of Assembly, have been nominated as Commissioners for the purpose of preparing a revised edition of the Laws. Some comment was caused in the House by reason of the omission of the Attorney-General's name from the *personnel* of the Commission.

Barbados' Income Tax Bill.

The local depression is intensified by the absence of the large money remittances from Panama, Cuba, New York, etc., the sending of which has been a characteristic of Barbadians overseas in more prosperous times.

At the end of August the small rainfall continued to cause anxiety, although the crops, says the *Advocate*, are still holding out well. There is little sugar left to be disposed of, but there is estimated to be about 9,000 puncheons of syrup remaining unsold, the owners holding out for 35 cents per gallon.

The Income Tax Bill has been again before the House of Assembly, which seems likely to pass it through all its stages before taking any long adjournment. The Governor in a message to the House read by Hon. C. P. Clarke on August 16th, stated that adequate provision had not been made to approximate revenue and expenditure for the current year, and urged the early attention of the House to measures dealing with the Island's financial position. Mr. H. A. Bovell will contest the parish of St. Phillip in a bye-election for the House of Assembly caused by the resignation of Dr. C. F. Gooding. Mr. R. J. Clinckett, M.B.E., the Acting Colonial Secretary, has been provisionally appointed a member of the Legislative Council pending the arrival of Mr. Wilfred Jackson.

An address has been presented to the Governor by Mr. S. S. Robinson, by order of the House of Assembly, praying for permission to import cotton seed from places known to be free from the boll-weevil and the pink boll-worm. The question arose owing to an order issued on the advice of the Director of Agriculture prohibiting cotton seed to be imported from Hayti and Baranquilla, thus cutting off the two flourishing seed-oil factories of the Island from their supplies. In the course of debate in the House it was argued that the two places on which an embargo had been fastened were themselves free from the pests referred to. On the motion of Mr. Thorne, the House have authorised the British Union Oil Co. to import pipes and other machinery in connection with their drilling operations free of duty.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, writing on September 14th, states that very little damage was done to the crops or inland property by the storm the week before, but the wharf walls were seriously damaged by the heavy seas. The schooner *Therault* was blown ashore just off the Fye Hospital and there was a chance of her becoming a total wreck. The *Lilian N. Barnes*, with 200 emigrants from Cuba, broke from her anchorage and was carried out to sea, but arrived safely at St. Lucia. There was little rain with the storm, but some good showers a few days before much improved the crops. Good rains are again badly wanted, and even with their help, little more than half crop can be looked for next spring. The owner of Pine, Upton, Staple Grove and Kent estates, has found it impossible to carry on these properties, which have gone into Chancery.

Mr. H. Douglas Carter, whose death on August 28th at the age of seventy-three, is announced, was the brother-in-law of Sir John Harrison, C.M.G., of British Guiana. The obituary list also includes the names of Mr. Julian A. Mahon, proprietor of Lion Castle, St. Thomas, Mr. T. N. McConney, Mrs. Susan Hinkson, mother of Hon. E. A. Hinkson, and Dr. Gramnum, Medical Officer in charge of the Lunatic Asylum.

British Guiana's new Bishop.

The consecration of Rev. O. H. Parry, Bishop Elect of British Guiana, who is due to arrive in the Colony by s.s. *Intaba*, has been provisionally fixed for October 16th.

The establishment of a chocolate and confectionery factory in Georgetown is announced, the capital being found locally. The coming rice crop is likely to be an excellent one, but difficulty is anticipated in some quarters in finding the money with which to reap it.

British Honduras honours "St. George's Cay."

Mr. A. R. Usher, writing on September 8th, states that the Belize Ice and Electric Light Co. has increased its capital from \$100,000 to \$150,000, the Government taking the additional \$50,000, which will make its interest in the company (of which the Governor is chairman) \$130,000, including a recent loan of \$30,000.

September 10th, the 123rd anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Cay, which brought the Colony under British rule, was celebrated as a public holiday, the occasion being marked by a parade of the Fire Brigade, whose members were complimented by the Governor on their efficiency, and by other festivities.

The yellow fever situation shows improvement. According to the *Clarion* of September 15th, the outbreak had been confined to St. John's College, where of seventeen cases, twelve had recovered, and there were no fresh cases. The Government has ordered the removal of all the boys and staff of the College not in attendance on the sick to Sergeant's Cay, an island that was recently bought by the Government for \$4,000.

The Income Tax Assessment Committee have addressed a letter to foreign corporations operating in British Honduras, in which they foreshadow taxes being imposed on the revenues derived by those bodies from their operations in the Colony.

Effects of the Grenada "blow."

Mr. C. V. C. Horne writes, on September 10th, of a storm of unusual severity that swept over the Island two days before, after several days of intense heat

The morning started with strong North-West winds, increasing in violence during the day, and not subsiding till early the following morning. Telephone communication has been interrupted and numbers of small shacks have either been blown down or unroofed. From what can be gathered the damage done to the corn cultivation, pear, breadfruit, bluggoes and nutmeg trees, is very extensive and a severe blow to the poorer classes, especially at this time of the year and under prevailing conditions. The sea was exceptionally heavy and the craft in the Carenage had to take a safer anchorage.

The historical Government Boat House, with its sundry and immediate accompaniments have been obliterated, the Royal Barge and other Government craft being duly rescued and placed in "safe custody" alongside the Government Treasury. A sloop from Martinique for Venezuela, loaded with explosives, endeavoured to enforce entrance to the Market Square, but was fortunately frustrated by the newly erected "Esplanade" and the sloop is likely to become a total wreck.

The Hon. Popham Lobb, Administrator of St. Vincent, and Col. Deane, Chief of Police of St. Lucia, are on a visit to His Excellency the Governor. Another visitor is Mr. Howard Smith, of Barbados, who is interested in the Grand Anse Sugar Factory, of which great hopes are entertained.

Jamaica untouched by Hurricane.

The question of the possible extension of the Island's tobacco industry has been engaging the attention of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, whose secretary, Mr. John Barclay, states that there has been an increase in the acreage under common tobacco, but a reduction of that growing cigar tobacco in recent years, owing to the low price paid for the leaf.

Jamaica was left untouched by the hurricane which swept over the West Indies during the second week in September, although it came as near as Hayti and the Turks Islands. Hon. G. Whitfield Smith was on a visit to Jamaica when his Dependency was visited by the hurricane.

Colonel Bryan, the Colonial Secretary, left the Island on September 10th on four months' leave.

Spread of the Boll-worm in St. Kitts.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, writing under date September 2nd, reports distinctly dry weather, although the growing crops, he says, continue to look well. Cotton pickings are reported good, in some places very good, but unfortunately the pink boll-worm has made its appearance in hitherto uninfected districts. In Nevis some cotton has been sold to a New York firm at 1s. 9d. per lb. On the occasion of a few days' visit from H.M.S. *Valerian*, Major and Mrs. Burdon held an "At Home" at Springfield, and there was also a cricket match, in which the ship's team got rather badly beaten.

The smallpox threat still keeps the authorities on tenterhooks. Fortunately there have been none in the Island, and very few, considering the circumstances in Anguilla, where of a total of 21 persons who caught the disease, three had been discharged, and the remainder were all recovering. A schooner of 70 tons put in at Basseterre on September 1st with no fewer than 248 passengers. She appeared to be 21 days out from Cuba, and 10 men had died on the way. Being refused permission to land any passengers, she left for Barbados. Miss Shepherd was responsible for organising an excellent dramatic show at the Grammar School, in connection with the proposed

Ladies Club. The farce, "Facing the Music," was admirably played, Miss D. Shepherd and Mr. C. Connell being conspicuously good.

With threats of smallpox and anthrax, and the banks restricting credit, the whole community is in a depressed and pessimistic condition, according to Mr. Adamson, writing again on September 9th. There have been a few showers, mostly local, and the Island looks well, but good heavy rains are badly wanted. With a good soaking rain now and the continuance of average weather to the end of the year, a good crop for next year would be ensured.

The St. Vincent Medical Service.

Business continues dull, says Mr. Percy W. Verrall, writing on September 5th, the depression far surpassing anything experienced for years.

There has been much discussion lately regarding the Police Force, and in especial the large number of Officers and N.C.O.'s to men. The total strength of the force is at present about forty. A Sergeant-Major and Bandmaster has recently arrived from Jamaica. If this is to mean the formation of a police band, taxpayers would no doubt be more reconciled to the appointment.

His many friends in the Island will miss Dr. D. S. Graham, who has resigned the service and leaves for the Bahamas. Dr. Eustace Greaves, Colonial Surgeon, having returned from Barbados after his recent illness, and finding the duties devolving on him in that capacity too much for his present state of health, has, at his own request, been relieved of the same, and reverts to his former position of M.O., No. 1 District. Dr. Steven, Government Bacteriologist, Grenada, has been offered and accepted the vacant post of Colonial Surgeon, and the Doctor is expected here by the next mail. The resignation of Dr. Elliss is also reported, unofficially though at present, and the local papers mention the likely resignation of Dr. Neckles and Dr. W. A. George, and ask the question, "What is wrong with our Medical Officers and the Government?"

Storm Damage in Trinidad.

Port of Spain has suffered from the worst "blow" experienced for over forty years, writes Mr. Edgar Tripp (September 12th). Between 5 and 7 p.m. on September 8th, the wind blew with great intensity from the south-west, and great havoc was caused among the small craft, lighters, launches, etc., of which a considerable number were driven ashore and damaged, many becoming complete wrecks. No estimate had been made of the damage, which will be probably in the neighbourhood of £30,000 to £40,000.

On September 2nd the report of a Committee appointed to inquire into the present system of Poor Relief in the Colony was adopted. If the comprehensive scheme now proposed is carried out, it will relieve work that has hitherto been largely carried on by charities, and will remove what has been somewhat of a reproach to the Colony generally.

The teams for the Inter-Colonial Cricket Tournament seem fairly equal in strength. The Demerara team, who arrived in Trinidad on September 10th, are a good side, most of its members having played before in contests of this nature. Their captain, Mr. C. R. Brown, who is a famous bowler, besides being a first-class bat, played for Barbados in 1907 and 1909, and represented that Island against the M.C.C. in 1911, subsequently playing a good deal of cricket in England, where he scored 1,000 runs and took 103 wickets in 1912 for the Clapham Rovers. The

Barbados team, which arrived on September 11th, contained a number of old friends, amongst whom were "Tim" Tarilton, the captain, George Challoner, who is said to be in better form than ever, and Harry Ince, the famous left-hander. Several friends accompanied them to witness the event, including Percy Goodman, whom all were glad to welcome, the sole survivor of four famous brothers who played cricket for Barbados, one of whom, Aubrey Goodman, was captain of the first Inter-Colonial Team, which came to Trinidad nearly thirty years ago. The matches started on September 14th.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on September 23rd, states that the interest and excitement produced by the Inter-Colonial Cricket Tournament then proceeding, exceeded anything experienced on former occasions. In the preliminary match between the non-holders of the cup, Trinidad were victorious over Demerara by an innings and 80 runs. A record crowd watched the match between Trinidad and Barbados, which started on September 21st. Tarilton was magnificently caught in the slips by Constantine, the son of the famous West Indian cricketer of that name. When the mail closed, Trinidad had compiled 174 runs, Barbados replying with 155, and in the second innings Trinidad scored 51 runs for 1 wicket, being thus 70 runs ahead with 9 wickets to fall.

Turks Islands tornado.

Rain is badly needed in all sections of the Dependency, according to the latest report of the Direct West India Cable Co., and many tanks have given out, causing great anxiety. Business has been exceptionally quiet. Salt raking has been in progress at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and East Harbour. Sisal machinery has been put in running order at Grand Turk, but the return of Mr. W. S. Jones from the United States is awaited before extraction is started. The turtle season has closed. The tropical storm, which was experienced throughout the West Indies in varying degrees of violence, reached the Turks Islands on September 17th. An American two-masted schooner, the *Elizabeth*, was driven ashore at Grand Turk, the crew being saved.

Montserrat Cotton Outlook.

Rain is badly wanted, writes Mr. K. P. Penchoen, on September 12th. The early planted cotton has given its first bearing, and the second crop is promising but suffering from the dryness. Cotton ginning has been started with the last crop unsold, and the Island generally is very depressed at the grave outlook. The new crop, which will be a short one, has not been damaged by the pink holl-worm as yet. When H.M.S. *Valerian* paid a two days' visit to Montserrat at the beginning of September, the officers were entertained at Government House, and there was a dinner given on board. At cricket the ship's team were defeated by the Islanders.

STEAMER SAILINGS.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
B'dos & T'idad	Liverpool	Novian	Oct 18
Jamaica	Bristol	Matagua	" 18
West Indies	London	Ingoma	" 20
B'dos & T'idad	Dover	Oranje Nassau	" 22
Jamaica	Bristol	Bayano	" 24
Jamaica	Liverpool	Barranca	" 31
West Indies	Halifax	Chaudiere	Oct 25

OUR LIBRARY.

THE HANDBOOK OF JAMAICA FOR 1921. *Comprising historical, statistical and general information concerning the Island, compiled from official and other reliable records.* 652 + xii. pages; 2 maps and 6 illustrations. By FRANK CUNDALL, F.S.A. LONDON: EDWARD STANFORD. Price 7s. 6d. For many years this valuable work was compiled by Mr. Joseph C. Ford and Mr. Frank Cundall. Now Mr. Cundall "carries on" alone, and we must compliment him upon the success which he has achieved. Within six hundred and fifty-two pages he has compressed everything one could wish to know regarding our largest West Indian Colony, its history, its trade, its railways—and in a word, its machinery of Government and commercial activities generally. With the question of representation looming large, it is satisfactory to find several pages devoted to the Island's political constitution, and Mr. Cundall has, in his usual masterly way, anticipated every possible demand that could be made upon him for enlightenment.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO YEAR BOOK, 1921: 27 Illustrations; 420 + lix. pages; *Compiled by C. B. FRANKLIN.* TRINIDAD: FRANKLIN'S ELECTRIC PRINTERY. Price 5s. The only fault that we have to find with this indispensable handbook is that its value as a work of speedy reference is diminished by the overwhelming number of pages of advertisements bound up with it. The intrusion of advertisements between the index and body of the book appears to us to be quite unpardonable, involving as it does waste of the time for the seeker of information. Otherwise the Year Book leaves little to be desired. It supplies a fund of information regarding Trinidad and Tobago besides a Business Directory and the "Civil List" of the Colony. A new and welcome feature this year is a record of Royal Visits to Trinidad between 1880 and 1920, with a special account of the memorable visit of the Prince of Wales, accompanied by twenty-seven illustrations.

A MONOGRAPH ON PETROLEUM.—A new volume, dealing with petroleum, in the Series of Monographs on the Mineral Resources of the Empire, issued under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute, has just been published by Mr. John Murray. It has been prepared jointly with H.M. Petroleum Department with the assistance of Mr. H. B. Croushaw, B.A., Ph.D., A.R.S.M., who first describes the characteristics of petroleum, the geological distribution of oil in the chief oil-fields, the causes which have affected the transference or migration of oil, drilling for oil and the methods of refining it, and the uses of petroleum products. In the second chapter the petroleum deposits of the British Empire are described with special reference to those of India, Egypt, Ontario and Trinidad. The world's output of petroleum during the last fifteen years has increased from 35 million tons to upwards of 90 million tons.

The third and last chapter deals with the petroleum of foreign countries. Statistical tables give figures of imports, exports and production, and a map is reproduced showing the principal petroleum deposits of the world. A list of the chief publications on petroleum also forms a distinctive feature of this little book, which can be obtained at The West India Committee's Rooms, post free, 5s. 6d.

TIMEHRI: THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH GUIANA. Edited by JAMES RODWAY, F.I.S. Volume VII (Third Series). August, 1921. Demerara: The Argosy Co., Ltd. Price 5s.

Mr. James Rodway, F.I.S., now its sole editor, calls the new number of *Timehri* the progressive volume, holding fast, as he says, to the ideal of the "Magnificent Province," for which he believes that there is a brilliant future in store. In these days, when pessimism is rife, such an attitude is all the more refreshing. The various articles deal for the most part with different aspects of the social progress already made in the Colony, as for example in farming, sanitation and village life, although one writer who would seem to be doubtful whether all the changes he has observed are in the nature of improvements, bestows on his contribution the heading of "Progress?"

The story of discovery is always exhilarating, and Father C. I. Cary-Elwes's account of his finding the mighty Atabaran-wena Waterfall, almost a year ago, is no exception. Down this fall are precipitated the waters of the Atabaran River, which flows into the Kamarang, itself one of the tributaries of the Mazaruni. Neither fall nor river are marked on the Government map. In his modest narrative of the expedition, Father Cary-Elwes states that, having no instruments, he could not accurately determine the size of Atabaran-wena, but he estimates that during the rainy season at any rate, it is a rival to Kaieteur. His impressions of the former are thus described:—

"Unlike Kaieteur, Atabaran-wena is in three drops. The river comes rushing down from above, making a sweeping curve, down a steep slope between boulders, on to a ledge from which it takes a leap into space, dropping perpendicularly down, into a deep dark pool surrounded with shining green grass, thence once more it takes a dive over a sloping ledge, and disappears between two huge boulders only to appear again far below, one seething mass, forcing its way along the rocks in what appears from our enormous height to be narrow rapids, along the bottom of the gorge, in size and grandeur, in no way inferior to its now well-known rival in the Potaro."

Amongst many further interesting contributions must be mentioned an article on New Amsterdam, by Mr. J. Van Sertima, who rather unfairly prefaces it by a quotation from Washington Irving: "From the listless repose of the place and the peculiar character of its people who are descendants from the original Dutch settlers, this sequestered den has long been known by the name of Sleepy Hollow."

The Editor writes entertainingly of the stages of the Colony's progress; Dr. F. G. Rose traces the development of its sanitation; Mr. J. C. Cruickshank shows how corporate life came to be introduced to the villages; whilst Mr. W. Beebe, the famous naturalist, provides an arresting *resumé* of last year's activities of the Zoological Research Station at Katarbo, incidentally showing how it is possible the whole year round for persons wholly unused to the tropics to live in comfort and health in double-roofed tents, with the entrance flaps open, without mosquito nets, at the very edge of the jungle and a few feet distant from the river. These and many other articles of great interest, which go to make up this most readable volume of *Timehri* prove that neither from a literary or from any other point of view are the inhabitants of British Guiana living in "Sleepy Hollow."

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST

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. By doing so they will facilitate the forwarding of their correspondence. Among those at present registered are:—

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies from Cardiff, in s.s. Speaker, October 13th:—

- Mr P. Cressall, Mr. & Mrs. H. Deverill & family, Rev. E. C. Halpin, Mrs. Hauenock & child, Mr. Pollard & son, Miss Poutage

Booker Bros., McConnell & Co. Ltd.,

Sailings to Demerara, from Liverpool, in s.s. Arabah, October 5th:—

- Mr Justice & Mrs. Berkeley, H.E. Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., Mr. & Mrs. A. St. F. Dare, Miss B. Fullagar, Mr. F. Hall, Mr. F. J. Irving, Mr. D. E. R. Kirke, Capt. Sherlock

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. Patuci, October 4th:—

- Mr. E. C. Aitken, The Misses Beattie (2), Mr. M. Carnan, Mr. H. Carman, Mr. & Mrs. T. Carter, Mr. B. F. Chester, Rev. H. W. Cope, Miss M. Cover, Miss F. L. Cox, Mr. & Mrs. G. P. Dewar, Capt. C. G. Dodwell, Mr. & Mrs. J. Dunbar, Mr. & Mrs. A. P. G. Ellis, Miss B. M. Farquhar-kou, Mr. H. Francis, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Mr. & Mrs. J. Garcia Garrado, Mrs. K. Temple Gray, Rev. Canon J. P. Hall, Mr. H. A. Hart, Dr. & Mrs. C. E. Harvey, Miss M. Harvey, Mr. D. Henderson, Mr. R. H. Hoggett, Capt. & Mrs. A. W. Long, Dr. & Mrs. C. A. Matley, Lieut. & Mrs. D. S. McGrath, Mr. K. C. Parkinson, Capt. P. M. Pearce, Mr. C. R. Reith, Mr. & Mrs. J. Stewart-Shepherd, Mr. A. G. Watson, Mrs. M. J. A. Way, Mr. A. H. Webb, Mrs. M. J. Webster-Marshall, Miss E. Whitelocke, Mrs. M. E. C. Williams, Miss C. D. Williams, Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Winder

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. Camito, Avonmouth, October 2nd:—

- Mr. N. M. Ashenheim, Mr. Roy DeMercedo, Mr. F. Gonzales, Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Hamilton, Mr. G. M. Hargreaves, Mr. K. Hooper, Mr. & Mrs. L. Jimenez, Miss E. Jimenez, Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Kirby, Mrs. A. Kirbyshire, Mrs. Gladys V. Kite, Mr. A. Linds, Miss E. Miller, Mrs. D. Morales, Miss J. Morris, Mr. E. B. Paul, Mr. & Mrs. H. Russell, Mr. & Mrs. D. B. Rattenbury, Mrs. & Miss Rudolph

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. Crynsson, October 8th:—

- Mr & Mrs Adamson, Mr & Mrs Arthur, Mrs J. Bell, Mr & Mrs Connell, Mr. Connell, Jnr, Mr & Mrs G. H. Evelyn, Mrs. A. J. Keelyn, Miss A. M. Evelyn, Mr. C. A. Edmond, Mrs. Gammon, Mr & Mrs. Gomes, Mr. Greig, Mrs. A. M. How, Mr. Hunt, Mrs. & Miss D'Arcy Irvine, Miss N. A. Jackman, Mr. E. W. Jelly, Mr. E. W. Keith, Mr. L. King, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Littell, Mr. N. MacLeod, Mrs. & the Misses Martin, Mr. Mathison, Mr. Melville, Mr. D. Moore, Mr. J. Mulder, Mr. J. Ogilvie, Mr. & Mrs. Palmer, Dr. S. P. Peart, Miss M. E. Portal, Miss E. E. Smith, Mr. Staples, Mr. Stewart, Mr., Mrs. & Miss Stollmeyer, The Misses Stroud, Miss D. T. Taylor, Miss M. H. Thomson, Miss E. R. Tuller, Mr. W. Thomson, Miss Yearwood

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. Oranje Nassau, Plymouth, September 26th:—

- Mr G. Ansdell, Mr A. G. Atkinson, Mr Trevor Rowntree, Mr Balwin Branch, Mr Emuro Chabem, Mr H. M. Crystall, Miss Frances Edghill, Mrs Florence George, The Misses George (2), Major G. Gonsalves, Dr. & Mrs. C. Gooding, Mr. Arthur Greenwell, Mr. W. Hale, Mr. James Harrocks, Mr. Eric Manning, Mr. T. G. Marshall, Mr. A. P. Neal, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin J. Palfister, Miss Maud Piles, Mr. Mohammed Ramjohn, Mr. J. P. Santos, Mrs. Nelly Shepherd, Mr. C. E. Snaden, Mr. J. W. Stephen

- Mr. G. E. Anderson, Mrs. S. Archer, Mr. H. B. G. Austin, Sir Henry A. Bovell, Mr. E. W. Bowen, Mr. W. Bowring, M.D.F., Mr. James Brown, Mr. A. S. Burleigh, Mrs. John J. Camacho, Miss F. L. Carrington, Mr. Gerald O. Case, Mr. C. H. Chambers, Mr. Albert Cherry, H. E. Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G., Dr. J. H. Cooke, R.A.M.H., Mr. J. E. Coplin, Mr. Jack Culmer, Mr. D. C. C. Da Costa, Hon. D. S. De Freitas, Mr. G. C. Du Boulay, Mr. C. E. Durity, Mr. Gay C. Edgehill, Mr. C. G. S. Eley, Mr. A. J. Findlay, M.A., Mr. E. C. Fisher, Hon. J. Freeland Foote, Mr. Alexander Fraser, Mr. Dickson Fraser, Capt. A. R. Fellowes, Dr. P. H. Gewand, Mr. P. G. Glendinging, Dr. C. G. Gooding, Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Hon. G. E. Grabham, Hon. E. A. Gramum, Mr. J. T. Greg, Mr. D. M. Hahn, Mr. J. H. Hoigh, Mr. R. Kadellyffe Hall, Mr. A. J. Hamlyn, Mr. Albert T. Hammond, Mr. C. W. Haynes, Mr. E. C. Hosack, Mr. W. P. Humphrey, Mr. P. P. Hutchinson, Mr. N. Macleod Belden, West View, Milngavie, N.B., Mr. John M. Fleming, The Hermitage, Hadlow, Kent, Mr. Archibald Gordon, of Messrs. John Leckie & Co., 44, Fore Street, E.C. Dr. R. D. O'Neale, of Mrs. Salmon, Moss Lea, Colinton, Midlothian, Mr. A. M. Reid, South Cerney, Cirencester, Glos., Mr. H. Blin Stoyle, Crediton, Devon, Mr. T. W. Jones, Mr. Gaston Johnston, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. H. Thompson King, Mr. H. A. Lake, Hon. J. Challenger Lynch, Mr. W. E. Mackay, Mr. J. C. Mackenzie, Mr. R. Poyntz Mackenzie, Mr. C. M. Manning, Mr. D. McBride, Mr. W. McMillan, Mr. W. H. McTurk, Mr. C. V. Newton, Mr. John O'Connor, M.C., Hon. T. W. B. O'Neal, Mr. G. O'Reilly, Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C., Dr. A. T. Ozzard, His Hon. Major H. Peebles D.S.O., Dr. J. Aldric Perez, Mrs. M. A. Perez, M.D.E., Mr. G. M. Peter, Hon. G. Laurie Pile, Dr. E. G. Pilgrim, Mr. J. H. Rapsey, Mr. Kenneth Reid, Lieut. W. M. Richards, His Hon. Sir Robert Roden, Mr. T. Gordon Rose, Mr. E. Haughton Sanguinetti, Mr. Ivan J. Scott, Mr. G. Elliott Sealy, Mrs. H. H. Sealy, Mr. J. R. D. Seller, Mr. D. Grafton Simpson, A.M.I.M.E., Dr. E. M. Skerte, Mr. Eric V. Solomon, Mr. Thomas Thornton, Mr. C. Forbes Todd, Mr. A. L. Verley, Mr. T. G. Westall, Mr. Percy W. Wilcock, Mr. W. Harold Wright

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Table with columns for Country, Denomination, and Price. Includes entries for Antigua, Barbados, British Guiana, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad, The Colonial Bank, Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Angostura Bitters, New Trinidad Lake Asphalt, Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates, St. Madeleine Sugar, Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd., Petroleum Options, Ltd., Trinidad Central Oilfields, Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd., Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., Demerara Railway Company, Demerara Railway Company 7% Perm. Pref., Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref., Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures, W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd., W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum. Int. Pref., W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 2nd, W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 5% Debentures.

Copies of the "Grenada Handbook" (1921) can now be obtained at The West India Committee Rooms, price 2s. 6d. each, or post free 3s.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6042.

Telegrams—
"Carib, London"



15, SETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
October 11th, 1921.

BANK RATE 5½ per cent, as from July 21st

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Sept 27th.	Oct. 11th.		Sept 27th	Oct. 11th
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	15 4	15 11	In Spain	1 2 8	1 2 9
.. France	2 1 1	2 1 5	.. Germany	21 4 0	22 15 11
.. Belgium	2 2 1	2 2 3	.. Austria	157 6 11	305 19 11
.. Italy	3 11 3	3 15 4	.. Holland	19 3	19 3

The intrinsic value of the gold sovereign is £1 5s. 3d.

SUGAR. The New York market is steady. Yesterday Cubans, c.i.f., were quoted 2 63c., and sales of Porto Ricans and Philippine sugars, for prompt delivery, were made at 1.12c., c.i.f. Futures, for Cubans, landed in bond, were quoted: December 2.33c., January 2.29c., March 2.20c., and May 2.32c.

There was a fairly good demand in the Home Market yesterday. The value of crystallised West Indian was 41/- to 45/6; Tate's Cubes, best quality, 57/9; Lyle's granulated, 51/9, yellow imitation crystals 47/-. American granulated, spot, sold at 50/- to 50/3; White Java, spot, 48/6 to 49/-; and Mauritius 46/-; Czechoslovakian and Dutch granulated were quoted at 23/6, f.o.b. Hamburg.

The terminal market was quiet. For 96 deg., the values were: October 15/6, November 14/10, December to March 15/-. For White Sugar, October 20/6, November 19/4½, December 18/10½, and March 18/9½.

The loss which Muscovado importers have incurred through paying duty on landed weight and selling on re-weight, can now be obviated, seeing that the Customs authorities have agreed to accept for the purpose of duty the re-weight found by the Customs officer at the time of delivery from warehouse. They reserve the right, however, of having the polarisation re-tested.

Mr. F. Oliver, H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg, in a report to the Department of Overseas Trade, states that the position of the German sugar industry has been described as follows: The growers, factories, and refineries pressed last spring for the early decontrol of the industry, but the Government were unable to accede to their request, on the ground that sugar could not be treated differently to barley, wheat, and other crops. It was eventually decided that sugar should be decontrolled as from October 1st next. But many of the factories and refineries, believing that control would be continued for another year, had in the meantime entered into contracts at prices which no longer correspond to the world prices, and consequently urged the Government to maintain the control. This the Government declined to do, but suggested that the sugar interests should combine to the same end. I understand that they have now agreed to do so, a few of the less important firms only (about thirteen in number) dissenting. The change from Government control to control by the industry was relatively easy to effect, because the officials who administered the Government control were drawn entirely from the industry.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on October 1st were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919.
Imports	43,692	57,584	41,856 Tons
Deliveries	36,962	45,664	38,327 "
Stock	15,134	20,056	9,723 "

RUM. The home trade is flat, but the export market has shown much activity during the past fortnight. This is in consequence of the coming increased German duty, but only Jamaica sorts have been shipped. The good marks realised 6/9 for 1920 distillation.

The stocks in London on October 1st were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,323	11,399	8,051 Pms
Demerara	17,422	15,027	14,359 "
Total of all kinds	38,919	36,353	26,201 "

CACAO is firm, and considerable sales have been made in West African at steady prices; but only a small business is passing in West Indian sorts at: Fine Grenada 55/- to 56/-, fine Jamaica 55/-, fine plantation Trinidad 60/- to 61/-, ordinary Trinidad 56/-.

The stocks in London on October 1st were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	23,862	49,329	35,212 Bags.
Grenada	20,248	31,480	16,723 "
Total of all kinds	151,159	284,600	129,616 "

ARROWROOT. Only a moderate business is passing, with quotations steady and unchanged at 3¼d. to 6¼d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is firmer for spot and near positions, and valued at 3/8 to 3/9 for spot, or 3/5 c.i.f.

BAY OIL is easier, with rather heavy supplies. Last quotation, 11/- per lb (holders).

COFFEE is about steady, but business during the past fortnight has been small. The demand for home-trade qualities is good, but owing to exchange difficulties export trade is slow. Fine peaberry Blue Mountain has sold at 192/6, and good to fine ordinary Jamaica is worth 60/- to 65/-. Total stocks in London on October 1st, 14,174 tons.

COPRA is dull. West Indian is valued nominally at £31, c.i.f. Rotterdam or London.

COTTON generally has not been quite so active, and quotations of some descriptions show a decline, but West Indian Sea Island has been in improved demand, with quotations raised a further 400 points at: medium 30d., fine 38d., and extra fine 45d. Imports in the 10 weeks ending October 6th, 4,537 bales. The report that the Boll Weevil is "swarming over almost the entire cotton belt," and that the present condition of the crop is 12.2 per cent. below the worst previous record is affecting the market.

HONEY. During the past fortnight this market has been very quiet and without change. Last quotations for Jamaica: 30/- to 33/- for very dark to darkish amber; 50/- to 70/- for palish amber to pale liquid.

LOGWOOD remains quiet, with very little offering. St. Lucia is valued at £13 per ton, ex wharf London.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Small sales of Handpressed have been made at 19/- per lb., but Distilled is neglected. **Lime Juice.** There is still no enquiry for Raw, with sellers of good Jamaica at 2/6. Concentrated is rather easier, and sales have been made at £24 per pipe, usual basis.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is easier and difficult of sale, with sellers at 12/- c.i.f. Bitter is not enquired for.

PETROLEUM. The price of Pennsylvania crude has been advanced to \$31.00.

RUBBER. The market has shown distinct signs of improvement, and there is a hotter demand generally. Spot crepe 9½d., spot sheet 9½d. Stock in London, 72,272 tons.

SPICES. A fair business has been done in **Pimento** at 22/6, c.i.f. Hamburg, for shipment from London. There has been less demand for immediate shipment from Jamaica, the last quotation being 20/9 c.i.f. Jamaica **Ginger** remains steady at 140/- to 160/- for good common to good middling.

TRINIDAD OIL. Production for September: Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., 10,950 tons. Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd., 6,900 tons. United British Oilfields of Trinidad, 5,700 tons.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Caviller), October 11th: "Good showers have fallen throughout the island." Demerara (Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.), October 3rd: "We have just had an average fall of two inches in Berbice."

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1921.

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB. LONDON.



15, SEKTHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
October 25th, 1921

The Indian Sugar Committee.

IN the present issue we publish a summary of the Report of the INDIAN SUGAR COMMITTEE, which was appointed in October, 1919, to visit India and to examine the conditions of the sugar industry there, and advise as to the best means to adopt for its expansion. It is a monumental and exhaustive publication, occupying no fewer than 400 pages of closely printed foolscap, and contains an immense number of recommendations, ranging from matters of high politics down to mechanical strainers for mill juice. The most important of these recommendations, as regards the agricultural portion of cane-sugar production, are those advocating the provision of a supply of nitrogenous manures, the introduction of steam tillage for the larger properties, with motor tractors for the smaller, the compulsory purchase of lands in the neighbourhood of factories by the Government, to be leased for growing canes, with the view of getting over the obstacle which now exists in the way of establishing factories of any size on account of the conditions of land tenure; the development of the present system of agricultural credit banks, the extended prosecution of the seedling cane work now going on, and the co-organisation of the various Agricultural Departments. In respect to manufacture, the report recognises the necessity for the continuance of the manufacture of the sugars liked by the people, and recommends that the small gur

and rab producing units should be better equipped in the way of mills, furnaces, and other details of manufacture, so that the present loss of sugar may be minimised. As regards the few factories at present existing, more efficient cane feeding and milling is advised, and the sulphitation process is recommended as the one most suitable to Indian conditions for the manufacture of white sugar. One of the most important general recommendations is that favouring the establishment of a central semi-official Sugar Board to control the whole industry, and the trend of modern thought is exemplified by the advocacy of the establishment of an Institute for the practical training of engineers, chemists, and agriculturists, of which a practical Sugar School would be a part, after the manner of the schools in Louisiana and Hawaii. That portion of the Committee's duties dealing with tariff has, if we may so express it, been shelved, and perhaps wisely, in view of the fact that in the present condition of India matters of this description are best left to that Empire to deal with. The report is a *magnum opus* among industrial reports, and our first impression on opening it was to exclaim, with DOMINIE SAMPSON, "Prodegeious," with the increasing wonder on perusal that any of the members of the Committee were alive after such strenuous work to tell the tale. To those connected with sugar, the report will afford many pleasurable hours by a winter's fireside. It portrays with faithful minuteness the present position of an industry which was of antiquity when the inhabitants of Britain relied on blue paint for their everyday attire.

Canadian Enterprise and British—

MANY readers will remember that THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE entertained the members of a delegation of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, who were then in England, at a banquet at the Crystal Palace on June 23rd, 1905, in order that the visitors might have an opportunity of seeing the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition. The Canadian guests were highly delighted with all that they saw, and patriotic speeches were delivered by the late SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, the HON. J. F. ROLLAND and others on the subject of the development of trade between the West Indies and Canada. It is now satisfactory to learn that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association hopes to make still closer acquaintance with the British West Indies, their Executive Council having approved a proposal for sending a delegation of twenty-five members to those Colonies in January next. The declared objects of the tour will be:—

1.—To advance by friendly intercourse the mutual interest between Canada and the British West Indies, so manifestly apparent in past years and culminating in the enactment of preferential tariff arrangements.

2.—To establish personal relationships between Government officials, business organisations, merchants, bankers, etc., of all countries which are signatories to the agreement.

3.—To discuss means of improving cable, mail and steamship communications and other matters.

4.—To gather information in respect to the business and economic conditions in the various Islands, and methods by which existing trade may be increased and new lines introduced.



Colonel S. H. Wilson, Governor-elect of Trinidad and Tobago.

That the Canadian visitors will receive as cordial a welcome as was given them by the West Indian body in London in 1905 goes without saying, and their virile Association is to be congratulated upon its enterprise in organising such an expedition, which should be fraught with very beneficial results. It would be impossible to lay too much stress on the desirability of securing the development of trade between the West Indies and Canada. But there is room for trade between the West Indies and the United Kingdom also, and it is a sad reflection that English traders could not send an expedition similar to the Canadian delegation to the West Indies even if they wished to do so, owing to the absence of direct and regular steamship communication. In the absence of this

desideratum, for which THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE continues to press, it is surprising that English traders should have hardly realised as yet that a substantial preference in the Customs duties—amounting in some cases to as much as 50 per cent.—awaits their goods in the British West Indies? In this connection it is much to be hoped that the resolution passed recently by the Executive of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE will bear fruit, and that MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, who, on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' Banquet on June 24th, promised that he would make the strongest representations to the Cabinet on the subject, will soon be in a position to make the definite announcement on the subject which he then foreshadowed.

NEW WEST INDIAN GOVERNORS.

Colonel S. H. Wilson for Trinidad.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Colonel Samuel Herbert Wilson, C.B., C.M.G., Royal Engineers, the Principal Assistant Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, in succession to Sir J. R. Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., who has retired.

Like his predecessor, Sir John Chancellor, Colonel Wilson was Assistant Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence. He was also Secretary to the Overseas Defence, Home Ports Defence, and Imperial Communications Committees. Born in 1873, he is the son of Dr. James Wilson, LL.D., of Dublin, and he was married in 1902 to the daughter of Mr. F. T. Gervers. He entered the Army in 1893, being commissioned to the "Sappers," as was Sir John Chancellor. For his service in the South African War he received the Queen's Medal and two clasps. In the European war he rose to be Brigadier-General on the General Staff, and was awarded the Legion of Honour and the Croix de Guerre.

Sir Eustace Fiennes's Appointment.

It was officially announced on October 17th that the King had approved the appointment of Lieut.-Colonel the Honourable Sir Eustace Edward Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, Bt., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Seychelles, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, in succession to Sir Edward Merewether, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., who has retired.

Sir Eustace, who was born in 1864, is a younger brother of Lord Saye and Sele. He sat as M.P. for the Banbury Division of Oxfordshire from 1906 till January, 1910, and from December, 1910, till June, 1918, when he was appointed Governor of the Seychelles. He has seen active service in many quarters of the globe. He served in Canada during the suppression of the Riel Rebellion in 1885; in Egypt, 1888-9, as a Yeomanry officer, when he was mentioned in despatches; in the pioneer expedition to Mashonaland, in 1890; and during the South African War, when he was "mentioned" twice. In the Great War he was in France with the Yeomanry, at Antwerp with the Marine Brigade, and in the Dardanelles as intelligence officer, R.N.D. His eldest son, a captain in the Gordon Highlanders, died of wounds in 1917. He was created a baronet in 1916.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"LITTLE billy-goat hab beard, but big bull hab none."

THE Trinidad-Grenada cable was repaired on October 15th.

THE Baltimore and Ohio Railway now furnishes free coffee to all passengers asking the car attendant for it.

THE cacao production of the French Colonies is about 3,100 tons, while the vanilla production approximates to 500 tons.

TWO British Guiana stamps of 1850, bearing the initials J. D. S., were sold recently in Paris for 60,000 francs (nominally £2,400).

THE import of sugar into British India for the fiscal year 1920-21 was 286,908 tons, as against 408,723 tons for 1919-20. This compares with a former import of 800,000 tons.

ADMIRAL SIR ALLAN F. EVERETT sailed for Melbourne in the *Osterley* on October 15th to take up his appointment as First Naval Member of the Commonwealth Navy Board there.

MR. CHARLES H. HEWETT, Joint General Manager of the Colonial Bank, left for Jamaica on Tuesday, October 18th, with a view to making an inspection of the bank's branches in that island. He hopes to return before Christmas.

THE Davson Gold Medal for Research for the triennial period ended September 30th, 1920, has been awarded to Ernest Daniel Rowland, M.B., for the work done by him for the advancement of the health and hygiene of the inhabitants of British Guiana by medical research.

MR. H. G. HAZELL, son of the senior partner of the firm, and Mr. Percy W. Verrall, an honorary correspondent of The West India Committee, have been admitted as partners in the firm of John H. Hazell, Sons and Co., of St. Vincent, from which Mr. C. E. F. Richards has retired.

FREQUENTERS of the West Indian Club will miss the kindly personality of "Hart," for many years steward of that institution. Sergt. Harry Hart, who was with the R.A.S.C. (Remount) during the war, succumbed on September 21st to illness resulting from the effects of his war service.

THE forests of British Guiana are estimated to cover 78,680 square miles, or 87.9 per cent. of the Colony's total area of 89,480 square miles. The land alienated from the Crown equals 1,800 square miles, or 2 per cent. of the whole area; and 10 per cent. of the accessible area of the Colony. The Indian reservations occupy 1,360 square miles.

THE following particulars regarding the dates for posting Christmas mails have been announced by the Postmaster-General:—

West Indies (generally)	Nov. 25	Middle Nov
West Indies (Barbados and Trinidad only) ...	Dec. 9	Ditto
Jamaica ...	Dec. 8	Dec. 3

SIR PERCY SCOTT, the gunnery expert, is credited with having invented a mechanical sugar-cane cutter. The machine, which is propelled by hand, weighs about 200 lbs., and has a knife which revolves at the rate of 3,000 revolutions per minute. In trials with hard pieces of bamboo, it is stated that the knives went through them like butter.

DR. NUNAN, K.C., LL.D., has been nominated by the Treasury as the British Representative on the Special Committee now being constituted for the repartition of the Austro-Hungarian National Debt. This will involve sessions in the various capitals of Central Europe. The revised edition of the Laws of British Guiana, in compiling which Dr. Nunan has been engaged, is now ready for the printers.

THERE has been considerable perturbation in the minds of consumers of ice-creams in the United States on account of what is supposed to be the presence of sand in those delicacies. The dairy people denounce sugar as being the source of it, but the *Journal of Agricultural Research* publishes the result of an elaborate investigation, in which it appears that what looks like sand are crystals of milk sugar, sucrose.

A HONG KONG refinery is, according to *Facts about Sugar*, being remodelled so as to permit of the use of Norit, a kind of decolourising carbon, instead of animal charcoal. The raw sugar is to be worked in centrifugals to 99 deg. polarisation, melted to a density of 60 deg. Brix., and then treated with Norit in two operations, the first to remove gums, pectins, and other slimy matters in suspension, and the second to give the required colourisation and brilliancy.

READERS of "The Gossip of the Caribbees," which caused, as we remember, considerable commotion in the West Indies in the 'nineties, were not far wrong in predicting a distinguished literary career for its author—a young Barbadian. Mr. W. H. R. Trowbridge, the individual in question, who was born and spent the greater part of his life in Barbados, has recently set the seal on his success by his "Queen Alexandra: A Study of Royalty," published on his behalf by Fisher Unwin, a book which has already been acclaimed by the Press as a standard work of distinction. Mr. Trowbridge is an "old boy" of Harrison College. He comes of a family closely identified with the West Indies throughout the 19th Century, and started his career with Trowbridge and Co. When that family firm went out of business he

entered the service of the Colonial Bank, but left the West Indies for good in 1900. Since then he has devoted himself to literature, with the successful result now shown.

THE consumption of rum in the United Kingdom during the first nine months of 1913, 1920, and 1921 was 2,173,960 proof gallons, 2,106,728 proof gallons, and 1,259,872 proof gallons, respectively. It will be seen that it is in the present year that the falling off in consumption has been so marked. On the other hand, the imports during the same periods have been 3,473,386 proof gallons, 3,320,148 proof gallons, and 3,713,000 proof gallons respectively, and the exports 688,552 proof gallons, 369,717 proof gallons, and 153,701 proof gallons respectively. The excess of imports over public requirement was, therefore, in the 1913 period, 610,874 proof gallons, in that of 1920, 843,703 gallons, and in that of 1921, 2,299,427 proof gallons. It is curious, however, that the stocks on hand on September 30th, 1920, and 1921, do not appear to bear out the above figures, even allowing for Navy and Army requirements, there only being an excess of 685,000 gallons at the latter date, compared with that in hand at the former.

THERE is probably no article of merchandise in which the direction of trade is subject to such variation as sugar. This is exemplified by the examination of the sources of supply of the United Kingdom in respect of this commodity during the last two years. Taking the first nine months of 1920 and 1921, the imports of sugar came from the undermentioned countries in the quantities shown:

Refined Sugar From	1920 cwts.	1921, cwts.
Holland ...	21,968	1,473,221
Belgium ...	41,103	323,029
Other countries in Europe ...	1,944	1,634,207
Java ...	100,207	33,816
United States ...	20,414,300	3,236,753
Unrefined—		
Czecho-Slovakia ...	116,617	none
Other countries in Europe ...	4,645	131,574
Java ...	1,925,539	474,089
Cuba ...	10,328,838	4,079,994
Brazil ...	100,212	985,657
British India ...	312,254	29,319
Peru ...	647,730	1,256,013

DURING the 1920-21 financial year of the Australian Commonwealth something like 100,000 tons of raw sugar were imported by the Government of that country, in order to make up the deficiency in the internal production. This, the *Australian Sugar Journal* states, worked out at an average cost of about £60 per ton, and after paying all the costs of refining and handling, including the loss of weight, this sugar was sold to the wholesale trade at £49 per ton, less discount, and at about £46 to manufacturers of jam and other sugar-using trades. It is estimated, says our contemporary, that the accumulated losses on this account to date cannot be

less than £2,000,000, and it is owing to the necessity for making good this deficiency that the Government are compelled to charge the trade £49 per ton for Australian grown sugar, which they have bought and are buying at £30 6s. 8d. per ton, plus the expense of refining and handling. The price paid by the consumer is not, therefore, a kind of bonus to the Queensland sugar producer, but a measure to compensate the Government for supplying Australian consumers with below cost price sugar.

OCYRO SAUCE.—Take 100 tender ochros and cut each into 4 pieces. Set them to boil in 5 pints of boiling water; add 1 lb. of ripe pumpkin, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. cabbage, 2 dozen small squash, a large saucer of chopped caterpillar leaves, pumpkin buds, sweet basil leaves, thyme and onion, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. salt beef, 1 lb. of corned pork rather fat, and a chicken or 2 lbs. of mutton, a few tomatoes, and simmer for 4 hours. To be served with fresh lime at each plate.—MRS. FODERINGHAM.

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following transfers, promotions and appointments have been recently made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS.

Mr. J. E. R. Stephens (Magistrate, Zanzibar), Resident Magistrate, Jamaica.

[Mr. Stephens, who was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1894, has been a magistrate in Zanzibar since 1912. He compiled the 4th edition of the *Manual of Naval Law*, and prepared the 11th edition of "Anson on Contracts." He is also the author of works on "Demurrage," "Freight," and "Charter Parties."]

Mr. C. Sudler (Assistant General Manager of Railways since 1914), Traffic Manager, Nigeria Railways.

Mr. F. Stell (Assistant Botanist and Mycologist, Department of Science and Agriculture, British Guiana), Mycologist, Trinidad.

[Mr. Stell was appointed to British Guiana last year.]

Dr. S. P. Peart (late District Medical Officer, Pehang), Medical Officer, Nevis.

Dr. F. H. Cooke (District Medical Officer, Jamaica), Medical Officer, West African Medical Staff.

APPOINTMENTS.

Dr. R. A. S. Hoyte, Medical Officer, St. Lucia. [Dr. Hoyte, whose residence is in Port of Spain, Trinidad, obtained the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B. at Edinburgh in 1919.]

Dr. A. S. Westmoreland, Resident Medical Officer, Kingston Hospital, Jamaica.

[Dr. Westmoreland, who served during the war as a Captain in the R.A.M.C., is M.R.C.B. (Eng.) and L.R.C.P. (London), 1918.]

Dr. B. C. W. Pasco, Resident Medical Officer, Kingston Hospital, Jamaica.

[Dr. Pasco, late Captain in the R.A.M.C., is M.R.C.P. (Eng.) and L.R.C.P. (Lond.), 1915. He has been recently Resident Anaesthetist at St. Mary's Hospital, and Casualty M.O. at University College Hospital, London.]

INDIAN SUGAR.

The Indian Sugar Committee, which was appointed in October, 1919, has now presented a long and very minute report on the matters included in the terms of reference. The latter, summarised, were:—

1. To examine the various sugar-cane growing tracts of India, with the view of determining the nature of the possible expansion.
2. To examine the possibility of consolidating the areas now under canes.
3. To report on the work of the sugar expert with respect to the production of new varieties of canes.
4. To examine the present methods of co-ordination of sugar-cane work adopted by the various Indian Agricultural Departments.
5. To examine the existing factory industry in India and to advise thereon.
6. To examine the economic and labour conditions now obtaining in those districts where expansion of the sugar industry is likely, including the railway question.
7. To investigate the work being done in the way of the introduction of small plants and factories.
8. To learn the position of India as regards the world's supply.
9. To investigate the conditions under which refined and raw sugar and molasses are imported into India.
10. To examine the effects of controlling those outputs by duties, to include preferential treatment of British possessions; and,
- 11, to examine the conditions regarding the manufacture of rum, under Government supervision.

The Report deals with the various districts of India in detail, both as regards agriculture and manufacture. Speaking generally, however, it states that as regards agriculture the most insistent problem is a cheap supply of nitrogenous fertiliser, the effect of the war having been to increase seriously the cost of oil-cake, which had been the cheapest and commonest form of nitrogenous manure used in India. Another essential item is the introduction of deep ploughing with the use of mechanical tillage in place of the present primitive cattle ploughs. While steam tackle is recommended for the larger estates, motor tractors are advised for the smaller.

Recommendations on scientific ends as regards variety canes are considered to be essential, and the establishment of the proposed research station on the Punjab for the investigation of crop water requirements should be expedited with a view to providing irrigation. The Co-operative Credit Society system, also, should be developed.

The report also deals with the question of other sugars besides that from the cane. As regards that from the date palm, it states that hopes are justified of an improved production. With respect to beet sugar, the Committee consider that its future, if anywhere, is in the North-West Frontier Province and the Punjab.

As regards manufacture, it is stated that 99 per cent. of the cane-sugar produced in India is turned out primarily as gur or rab, and that 1,068,960 tons of sugar are thus lost to India; while from

inefficient milling a further loss of 10,554 tons is sustained.

In connection with the gur industry, the report considers the correct line of advance is power crushing, with improved furnace arrangements.

The smallness and inefficiency of Indian factories are, it is stated, mainly attributable to the difficulty in obtaining adequate supplies of canes, and it is recommended that the Government should acquire blocks of land for the purpose of growing canes by being leased to the factory. As regards the purchase of canes by the factory, a sliding scale equal to half the price of the sugar is recommended.

The present method of handling and milling cane in Indian factories is particularly defective, and the report makes recommendations in this respect based on modern lines; and states that for white sugar manufacture the sulphitation process is better suited to India than the carbonitiation process. The establishment of a Government pioneer factory in Upper India is advocated, to carry out general experiments for the benefit of the industry.

As regards the Indian gur refineries, it is stated that they are small and turn out sugar of low quality. The tariff question is practically shelved by the Committee. To progress in the Indian sugar industry, organisation on the Java lines is stated to be essential, and the formation of an Indian Sugar Board, with five official and six non-official members, is recommended in the report, all members in the first instance to be nominated by the Government. An Imperial Sugar Research Institute should also be established, with three divisions—agricultural, chemical, and engineering—which should also control the work on the various research stations proposed by the Committee to be established in the provinces. This Institute should also consider the needs of the small gur manufacturer, investigate the possibilities of beet sugar production, and assist the palm sugar industry.

One of the greatest needs of the Indian sugar industry appeared to the Committee to be a properly trained staff of chemical, engineering, and agricultural assistants, and it recommends strongly that a Sugar School for India, on the lines of the Andaha Sugar School of the Louisiana State University and the College of Hawaii, to form an integral part of the Sugar Research Institute, should be established.

The Indian sugar industry is in a very bad way, indeed, if it does not reap substantial benefit from the minute and exhaustive report sent in by the Committee.

STILL they come. As we go to press we learn that the Jamaica-Porto Rico cable of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company is interrupted. Telegrams for the British West Indies and British Guiana will circulate via Jamaica-Santiago at normal rates for seven days from the 23rd instant. Telegrams for Trinidad and British Guiana may also be routed via Jamaica, and wireless at normal rates.

CANADIAN STEAMER SERVICE.

Invitation for Tenders Issued.

Through the courtesy of the High Commissioner for Canada, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is able to publish the terms of the invitation for tenders for the steamship service between Canada, the British West Indies, and British Guiana. Dated September 20th at Ottawa, they run as follows:—

TENDERS.—(1) Tenders for a mail, passenger and freight steamship service between Canada, the British West Indies, and British Guiana, are invited, and will be received at the office of the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Canada, until noon of January 31st, 1922.

(2) Tenders must be submitted on the enclosed form,* and should be sent in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Canada, and marked legibly on the outside, "Tender for steamship service between Canada, the British West Indies and British Guiana," and if submitted through the mails should be registered.

SERVICE.—(3) Tenders are invited for the performance of one or more of the following services:—

(a) Sailing weekly from St. John or Halifax, and 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; and 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.

(b) A similar service to that specified in Clause (a) above, except that sailings from St. John or Halifax shall be fortnightly instead of weekly.

(c) The same service as specified in Clause (a) except that sailings shall be made from St. John and Halifax alternately.

(d) The same service as specified in Clause (b) except that sailings shall be made from St. John and Halifax alternately.

PERIOD OF CONTRACT.—(4) Tenders are invited for service covering a period of five or ten years. Tenders are requested to state the earliest date on which they can establish the service proposed.

STEAMERS.—(5) The steamers to be employed 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.

SUBSIDY.—(6) The tender must state the amount of subsidy required, and the period for which the contract is requested.

(7) The contract will provide that there shall be reasonable proportionate allocation of passengers and cargo accommodation between the colonies mentioned in Clause 3 (a).

FREIGHT AND PASSENGER RATES.—(8) There shall be no unfair differentiation in rates of freight against the smaller colonies as compared with the rates of larger colonies situated at a similar distance from St. John or Halifax, and freight and passenger

rates will at all times be subject to the approval of the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

COLD STORAGE.—(9) The steamer shall be so constructed that so far as the traffic warrants, cold storage shall be provided, but alternative tenders may be submitted offering the steamers with or without cold storage.

MAILS.—(10) The steamers employed shall at all times, if required, carry such mails as may be offered for that purpose by the postal authorities of Canada, or the West Indian Colonies, and the contractor is to land and embark all mails at terminal points and ports of call at his own expense.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.—(11) The contract will be subject to such general conditions as are incidental to all similar steamship subsidy contracts granted by the Canadian Government.

FURTHER INFORMATION.—(12) Any further information required in regard to this call for tenders may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

(13) The Minister does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.

F. C. T. O'HARA,
Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce.

CANADA'S TRADE WITH WEST INDIES.

Her Imports of Sugar and Cacao.

The quantity of sugar imported into Canada for the four months ending July 31st last was 253,508,175 lbs., of which 11,539,869 lbs. was over 16 D.S. and 241,968,806 lbs. under 16 D.S. Of the former, 57,506 lbs. came from Barbados. Of the latter, 42,052,680 lbs. came from British Guiana, 22,325,195 lbs. from Barbados, 943,704 lbs. from Jamaica, 1,120,000 lbs. from Trinidad and Tobago, and 5,453,999 lbs. from the other British West Indies.

The imports of cacao for the four months were 45,827 cwts., of which 2,335 cwts. came from Jamaica, 17,369 cwts. from Trinidad and Tobago, and 99,952 cwts. from the other British West India Islands. Coffee was imported to the extent of 6,388,052 lbs., 1,521,005 lbs. coming from Jamaica. The imports of arrowroot amounted to 47,845 lbs., 41,609 lbs. of which came from British West India Islands, other than Barbados, Jamaica or Trinidad. 1,485,613 coconuts were imported, of which 527,750 came from Jamaica, 403,800 from Trinidad and Tobago, and 23,083 from other British West India Islands.

THE Clyde Steamship Company, it is understood, propose extending their service to the West Indies and South America. One of the new services from New York is expected to cover Port-au-Prince, Kingston (Jamaica), Cartagena and Puerto Colombia, and back to New York via Kingston, the round trip occupying twenty days. Another route from New York will include Trinidad, Georgetown (Demerara), Paramaribo, Cayenne and Para, ships on the return trip calling at Paramaribo and Trinidad, whilst a further service is likely to be run between New York and St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. Kitts, Antigua, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia and Barbados.

*Can be seen at The West India Committee Rooms. Not reprinted.

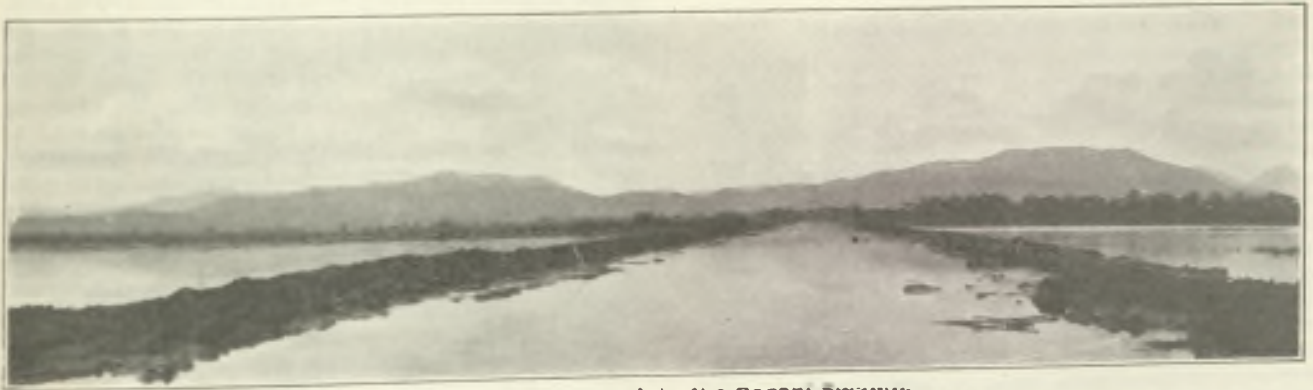
THE CARONI SWAMP.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Albert H. Cipriani, M.B.E., THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR is able to reproduce on this page two photographs showing the progress in the work of reclamation of the Caroni swamp to the south-east of Port of Spain, for which he made himself responsible. Reference was made to this scheme in the CIRCULAR of June 24th, 1920, and it is satisfactory to learn that the enterprise is proceeding satisfactorily. For the purpose of the work, the swamp is divided into four districts, and it is believed that the Northern of these (No. 4) will be completed by the end of January next. The illustrations show a mosquito-proof houseboat in which the contractors' staff live, afloat on one of the main lateral trenches. To the left of it can be seen one of the great dredges which are being used. The other illustration gives a striking view of a drainage trench which is being driven through the heart of the pestilential swamp. No date can yet be fixed for the completion of this great work, which will not only have a very beneficial effect on the health of Trinidad, but will also eventually throw open a large area of land for profitable cultivation.



A Mosquito-proof House Boat.

station only, and its agricultural resources were largely neglected and undeveloped. The exports for that year were valued at £211,653, and of this



A Drainage Trench in the Caroni Swamp.

DEMERARA SUGAR.

Mr. F. I. Scard writes:—

Anyone acquainted with what Demerara sugar should be cannot fail to have been struck by the inferiority of much of it now being sold in London. To-day I have seen exposed in a shop window some which was nothing more than a grey refining sugar. Some years ago, a manager who sent such a sugar home as "Demerara" would have been incontinently discharged. *But he would not have done it!*

According to the last WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the value of West Indian crystallised ranged from 41s. to 45s. 6d. per cwt., say 22s. to 26s. 6d. c.i.f. The corresponding value of white Javas was 23s., which would represent over 27s. for West Indian white of the same quality. Surely it would be better to face the matter and make white sugar rather than send in inferior "yellows" or trust to the tender mercies of refiners.

sum coal totalled £102,626, while the agricultural exports only reached the value of £84,950. The unsatisfactory economic position of the island at that time is clearly shown by the fact that, after eliminating bunker coal, the total value of imports exceeded the exports by a sum of £80,340.

During the last fifteen years a considerable change has taken place. The great difference between the value of imports and exports has been reduced, and St. Lucia has now taken her place among the agricultural communities. In proof of this Mr. Brooks gives diagram and statistics pointing out that of exports valued at £430,192 in 1919, £218,860 represented agricultural products. Each successive year now sees the Colony more dependent upon agriculture.

Sugar, which still remains the premier industry, has unfortunately suffered a decline during the last few years. The fall in production was luckily off-

set by the inflated prices obtained during the war, and the situation, for this reason alone, did not become serious. "Since true progress, however, depends entirely upon increased production, and not upon the price obtained per ton, we cannot," says Mr. Brooks, "but regard the decline as unfortunate, and the present position of the industry at the close of 1919 as being artificial and unsatisfactory."

The area now devoted to cane growing, particularly in the Southern districts of the island, is capable of considerable expansion, and there is no doubt whatever that the present areas can, and would, be greatly extended, and better canes produced, if the peasants were guaranteed and paid a better price for their produce. Cane farming in St. Lucia requires to be re-organised and placed on a sound business footing. The confidence of the cane farmers would then be regained, and a much larger number of peasants would be willing to grow canes for the usines, and by doing so they would materially help in placing this industry in a more flourishing position. If the sugar industry is to be developed there must be closer co-operation between the cane farmers, and also between the cane farmers and the factories. Co-operation and increased production must be the sole object of all concerned in this industry. Labour and capital must work together; each is essential to the other, and the rights of both must be recognised and respected, if increased production is to be obtained and the industry placed upon a sound progressive foundation.

How to Double a Cacao Crop.

Considerable progress has been made in the cacao industry in recent years. This increase in production is not due to new areas coming into bearing, but is the direct result of the application of improved agricultural methods which some of our leading planters are now adopting. The former practice of allowing cacao trees to care for themselves once they had covered in the land, has proved unprofitable, and it is now realised by all progressive planters that continuous attention to the soil and to the trees must be given, if profitable crops are to be harvested. This satisfactory increase is not due to the application of chemical manures, as these have been too costly and difficult to obtain during the last five or six years. The increase is due to the attention that has been paid to deep draining, followed by forking, and the application of lime and of green mulchings. There are some estates where the crop has been doubled, and even trebled, by these means alone, without the application of any artificial manure.

Judging from the numerous samples of cacao soils that have been examined for carbonate of lime by the Agricultural Department, there are very few cacao fields in this island that would not be benefited by an application of lime at the rate of 1 ton per acre; and where this treatment is followed by heavy dressings of green vegetable matter, an annual dressing of lime at the rate of 10 cwt. per acre would prove profitable. The increased attention that has been paid to tillage has had a most beneficial effect upon the health of the trees generally. Taking the island as a whole, there is not the

same evidence of disease in the cacao plantations as was apparent some six to ten years ago.

There are cases where the trees are in excellent health and vigour, but owing to overshadowing the wood is not ripened, and the trees do not bear the crops that they should. Many estates have provided ample overhead shade, but have entirely neglected to make any provision to protect the cacao fields from the hot drying winds that sweep along the roads and through the cacao plantations on all sides.

This is of such vital importance to the production of heavy crops that in Trinidad it is doubtful if a cacao field could be found that is not enclosed on all sides by quick-growing hedges, such as the common red hibiscus or some similar plant. On one Trinidad estate, for instance, there are 10 miles of hibiscus hedges around the cacao plantation, and yet, in St. Lucia, it would be difficult to find a cacao field efficiently protected in this way. Excellent hedges have been established at the Agricultural Station, Réunion, with such plants as *Aralia* and *Gliricidia*. Both of these make suitable growth for this purpose, and are strongly recommended for general use, as they give good results both in the dry and wet districts. *Gliricidia*, when used in this way, requires trimming about three times a year. These prunings provide good material for mulching purposes. When it is grown in the dry districts the last trimming should be done in December; new leaves are then formed which will make a good covering throughout the dry season. Unless a heavy pruning is given at this period, the old leaves will be shed during the drought, and the hedges will remain leafless until the rains set in. Little or no extension is taking place in the area under cacao cultivation, which is estimated to be about 6,000 acres. Further extension is undesirable until the existing plantations have been developed to their maximum bearing capacities.

Coco-nut cultivation has received far more attention during the last five or six years than any other crop, and within the next few years coco-nuts and their by-products will occupy an important position in the list of exports. Indeed, it will not be at all surprising if the coco-nut industry does not soon become the second staple crop in St. Lucia's agricultural industries.

Lime planting on a general commercial scale was commenced in 1905. During 1919 limes and lime products were exported to the total value of £14,593. As so often happens when new industries are started, a rush was made to plant up every available piece of land with limes, without considering the plant's requirements, or the capabilities of the land to be planted, with the inevitable result that, after a few years of lingering, whole areas died out, leaving isolated trees here and there to mark the former lime plantation. Apart from the waste of good material, time, money and labour, the isolated and neglected trees became diseased and pest-infested, and in such condition were a source of danger to neighbouring lime plantations.

It is safe to estimate that not one-half of the lime trees planted during the last ten years are alive today, or our exports would be double their present figures. Nevertheless, the experience gained,

although perhaps bitter in a few cases, has proved beneficial to the majority, and limes are now planted with much more care and consideration than formerly. Notwithstanding these set-backs, the industry has made, and is still making, good and steady progress, and we can confidently look forward to a sound and profitable industry being permanently established. There are now seven modern factories working in this island where concentrated lime juice is prepared in steam-heated wooden vats, and the St. Lucia lime juice has made its individual marks known on the London market, where it commands the maximum prices. It is estimated that the present area under lime cultivation is about 4,000 acres, and, as in the case of cacao, we urge that more attention should be paid to draining and liming than to extension of the areas. Drain thoroughly, lime lightly, and mulch heavily, and there will be little trouble with pests, and heavier crops will be produced.

SOME SOIL PROBLEMS.

The physico-chemical problems relating to the soil formed the subject of a discussion at a meeting of the Faraday Society, at which Sir A. D. Hall, K.C.B., F.R.S., presided, and for a report of which we are indebted to *The Fertiliser and Feeding-Staffs Journal*. Dr. E. J. Russell, of Rothamsted, in the course of a general survey of the subject, said that for the present purpose they must look upon the soil as a complex system comprising four parts: (1) Mineral particles; being disintegrated and decomposed rock fragments which, through action of weather, water, ice and other factors had in course of time been reduced to dimensions varying from about 1 mm. in diameter to molecular orders of magnitude. (2) Intermingled in most intimate fashion with all this was the organic matter, residues of past generations of plants and animals, which represented the source of energy for the last population of soil organisms. (3) The soil solution, being the soil water and everything dissolved therein. These three were sufficiently obvious on mere inspection: the fourth was a matter of experiment and inference rather than of simple observation. Soil possessed colloidal properties and therefore was assumed to possess a certain proportion of its substance in the colloidal state. Two hypotheses in this respect had been put forward—one, the older, to the effect that the colloidal properties are due to the fine particles known to be present: the other, and more recent, that they are due to a jelly surrounding each of the particles but having a proportionately greater effect on the finer than on the coarser ones, because of the difference in extent of the surface.

From the agricultural point of view, the chief property of clay was its effect on the cultivation operations. A large amount of clay (18 per cent. or over) rendered the soil difficult to work or "heavy"; a very small amount—4 per cent. or under—was usually associated with so low a water retaining power that the soil became too liable to drought and of too loose a nature to allow of satisfactory plant growth. Between these limits

lay most of the fertile arable soils of this country. With excess of clay some unsatisfactory features set in; water was retained too strongly; the resistance to implements became very great; and there was a marked impermeability to air and water.

Addition of calcium carbonate modified these properties, reducing their intensiveness and making a soil containing 18 per cent. of clay behave as if it contained only 12 per cent. or 14 per cent. Calcium carbonate, therefore, in some way neutralised the special clay properties, but how exactly this happened was not known.

Probably the most difficult problems associated with clay were those connected with tilth. Every grower knew what was meant by tilth, yet no one could give a precise definition. It could, however, be described as the capacity of the soil to assume the nice crumbly condition suitable for a seed bed. Tilth was obtained by a series of processes; first ploughing, then harrowing, then rolling to break down large lumps, then letting them dry, then allowing them to become wet by rain, then again harrowing to break them down when at the right degree of wetness. It was, however, essential to have the previous drying; by no artifice could a good tilth be obtained in persistent wet weather. Precise information was lacking, but it appeared that clay containing say 30 per cent. of water might exist in two states; one if it began at 40 per cent. and dried down to 30 per cent.; the other, if it began at 20 per cent. and was moistened up to 30 per cent. In the former case cultivation resulted in sticky or "poached" masses, drying to hard, steely lumps. In the latter it produced a good tilth. Parallel cases could no doubt be found among the colloids. There were other curious effects of drying which were not yet easily explicable; an enhancement of fertility, increased rate of nitrification, etc. Some of the organic matter of the soil, and particularly the plant known as humus, was sticky and jelly like, with power of absorbing certain soluble substances. Organic matter exerted so great an effect that 15 or 20 per cent. obliterated the sharp distinctions between sandy soil and clay soil, and gave a new type, humus soil having special properties of its own. In colloidal properties humus differed from clay, exerting a protective effect on the flocculation of clay. Probably most of the important physico-chemical problems of the soil related to the soil moisture or the soil solution. The water came initially from the rain, but owing to the slowness of percolation and evaporation some was always left over between one shower and another, and this dissolved soluble material from the soil. It would, of course, ultimately become a saturated solution, if the conditions were static, but they were always changing, and so the solution varied both in concentration and in composition. Its agricultural importance lay in the fact that the solution constituted the immediate source of plant food. It was this which entered the plant root and helped in plant growth. There was a relationship between the concentration of the soil solution and the rate of growth of the plant, though apparently not the sharp proportionality that might at first be expected.

THE TRADE OF BARBADOS.

The Slump, Drought and Speculation.

In his report for last year, published with commendable promptitude, Lieut.-Colonel Francis Jenkins states that 1920 was remarkable, as far as the weather is concerned, as a year of extreme drought, the rainfall being 21.18 inches below the average for the past five years. The rainfall in 1919 having also been small, the 1920 crop was affected, amounting only to 48,212 tons of sugar, or 21,416 tons less than that of the preceding year. Owing to the unprecedented variations in sugar prices, which ranged from \$20 to \$5 per 100 lbs., speculation was rife, and large sums of money were made and lost. The Government itself incurred a loss of £58,000 on selling the sugar retained for local consumption. The inflated price of sugar during the greater part of the year also gave rise to considerable speculation in land, and estates changed hands at prices which showed that the purchasers reckoned to sell their sugar at about \$10 for the next five years. During the year, 24 estates comprising 6,766 acres were sold for £990,650, averaging £146 per acre.

At the beginning of the financial year (April 1st, 1920—March 31st, 1921) the Colony's exchequer stood with a credit balance of £77,500. The revenue collected during the year amounted to £454,286 as compared with an expenditure of £508,391.

The launching of a local Government loan of £40,000, to be earmarked for certain specific public works, such as the erection of a lighthouse at the North end of the Island and the purchase of the Commercial Hall in Bridgetown, resulted in the issue of 5 per cent. debentures being applied for three times over. The financial year ended with a debtor balance of £3,770, but no additional taxation was imposed, although the majority of members returned to the House of Assembly in November were pledged to an income tax.

The Report sums up by stating that 1920 was probably the most prosperous year ever known in Barbados, although the Colony's prosperity is not reflected so much in the condition of the Government finance as in the value of the imports and exports, the values of which were more by one and a quarter and one and a half millions sterling respectively than in any previous year, whilst the value of the deposits in the Savings Bank increased by over 126 per cent.

The total value of the imports was £5,145,537 as compared with £3,893,458 for 1919. Of the former amount, trade with the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States was represented by 30, 18 and 35 per cent. respectively as compared with 19, 18 and 40 per cent. respectively the year before, showing a gratifying recovery in the United Kingdom's share. It is principally in boots, shoes, paper, motor cars and machinery that United States' trade might be replaced by that with the United Kingdom.

Exports during the year were valued at £4,865,894 as compared with £3,305,382 the preceding year. In 1920, 29 per cent. of Barbados produce was shipped to the United Kingdom, 35 per cent. to Canada and 15 per cent. to the United States, whereas proportions in 1919 were 15, 66 and 3 per cent. respectively. The four principal exports, sugar, molasses, rum and cotton all showed a decrease as regards the quantity exported compared with 1919. In the case of sugar, this decrease was 6,015 tons, of molasses 856,900 gallons, of rum 19,552 gallons, and of raw cotton 92,927 lbs. 91 tons of manjak were shipped at a value of £2,274. The sugar exports (with fancy molasses equated) amounted to 48,212 tons.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Executive on September 29th, the twenty-five candidates, whose names are given below, were admitted to membership of The West India Committee, making the total number elected this year 336.

	Proposers and Secouders
The Rt. Hon. Lord Morris, K.C.M.G., K.C. (London).	Mr. Guy C. Edghill. Mr. G. B. Evelyn.
Mr. R. Bradley (Trinidad).	Mr. Archibald Johnston. Mr. A. J. Collier.
Mr. G. N. D. Sinclair (London).	Mr. G. H. Arthur. The Hon. G. Elliot Sealy
Mr. J. R. Rosado, J.P. (British Honduras).	The Hon. Sydney Cuthbert Mr. P. Stanley Woods.
Mr. T. C. Hepburn (Jamaica).	Mr. W. Alfred Jones. Mr. W. Gillespie.
Mr. C. E. Maingat (Montserrat)	Mr. K. P. Penchoen Mr. H. R. Howes.
His Honour C. F. Condell (Montserrat).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. S. W. Howes.
Mr. E. D. Bynoe (Montserrat).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. H. R. Howes.
Mr. T. H. Kelsick (Montserrat).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. O. G. Bladen
Mr. L. L. Loving (Montserrat).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. W. L. Wall.
Mr. H. Garfield Rock (Montserrat).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. Charles Mercer.
Mr. A. W. Gallwey (Montserrat).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. H. R. Howes
Mr. Percy Scully (Jamaica).	Mr. Manley T. Lopez. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. Justice M. J. Berkeley (British Guiana).	Dr. A. F. M. Berkeley. Sir Edward Davson.
Mr. C. A. Campbell, D.V.S. (Jamaica).	Mr. W. Gillespie. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. James Cardin (St. Kitts).	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Mr. Thomas Manchester (St. Kitts).	Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall.
Mr. J. T. Riccalton (London).	Mr. W. Gillespie. Mr. C. Gurney.
Mr. Harold T. Martin (Country).	Sir Edward Davson. Mr. R. Rutherford.
Messrs. Arthur & Co. (Export), Ltd. (Glasgow)	Mr. R. Rutherford Mr. S. Cameron.
Major J. E. King-Church (London).	Mr. Kenneth Reid. Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mr. R. Arbuthnot-Leslie (London).	Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall Mr. C. Gurney.
Mrs. B. M. Fowler (London).	Mr. G. F. R. Harris Harragin.
Mr. M. M. Auchinleck (Antigua).	Sir Edward Davson. Mr. S. W. Howes.
Mr. E. L. H. McLeod (London).	Mr. K. P. Penchoen. Mr. Kenneth Reid. Mr. R. Rutherford.

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 remainder of the current year will, when paid, not be renewable until January, 1922.

TRADE AND COMPETITION.

Struggle for West Indian Market.

In the First Annual Report of H.M. Trade Commissioner in the West Indies, Mr. A. W. H. Hall gives a valuable summary of industrial and economic conditions in these Colonies, together with suggestions for development, and hints to producers in the United Kingdom who may desire to capture some of the trade with these possessions now enjoyed by the United States.

In this last connection, the Report points out that the share of the United Kingdom in supplying the West Indies with food, drink and tobacco is little more than 10 per cent. of the total, and is made up of malted and spirituous liquors, rice, preserves and tobacco, whilst in raw materials the United Kingdom offers little competition to the United States. As regards manufactured goods, however, although by 1919 America was providing over two-thirds of the whole, a great change took place last year in favour of the home country, and there is evidence that the position of Great Britain will be still further improved this year, in view of the preferential tariffs on Empire goods recently adopted throughout the British West Indies. It is remarked that importers of all classes of goods carried on their business last year under very great disadvantages owing to their inability to realise on extremely heavy stocks except at a loss. The purchasing capacity of the West Indian population is not high, the average annual expenditure on clothing per head being little more than £3 in the wealthiest of the Colonies.

Purchases in the West Indies are almost invariably made from samples, and local representation is therefore almost essential to the exporter who wishes to share in the West Indian trade. When the potential volume of business appears to justify such a step, Mr. Hall advises British manufacturers to send out a qualified traveller to investigate the possibilities of the market, it being often possible for a number of firms in non-competitive lines to combine to pay the expenses of such a traveller. These amount to about £90 a month, where about three moves are made during that time. The appointment of stockists is not recommended, since nearly every retailer of standing imports direct, and sales through a stockist consequently reach only one firm's retail customers.

Much of the American success in the West Indian markets is due to advertising, of which, in the absence of hoardings, newspapers provide almost the only medium, a circumstance which trade readers of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, with its wide and influential circulation throughout the West Indies, would do well to bear in mind. Lantern slides shown in the intervals at the moving picture theatres are extensively used for advertising purposes, but British firms have not made the fullest use of them. Catalogues not containing prices are thrown away on receipt.

The reason for the want of development, of which many of the Colonies so often complain, Mr. Hall believes to lie in the fact that the British West

Indies have never been systematically surveyed by financial and commercial interests with a view to exploiting the whole or a large group of the islands as a single unit. Isolated appeals from small islands whose products can form but an insignificant part of the world's output naturally have little effect. In this connection, he refers to the interest evinced in the proposed visit of a delegation of the Canadian Pacific Railway last year—a scheme which unfortunately did not then materialise.

POWER ALCOHOL IN HAWAII.

The Foster Method of Production.

It would appear, says the *Chemical Age*, that in such remote localities as the Sandwich Isles the motor alcohol problem has been carried to a successful conclusion without very much news of what is being done reaching the outside world. Some time ago the Foster process was adopted in Hawaii, and the product obtained has answered its purpose so satisfactorily that further plant is to be erected. One large agricultural undertaking has, in fact, decided to substitute alcohol entirely for the petrol it now uses in its fleet of tractors and lorries. Districts of the kind, of course, are particularly fortunately placed, for sugar production is the main industry, consequently large quantities of molasses are available.

It is estimated that the Hawaiian Islands alone have a potential production of nearly eight million gallons of 95 per cent. alcohol. The most satisfactory method of production seems to be that introduced by Mr. J. P. Foster, whose process consists in adding to each 100 gallons of ethyl alcohol, five gallons of ether, two gallons of kerosene, and one gallon of pyridine. After the alcohol is denatured as above, 40 gallons of ether are added to each 60 gallons of alcohol, and the mixture is ready for use. It is of interest to note that the ether used in the denaturing process is distilled off from the ethyl alcohol itself as a secondary process in the operation of the Foster plant, the alcohol being treated with sulphuric acid and then redistilled, $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of the former being required to produce one gallon of ether. The final spirit has the following composition:—Alcohol 55.5 per cent., ether 42.8 per cent., kerosene 1.1 per cent., and pyridine 0.6 per cent. The waste molasses resulting from the manufacture of every ton of sugar should, it is claimed, yield 15 gallons of denatured alcohol, and the object of adding denaturing ether to the extent called for in the Foster process is to enable the fuel to be utilised with the carburettors already installed. Pyridine is employed to neutralise the products of combustion of the ether and alcohol, for being a strong alkaline base, it also produces ammonia on explosion, thus having the desired effect. Apparently, the usual difficulties with starting up were experienced with alcohol alone, but the admixture of more volatile products, e.g. ether, gives the required relief from such trouble as well as very greatly increased flexibility of operation.

HEALTH AND WELFARE.

A New West Indian Society.

Sir George R. Le Hunte presided on September 19th at the London School of Tropical Medicine over the inaugural meeting of a Society which, as already reported in the CIRCULAR, is being formed to promote the health and welfare of the people of the British West Indies.

Dr. G. B. Mason, called upon at the outset to explain the proposed scheme, said that, as one who had been born in Barbados and had lived there for twenty-three years, afterwards serving as a Magistrate and District Medical Officer in various of the Windward and Leeward Islands, he was much concerned with the high rate of infantile mortality as well as the amount of preventible disease in the West Indies. No Government could view with complacency such statistics of infantile mortality as those published recently in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR,* which he proceeded to read, showing, for instance, that in Barbados and St. Kitts in recent years the death rates of children under one year of age had been respectively 306 and 255 per thousand living births. He asked his hearers to compare these figures with those for the County of London, where the infantile mortality in 1919 was 85 per thousand, and in 1920 had dropped to 76—an improvement held to be due to the efforts of maternity and child-welfare workers. A Society such as was now contemplated, if it obtained the support of influential people in this country, could help District Medical Officers by providing ambulances and various necessities not always supplied by the Government; it could obtain cheaper supplies for the Baby Saving Leagues; and it could encourage the Public Health workers in every way. It was out to back the Government in its big struggle against ignorance, poverty and disease in the West Indies. In practice the Society would be managed by a Sub-Committee of doctors, some of them distinguished specialists, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Low, who had travelled through the West Indies on a filariasis mission.

After questions had been put and answered, Mr. Robert Rutherford moved "That in the best interests of the people of the West Indies, the formation of a West Indian Health and Welfare Society is advisable." This having been seconded by Dr. St. George Gray and carried unanimously, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Hon. G. F. Grabham, a provisional Committee was appointed to prepare a plan of action.

*See THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR for JUNE 23rd, page 266.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and to the London School of Tropical Medicine were proposed by Mr. Rutherford and Sir Edward Davson.

ROSEAU'S LUCKY ESCAPE.

Effects of a Passing Hurricane.

The Hon. H. A. Alfred Nicholls kindly submitted a photograph taken by the Hon. R. Sharpe, Treasurer of the Presidency, which is reproduced on this page. It shows the sea-front at Roseau whilst the hurricane was passing to the west of Dominica. It was at 4 p.m. on September 8th. Ordinarily the sea off Roseau is like a mill-pond—such heavy breakers as are shown are only seen during storms of hurricane violence. On this occasion the three Roseau jetties were greatly damaged and much of the sea wall and roadway along the bay front was torn up and battered



An unusual scene at the Roseau Customs Wharf. This picture, "snapped" by the Hon. R. Sharpe, shows the effect of a passing hurricane on the roadside of Roseau, Dominica, which is usually like a mill-pond.

about by the heavy waves which broke with extraordinary force.

Fortunately, Dominica escaped the brunt of the hurricane, the force of the wind being only 20 miles per hour, so that the damage on land was very slight.

MR. ALEXANDER DUCKHAM sailed yesterday for Trinidad via New York on business connected with the Trinidad Central Oilfields, of which he is Chairman, and will not be back until the New Year.

SIR JOHN CHANCELLOR, who retired from the Governorship of Trinidad at the end of last month, has not had long to wait for a new appointment. He has been made Principal Assistant Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence and Secretary to the Overseas Defence Committee, the positions just vacated by his successor in Trinidad.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The Prince at the Mansion House.

The Prince of Wales, as President of the General Committee of the British Empire Exhibition, 1923, took the chair on October 12th at a meeting at the Mansion House, in order to appeal to the banking, industrial and commercial interest of the country to show their faith in the future of the Empire by guaranteeing £1,000,000 for the Exhibition. His Royal Highness was supported by Right Hon. Winston Churchill and the Lord Mayor of London, and there were present the Lord Mayors, Provosts and Chief Magistrates of nearly every city and borough in the United Kingdom, as well as a large gathering representative of the varied interests of the Empire, including Mr. Robert Rutherford, Chairman, and Mr. Algernon Aspinall, Secretary of The West India Committee, Lord Morris, Sir Godfrey Lagden, Lieut.-Colonel Amery, Sir Walter Egerton, Lieut.-Colonel Sir J. R. Chancellor, Sir John Cadman, Sir W. Grey-Wilson, Sir G. R. Lhunte, Sir Frederic Hodgson, and Sir David Prain.

At the outset of his speech, the Prince referred to his recent Empire tour, which brought him into touch with many of the Dominions and Crown Colonies, and said that of the experience he then gained he had learnt practically everything from personal intercourse with peoples. Continuing, he said that during the Conference of Premiers in the summer, he had been much struck and gratified by the unanimity with which they had welcomed this great Imperial project (the Exhibition). They, at any rate, did not doubt the wisdom of the gospel which they preached—that it was to the interests of an Empire such as ours to develop its great resources and exploit to the utmost the possibilities of Imperial and national improvement.

He personally shared with Mr. Hughes and other Premiers the vein of optimism which ran through their speeches on that occasion, but he also shared the undercurrent of anxiety that we in the old country should be fully alive to the possibilities of what, a quarter of a century ago, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain had called our vast undeveloped estate.

What we wanted to do in this Exhibition was to take stock of our British assets, whether it might be people or raw material or manufactured goods. We wanted to explore every avenue which might lead to fresh markets for what we could make, and fresh fields whence to draw materials of industry. We wanted to invest both men and money in the different parts of the Empire which call for investment and which promised an early increase in wealth for our British nations and an early growth in the prosperity and happiness of the individual. We wanted to encourage commercial, industrial and scientific research, and we wanted the different nations of the Empire to get to know each other better and to help people to realise that this Empire of ours which had been worth dying for was also worth living for and working for. (Cheers.)

Mr. Churchill said that a splendid and spacious prospect existed in the vast lands and unlimited

potentialities of our world-wide Empire. For a hundred years it had been growing in the inner consciousness of the British people, and in our own generation great men like Mr. Chamberlain (cheers) and Mr. Cecil Rhodes had proclaimed this theme and had pointed the way with prophetic finger along which our development should advance. Properly developed, intimately united, scientifically organised, the British Empire could afford within its bounds an ample outlet for the fullest energies of the British people, and it could to a very large and increasing extent supply them with all they need for their use and for their trade. He must not be understood as advocating trade within the British Empire and the exclusion of trade outside it. Exclusive trade within the British Empire would be impossible in our lifetime, nor was it the ultimate ideal at which we should aim. Great Britain must trade with the whole world; nothing less than the whole world would afford full opportunities to the beneficent and peaceful activities of our people. But if foreign nations in some cases could not, and in other cases did not choose to trade with us on a sufficient scale, if we were conscious of an immense restriction and contraction in our means of doing business, was not this the time to make a long march forward along the path of Imperial development? (Cheers.)

THE EUROPEAN BEET CROPS.

Licht's Latest Estimates.

Licht under date October 7th published the following estimates and figures of the European beet crops:

	1921/22 Tons	1920/21 Tons	1919/20 Tons
Germany	1,300,000	1,106,000	715,000
Czecho-Slovakia	650,000	715,000	507,000
France	300,000	338,000	173,000
Holland	330,000	317,000	239,000
Belgium	270,000	243,000	147,000
Austria	16,000	14,000	5,000
Hungary	45,000	33,000	11,000
Denmark	149,000	137,000	158,000
Sweden	185,000	161,000	145,000
Italy	200,000	122,000	170,000
Spain	140,000	235,000	88,000
Poland	200,000	171,000	140,000
Other countries	110,000	100,000	120,000
Total	3,895,000	3,695,000	2,618,000

MR. AND MRS. GORDON GORDON have arrived in London from Scotland, and are staying at the Prince of Wales' Hotel, De Vere Gardens, where they will remain until November 11th, when they sail for Trinidad.

THE *Louisiana Planter* is responsible for the statement that certain reeds grown in Northern and Central Germany are said to have roots very rich in sugar, tests showing the presence of 29.56 per cent. of sucrose and 25.49 per cent. pentoses. It is said that a ton of these reed roots will give sixty quarts of strong alcohol.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

It may be useful to recall that in 1917 the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute gave the yields of rice in Spain as 101 bushels per acre; Japan, 77 bushels; Egypt, 73 bushels; Italy, 68 bushels; British Guiana, 54 bushels; Java, 40 bushels; India, 30-40 bushels; Ceylon, 15 bushels.

* * *

A splendid substitute for olive oil exists in the oil extracted from the Batiputa berries, which grow in some of the States of Coastal Brazil. Most of the land on which the batiputa berries grow, says the United States Consul at Pernambuco, is owned by the Government. The shrubs are only seven or eight feet high, and admit of close planting.

* * *

Experiments as to the digestibility of several vegetable fats have been made by Messrs. Holmes and Denel. The oil of the avocado pear, the cohune nut, Cupuassu, hemp seed, palm kernel and poppy seed were dealt with. They were all digestible, with the exception of the Cupuassu fat. The rest were very nourishing, palm kernel oil being most so, and the avocado oil the least.

* * *

The manufacture of artificial honey is being carried on on an increasing scale in Germany, and the *Centralblatt f. d. Zuckerindustrie* (10, 1921) devotes some space to the subject, giving several recipes for its production, an artificial "aroma of honey" being used to complete the operation. One method which is recommended is to mix 19 grms. of the "aroma," 70 grms. of powdered citric acid, with 915 grms. of concentrated sugar syrup.

* * *

Researches into the metabolism of plants have thrown considerable light on the subject of their respiration, and it has been found that reducing sugars play an important part in the latter function. In the case of sweet potatoes, this affords an explanation of the chemical cause of the rotting to which they are subject. This is due to the using up of the sugar they contain by certain fungi, by which the energy of the plant is drained.

* * *

The recent Report of the Department of Agriculture of Mauritius seems to point to artificial manuring not being a very prime factor in the Mauritius sugar industry. It states that the results of the experiments go to show that the applications of sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda to canes which have received dressings of pen manure may produce substantial returns, but that these are dependent on the presence of other limiting factors, the commercial profit being a question of the relative value of manure and canes. The effects of potash and phosphates are stated to be far more variable.

* * *

The effect of the admixture of calcium, oyster-shell and limestone mixed with the ordinary ration for laying hens has been investigated by Messrs.

Buckner and Martin, who publish their results in the *American Journal of Biological Chemistry*, Vol. XLI., No. 2. They conclude that laying hens whose supply of calcium is limited to that naturally contained in the food, continue laying until there is a general depreciation of magnesium, phosphorus and calcium in their bones and carcasses. The addition of limestone of oyster-shells to the ration increased the production of eggs 69.4 per cent. Incidentally it was found that the lack of calcium was not the fundamental cause of shell-less eggs.

* * *

The cultivation of kola is a profitable business in the Gold Coast. Groves of trees, says *West Africa*, are to be found in almost every village in Ashanti between 20 and 60 miles N.E. of Commassie. The highest percentage of caffeine is present in *kola acuminata*, and the stimulating property of beverages made from the kola nut is probably due to this alkaloid. Kola requires a deep, rich soil, with fairly heavy and well distributed rainfall—in fact, much the same conditions as suits cacao. The trees have to be planted 30 feet apart, to provide for future development, begin to bear when five or six years old, and are in full bearing at twelve to fifteen years. An average yield is 1,000 nuts annually.

* * *

In recent communications to the *Comptes Rendus* of the Academy of Science of Paris (Vols. CLXX. and CLXXI.), M. E. Roubard advocates the destruction of anopheles larvæ by means of Trioxymethylene, due to the fumes of formaldehyde given off by this body in the powdered form. The efficiency, however, of the powder can only be counted upon at the moment of application. If it is in an inactive condition, or is injected in too small a quantity, it does not kill the larvæ, but, on the contrary, renders them immune to trioxymethylene. This rapid immunisation, however, does not last longer than a week, if the insects are once more under normal conditions. The powder should be applied at weekly intervals. It is stated that even small doses so weaken the power of resistance of the larvæ that they fall an easy prey to their natural enemies.

* * *

The tapir of the South American Continent—the bush cow of British Guiana—is an instructive animal from a zoological point of view, inasmuch as there is every reason to believe that it sprang from the same stock as the horse, adapted to forest life as the horse is to the open plain. That this is so is seen in what is apparently an elementary trunk, but what is really a development of the prehensile upper lip of the horse; in the modified hoof formation, and in the young being marked as the zebra. It is an animal which up to twenty or thirty years ago had never bred in captivity. A young tapir was, however, about that time born at the Botanical Gardens in Georgetown, Demerara; and the force of circumstances demanded that it should be brought up by hand. This was done on Mellin's Food with the aid of a common or garden feeding bottle, on which diet it flourished exceedingly.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 435.)

Don Chacon and the Caribs.

Salybia is at present nothing but one immense coco-nut grove and a few scattered wooden huts. It possesses no church and no rum shops or general stores which are the hall marks of all self-respecting Trinidad villages. It was here that the Caribs who sought refuge in the island from their English "oppressors" in St. Vincent, were settled by the last Spanish Governor, Don José Chacon, in 1786. Suffering, no doubt, from nostalgia, they called the place Salybia, after a district in their own island, and it is worthy of note that the Carib settlement in Dominica bears the same name to this day.

These Caribs only remained in Trinidad for a few years, returning to St. Vincent in 1795 at the call of their Chief, Chatoyer, to take up arms against the English in the "Brigands' War," which was suppressed by Sir Ralph Abercromby in the following year.

Now no traces remain of the temporary Carib occupation of Salybia; we saw, on the other hand, evidences of civilisation in Mrs. Gordon's inviting residence situated on a breezy knoll overlooking the bay. Called by the picturesque name of "El Calvario," it is not improbable that the house occupies the site of an old Calvary erected by the Spaniards to comfort their sailors out at sea on the tempestuous Atlantic. To us it brought bodily comfort, and, after a much-needed rest and a picnic luncheon of crab-backs and other local delicacies, we pursued our way to Balandra Bay, seven miles to the north.

It would be difficult to say which of the two bays, Balandra or Salybia, which lie side by side, is the more beautiful. Both are exquisite, with their gleaming white sands and sapphire blue waters, but while Salybia is exposed to the full force of the Atlantic breakers, which are driven in by the constant trade winds, Balandra is sheltered by a promontory fully four hundred yards long and one hundred wide, which forms a natural breakwater, and renders its surface more placid than that of its neighbour. It is for this reason that Balandra has been selected as the ideal port for the northern part of the east coast, and will shortly be developed as such if the recommendations of the Development Commission are to bear fruit.

What will be the future of this district? Standing upon a wind-swept bluff overlooking the bay, one endeavoured to picture in the mind's eye what it might look like in twenty or thirty years' time. One could see a flourishing town of well-built houses and stores, spacious tourist hotels, with tennis courts, golf links and, of course, dancing floors. On the white sandy beach of our imaginary town were bathing huts and pavilions standing among the coco-nut groves, and countless tourists in their gay costumes challenging with their merry laughter the noise of the surf and the perpetual rustle of the leaves of the palm trees. And then the business

aspect. One could see a long pier running out into the bay under the shelter of the promontory, and alongside it one of the Government coastal steamers discharging a heavy cargo of produce from Tobago into the trucks of a Government railway train for despatch to Port of Spain and transhipment thence overseas. But then it occurred to one that, perhaps, after all, the passenger traffic over the new short sea route between Trinidad and her neighbour will be greater than that of goods, for it must not be overlooked that transhipment and break of bulk is an extravagant way of handling produce, and that it is the confident belief of the Tobagonian planters that in the not distant future their output of marketable commodities will have increased to such an extent that ocean-going cargo steamers will be induced to make direct visits to the already prosperous little island.

Before the war, Tobago enjoyed regular weekly communication with Trinidad by the *Belize* and *Barima*, two miniature liners of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, each of 1,500 tons burthen. At the end of 1915, the company claimed that the service was being run at a loss and demanded an increased subsidy. This the Legislative Council of Trinidad and Tobago, on which the smaller island is very inadequately represented, refused to concede, and the *Barima* was withdrawn. She was followed in 1917 by the *Belize*, which was commandeered in that year for Commodore C. H. Simpson's Patrol Unit, which swept the Eastern Caribbean after the opening of the period of unrestricted submarine warfare. The *Belize* was subsequently restored to Tobago, but her sister ship remains in retirement. Consequently, a visit to Tobago is no longer possible unless you have a fortnight to spare, or are content to make the round journey to the island and back—which is certainly not enough if all that one hears about it is correct.

Robinson Kreutznaer's Island?

Time being inexorable, it was not possible to include Tobago in my necessarily restricted itinerary, but much hearsay evidence was forthcoming regarding the growing prosperity of that island, which has in recent years attracted many settlers to its shores.

It is popularly believed that Tobago is the imaginary island on which Defoe marooned his mythical hero, Robinson Kreutznaer—whose family, anticipating the practice of so many of his countrymen during the late war, found it convenient to change their name to Crusoe. The text of Defoe's great book does not bear out this story. Robinson Crusoe makes it clear that it was among the Caribbees that his Guinea-man was wrecked, and the latitude in which the disaster occurred is very near that in which Tobago is situated. So far so good; but the Tobago theory is completely upset by the fact that Crusoe states that his island was "in the mouth or the Gulf" of "the mighty River Orinoco," and that the land which he "perceived" from it "to the west and north-west was the great island Trinidad on the north point of the mouth of the river," for Trinidad lies to the south-west and not the north-west of Tobago. Apart altogether from this, no one who knows anything of Tobago

would agree with Crusoe's description of it as "a horrible, desolate" and a "dismal, unfortunate island"! Visitors to Tobago should, therefore, accept with the proverbial grain of salt any statement about Crusoe's sojourn in the island, and wink the other eye when they are shown that unfortunate individual's cave, which is still pointed out.

In claiming Paul Jones among their former residents, the people of Tobago are on surer ground altogether. It is certain that that gifted naval adventurer, after several voyages in the West Indian trade, latterly in the *Betsy*, lived for a while in that island, entering business on his own account, before he embarked on his remarkable career as a sailor of fortune on behalf of America and France.

Tobago's Changing Fortunes.

Tobago is usually regarded as a very small island, but it is nearly as big as Grenada, and has a much greater area than Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, though it does not bulk so largely in the public eye as does the seat of Government of the Leeward Islands, since its light is obscured by its important neighbour, Trinidad. It has had an eventful history, and in the 17th and 18th centuries no West Indian island changed hands more frequently. It has been successively occupied by Zee-landers from Flushing, who called it New Walcheren, by the Caribs, by Courlanders, by the French and by the English, and the political changes in its fortunes have been scarcely less frequent. At one time it was an independent Colony, with all the glories of its own representative institutions, involving an elected Parliament, with its Speaker, Chaplain, mace and usual accessories. Then it became a unit of the Windward Islands, and finally, by Order in Council of October 20th, 1898, it was made a Ward of the united Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, the revenue, expenditure and debts of the two islands being merged as from that date. This union, on the whole, has proved successful, but, as was inevitable, the star of Tobago has been eclipsed by the lustre of its more brilliant sister.

As in other West Indian islands, sugar was at one time the principal industry, but the crop never exceeded 6,000 or 7,000 tons, though in 1862 there were no fewer than 65 sugar estates in the island. Two-thirds of these came into the hands of a single firm, whose collapse in 1885 gave a death-blow to the industry. The economic condition of the island was completely disorganised, and its labourers were left without means of support. Estates changed hands at nominal prices, many were broken up, and for some years production of ground provisions was the only agricultural industry. The cultivation of cacao, coffee and coco-nuts was then introduced, and these industries are now well established and are rapidly being developed side by side with the raising of stock, for which Tobago is particularly well suited. In 1896 the value of cacao exported from Tobago was only £1,125, and that of coco-nuts £210. In 1918-19, cacao to the value of £45,792 was exported, and the value of the exports of coco-nuts had reached £16,578. As the new areas brought under cultivation in recent years come into bearing, these figures will rapidly increase.

(To be continued.)

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

By FRANK CUNDALL.

VIII.—Charles, Earl of Carlisle.

(Continued from page 436.)

He had hoped to send home Charles Atkinson, formerly secretary to Sir Thomas Lynch and Lord Vaughan, to give the best information of affairs to the Lords of Trade and Plantations, but he had died suddenly. In the circumstances he suggests reference to Lynch. He was soon, however, at loggerheads again with the Assembly—this time over the question of the Receiver-General, and other appointments by letters patent.

In August the Assembly was prorogued till October, at its own request, owing to its fear of French invasion, each member wishing to look after his own affairs. Then the Governor came, with his Council, to the House and appointed a clerk for the Assembly, a complete innovation which the Assembly not unnaturally resented.

Matters went from bad to worse—the chief leaders in the opposition of the Assembly being Samuel Long (who had come out with the army of occupation as secretary to the Commissioners), later the Speaker of the Assembly, at that time Chief Justice and a member of the Council; and William Beeston. Against these two Carlisle turned. For the alleged erasing of the King's name from the last Bill of Revenue transmitted by Vaughan in 1675, and other delinquencies, Carlisle dismissed Long from the Chief Justiceship and suspended him from the Council, and in May, 1680 he, with the King's permission, took him home a prisoner arrested on a charge of misprision of treason, ordering Beeston to accompany him; their private affairs partly calling them home, also.

Carlisle sailed on May 7th, 1680. During his residence in Jamaica he had found it by no means a bed of roses, through no fault of his own.

Against the charges of the erasure of the King's name from the Bill, with the attempt to release a pirate, Browne, and general contumacy towards the King's orders, Long retaliated by bringing charges against Carlisle of corruption and encouraging privateers, in which he was supported by other officials.

The matter of the Constitution was settled by the light of the past history of Jamaica by Chief Justice North, aided by other judges. The Board of Trade sat *de die in diem* for the purpose of consulting all those who were able to throw light on the subject—Lord Vaughan, Sir Thomas Lynch, Sir Charles Modyford, Sir Francis Chaplin, Waterhouse, Thomas Duck, Andrew Orgill, Potts, Alderman Beck, and other Jamaica planters and merchants. But the brunt of the light fell on Long, Beeston, and Jonathan Ashurst (then member of Assembly for Clarendon), who successfully controverted several points raised; and on October 30th, 1680, Colonel Long and the other gentlemen of Jamaica were called into the meeting of the Lords of Trade and informed that the Con-

stitution of Barbados, as laid down in Sir Ralph Dutton's Commission (differing little, if at all, from that for which Jamaica had contended), was granted. Long was regarded as the saviour of his country, and on his return to Jamaica, armed with a document safeguarding him and his companions, William Beeston, Peter Beckford, Ashurst, and one other from the results of any evidence they might have given in England, he was reinstated as Chief Justice, and he later received £500 in compensation for expenses incurred. He died soon afterwards. It is to be regretted that no portrait of him is known to exist. His name was not even remembered when the streets of Kingston were being named after Jamaica's prominent politicians, and is now only perpetuated in Longville, in Clarendon. If ever a man deserved a statue from his country, Long did.

In return for the Constitution then conceded, the Assembly pledged itself to grant to the King a fixed revenue, which if not perpetual, should at least last for seven years. The quarrel, however, with regard to the revenue Bills continued up till 1728: the Crown desiring a perpetual revenue, the Assembly persistently declining to do more than grant Bills of a few years' duration. The Crown, on the other hand, declined to approve many of their laws. In 1728 the Assembly gave way and settled a permanent revenue, in return for the royal confirmation of various Acts of importance to the island, a concession as to their past laws which they regarded as "the grand charter of their liberties."

The political struggle during Carlisle's regime has put other incidents in the shade, but the following occurrences are worthy of record:—

From the first settling of the Colony it had been intended to set aside 400,000 acres as a royal demesne, and each successive governor was asked to report on the idea. At last, in 1681, Carlisle, when at home, reported against it, recommending that a thousand acres only should be reserved for the King, adding: "The King has now about a tenth of the profits of all sugar works, and will never make so much by being a planter himself."

During his governorship the first deficiency law was passed, by which one white was to be kept on every estate for every ten blacks; which, Carlisle stated, "cannot well be made up by servants that come hither for that they make good no more than the deaths and departures of others from the island."

In one of the many letters of instructions sent to Carlisle by the Lords of Trade (who not infrequently adopted to Colonial governors the tone that the head of a department might assume toward a recalcitrant clerk), one order was that every minister should be of the vestry of his parish, and no vestry, unless in case of his sickness, should be held without him.

On his arrival Carlisle reported that the least coin was 7½d., and that the inhabitants thereby suffered much in their way of trade, and pleaded for the erection of a mint.

(To be continued.)

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 Preferential Tariff.

The Imperial Preference Act received the Governor's Assent on September 5th. The Act, which is to continue in force for five years, allows a drawback of 25 per cent. on the customs duties leviable to the produce or manufacture of any part of the Empire whose tariff is on the whole as favourable to the Colony. Wines, spirits, and malt liquors, together with tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, are excluded from the preferential tariff.

The Governor has received a reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to his dispatch enclosing the House of Assembly's address of regret that the Governor's action in suspending two public officials had been overruled. The reason for their reinstatement being ordered was that the regulations prescribed for such cases had not been fully complied with before the officials were suspended.

Barbados still Wanting Rain.

Herbert W. Gregory, son of the Rev. W. Gregory, B.A., Vicar of St. Jude's Church, St. George's, has been awarded the Barbados Scholarship at Cambridge for the current year.

The Agricultural Society met on September 12th to welcome Mr. August Busek, of the United States Department of Agriculture, who is visiting the West Indies to study the pink boll worm. He had not, however, arrived, and Mr. Bovell consequently addressed the meeting regarding the need for excluding cotton seed from Haiti, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico, and Colombia.

Mr. Wilkinson states that when he wrote on October 5th, there had been a few good showers which had somewhat improved the crops, but they had not been able to obtain the good soaking rain that was looked for. Without very favourable weather from now on, it is feared that there will be a poor crop to reap in 1922.

The death is reported of Mr. C. P. Bowen, for 21 years Clerk to the House of Assembly. He succumbed after a short illness to an attack of influenza, followed by pneumonia.

British Guiana's Sea Defence Bill.

At a meeting of the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association on September 9th, the new Sea Defence proposals of the Government were considered. As a result of a conference between the Officer Administering the Government, the Hon. Hector Joseph, the Hon. J. L. Auld, Mr. C. E. Shepherd and the Hon. P. N. Browne, the two latter acting on behalf of the Association, considerable modifications have been agreed to by the Government, removing some of the more objectionable features of the Bill as drafted. At the same time, writes Mr. V. P. Fitzpatrick, on September 15th, in the opinion of the planters, the 1913 Ordinance with its various amendments worked very smoothly and successfully and they see no reason why the Director of Sea Defences should now seek to have a new ordinance passed increasing his powers and doing away with the rights of the estates' proprietors. In particular they object to any alteration in the existing Sea Defence Districts, and to the proposal to extend the districts back to a depth of 10 miles.

Major Cochrane-Patrick, the aviator who has taken advantage of a trip to the Colony to visit Kaieteur, has expressed to the *Argosy* the view that there should be no difficulty in running seaplanes to the Falls, the stretch of water above which, he thinks, would make an excellent landing spot, the only danger being the rocks. The journey from Georgetown by air would take about an hour and a half as against the five days occupied in the present method of travel.

Mr. Sookdeo Persaud, introducing a deputation that waited on the Acting Colonial Secretary at the end of August, urged as an inducement to East Indians to remain in the Colony the establishment of central factories that could be used not only for the purpose of milling rice but also of ginning cotton and preparing dehydrated bananas. The deputation was informed that the delegates from India in connection with the resumption of immigration were expected to arrive in the Colony in January next.

Mr. H. W. Everington, manager of the Hills Estates in Barbuda, has stated that the cassava experiments being carried on there by the Emido Company, of Liverpool, are shaping very well, and if the returns justified it, it is proposed to erect a factory for the preparation of the products.

As a result of an interview given to a deputation from the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, His Excellency Cecil Clementi has promised to authorise the acceptance of some of the Certificates of Origin that had been previously rejected as not complying with the Customs regulations, the merchants' contention being that the object of the Preferential tariff was being defeated by the insistence on the present form.

His Excellency, accompanied by Mrs. Clementi, has opened the new section of the Rupununi cattle trail, constructed under the direction of Mr. E. A. Haynes, by riding across country from Arakwa on the Demerara River to Takama on the Berbice River. When the remainder of the work now proceeding is completed, there will be a continuous trail from Georgetown to the Brazilian frontier, requiring but little further expenditure to convert it into a serviceable motor road.

The British Honduras Defence Forces.

Mr. A. R. Usher, writing under date September 22nd, states that it is proposed to complete the withdrawal of the detachment of the West India Regiment now stationed in the Colony at an early date, and to reorganise the Local Defence Force, which it is suggested should be composed as follows:—

Police	3 officers	155 other ranks	Total 158
Defence Force	10 "	170 "	" 180
	13	325	338

The Superintendent will be Commandant of the New Force. Lieut.-Colonel Cran, O.B.E., V.D., will shortly be resigning his command of the present Territorial Force, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies has directed that the officer should be thanked for his unsparing devotion to the Colony's interests and to those of his troops. During the war, Colonel Cran gave up the whole of his time to the work of defence.

During the yellow fever epidemic, of which it would certainly appear that the last has been seen, the Principal Medical Officer was unfortunately laid up. His place was taken by Hon. Dr. J. Cran, O.B.E. A Commission, consisting of Hon. C. G. B. Francis,

Acting Chief Justice, Dr. Cran, Hon. Sydney Cuthbert, and Hon. Francis Dragten, has been appointed by the Governor to enquire into the origin of the outbreak, the measures taken to deal with it, and the sanitary conditions of Belize.

Mr. A. R. Usher, writing on October 6th, reports one further death from yellow fever on September 30th, but no additional fresh cases. Lieut.-Colonel Vaughan, of the Rockefeller Foundation, is in the Colony, and it is suggested that a special Commission, to be called "The Yellow Fever Executive Commission," should be formed, with General T. C. Lyster, of the Foundation, as President, and the Principal Medical Officer of the Colony as Sub-Director. Every member of the Commission to be a Health Commissioner of the Colony. The Commission to have charge of the isolation, quarantine, and treatment of yellow fever patients, of maritime and land quarantine, and everything relating to the destruction of stegomyia mosquitoes in the Town of Belize. The present Public Health Authorities and Police to give all reasonable aid to the Commission in the performance of their duties. Mr. Bryan Dyer (connected with the Rockefeller Foundation) to be appointed Assistant Sanitary Inspector (without salary) for the Town of Belize, and Lieut.-Colonel Vaughan to be appointed a member of the Colonial Medical Service (without salary). The Commission to decide on and carry out all measures necessary for the protection of the Colony against yellow fever.

Funds have already been placed at the disposal of Colonel Vaughan, and he has started operations by training a number of men to act as Sanitary Inspectors. The Colony is deeply indebted to the Rockefeller Foundation for the prompt manner in which it has come to its rescue, and a vote of thanks has already been passed by the Legislative Council, but it is a pity that some philanthropist in Great Britain has not come to the aid of the Colony instead of leaving it to an American Institution to do so.

Aftermath of the Storm in Grenada.

A fund is being raised in order to assist those who are in need as a result of the heavy storm on September 8th, much damage to houses and crops having been done throughout the Island and in Carriacou. In reply to a telegram of sympathy from Trinidad, however, the Governor was able to say that the damage was not as bad as at first reported.

Major O. C. Heidenstam, Chief of Police, has been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council.

Jamaica's Agricultural Industries.

The report of the Collector-General regarding the Island's exports for the current year to the middle of September is, on the whole reassuring. The quantity of bananas shipped, 7,055,549 stems, is much the same as for the corresponding period of last year, whilst better prices were realised this year. Cacao and coffee exports were also larger than last year, the latter indeed twice as large. Pimento is being shipped in good quantities, and there is a revival of the demand for oranges. In fact sugar, rum and coconuts alone do not appear to be sharing the general brisker conditions.

The influenza epidemic, which started in Kingston, spread practically throughout the Island, but the cases were not serious and patients became convalescent usually in 14 days. Amongst others attacked was Hon. C. C. Anderson, Island Treasurer.

Montserrat and the Boll Worm.

Mr. K. P. Penchoen, under date September 24th, writes that cotton ginning is in full swing, but no shipments had then been made. It was expected that shipments of cotton-seed to England would be made by s.s. *Songster*, due to arrive at the end of September. The pink boll worm has made its appearance in force in some parts. Mr. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture was expected in the Island. The births of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Howes, and of a son to Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Howes, are announced.

Sales of St. Kitts Cotton.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, under date October 1st, says the weather latterly has been hot and sultry, but during that week there had been some nice showers, totalling over 5 inches of rain in some parts. There was available to be taken on s.s. *Parima*, which was due at Basseterre on the 2nd, about 350 bales or 150,000 lbs of cotton consigned to New York. This had been sold at 1s. 11d per lb. which compares favourably with the "nominal" quotation of 2s. 5d. in the English markets.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on September 19th, a resolution was passed urging the necessity of passing with Government assistance, an Agricultural Aid Bank, and to a deputation that waited upon the Administrator with this proposal, Major Burdon expressed his sympathy with the suggestion.

Mr. E. J. Shelford, writing on October 8th, says that the recent severe storm did not touch St. Kitts, but there were heavy seas on the 9th and 10th September, and the steamer going south had to land passengers and cargo in Nevis, not being able to communicate with Basseterre. Small shipping suffered severely.

Good rains fell generally during the latter part of September, materially improving crop prospects. Things are not flourishing, and money is tight both on estates and in Government Departments.

St. Vincent.—Effect of the Hurricane.

The hurricane that passed over the Island on September 8th, lasted from 3 p.m. till midnight, and caused considerable damage to house property and crops, cotton suffering very heavily. The wharf at Georgetown was entirely destroyed, and one vessel wrecked there whilst three large schooners that traded between St. Vincent and Barbados went adrift, and their loss was presumed. Estimates of the loss to property are given at £50,000. From the special mention in the St. Vincent Government Gazette of the damage done in Canouan and Union Islands, it would seem that the centre of the storm passed midway between St. Vincent and Grenada.

Mr. Percy W. Verrall, writing on September 17th, says of the hurricane that it caused much suffering among the poorer classes of the people, especially in the Grenadines, where many of the stricken inhabitants were on the verge of starvation, and foodstuffs and building materials were being hastened to their relief. The Church, School, and Police Station, and 76 out of 137 houses in Canouan, 120 houses at Union Island, and 59 out of 44 houses at Mayreau, including the Roman Catholic Church and School, have been destroyed. According to the official reports, corn and other provision crops in the Southern Grenadines have suffered almost total destruction. Requía, Mus-

tique, and Balliccaux have also suffered in like proportion.

In St. Vincent, at least one-half of the cotton crop has been destroyed. The Georgetown Jetty has been completely carried away, and nothing now remains of the fine structure opened by Mrs. Gideon Murray.

As regards shipping, three local schooners, the *Admeta*, *Eden J.*, and *Claris Simmons*, drifted out to sea, and have not since been heard of, the latter two with owner-captains and crews aboard. The sloop *Socrates*, belonging to the estate of W. H. Barnard, was also totally wrecked.

A Relief Committee has been formed, and the sum of £1,000 already voted by the Legislative Council for the purchase of supplies. The Administrator has stated that the Island's Eruption Relief Fund, which is understood to amount to £25,000, is not available, the present disaster not being due to an eruption. There was happily no loss of life, and few persons were injured. Unofficial estimates place the loss sustained at £100,000. While the storm did not equal that of 1898 in intensity, yet a set-back at this time will have a far-reaching effect.

The Tournament: Trinidad's Disappointment.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, writing on October 3rd, reports a continuance of heavy rains, the fall being greater than for many years past. The recent announcement of a reduction of 20 per cent. in wages, which had been advanced enormously in the course of the last few years, resulted in a partial strike, which does not, however, seem to be serious, and work has not been up to the present to any great extent interrupted.

The Inter-Colonial Tournament, which had excited greater enthusiasm and interest than any previous contest held in Trinidad, ended in a great disappointment for this Colony. Success had seemed to be in the grasp of our team, but bad weather intervened and the match with Barbados could not be concluded before the latter had to leave by the steamer on the 24th ultimo, there being no other opportunity for more than a week thereafter.

Starting on the third day with an advantage of nineteen runs from the first innings, Trinidad compiled 266 runs for the loss of five wickets, and at the close of play on Friday were therefore 285 runs to the good with five wickets to fall. In this comfortable position it was expected that "Bertie Harragin" (our Captain) would declare early on the next day and give Barbados a sporting chance. Unfortunately not a single ball could be bowled on the last day available, owing to the weather, and the match had to be abandoned to the intense disappointment of everyone concerned. A certain amount of bad feeling has been expressed, in which our visitors were somewhat unjustly attacked in a section of the Press and elsewhere. The *Trinidad Guardian*, in a recent issue, gave what I think may be looked upon as a correct view in the matter which was endorsed by Major Harragin, the Captain of our team. The Committee of the Queen's Park Cricket Club have also thought it right to dissociate themselves from the reflections that have been made upon the visitors, and they telegraphed their views in the matter both to Barbados and Demerara. Meanwhile it is generally admitted that in every department of the game the Trinidad Team showed to advantage, and it is especially hard for them to be robbed by the weather of what looked like an almost certain and, at any rate, well deserved victory.

MR. WOOD'S COMING TOUR.**Date of Departure Fixed.**

As we go to press we learn that Mr. Edward Wood, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, will leave for the West Indies, via New York, on November 22nd, and will include British Honduras in his tour.

As already announced in the CIRCULAR, he will be accompanied by Mr. R. A. Wiseman, one of the principal clerks of the Colonial Office. He will also take with him as private secretary Major Arthur H. Bathurst. Mr. Wiseman entered the Civil Service as a clerk at the Admiralty in 1910, and was transferred to the Colonial Office in the following year. During the war he served temporarily at the Ministry of Shipping, and it will be recalled that he was secretary of the West Indian Shipping Committee.

Major Bathurst is a son of the late Mr. Charles Bathurst, of Lydney Park, Gloucestershire, and younger brother of Lord Bledisloe, formerly Sir Charles Bathurst, M.P. He joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment in 1894, and was for some months in 1899 private secretary to Sir James Hay, the then Governor in Barbados; but when the South African war broke out he rejoined his regiment in South Africa. During the recent war he held several important staff appointments, and he became private secretary to Mr. Wood in May last.

TRINIDAD'S TRADE.**Thirty Years' Customs Record.**

The report of the Acting Collector of Customs, Mr. Thomas R. Cutler, on the trade of the Colony for 1920 has just been issued. It is the most comprehensive document of the kind ever issued here, containing 161 pages of information on every point of interest in connection with the trade of the Colony which may be sought by commercial men. The Report is accompanied by eight diagrams showing the progress of trade from 1891 in Quinquennial periods. Mr. Cutler and his able staff are to be congratulated upon the completeness of the work and its excellence in every respect.

In this connection it is satisfactory to note that in the period 1891-5 the annual average value of sugar shipped was £658,000, and in 1916-20 £1,440,000; cacao in 1891-5 an average of £150,000 per annum, and in 1916-20 £2,130,000. The best years of asphalt were from 1911 to 1915, when the average shipments were valued at £207,000. The quantity shipped during the period 1916-20 fell off to £150,000, but with more normal conditions in the shipping world it is likely to set itself right during the next period.

During 1920 there was a most remarkable increase in the Customs duties received. These were in 1919, £477,830, and in 1920, £701,125. All this is very satisfactory, but I fear the results of the present year will be somewhat different, and that in an adverse direction.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.**The Colonial Bank.**

Mr. C. E. Wood, the chairman, presiding at the half-yearly general meeting of the Colonial Bank, on October 13th, referred to the satisfactory position of the Bank, in spite of the heavy fall in the value of the various produce it was accustomed to finance. The amount advanced to customers was £6,308,012. It was their traditional policy to stand by old and reliable customers in difficult times. The position was, however, improving, and the large stocks, both of merchandise and produce, which merchants had been holding at the commencement of the slump, were being slowly, but steadily, reduced. They had made considerable losses, but it was safe to say that in no time in our memory had the West Indies in general been so well able to bear them. As a bank which was so closely concerned in financing the exports and imports of the Colonies in which they were established, it was not surprising that the recent slump had caused them some losses, too.

Trade in the West Indies generally had been very dull during the period under review. The sugar position especially was not very bright at the present time. In Barbados the lack of adequate rains had done serious harm to the canes, and the crop would be below the average. In the other sugar islands and in Demerara there would also be some falling off. Jamaica reports showed that most crops were below the usual, and bananas had been the only bright spot in the produce market. Another product in which the Bank was interested, both in the West Indies and West Africa, was cotton. In regard to the West Indies, it was to be regretted that reports were somewhat gloomy. The cacao crop of the Gold Coast was expected to be large and of good quality.

Turning to the incorporation last month of the West Indian Agricultural College, Mr. Wood said that when it was established in Trinidad it would be the first Tropical College in the Empire. The college could do much to encourage scientific cultivation and the combating of diseases and pests.

On the subject of steamship communications Mr. Wood stated that both West Indian and West African freight rates had been reduced, but passenger rates were still at a very high figure. As regards the West Indian route, no British service had been inaugurated to replace that supplied for so many years by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. The United Kingdom had in the West Indies a market which granted a substantial preference in favour of Empire products, and a market in which their good friends, the United States of America, were handicapped by the rate of exchange, yet full advantage could not be taken of these circumstances owing to lack of adequate shipping facilities for passengers and merchandise. The restoration of a British service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies was a reform which should come before all others. The present time, when there was abundant shipping lying idle, seemed rather an appropriate one for reconsidering the question of a subsidised service.

The investment of capital in developing the Crown Colonies, for which Mr. Winston Churchill had recently pleaded,* would not only mean a safe return of the money in due course, but would help to cure the unemployment malady, which was giving so much trouble, since every larin paid to the Colonial labourer on the spot for his labour created a demand for Manchester goods, food, and other commodities.

Mr. Wood then moved the adoption of the report and accounts, a summary of which was given in last CIRCULAR (page 429). Mr. T. du Buisson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

* See THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, page 428

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes, Ltd.

Sailings to Bermuda from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Cumtito*, October 8th:—

Mrs. B. A. Anderson	Mrs. & Miss Hull	Mr. A. P. Parry
Surg. Comdr. & Mrs. E. Arkwright	Mrs. A. W. James	Mr. J. Scott Pearman
Miss V. Bergh	Mrs. G. B. James	Miss M. Phillips
Mr. & Miss Black	Mrs. N. Jeffery	Mrs. A. J. Pope
Miss D. Carter	Mr. & Mrs. W. McLaughlin Jones	The Misses Rees (3)
Mr. W. N. Compton & son	Miss E. M. Kealy	Mrs. T. Hor Rees
Mr. & Mrs. Freer Cox	Miss M. Kilshaw	Sir Colin & Lady Rees Davies
Miss F. J. Crambrook	Miss E. Lee	Miss D. Rees Davies
Miss D. C. Darrell	Mrs. E. P. Lockward	Mr. C. Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Foote	Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Luckhurst	Miss F. Roche
Mrs. V. Fraser	Mrs. A. M. Marsh and son	Miss K. G. S. Seon
Miss A. E. Gosling	Mrs. B. Martin	Mrs. S. F. Steele
Dr. & Mrs. Eldon Harvey	Miss G. D. McBean	Miss H. Talbot
Miss E. A. Harvey	Mr. P. M. Olson	Dr. & Mrs. Dudley C. Trott
Mr. C. R. Harvey	Mrs. T. J. D. Misick	Miss M. Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Hazell	Mrs. M. M. Orton	Mr. N. H. V. Wall
	Mrs. M. F. Overbridge	Miss C. M. Willis
		Mr. J. H. Zull

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Songster*, London, October 19th:—

Mrs. M. Apperson	Mr. F. W. S. Garraway	Mr. W. L. Nightingale
Mr. L. A. Bushe	Mr. W. J. Lawrence	Mrs. E. Scully
Mr. & Mrs. M. Ferguson	Mr. K. F. Meany	Mr. W. E. T. Wall
	Mr. & Mrs. J. McInroy	

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Ingoma*, October 20th:—

Miss C. A. Henbow	Mr. A. Fyle	Rev. W. R. Osborne
Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Blair	Miss D. Gaskell	Dr. A. T. Ozzard
Capt. & Mrs. C. Bowers and family	Mr. Glendinning	Major & Mrs. H. Peebles
Mrs. S. C. Branch	Mr. & Mrs. Gonsalves	Mr. C. H. Progers
Rev. T. Brotherton	Mrs. E. F. Guy	Mrs. & Mrs. F. Pudsey
Mrs. H. Browne	Mr. T. Haig	Mrs. F. Rainsay
Mrs. & Miss Camacho	The Misses Hargreaves (2)	Mr. & Mrs. Moir Reid
The Misses Cameron (2)	Mr. & Mrs. C. Hargreaves	Mr. K. Reid
Mr. A. Cameron	Mr. F. Hargreaves	Mr. Renney
Miss Coudnit	Mrs. O. M. Hosang	Mrs. L. R-yolds
Mr. & Mrs. F. A. Covea	Mr. P. W. Jarvis	General C. E. Rice
Miss I. Cox	Mrs. P. W. Jarvis	The Misses Rodriguez (2)
Miss K. M. Daniels	Mr. & Mrs. A. Jacks & Family	Mrs. T. R. Rose & Fam
Hon. & Mrs. D. S. de Freitas	Mrs. Scott Johnston	Mr. & Mrs. Ross
Mr. Dougall	Mr. G. H. Kysh	Mrs. Southwell Kourke
Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Drayton	Mrs. E. M. P. Lickfold	Mr. J. P. Sallai
Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. J. Loring	Mr. & Mrs. De Grafton Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Edghill	Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Mackenzie	Mr. D. Simpson
Mr. & Mrs. G. Farmer	Mr. Marcom	Mr. F. Simpson
The Misses Ferguson (3)	Mr. Marwood	Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Smith
Mr. R. J. Ferguson	Mr. F. C. Marriott	Mr. Stuart Smith
Mr. & Mrs. D. T. Franzer	Mr. F. Nichol	Miss M. Spurway
Mr. C. Forbes-Todd	Mr. & Mrs. L. A. P. O'Reilly	Rev. & Mrs. H. M. Vates & Family

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Oranje Nassau* October 22nd:—

Mr. & Mrs. Alexis & family	Professor Farmer	Mr. T. O. Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Baerz	Capt. & Mrs. Fellowes	Mrs. & Miss Sealey
Mr. A. G. Bailey	Mr. Maxman	Mrs. Stewart
Mr. H. M. H. Berkeley	Dr. & Mrs. Haslam	The Very Rev. A. Shankland
Mr. H. J. Beverley	Mrs. Henderson	Miss Skinner
Mr. Bishop	Mrs. G. B. James	Mrs. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Blackman	Mr. Larsen	Mr. Smith
Miss Royce & fam.	Mr. J. M. Lindsay	Miss Smith
Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Catherall	Mr. J. Machiveau	Mr. C. E. Soodem
The Rev. R. L. Cahill	Mrs. Mellon	Mr. D. I. Stewart
Mr. Condron	Mr. A. P. Neal	Mrs. & Misses Stanton
Mr. O. F. Depledge	Dr. & Mrs. O'Neal	Mr. & Mrs. Watson
Mr. W. Dickson	Mr. J. Pitman	Sir F. Watts K.C.M.G.
Mr. Earlan	Mr. St. G. Plummer	Mr. H. J. White
Mr. D. P. Farley	Miss Portal	
	Mr. & Mrs. Ribeiro	
	Miss Kibello	

EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies 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 Aug. 31	British Honduras To Aug. 31	Domi- nica To Aug. 31	Grenada To July 31	Jamaica To Mar. 31	Mont- serrat To Aug. 31	St. Lucia To Aug. 15	St. Kitts Nevis To Aug. 31	St. Vincent To Aug. 31	Trinidad To Aug. 31
Arrowroot
Asphalt
Balata	447,079	317,563	1,758	1,227,081	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bananas
Bauxite	10,545	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bitters
Cacao
Cassava Starch
Coco-nuts	1,863,354	2,662,184	217,962	9,364	6,514,429	...	115,974	...	...	...
Coffee	49,666	...	448	...	1,859,536	...	...	...	...	...
Copra	73,281	115,819	...	...	513,823	...	10,080	...	...	...
Cotton, M. Galante	310,128	...	392,085	...	367,567	436,712	...
Cotton, Sea Island	3,294	65,727	...	...	...	711,312	...	645,120	...	704,480	146,443	...
Cotton Seed	58,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Illamwoods
Dyewoods	216,844	...	...	...	...	...
Ginger	5,248	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154,563	...
Gold	15,454	...	...	...
Ground Nuts	26,726	...	...	...	...	...
Money	59,194	1,900	3,473	...	...	...	...	...
Lime Juice (raw)	112,512	8,635	...	...	17,173	...	...	...
... (concd)	723	...	...	...
... oil	35,840	...	15	...	...
Lime (trate of)
Logwood
Lumber	4,978,047	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mahogany	102	...	...	...	...	...	...	50,378	78,300	92,431
Manjak	93,700
Molasses	90,300	2,876,136	...	...	...	...	194,017	...	...	...	...	...
Oranges	5,525	...	...	...	...	...	8,865	...	...	...	...	2,432,097
Essential Oils
Petroleum
Pimento
Rice
Rubber
Kum
Shingles
Sugar	8,751	25,513	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Timber

*To July 31st

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
October 25th, 1921

BANK RATE 5½ per cent., as from July 21st

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Oct. 11th.	Oct. 25th.		Oct. 11th.	Oct. 25th.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	15 11	16 2	In Spain	1 2 9	1 3 5
France	2 1 5	2 2 2	Germany	22 15 11	32 12 0
Belgium	2 2 3	2 3 7	Austria	305 18 11	317 18 0
Italy	15 4	19 13	Holland	19 3	19 5

The intrinsic value of the gold sovereign is £1 4s. 7½d.

SUGAR. In the New York market yesterday, the quotation for Cubans and c.i.f. was 2.50 c., sales of Porto Rican Philippine sugars being effected at 4.0 c. for prompt delivery. The future market was steady, Cubans landed in bond being valued at: December 2.46 c., January 2.38 c., March 2.36 c., and May 2.46 c.

In the home market yesterday sugar was in good demand. Crystallised West Indian sold at 38/- to 42/-, landed terms and duty paid. Home granulated was quoted at 50/3 for best quality, yellow imitation crystals at 44/9. American granulated spot sold at 48/- to 48/3, and white Natal, duty paid, landed, at 43/- to 44/6. The terminal market was firm. The values were:

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	March.
96°	14/6	14/3	14/3	14/3
White	20/1½	19/-	18/6½	18/6

The Board of Trade returns for September show that the total imports of sugar during the month amounted to 139,047 tons, making for the nine months of the year 1,032,317 tons, as against 1,039,867 tons for the corresponding period of last year.

The quantity of "refined" sugar imported for the month was 10,736 tons, of which 7,805 tons came from the Continent, and 2,929 tons from the United States. Out of the 381,749 tons of this class of sugar imported for the nine months of the present year, 174,564 tons have come from the Continent and 161,882 tons from the United States. For the same period of 1920, the total imports of "refined" were 119,514 tons. "Unrefined" imports amounted to 90,310 tons for this month, making 651,167 tons for the nine months, comparing with 920,350 tons in the first nine months of 1920. During the month, 69,677 tons came in from Cuba, 1,942 tons from Mauritius, and 6,129 tons from the British West Indies (including British Guiana).

The amount of sugar which went into consumption from home refineries during the month was 60,845 tons, bringing this item of supply to 589,917 tons for the nine months, as against 610,276 tons for the corresponding period of last year. The consumption for the month was 116,731 tons, an increase on the consumption of September last year, which was 94,463 tons. The total consumption for the nine months has been 1,042,652 tons, as compared with 903,188 tons for the first nine months of 1920. The stocks on hand on September 30th amounted to 288,150 tons, as against 331,650 tons at the same date last year.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on October 15th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	43,982	58,658	42,122 Tons.
Deliveries	39,470	48,567	40,111 "
Stock	12,916	18,227	8,203 "

RUM. The home trade and export is flat. The shipments of Jamaica rum to Germany, reported in last CIRCULAR, amounted to over 1,000 puncheons. The doubling of the German import duty came into force on October 20th.

The imports of rum for the month amounted to 146,078 proof gallons, as against 285,640 gallons for the

previous September. This brings up the total imports for the nine months to 3,719,098 gallons, as against 3,320,149 gallons for the first nine months of last year. The quantity which went into consumption during the month was 123,003 gallons, a decrease on the figures for the previous September, which showed a consumption of 199,874 gallons. The total consumption for the nine months has been 1,259,872 gallons, as against 2,106,728 gallons for the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on hand, which were 12,881,000 gallons on September 30th last year, amounted to 13,066,000 gallons on the same date of the present year.

The stocks in London on October 15th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,234	11,288	8,206 Puns
Demerara	17,381	15,473	14,656 "
Total of all kinds	38,666	36,673	28,526 "

CACAO is rather quiet, with small sales of West Indian at 55/- to 56/- for fine Grenada, 56/- to 61/- for plantation Trinidad, and 50/- for Jamaica.

The imports of cacao for the month were 50,087 cwts., as against 101,591 cwts. in September last year. The nine months' imports have been 971,841 cwts., comparing with 1,940,701 cwts. for January-September, 1920. The British West India imports were 11,372 cwts. for the month, bringing the nine months' figures to 145,924 cwts. The consumption during the month was 91,029 cwts., and for the nine months 670,924 cwts., as against 778,355 cwts., the consumption for the first nine months of last year. The exports for the month were 91,079 cwts., and the stocks on hand on September 30th, 876,000 cwts., as against 1,316,000 cwts. at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on October 15th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	21,932	44,708	34,288 Bags
Grenada	18,259	31,165	18,689 "
Total of all kinds	130,251	273,064	133,523 "

ARROWROOT. Only small sales have been made. Prices are steady and unchanged at 2½d. to 6½d.

BALATA. Good quality West Indian sheet remains firm. Spot 3/8 to 3/9, c.i.f. 3/5 to 3/6.

BAY OIL is in good supply, but quiet, with sellers at 12-6 per lb.

COFFEE. Spot is quiet and steady, but owing to continued exchange difficulties there is little or no business to the Continent. Jamaicans are slightly easier, prices paid in Liverpool being: 114/- to 188/6 for fine small to hold Blue Mountain, and 165/- to 192/6 for pea-herry. Good to fine ordinary is worth 60/- to 65/-.

COPRA is quiet, with West Indian f.m.s. valued at £28, c.i.f. United Kingdom or Continent.

COTTON. A small business has been done in West Indian Sea Island at unchanged rates: medium 30d., fine 38d., extra fine 45d.

HONEY remains quiet, the only sales reported being for fermented Jamaica at 29/-.

LOGWOOD. There is no enquiry for this article. Last quotation for St. Lucia £13 per ton, ex wharf London.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is lower at 17/6 per lb., with small sales at this figure. Distilled continues neglected. **Lime Juice.** Concentrated is easier; sales of recent arrivals have been made at £24. Raw remains neglected.

ORANGE OIL. Cheap offers of sweet from the islands are not meeting a good demand. Last quotation 12/-, c.i.f. sellers. Bitter is not enquired for.

PETROLEUM. The price of Pennsylvania crude has been further advanced to \$3.00.

SPICES. Jamaica **Ginger** is quoted at 155/- to 155/- per cwt., with a small business doing at the higher figure for good middling. Stocks in London are small. Owing to the imminent increase in duty in Germany good shipments of **Pimento** have been disposed of at 22/6, c.i.f.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SEELYING LANE,

LONDON, E.C. 3

November 8th, 1921

A Question of Confidence.

IN our issue of December 23rd last, we threw out the suggestion that steps might, with advantage, be taken to secure from the British Government some assurance that the Tariff Preference granted to sugar, and various other kinds of West Indian produce, might be continued for a definite number of years. Since that article was written, the matter has been taken up with enthusiasm in the West Indies through the medium of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, and resolutions have been passed throughout the West Indian Colonies warmly advocating the adoption of such a policy. It is recognised that what these Colonies have suffered from in the past, and are suffering from now, is lack of confidence engendered by the absence of any continuity of policy with respect to their economic welfare. So far as West Indian trade with Canada is concerned, there is, under the Trade Agreement, signed at Ottawa in June, 1920, the assurance that the reciprocal Tariff Preference shall remain in force for at least ten years, whilst the West Indian Colonies have also extended to the United Kingdom, for a like period, the same preferential rates as are enjoyed by the Dominion under the agreement. In the latter case, however, there has been no real reciprocity,

for although the Imperial Parliament has provided for the admission on favoured terms of all West Indian products that are dutiable, there is, nevertheless, a feeling that these beneficial results may at any time be brought to an end at the will of some party coming into power with views on Imperial matters opposed to those held by the present Government. We ourselves do not share these doubts, but we are bound to take into account the rapid changes of policy seen in the legislation of recent years in the case of successive Governments, and even in that of the same Government, an instance of the latter occurring this year in the repeal of an important Agricultural Act passed only in the previous Session. Hence, we are forced to admit that West Indian anxiety in this respect is not entirely devoid of foundation. In any case, in the absence of the confidence engendered by stability, trade languishes, and it cannot be gained that an added sense of security in the present preferential arrangements would be instrumental in inducing the investment of capital now withheld from the West Indies. As a consequence, we cannot too strongly urge that some arrangement may be made between the Mother Country and the West Indies that would ensure the continuance of the mutual Preferences for a definite period of years. In this connection it may be mentioned that at a recent meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee a resolution was passed in the following terms, endorsing and co-ordinating the views expressed by the various West Indian Chambers of Commerce, "That the Executive of The West India Committee, having considered resolutions on the subject, submitted to them by the President of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce, desire to urge His Majesty's Government, and the Governments of the British West Indian Colonies, to make such arrangements as may be reasonably certain to ensure the continuance of the existing reciprocal preferences in the Customs Duties for a definite period of years." It is interesting to note that Mr. Gideon Murray took the opportunity of a discussion on the Vote for Overseas Settlement in the House of Commons on November 3rd to emphasise this point. He stated that when settlers went to the West Indies they should know that the articles they were going to grow would find a secure market in this country. It was possible to meet these conditions by guaranteeing Imperial preference for from six to ten years, in the same way as guarantees of loans under the Trade Facilities Bill were going to be made. This was a very important matter, and, after all, if the West Indies gave us a preference

upon goods which we sent to them, what reason was there that this country should not do the same, instead of passing an Act conferring the preference from year to year, so that the Colonies never knew where they were. It will be remembered that in the final Protocol appended to the Brussels Convention of 1902, the British Government undertook that during the continuance of that Agreement, no preference would be granted in the United Kingdom to Colonial sugar as against sugar from the Contracting States. If the Government was able to give that very definite pledge to foreign countries that its fiscal policy in relation to sugar would remain unchanged for a period of years, is it unreasonable to expect that it will now give a similar pledge to the British Colonies, and guarantee for them a continuance of the existing tariff preference for a definite term of years?

An Offensive Defence Bill.

A SITUATION approaching to a political crisis arose in British Guiana on September 12th, when a meeting of the Court of Policy had to be adjourned for the want of a quorum, all the elective members, with a single exception, having absented themselves, in accordance with what would appear to have been a pre-arranged plan. This action on the part of the elected members has been attributed to their strong disapproval of two measures introduced by the Government, which it was their intention to block, namely, a Bill to provide for the slaughter of cows and heifers, and a Bill to provide for the maintenance and construction of sea defences. That the Sea Defence Bill should have encountered very general opposition in the Colony is not surprising, inasmuch as it seeks by clauses 17 and 21 to vest in the Crown certain private property for fifty feet landwards from the centre line of any dam in any "declared district," without paying the owners any compensation whatever. This, as it is hardly necessary to point out, would amount to nothing less than confiscation, pure and simple. It would be utterly foreign to British sense of justice, and would, if the principle were once to be accepted, do away with the security of tenure, without which development of the Colony could not proceed. We are glad, however, to learn that as the outcome of the representations of that virile body, the British Guiana Sugar Planters' Association, the local Government has given a definite assurance that these very objectionable clauses shall be amended. It is, indeed, unthinkable that they could be adopted in their present form. Another clause which, as it appears to us, should also be modified is that which would empower the Government to apply the rates paid

under the Ordinance "for the public use of the Colony" instead of earmarking them for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the measure, namely, the maintenance and construction of sea defences. Copies of the amended draft Bill have not yet reached this country. When they do so it may be necessary to refer to this matter again. Meanwhile, we are glad to know that the situation is being so closely watched.

MR. WOOD'S COMING TOUR.

Mr. Edward Wood, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, received the members of the Executive of The West India Committee at the Colonial Office on October 27th, for the discussion of various matters concerning the welfare of the British West Indian Colonies. Special stress was laid by the speakers on the need for efficient steamer and telegraphic communication, and the desirability of securing uniformity with respect to Income Tax and other legislation, and also the regulations under the Customs tariffs. Reference was also made to infantile mortality and health progress, and the question of Imperial Preference, with special regard to ensuring continuity of policy.

Mr. Wood is to be the guest of the West Indian Club at a dinner to be held at their premises at 4, Whitehall Court, on Wednesday, November 16th, when Mr. Charles F. Wood will preside, and the company will include Colonel S. H. Wilson, C.B., C.M.G., Governor-Elect of Trinidad and Tobago.

The itinerary of Mr. Wood's mission has been arranged as shown below. The voyage from

Jamaica to Trinidad will be made in a vessel lent by the Admiralty, and probably *H.M. Sloop Wistaria*. The programme from January 25th to February 14th, when Mr. Wood leaves for England in *s.s. Oranje Nassau*, will depend upon steamer arrangements, and it may be necessary to proceed to Georgetown and return to Trinidad on different dates from those given.

Leave New York, Dec. 6.	Leave St. Lucia, Jan. 14.
Leave New Orleans, Dec. 9.	Arrive St. Vincent, Jan. 14.
Arrive Belize, Dec. 13.	Leave, Jan. 15.
Leave, Dec. 17.	Arrive Barbados, Jan. 15.
Arrive Jamaica, Dec. 21.	Leave, Jan. 20.
Leave, say Dec. 30.	Arrive Grenada, Jan. 21.
Arrive St. Kitts, say Jan. 3.	Leave, Jan. 25.
Leave, say Jan. 4.	Arrive Port of Spain, Jan. 25.
Arrive Antigua, say Jan. 4.	Leave, Feb. 2.
Leave, say Jan. 7.	Arrive Demerara, Feb. 4.
Arrive Dominica, say Jan. 8.	Leave, Feb. 12.
Leave, say Jan. 11.	Leave Trinidad, Feb. 14.
Arrive St. Lucia, say Jan. 11.	Arrive Plymouth, Feb. 28.



Mr. R. A. Wiseman,
Principal of the Colonial Office who will accompany
Mr. Edward Wood, M.P., on his West India Tour.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"If you lib wid darg, you larn fe howl."

THE s.s. *Ingoma* will make a further voyage to the West Indies, leaving England on or about January 13th.

SIR EUSTACE FIENNES, the Governor-elect of the Leeward Islands, left London for Antigua on Saturday last, November 5th.

MR. C. A. J. S. MANGER has been appointed Assistant Auditor of British Guiana, and Mr. C. A. Matley, Geologist in Jamaica.

LIGHT'S latest estimate of the European beet crop for 1921-22 is 3,928,000 tons, an increase of 33,000 tons over his earlier estimates published in last CIRCULAR (p. 455).

MR. A. CLAYTON SMITH, C.A., eldest son of the late senior partner, the Hon. Adam Smith, C.M.G., has been admitted a partner of the firm of Smith, Robertson & Co., of Trinidad.

LORD SANDHURST, the Lord Chamberlain, who died on November 2nd, was, it will be recalled, a member of the Committee on Indian Emigration, which sat at the Colonial Office in 1909-10.

MR. H. O. CARTER, the solicitor who acted for Clauwaring in the recent sensational murder trial at Cambridge (when the prisoner was acquitted), is a son of Mr. Carter, of Kingston, Jamaica.

MISS HELEN LATREILLE, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Latreille, of Kingston, Jamaica, is to be married to-day to Captain C. Varyl Robinson, R.N., at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens.

THE Rev. Canon de Candole presided over a meeting of the Jamaica Church Aid Association, at the Church House, Westminster, on November 2nd, on which occasion the Bishop of Jamaica, was present.

HON. CARLOS MELHADO, who, we are glad to be able to state, has recovered from his recent serious illness, and has much benefited by his stay on this side, leaves England on Saturday by s.s. *Celric* en route for British Honduras.

SIR THOMAS GRATTAN ESMONDE, who has been on a hunting trip in Wyoming, stated to an American correspondent that he proposed to urge, on his return to Ireland, the taking up of sugar beet cultivation in that country.

MR. HENRY MONCK-MASON MOORE, who, until recently, was in the Colonial Secretariat in Ceylon, has been appointed Colonial Secretary of Bermuda,

in succession to Mr. Wilfred Jackson, C.M.G. Mr. Moore, who is thirty-four years of age, entered the Ceylon Civil Service as a Cadet in 1910.

It is recorded, in the annual statement of the Rhodes Trust, that during the academic year 1920-21, Mr. N. W. Manley (Jamaica Rhodes Scholar), Jesus, took a second class in the examination for the degree of B.C.L., and that Mr. C. McL. Morales (Jamaica), Oriel, took a third-class in the Modern History School.

SHIPMERS have been advised by the Associated Lines to the West Indies that they have agreed to reduce the rate on manures (except where otherwise rated) by 5s. per ton on November 1st. They also announce an additional charge of 2½ per cent. on all cargo delivered at Barbados on account of the increase in tonnage dues at Bridgetown.

THE Royal Colonial Institute, which now comprises 15,748 members, is making a further appeal on behalf of its New Premises Fund, to which £47,250 has so far been subscribed out of a total of £300,000 eventually needed. Mr. G. M. Boughey, O.B.E., is now Secretary of the Institute, in succession to Sir Harry Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., whose retirement was recently reported in the CIRCULAR.

CAPTAIN G. HUDSON LYALL, M.B.E., has been appointed to represent the Executive of The West India Committee on the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. Captain Lyall, who is a son of the late Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, is Chairman of the Laws and Arbitration Committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London, of which Sir George MacLaren Brown, K.B.E., is Chairman.

REPORTS of interruption of West Indian cable communication are now so frequent that the West India and Panama Telegraph Company will probably soon find it more convenient to announce when their lines are working rather than when they are interrupted. Meanwhile they report the interruption of cable communication with Barbados. Telegrams for that island will be forwarded by every available opportunity, subject to delay, or may be accepted via St. Lucia wireless at 3/6 per word.

GUAVA JELLY.—Break open 100 guavas, put them in 8 pints of water, and boil until the guavas are soft, then strain off the water and add a very light pound of sugar and a squeeze of lime juice. Do not stir too much. When the jelly begins to leave the sides of the skillet on being stirred, it is done.

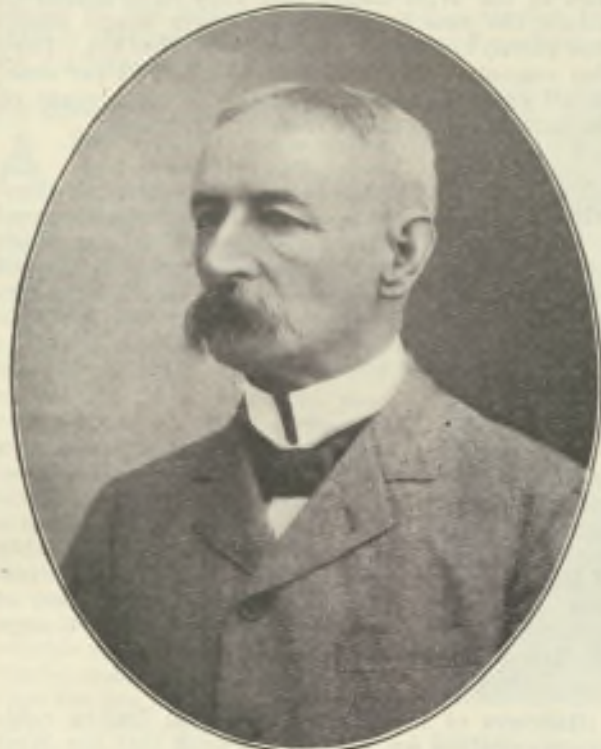
[Residents in the United Kingdom unable to obtain guavas wherewith to carry out the above directions can obtain the finished product at the West Indian Produce Association, 14, Creechurch Lane, London, E.C.]

OBITUARY.

MR. EDGAR TRIPP.

The West India Committee have learnt with deep regret that Mr. Edgar Tripp, their Hon. Correspondent in Trinidad, died in that island on November 4th, following an attack of pneumonia.

There was probably no one better known throughout the West Indies, if not in person, at any rate by name, than the subject of this memoir. For well over twenty years Mr. Edgar Tripp was Hon. Correspondent of The West India Committee, and his entertaining fortnightly letters have been greatly appreciated and looked forward to by readers of the CIRCULAR. More



The late Mr. Edgar Tripp

than fifty years have elapsed since Mr. Tripp first left for Trinidad to make that island his home, and it is not easy to compress in a single article an account of his many activities. His private business was that of a merchant and shipping agent, but he most unselfishly devoted much of his time to public affairs. He was Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad Agricultural Society, from its formation during the Governorship of Sir Napier Broome in 1895, until 1918. Upon his resignation in the latter year he was the recipient of addresses and testimonials from the numerous District Societies which he had formed, besides a gift of plate. He was also for many years Secretary and Treasurer of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce. In 1890 he visited Canada at the instance of Governor Sir William Robinson to report on the desirability of the participation of Trinidad in the Canadian National Exhibitions, and two years later he was appointed Commercial Agent for the Dominion of Canada, a position which he continued to hold until his death. Since 1902 he had been Consul for Norway and at the time of his death he was the elected Dean of the local

Consular Body. A most capable organiser, he was Hon. Secretary of the Committee which carried out the arrangements for the celebration in 1897 of the centenary of the capture of Trinidad from Spain, receiving for his services the thanks of the Legislature and the gold and silver medals which were specially struck for the occasion. This same characteristic led to his selection to be Hon. Secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce, a position which he filled with consummate tact and ability which manifested themselves at the Conferences in Port of Spain and Bridgetown in 1917 and 1920 respectively. In the realm of sport Mr. Tripp was an ardent devotee of cricket, and as a director of the Queen's Park Cricket Committee, he took a prominent part in the arrangements for the Intercolonial Cricket Tournament which was recently revived. At his charming residence in the Santa Cruz Valley, he dispensed much unpretentious hospitality and no one in trouble ever called upon him in vain. Gifted with much ability as a speaker he was a frank and candid critic of the local Government when occasion required, and he was never afraid of speaking out his mind. In him the West Indies generally have lost a forceful personality and a valued friend.

Sir Edward Davson writes: "I should be glad of the hospitality of your columns to add my tribute to the memory of Edgar Tripp. When the formation of the Associated West Indian Chambers of Commerce was first mooted, Edgar Tripp welcomed the idea with enthusiasm and readily accepted the post of Hon. Secretary as an addition to the many honorary duties which he was already performing. He never spared himself in working for the welfare of the Association, and the success of the two meetings at Trinidad and Barbados was largely due to his organising powers and never-flagging industry.

"But one's appreciation of Edgar Tripp is not limited to this particular connection. I never knew a man—especially one as busy as he—who was prepared to sacrifice so much time for the good of the community, or who was so unselfish in his public services for the benefit and advancement of the West Indies. In social organisations and festivities he was always the youngest in his enjoyment, and I am not sure that the most striking point in his personality was not the fact that, in spite of his advancing age, he always preserved and managed to infect others with his spirit of youth; nor did I ever hear him make a remark savouring of that cynicism or disillusionment which is often associated with advancing years. That he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him, and by everyone who has the interests of the West Indies at heart, is certain, and, while to say that a man's place can never be filled is possibly an abuse of words, yet I feel that this saying was never nearer the truth than in the case of Edgar Tripp."

THE report of Mr. J. F. Brennan, the Government Meteorologist of Jamaica, on the diurnal variation of the rainfall at Kingston from 1908-1919 leads to some interesting deductions. Thus the heaviest rainfall in September, November and December would seem to occur between the hours of 3 and 4 p.m., whilst in the whole twelve years no rain fell in any day of February between 1 and 2 a.m. or 5 and 6 a.m., or in March between 3 and 5 a.m.

THE DIETETIC VALUE OF SUGAR.

Possibilities of increased consumption

By W. D. HORNE.

This valuable paper was read by Dr. W. D. Horne, in New York on September 9th last, at a meeting of the American Chemical Society, by whose courtesy it is now published below. It affords further striking evidence as to the real and practical value of sugar as a food.

Sugar occupies an unusual place among food-stuffs, because of the contending forces bearing upon its rate of consumption.

Its strong appeal to the palate seems to have been the chief factor in developing its rate of consumption in early times, and even in recent years, restriction being effective through the tolerance of the human system and the cost of production and distribution.

With its growing commerce, tariff imposts in many countries have often artificially advanced the price and held down the rate of consumption.

Excessive over-consumption of sugar or of preparations containing impure or indigestible ingredients combined with sugar by an occasional individual here and there, with unpleasant consequences, has apparently built up a vague tradition against even a natural and judicious use of sugar as food.

However, the accumulated experience of man, on the whole, has developed in him, unconsciously, a higher and higher appreciation of sugar's real value as a food until in the modern scientific era we have learned why this ever-enlarging consumption has taken place, and can now understand that as a source of energy in the human diet sugar occupies a leading place.

The rate of increase in the consumption of sugar in the United States may be seen from the accompanying table:—

Lbs per head per year	1885	1890	1895	1900	1905
	49.95	54.45	64.25	66.6	70.5
	1910	1915	1920	1921 Est.	
	81.6	83.83	86.56	90	

A full realisation of the economic value of this foodstuff will eventually lead to a much greater increase in its use, but even now the hold it has upon the world is deep-seated and strong. When, during the recent war, the world production of sugar fell off 10 per cent., the price in the United States went up 25 per cent. When the world shortage was 25 per cent. our prices rose 100 per cent., and when the world shortage amounted to 33 per cent. our prices rose to 400 per cent. and more of the ordinary, and panic seized the apprehensive public.

It is of interest to compare the amounts of sugar consumed in other countries.

In the absence of more recent data, the following may be given as indicative of the extraordinarily slight appreciation of the real value of sugar as food by most of the countries of the world:—

TABLE OF SUGAR CONSUMPTION IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE.

	Consumption per Caput 1910-11.	1921. Estimated.	Retail Prices July, 1921 c per lb.	Duty and Int. Res. c per lb.
New Zealand	130.	100		
Australia	129.6	100		
United Kingdom	91.7	66	5.0	4
Denmark	84.2	96	5.0	1.2
United States	79.2	90	5.7	19 + 1.31
Switzerland	76.3	75	5.1	8
Sweden	58.0	60	8.0	1.6
Germany	47.9	50	5.9	2.0
Norway	46.1		6.3	2.4
Netherlands	45.7	68	8.7	1.9
France	42.8	34	5.9	2.9
Belgium	38.4	44	5.4	2.2
Avg. of Europe	35.7	24	7.8	4.4
Finland	32.8			6.5
Austria Hungary	28.5	24	6.5	4.0
Russia	22.5	5	7.2	
Portugal	11.5		10.3	7.3
Spain	13.7	17	12.2	7.0
Turkey	13.6		5.1	
Roumania	10.6	13	10.1	6.6
Italy	10.1	12	14.0	8.7
Greece	9.0		11.4	5.1
Bulgaria	8.6	12.5	7.2	4.7
Serbia	7.9		8.7	5.3
Cuba		112		

Since production has begun to increase, however, and fear of a coming shortage has disappeared, the demand and the price have fallen precipitously, and we now have the unfortunate spectacle of the greatest over-supply of sugar in Cuba that history can relate, offered at the lowest price for many years, while Europe stands almost inactively by, short of food, short of money, and short of appreciation that before her lies a vast store of potential energy at exceptionally low price. Our lack of appreciation in the United States varies only in degree from that of countries that consume only a fractional part of the sugar we do per caput.

Through some strange mental attitude, sugar has long been looked upon by many as a luxury, in spite of its being one of the cheapest foods we can buy.

According to generally accepted views, our diet should ordinarily consist of about 60 per cent. carbohydrates, 30 per cent. fat, and 10 per cent. protein. The number of calories of energy contained in an adult's daily food is variously estimated at from 1,800 to 3,500. Taking 2,500 as a fair average, this would represent 1,500 as coming from carbohydrates. A pertinent question is: what proportion of this should be supplied by sugar? At present the average consumption of sugar in the United States is about 87 lbs. per caput per annum. This is equal to 3.81 ozs. per day. As sugar develops 1,860 large calories per pound, this amounts to 442.9 calories per day, or 17.71 per cent. of the total energy derived from a 2,500 cal. daily ration. Australia and New Zealand consume about 130 lbs. of sugar per annum per caput, or the equivalent of 5.7 ozs. per day, equal to 25.50 per cent. of the total energy supplied by a similar daily ration.

The astonishing truth develops that if 87 lbs. of sugar supplies one of us with 17.71 per cent. of his

yearly food energy, the cost of his entire intake of food, if it could be bought on the basis of sugar at 7c. per lb. would be only \$34.38 per annum.

The factors determining the amount of any food used should be its utility and attractiveness on the one hand, and on the other its toleration by the system and its cost and work of preparation.

The greater part of our food goes to the production of heat and muscular energy in the body, the far smaller part toward the building of tissue. As sugar is concerned in the former case it is of interest to measure its value through its calorific efficiency, and to compare it thus with a number of the other typical foods. The accompanying table gives the calories developed by the food materials mentioned, the ratios of sugars efficiency to that of each of the other articles, the retail price (determined recently) of the various articles, and from these data the costs of the different articles when considered in quantities sufficient to yield in the human system as much energy as 1 lb. of sugar.

Article	c. per lb.	Cals. per lb.	1860	
			Cals. per lb.	c. per 1860 Cals.
Oat meal	5	1860	1	5
Granulated Sugar	6	1860	1	6
Cornmeal	5	1545	1.20	6
Wheat Flour	5.5	1640	1.13	6.2
Rice	8	1630	1.14	9.1
White Beans	8	1605	1.16	9.2
Lima Beans (dry)	8	1625	1.15	9.2
White Bread	9.33	1230	1.52	14.2
Macaroni	12.5	1665	1.19	15.2
Red Beans	15	1675	1.11	16.6
Potatoes	5	385	4.85	24.2
Butter	18	3605	.51	24.5
Apples	4	290	6.44	25.7
Bacon	15	2795	.67	30.3
Almonds	27	1660	1.12	30.3
Brazils	27	1655	1.12	30.3
Beets	4	215	8.67	34.6
Pork Chops	25	1340	1.39	34.7
Cheese (American)	40	2055	.92	36.8
Milk	7	325	5.74	40.1
Carrrots	7	210	8.88	42.1
Beef Steak	35	950	1.96	69.5
Pears	10	260	7.30	73.
Onions (White)	9	225	8.25	74.2
English Walnuts	55	1375	1.36	75
Prunes	15	370	5.05	76
Roast Beef	16	1110	1.67	77
Bananas	12.5	300	6.20	77.5
Eggs	28	635	2.93	82
Tomatoes	5	105	17.7	88.5
Cabbage	8	145	12.8	102.4
Chicken	45	775	2.40	108
Mackerel	25	365	5.1	127.5
Haddock	14	165	11.30	158
Oranges	15	170	10.92	164
Peaches	15	155	11.98	180
Spinach	14	110	16.82	235
Oysters	30	235	7.93	238
Blue Fish	42	210	8.85	358
Lettuce	20	90	20.70	414

Here we see how much more energy can be obtained for a given amount of money from sugar than from almost any other foodstuff.

As to its toleration by the system, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, and Cuba all consume more than we do in the United States, while experiments reported in United States Farmers' Bulletin, No. 535, of June, 1918, have shown that when 5 ozs. of sugar is eaten daily it is easily taken up by the average adult and 98.9 per cent. digested, so that with the evident ability to increase our daily con-

sumption from 3.8 ozs. up to 5 ozs. or 5.7 ozs., it is quite probable that as the true economic value of sugar comes to be more fully appreciated we shall find the consumption in the United States rapidly approaching these figures.

The strains put upon economic conditions by the war have been very noticeably reflected by the index numbers of prices published by the British Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.

In the table of retail prices of food in various countries it is very evident that food in general is costing from once and a half to over four times as much as in 1914. The index numbers are:—

Period	United Kingdom.		United States		Canada	Australia
	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)		
1914	100	100	100	100	100	100
1916	161	132	111	—	109	114
1918	210	206	203	—	165	175
1920	262	373	318	456	215	227
1921 (Apr.)	232	329	432	434	149	178

Period	New Zealand.		South Africa.		British India.		Sweden		Netherlands		Germany	
	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)
1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1916	119	116	110	160	142	117	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	139	134	121	279	268	176	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	167	197	170	319	297	210	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921 (Apr.)	169	160	160	308	248	193	—	—	—	—	—	—

A further analysis of retail prices in the United Kingdom indicates that foods in general have been about as slow as other commodities to return toward normal prices.

Period	Veg. Food.		Animal Food.		Sugar Coffee Tea		Total Food		Min. sale.	Yes.	Sun. sales.	Total index.
	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)	1914	1921 (Apr.)				
1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1916	170	151	151	158	156	162	158	158	158	158	158	158
1918	215	209	223	213	186	276	234	225	225	225	225	225
1920	280	263	344	280	300	312	278	288	288	288	288	288
1921 (Apr.)	180	248	171	210	196	179	191	198	198	198	198	198

This emphasises the importance of increasing the rate of sugar consumption to diminish the relative cost of food in the aggregate.

The War Industries Board in their Bulletin, No. 18, published in 1919, estimated the value of the various items of human food which entered into trade in the United States in 1917 to be:—

Meats and animal fat	91,446,000,000
Poultry and dairy products	3,379,000,000
Wheat and wheat products	2,188,000,000
Corn and corn products	1,046,000,000
Sugar and sugar products	783,000,000
Vegetables and truck	582,000,000
Fruits, nuts and wine	361,000,000
Edible vegetable oils	282,000,000

Under sugar and sugar products are here included sugar and sugar syrups, maple products, glucose, and corn sugar, sorghum sirup and honey. All these taken together amounted to but 6 per cent., in cost, of the total bill of fare, and yet supplied considerably more than 18 per cent. of the total energy furnished by our food.

Here, then, is a great source of cheap energy which the world has been slow to appreciate in its full significance. The supply of sugar can be greatly increased as demanded, and its price should grow relatively lower with the expansion and development of the industry.

We can profitably increase our consumption of sugar 20 or 30 per cent. with safety in the United States, while many other countries can raise their amounts in far greater proportion.

HOME-GROWN BEET.

The Kelham Factory Opened.

The Kelham Beet Sugar Factory near Newark, to which reference has frequently been made in the CIRCULAR, was formally opened by Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, the Minister of Agriculture, on November 2nd, in the presence of a numerous company of invited guests, who included Mr. R. Rutherford, Chairman, and the following members of The West India Committee: Mr. H. B. G. Austin, M.C.P., Mr. G. Eliot Sealy, Mr. J. V. Drake, Mr. Scott Heriot, and Mrs. MacGregor.

The factory, which represents the combined effort of French and English skill and workmanship, embodies the latest improvements in beet sugar manufacture. Its capacity is 8,000 tons of sugar, but this season's crop, which is regarded as an experimental one, will not exceed 2,000 to 2,500 tons. The original capital of the Company was £500,000, of which one-half is held by the Government, who guaranteed 5 per cent. interest for ten years on the other half. Owing to the extraordinary cost of labour and materials, additional capital to the extent of £200,000 had to be raised to complete the scheme. To secure this sum arrangements were made for a first mortgage of £75,000, and Parliament has sanctioned an advance by the Treasury of £125,000 on second mortgage.

The price paid for beets for this campaign was £4 per ton, but the farmers were told they could not expect more than 30/- next year. It has been found that the average sugar content of the beets so far pulled is 16½ per cent., which is higher than in France or Belgium, about equal to the best growing districts in Germany, and a little better than in Canada.

Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, in declaring the Factory open, said that beet sugar was introducing a new form of agriculture into the country, and he hoped that in a few years' time there would be many similar factories all over the country. It was a remarkable thing that we had not produced sugar in this country before. We could produce it, and we would, and there was no more reason why we should import our sugar than why we should import milk and potatoes. Sugar-production only needed a good start and a full commercial test, and it was to ensure this that the Government came forward to assist, not to manage or control. He was no believer in what was called farming from Whitehall. He welcomed the factory as the forerunner of a new industry which would employ a great deal of labour in country districts in the winter, when employment was much needed, and would give to the farmer a new crop in his rotation of great value.

After the opening ceremony a lunch was given, at which Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen defended the Government's action in supporting the factory, by saying it was right to give a new industry a chance to succeed.

The success of this enterprise would mean the establishment of a powerful sugar party in this country, from which the British West Indies would benefit.

THE MAURITIUS SUGAR INDUSTRY.

We have received a copy of a paper prepared by Dr. H. A. Tempany, Director of Agriculture of that Colony, to be read before the "Société des Chimistes" of that Colony, on "The Research and Educational Requirements of the Sugar Industry."

After alluding to the prosperous condition of the sugar industry of the Island as affording a suitable opportunity for its further material development, Dr. Tempany reviews the history of the present scientific institutions associated with it, the pioneer of which was the Station Agronomique, inaugurated in 1893, under the direction of Dr. Bonême, and gives an account of their present position and work. He then proceeds to explain his views as to what should be done to improve upon existing conditions. "On general broad lines," he says, "the obvious course would seem to lie in the institution of a definite technological sugar research laboratory for the benefit of the whole industry, under the charge of an officer of adequate training and experience in the technology of sugar manufacture, and with the capacity for undertaking investigation." This institution would advisedly be maintained in close touch with existing organisations, and with the "Société des Chimistes," and be worked in co-operation with an Advisory Committee of sugar planters.

The question of a miniature sugar plant is also touched upon, and the important subject of the production of power alcohol taken in hand.

In connection with the botanical side of the question, Dr. Tempany considers that there is great need of a properly trained botanist, whose services should be exclusively available for research work and teaching. Finally, although he makes no suggestions in connection with the subject, Dr. Tempany urges the extension of the existing system of the training of young men destined to bear their part in the future of the management and control of the sugar industry of the Colony, which only provides for three to four students yearly, and lays stress on the necessity for adequate remuneration to obtain properly trained officers.

The Health of Dominica.

In his report on the Roseau Hospital for the year 1920-21, Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, the Senior Medical Officer of the Island, is able to record a satisfactory diminution in the number of malarial cases under treatment, which have been reduced from a total of 134 in 1917, with 13 deaths, to 50 in 1920, with one death. This indicates that the sanitary condition of Roseau, from which most of the cases come, is gradually being improved. On the other hand, pellagra is on the increase in the country. This disease Dr. Nicholls attributes to a deficiency of certain elements in the food, and it is sometimes characterised, with other similar maladies, as *mal-de-misère*. Tuberculosis is not uncommon in the Island, but cannot be said to be prevalent. Venereal diseases are still on the increase, with deplorable results to a large section of the population, no fewer than 188 cases of syphilis being treated at the hospital during the year.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOURISTS.

Projected West Indian Tours.

The good old days when tourists could enjoy 65 days in the West Indies for £65 have, alas, gone; but it is satisfactory to note that increased facilities are to be provided for visitors to those colonies next winter. To begin with, Messrs. Elders and Fyffes, in order that Colonel S. H. Wilson, the new Governor of Trinidad, may reach Port of Spain under the British flag, have decided to send the ss. *Coronado* (6,500 tons) to Barbados and Trinidad, en route to Port Limon, Cristobal, and Kingston, which will give tourists an admirable opportunity of visiting the Lesser Antilles, since she will arrive in the Gulf of Paria on the day before the *Chaudiere* leaves Port of Spain on her northern voyage. The itinerary of the *Coronado* will be as follows:—

- Leave Avonmouth, December 31st
- Barbados (arrive and leave), Jan. 13th.
- Trinidad (arrive and leave), Jan. 14th.
- Port Limon (arrive), Jan. 16th; leave 20th.
- Cristobal (arrive and leave), Jan. 21st.
- Kingston (Jamaica), arrive and leave, Jan. 23rd.

This enterprising Company has also arranged for their S.S. *Camilo* to call at Bermuda on her voyage from Avonmouth (December 11th) to Jamaica. This will enable winter tourists to reach Bermuda direct from England in eleven days. It will be remembered that under the Banana Contract from 1900 to 1911 the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service used to call regularly at Bermuda on their passage to and from Grand Turk and Jamaica, and a revival of this itinerary would be immensely appreciated.

The West Indies will be invaded early in the New Year by an army of tourists, who will be transported to the Caribbean islands by the Canadian Pacific ss. *Empress of Britain* (22,200 tons) and the White Star ss. *Megantic* (14,878 tons). So that the calf may be suitably fattened for the visitors, and hotel keepers, garages, etc., may be ready for action, the CIRCULAR gives below the itineraries of the cruises, with the dates of arrival of the steamers at the various ports.

S.S. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN.

Destination	Leave New York		Stay Hours
	Jan. 21	Feb. 21	
Havana	Arrive Jan. 24	Arrive Feb. 24	50
Kingston	Tues. 24	Fri. 24	
Colon	Sun. 28	Wed. 1	35
La Guaira	Wed. 1	Sat. 4	14
Port-of-Spain	Sat. 4	Tues. 7	18
La Brea Point	Mon. 6	Thur. 9	22
Barbados	Tues. 7	Fri. 10	24
Martinique	Wed. 8	Sat. 11	13
St. Thomas	Thur. 9	Sun. 12	9
Sao Juan	Fri. 10	Mon. 13	10
Nassau	Sat. 11	Tues. 14	24
Bermuda	Tues. 14		9
New York	Fri. 17	Fri. 17	24

S.S. MEGANTIC'S ITINERARY.

Destination	Leave New York			Stay Hours
	January 17	February 16	March 18	
Havana	Arrive Jan. 21	Arrive Feb. 20	Arrive Mar. 22	34
Kingston	Wed. 25	Fri. 24	Sun. 24	30
Colon	Sat. 28	Mon. 27	Wed. 29	34
La Guaira	Wed. 1	Fri. 3	Sun. 2	12
Trinidad	Thur. 2	Sat. 4	Mon. 3	24
Barbados	Sat. 4	Mon. 6	Wed. 5	12
Martinique	Sun. 5	Tues. 7	Thur. 6	11
St. Thomas	Mon. 6	Wed. 8	Fri. 7	8
Sao Juan	Tues. 7	Thur. 9	Sat. 8	10
Bermuda	—	—	Tues. 11	28
New York	Sat. 11	Mon. 13	Fri. 14	—

"Canadian Pacific" Enterprise.

The *Empress of Britain* will be the largest passenger liner which has ever visited the West Indies.



THE SALOON OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC'S WEST INDIAN TOURING STEAMER

and the illustrations on this and on the opposite page will give the reader a better idea of her size than the mere statement of her tonnage would do. But she will not be the first steamer flying the Canadian Pacific house flag in the West Indies. It is announced that the Company's liner *Sicilian*, which has been refitted, will leave London on November 15th for St. John, N.B., whence she will sail on December 5th to inaugurate a new passenger and freight service from Canada to Havana, Cuba, calling en route at Boston and Nassau, Bahamas.

Representatives of the Canadian Pacific are now in the West Indies arranging other ports of call and establishing agencies. During the summer season the service will be maintained from Montreal, with the addition of other liners should business warrant it.

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.

SUGAR CHEMIST, college graduate, desires position in tropics. Experience in Trinidad and Demerara.— "D. M. M." THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

THE ROMANCE OF THE CIGAR.

Where the West Indies are Supreme.

Tobacco was cultivated very generally throughout the West Indies after the first discovery of those islands in the 15th century, but for some reason or other it is now grown only on any considerable scale in Cuba, Jamaica, and Porto Rico. Jamaica cigars are steadily increasing in favour and flavour, and a few years ago it was possible to purchase Trinidad cheroots, or Long Toms, in London, but now the latter have disappeared from the market.

Could not the various Departments of Agriculture do something towards reviving the tobacco industry in the other British West Indies besides Jamaica? This live question is prompted by an enterprising article on the history of the cigar published in the *Daily Telegraph* of October 22nd. It was in Cuba that the first cigar was lighted, and, says the writer:—

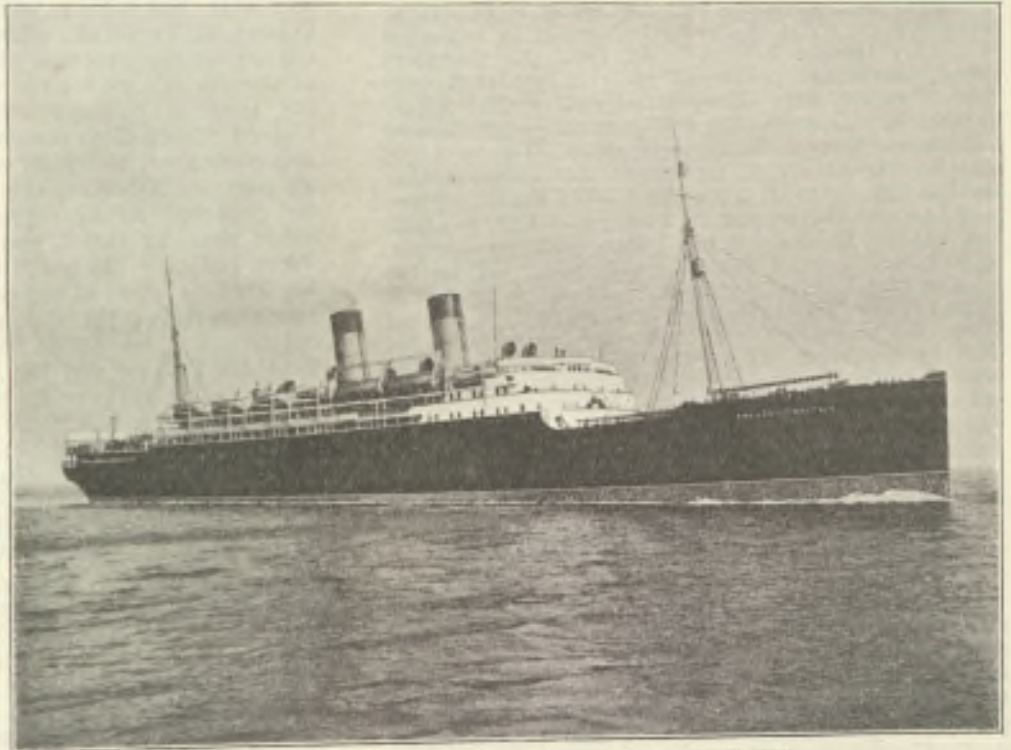
That primitive "Havana" would look as strange alongside its modern descendant as would a bark canoe of ancient Britain beside the *Aquitania*; yet, in intention, the "burning firebrand" observed by the sailors of Columbus was the ancestor of the thing we prize to-day.

That was in November, 1492, and well-nigh a century and a half went by ere the first Englishman saw his first cigar. The

sociologist might employ his time less usefully than in speculating upon the appearance of tobacco amongst us in a pipe rather than in the cigar form. Modern Cubans are horrified that good tobacco should be so abused; they themselves smoke 450,000,000 cigars a year, nor can they understand why we do not do likewise. Perhaps our custom came to us because we were the dominant power on the American mainland, where pipes were the mode. Certainly, by the year 1584, tobacco in England was already popular enough to be taxed, and within the two following decades an original import duty of 2d. had swollen to 6s. 10d. For the first half of the seventeenth century the pipe was our only smoke, to be succeeded by snuff, until the introduction of cigars in 1790.

Meanwhile the cigar had held sway elsewhere for more than 200 years. It was in 1541 that Demetria Pela, a Galician emigrant, coaxed an Indian chief of Cuba into giving him the recipe for planting Havana tobacco. Thenceforward the cigar leapt into favour

throughout Spanish America, the best of those made in the factories at Havana being reserved for the King of Spain, which country held the monopoly of manufacture there almost down to our own day. Cockburn was the name of the Englishman who first saw a cigar. He mentions the historic encounter in his diary when describing how, in 1730, he was shipwrecked on the Nicaraguan coast. Nevertheless, it was well-nigh a hundred years before the Havana had conquered Western Europe. Possibly, because of its Spanish origin, it was prohibited during the long wars; anyhow, the cigar appears to have been sufficiently unknown in these days to have excited a perturbed comment. Thus one finds Howitt chronicling as a "wonder" in the "Northern Heights of



THE CANADIAN PACIFIC SS "EMPERESS OF BRITAIN"
As announced on the opposite page, this splendid vessel of 22,200 tons will make two pleasure cruises in the West Indies next year.

London" the phenomenon of a Spaniard smoking a "segur" at Hampstead.

Nevertheless, by the beginning of last century the new fashion was already spreading to France, and the connoisseur of to-day may in some bewilderment read the pronouncement of the Paris Academies Directory for 1813 that a cigar was "a small roll of tobacco leaves smoked like a pipe." Yet France was to achieve and maintain the record of commissioning the costliest Havanas ever manufactured. Marshal Prim ordered 20,000 as a gift to Napoleon III, each with a tip and the letter "N" in gold. He paid £50,000 for this tribute to his Emperor. The first European factory was opened—at Hamburg, of course!—in 1796; nor was the commercial acumen of the Teuton then much less developed than it is now, for many a time he had his products taken along to Cuxhaven and sent back by sea to be sold as the imported article!

British soldiers during the Peninsular Wars did pick up there the habit of smoking some sort of cigar,

although it is not quite clear whether this was the cigar we know or the palanita wrapped in paper. In this country itself Havanas were not common until after Waterloo, when, with the Peace of 1815, the ban on them was raised, and they were admitted at a duty of 18s. per lb. In truth it was not a simple affair in those days to bring cigars to the ever-widening circle of cigar-lovers. There was no regular weekly service from Cuba to Plymouth, and, when a cargo of the new luxury did arrive, Cornhill would get as excited about this occasional shipment as does a scientist over his speck of radium. The news of it would fly around the City, sending merchants flocking to Leadenhall Market, where the consignment was knocked down to the highest bidder. It may be that our English "dry" cigar is a chance child of those days, for, so the story goes, when the first difficulties of importing had disappeared, stocks around Cornhill so increased that they became brittle. At this, the traducers allege, merchants persuaded their clients that only "dry" cigars were correct; and out of that happy lie, they say, arose the English maturing methods now renowned wherever the Havana glows. Be its origin what it may, there is no longer any question that the Havana matured in England is in the direct line of the pipe made popular by Raleigh, and of the snuff-box which a fashionable freak once made an essential accoutrement of cultivated gentlemen. It is the modern test for the civilised condition of any given human being; and in England, it is gratifying to set down, the proportion of such human beings is higher than in any other land. The Havana is still, more than ever, the accoutrement of the English gentleman and of his perfect taste.

CRICKET TOUR POSTPONED.

Great disappointment will be felt in West Indian sporting circles at the postponement of the proposed visit of an M.C.C. cricket team to the West Indies and British Guiana in the coming winter. It will be recalled that the arrangements for the tour were practically complete, and that Colonel J. C. Hartley, who had consented to captain the English side, had got together the nucleus of a team of first-class cricketers. Then a telegram was received from Barbados Cricket Committee, stating that it was absolutely impossible to receive the M.C.C. team. It subsequently appeared that this decision was due to the inability of Demerara to participate in the arrangements. A fortnight later a further message was received, stating that Demerara had agreed, after all, to join in, but it was then too late, Colonel Hartley having by that time made other arrangements which prevented his reconsidering the matter, and it being then too late to get together a fresh side.

Both Mr. F. E. Lacey and his coadjutor, Mr. W. Findlay, as well as Mr. W. Morrison, of Jamaica, and Mr. H. B. G. Austin, of Barbados, have devoted much time and trouble towards bringing about the visit of an M.C.C. team to the West Indies, and it is much to be deplored that their very kindly efforts should have been frustrated owing to the circumstances set out above.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

"Nature" on the West Indies' Enterprise

In an article devoted to The West Indian Agricultural College, our contemporary, *Nature*, of October 27th, points out in an editorial that the establishment of such an institution has long been regarded as highly desirable by men of vision among the administrators of our overseas Dominions and the teachers of agriculture in this country, among planters abroad and business men at home.

Our contemporary suggests that the influence of the new institution will not be confined to the Colony of Trinidad, which has offered the land required for the erection of the college buildings and of the residences for the teaching staff. Like similar tropical colleges already established by the United States Government in Porto Rico, Hawaii, and elsewhere, to which students are attracted from all parts of America, the new college, it says, may be expected to draw its students from Colonies other than Trinidad, and from regions beyond the West Indies. It may, indeed, like the American institutions alluded to, prove as important from a home as from the Colonial point of view, if the opportunity be taken to establish between the Trinidad College and the agricultural schools in this country a reciprocal relationship under which students in the latter are enabled to spend part of their period of professional study in Trinidad, there to receive practical instruction in tropical methods and to acquire familiarity with tropical conditions.

The importance, from the Imperial point of view, of institutions like The West Indian Agricultural College promises to be more than academic. The existence of such colleges can scarcely fail to further that increase in the output of cultivated tropical raw materials which is so urgently called for in the interests of the Empire. Their influence may in time even lead to that fuller understanding of tropical products, by those who handle them in this country, which is so greatly to be desired.

There is a certain fitness in the circumstance that the first tropical agricultural college to be founded in the Empire should owe its existence to the initiative of the West Indies, which include some of the oldest of our Colonial possessions. There will be a widespread desire that the success of the new institution may equal that attained by the similar colleges established by the Government of the United States and be such as to lead to the foundation of institutions of the same kind in those other overseas possessions where they are required.

SIR ROBERT RODEN, now on leave in England, is retiring from the Chief Justiceship of British Honduras, which he has held since 1915. Sir Robert Roden was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1902, but his long experience in the West Indian Civil Service dates from 1880. Since then he has acted as a Magistrate in Antigua, Nevis, and Barbados, and Chief Justice in St. Vincent, the government of which he administered during parts of 1912, 1918, and 1914.

THE DEMAND FOR FUEL OIL.**Significant Figures for Trinidad.**

Some striking figures are given in the Annual Report of Lloyd's Register of Shipping for 1920-21, showing the enormous increase which has taken place during the last three years in the number of vessels either originally fitted to burn oil fuel, or subsequently converted for that purpose. These figures, which are given below, represent all vessels recorded in the Society's Register Book, and for the sake of comparison those for the year 1914 have also been included.

Register Book	Vessels Burning Oil Fuel. GROSS TONS.
July 1914	1,310,209
July 1919	5,336,678
July 1920	9,359,334
July 1921	12,796,635

The Society's Reports for several years have called attention to the steadily progressive tendency of oil to supersede coal for the purpose of combustion both in new and old vessels, and it cannot be doubted that the figures given indicate that industrial conditions generally, during, and subsequent to, the war have given a tremendous impetus to this important economic movement.

Some impression of the industrial significance of the change will, says the Report, be obtained when it is realised that the consumption of coal, in the case of the steamers now in existence which are fitted for oil fuel, would represent something approaching 20,000,000 tons per annum, or about 8.7 per cent. of the quantity of coal brought to the surface in the United Kingdom during 1920. Apart from the question of the relative cost of coal and oil as fuel, there is undoubtedly, in the case of vessels using the latter, an all-round economy of labour, bunker space, accommodation for crew, and time in port—factors which have an important bearing on running costs, more especially in the case of large passenger vessels.

The oil tankers of all types built to class during the year amounted to 112 of 614,464 tons gross, or over 18 per cent. of the total tonnage classed. In order to illustrate the extent to which the demand for tankers has grown of late years, the Committee of Lloyd's Register give the following table showing the amount of tonnage of all vessels of this type recorded in the Society's Register Book for the years mentioned.

Register Book	Tankers (Steamers and Motors.) GROSS TONS
July 1914	1,478,988
July 1919	2,929,113
July 1920	3,354,314
July 1921	4,418,688

Vessels to the number of 358, representing 1,867,115 gross tons—or 58 per cent. of the total tonnage of new vessels classed during the year under review—were fitted for burning oil fuel.

SIR JOHN AND LADY CHANCELLOR are to be congratulated upon the birth of a son, which happy event occurred on October 26th.

THE EMPIRE'S OIL RESOURCES.**The Value of the Trinidad Field.**

In an article devoted to the development of the petroleum fields of the British Empire, the *Daily Telegraph*, of October 27th, makes encouraging reference to Trinidad. In this connection it shows the great need in which the Empire stands as regards oil supplies, and of the comparatively small production within the Empire in comparison with the quantities imported from foreign countries. Mr. Kellaway, when Minister in charge of petroleum affairs, stated last year that the Empire's consumption of oil products was at the rate of 6,000,000 tons per annum, while its production of oil was less than 2,000,000 tons per annum. The balance has, of course, to be made up out of imports, and, consequently, large sums are sent abroad each year in payment for oil products which might be retained in British hands were the Empire self-supporting as regards its oil. The case of the United Kingdom alone is sufficiently impressive. During the first nine months of 1921 we imported oil products at the rate of nearly 1,200,000,000 gallons per annum, of an annual value approaching £60,000,000. The current year, of course, witnessed a protracted coal dispute, and the large quantities of oil fuel which had to be imported to eke out our scanty coal supplies were nearly all purchased from abroad.

Dealing specifically with Trinidad, our contemporary states that in that island exploratory work is even more active, if possible, than in British India. This comparatively small island contains, relatively to its actual area, a higher proportion of oil-bearing land than probably exists in any other country in the world. It is only during the last few years that the geology of Trinidad has been fully understood, and the labours in this direction of Mr. E. H. Cunningham-Craig, Sir John Cadman, Mr. Beeby Thompson, and others have had important results. It has been found that Trinidad does not produce one class of oil merely, but in different localities yields petroleum varying from the extremely heavy type, useful merely for fuel oil on the one hand, to an oil of the most volatile and valuable character on the other, containing as much as 40 per cent. of petrol. The oil industry of the island is under the permanent observation and encouragement of the Government; and the time when vexatious restrictions were imposed upon development has passed away. One result of this is seen in the number and importance of commercial interests which are now interesting themselves in the petroleum affairs of the island, and which can hardly fail to carry out large developments. Trinidad has come into prominent notice of late, particularly with respect to the light oils. As a rule the wells which produce such oils are of comparatively shallow depth and are easily drilled—two factors which make for cheapness of operation and speed in attaining payable oil.

In considering Burma and Trinidad as future sources of Imperial oil production, the important question of financial return is, of course, not to be

overlooked. The great success which has attended the operations of the Burnah Oil Company shows what may be accomplished by skilful management and enterprise. In Trinidad, owing to its strategic position, both with regard to the Panama Canal and to neighbouring countries, financial considerations are reinforced by those concerned with the safety of the Empire as a whole, particularly by means of fuel oil for the Navy. In proportion to its size, the Island of Trinidad, although comparatively a late-comer among the oil producing countries of the world, has contributed more naval fuel oil than any other Colony or Dominion. Nor is fuel oil the only petroleum commodity got from Trinidad. The light quality of much of the oil means that large percentages of petrol, lamp oil, and other remunerative products can be secured from it. The oil refining industry of Trinidad has now made a very fair start, and will doubtless expand into an important group of enterprises as the production of oil increases and the area of the producing fields is enlarged.

NO COLOUR QUESTION.

"In the West Indies the Church has conquered the colour question. Negroes and Englishmen live side by side and worship together." So stated the Archdeacon of Grenada, in a message read at the annual meeting of the Guildford branch of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, held at Guildford on November 17. The Archdeacon went on to state that as they were aware, a great deal of colour propaganda was going on in the world. The United States of America were burdened, so they said, with a population of some 20 million negroes, and there was no doubt that in the United States the negroes did not receive just and fair treatment, at any rate, not according to the Englishman's sense of fairness and justice. The result was that a portion of America, spoken of as the black part, was a seething mass of sedition. The negro people were not without their leaders, and their leaders to-day were playing with that unfortunate phrase, "self-determination," and were trying to create in the negro what was lacking before to a very large extent—race consciousness—and their methods of doing this were extremely unfortunate.

In America, in Africa, and in the West Indies, hatred of the white man was being preached by the negro leaders, and by the great negro organisations. He would say this, that in the West Indies that policy had been a dismal failure (applause). There was still left in their West Indian Islands that traditional respect for and veneration of the Englishman. They saw in the West Indies the two races living side by side with perfect amity in all movements for the development of the moral and spiritual life. Men of all shades worked on the Church Councils and endeavoured not to raise one section of the population to the disadvantage of another. Their work owed a great deal to the S.P.G., which had always been the foster-mother of the West Indian Church.

PROPOSED WEST INDIAN COUNCIL.

To Meet in January next.

Towards the end of last year Sir Edward Davson submitted to the Colonial Office proposals for setting up a Central Body, or Council, in the West Indies, to consider and deal with the resolutions passed by the Intercolonial Conferences held from time to time in the West Indies to discuss matters of common interest. He also suggested that a permanent secretariat might be established in the West Indies in connection with the central body.

Lord Milner, in reply, said that he would be glad to see these proposals thoroughly discussed in the West Indies. They were subsequently circulated, and were favourably commented upon in the newspapers, forming also the subject of resolutions by the Jamaica Imperial Association, the Chambers of Commerce of British Guiana, Trinidad and British Honduras, and the Agricultural and Commercial Societies of St. Vincent and Montserrat. The principle of the scheme met with almost general approval, though certain of the details were criticised, especially those regarding the constitution of the Central Body.

Sir Edward has, accordingly, modified his proposals, which envisaged originally the formation of an Official Council, by suggesting that it might include representatives of the people, and in this connection he has pointed out in a memorandum that the aim should be so to constitute the Central Body as to give popular representation proportionate to the degree to which any Colony has acquired it, while also giving some representation to those others which remain under Crown Colony Government.

This Council would meet at fixed intervals to consider and make recommendations on matters of common interest, and to deal, as far as possible, with resolutions from the Departmental Conferences, which would be systematised into Standing Committees for matters coming within their scope, thus becoming a body capable of expressing a united West Indian opinion.

Just as the Imperial Conference, which, it is to be presumed, will meet regularly in the future, may be considered as the Governing Body of Imperial affairs, so would this Council, he states, in its own degree, be the Central Body for dealing with matters relating to the West Indies. Finally, he suggests that the Conference should be convened in January next, comprising one official and not more than three unofficial members of the Legislatures of Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, and British Guiana, and one unofficial representative from each of the remaining Colonies, British Honduras, Antigua, St. Kitts, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Montserrat. This date was selected with due regard to steamship movements and to the almost general freedom of that month from the embarrassment of the crop season, and the following agenda is suggested:—

- 1.—Selection of title.
- 2.—Constitution: the basis of representation; the number of official and unofficial representatives from

each Colony. Voting power. (This might be based on the populations of the various Colonies, allowing one vote to the representatives of each Colony for every unit of 100,000 people.) Provision for additional members in special circumstances.

3.—Powers and functions: the subjects with which it would deal and the control of Sectional Conferences dealing with the following subjects:—

- (a) Law,
- (b) Customs,
- (c) Health,
- (d) Education,
- (e) Police,
- (f) Commerce.

(The first five of these would be attended by the appropriate Officers from each Colony, and (f) would consist of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.)

4.—The establishment of a permanent Secretariat in the West Indies. (The Secretary would presumably be appointed by the Secretary of State, and would attend to the business of the Council and of the Sectional Conferences.)

5.—Procedure: time and notification of meetings. Status of representatives. Correspondence with existing authorities.

6.—Financial: cost of maintenance of the Council of the Sectional Conferences and of the Secretariat and this provision. In this connection it has been proposed that a West Indian Currency should be established and that the expenses indicated should form a charge against the revenue derived from the investment of the profits. A discussion on the subject of a West Indian Currency would therefore be appropriate.

(7) Any other relative matters.

Mr. Churchill, the CIRCULAR is informed, has now forwarded these proposals to the Governors of the various Colonies concerned, with a request that they will arrange to give them full publicity. The Governors have also been informed that if the proposals commend themselves substantially to local public opinion the Secretary of State will be happy to give every assistance in his power in modifying them to meet any views which the Colonies may express in the matter, and that he will be glad if it is found possible to arrange for such a Conference as is contemplated to take place in January next. The Governors have also been asked to telegraph as soon as they are able to say whether the Colony under their Government would be desirous of being represented at such a Conference.

SIR EVERARD IM THURN was the recipient of an illuminated address signed by 110 returned soldiers and sailors of Fiji, on October 20th. The presentation was to have been made at the Colonial Office, and Mr. Churchill warmly associated himself with the sentiments expressed, taking the opportunity of thanking Sir Everard again for the care he took of all those who left the Colony during the war. Eventually, however, it was made at the recipient's residence, Cockenzie House, Prestonpans, by the Hon. Henry Marks, C.B.E., who travelled north for the purpose. The address, which was enclosed in a cabinet of inlaid Fiji woods, referred to Sir Everard as the signatories' adviser, financier, com-
forter, father, brother, and comrade.

BRITAIN'S SONS.

BY GERARD SMITH, OF BRITISH HONDURAS.

The third anniversary of Armistice Day will be celebrated to-morrow, November 11th, 1921.

"They died to make the world secure."

Unknown? Who says, who dare proclaim
He is unknown, the soul that God
Exalteth above any name
And honours? From the lonely sod,
Triumphantly, his body goes
To rest in Britain's sacred fane
He suffered all the warrior's woes,
He gave his life—but not in vain:
Weary and worn he faltered not:
He did his bit and did it well;
He kept his vigil, held his spot
And yielded nought but life. The knell
Is but a glorious trumpet blast
Of Justice' triumph over wrong
The present to the trying past
Pay tribute in the Victor's song.
Enshrined amidst his peers and kings
His body rests in quiet peace
From all the dross of mortal things
His spirit wings its glad release.
It is the nation's soul we see.
This symbol of Great Britain's Best
Shall live throughout Eternity;
From north and south, from east and west,
Mortals shall worship at this shrine
And pay their homage full and free
To this mere man of birth divine,
Who died for us—for you and me.
He hung upon the Nations' cross;
His blood was spilt to set men free:
His death is counted gain, not loss,
To us and all posterity.

MR. T. HARRISON HUGHES.

Mr. T. Harrison Hughes has been elected a member of the Executive of The West India Committee, pursuant to Article VI. of the Royal Charter of Incorporation.

Mr. Harrison Hughes is senior partner in the firm of MESSRS. THOS. & JAS. HARRISON and the Charente Shipping Company, with which he has been associated for twenty-six years, and his knowledge of shipping matters generally will prove of great value to The West India Committee. He is also a member of the Imperial Shipping Committee, and one of the British representatives on the Board of the Suez Canal Company. Formerly of Liverpool, he now resides in London.

Mails for the Leeward Islands.

At the instance of Mr. R. Bryson, The West India Committee recently asked the Postmaster-General if arrangements could be made for mails for the Leeward Islands, now sent via Barbados, to be despatched via Canada, when it was apparent that time could be saved thereby. He has now replied that there might be advantage in adopting this course, but that reliable information of the sailings could not be obtained. He promised, however, to consult the Canadian Post Office on the subject.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

The shells obtained in the decortication process of the manufacture of white pepper from black is the principal source of the alkaloid piperine, which is extensively used in medicine and as a condiment. Piperine also exists in the whole berry, but its manufacture can be carried on the more cheaply from the shells.

Coconut stems should not be used for fences for a longer period than twelve months, as they, sooner or later, become infested with the grubs of *Oryctes* (Black Beetle). This objection, however, does not hold good in the case of stems used in the construction of buildings, where they will be protected from the weather.

The pests that the coffee plantations of Java have to deal with are mainly a small beetle, which bores holes in the branches, which have to be cut away from the tree in consequence; and a leaf louse, which attacks the trees annually. No method of control of the lice has been discovered, but when the rains come a fungus develops which kills them. This tree louse is the chief cause of low yield in the coffee plantations.

It is impossible to avoid being struck by the intensely practical nature of the *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. That publication, so ably edited by Mr. John Barclay, shows what a real working institution the society is in what is the root of agricultural prosperity, the education of the peasantry in agriculture. The excellence of the work the society is doing in this direction cannot be over-estimated, or too highly commended.

Nicko's makes an excellent remark on the subject of poultry farming. The man, it says, who kills his sick birds instead of doctoring them is usually the most successful. A sick bird is a menace to a poultry farm, as infection is easily spread from place to place, even though the bird be isolated. In the event, of course, of an outbreak of disease, it goes on to say, indiscriminate killing cannot be considered, but those that are in the advanced stage of sickness would be better destroyed.

A patent has been taken out in France for the recovery of theobromine from the waste products of cacao. These, powdered, are agitated with tetrachloride of ethane and phenol in the presence of an ammoniacal solution. The extract is then submitted to fractional distillation in vacuo to get rid of the more volatile constituents, the remainder being subjected to the action of steam with further distillation in vacuo. The fatty matter is then dissolved from the residue, and the theobromine from the remainder by a dilute alkali solu-

tion, from which the theobromine is precipitated by carbonic acid.

The problem connected with solar influence on plant development which has occupied the mind of the chemist for many years, is that of the manner in which sunlight operates in the preparation of nitrogen for assimilation by green plants. It has long been recognised that atmospheric nitrogen is the basic source of supply of plant-protoplasm, and modern investigation has indicated as necessary a stage involving the formation of organic nitrogenous bodies in the soil prior to nitrogen absorption by the roots, with or without bacterial co-operation. The steps in the process still remain to be discovered.

The discovery of the stimulating influence of coffee is said, according to the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, to have occurred in a peculiar manner. The original home of the plant was in the neighbourhood of Abyssinia, and the peculiar antics of a goat on a hillside, near a monastery, attracting the attention of the monks, it was found that the animal had been chewing a plant, which had caused the excessive exhilaration noticed. Hence coffee. The Arabs are the original coffee consumers, and, in addition, enjoy a drink made from the husks of the coffee berry instead of the berry, which is drunk hot, and is said to be a perfect thirst quencher.

The *Journal* of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for July last contains an article on the advantages of terrace cultivation. When the Spaniards went to Central and South America, it says, they found maize already a staple food, with varieties suitable to every condition, lowland and upland. They found the high mountains of Peru cultivated and irrigated, with irrigation tunnels piercing the mountain sides. In the northern part of the Philippines the Americans found a race of people who lived in the mountains and rarely visited the low forest lands. They had the mountain slopes terraced and the mountain streams deviated for irrigation purposes. In Madeira the dwarf bananas are all grown on terraced and irrigated slopes.

Castor oil is finding increasing uses in the industrial world. It figures largely in the manufacture of the artificial leather used in upholstery; it furnishes a colouring for butter, and from it is produced the so-called "Turkey-red" oil used in the dyeing of cotton textures. It is an essential component in some artificial rubbers, in various descriptions of celluloid, and in the making of certain waterproof preparations, and one of the largest uses is in the manufacture of transparent soaps. It also furnishes sebacic acid, which is employed in the manufacture of candles, and caprylic acid, which enters into the composition of varnishes, especially suitable for the polishing of high-class furniture and carriage bodies. One of its minor uses is in the manufacture of fly-papers.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 458.)

A Seventeenth Century "Booster."

There exists a rare pamphlet entitled, "The Present Prospect of the Famous and Fertile Island of Tobago." It was published in 1683, and was written by a Captain John Poyntz, who appears to have been in some respects a prototype of the company promoter of to-day. Though the total area of Tobago is only 74,000 acres, the Duke of Courland (who had recently established a claim to the island) had, according to Poyntz, granted to him and to a London company with which he was associated, 120,000 acres of land in it, free of rent for seven years, and thereafter at an annual rental of two pence per acre.

The object of the pamphlet was to induce settlers to "transplant and concern themselves (to and) in the island." With that end in view, Poyntz showed how a man with "an hundred pound sterlin" could transport himself and his family of eleven to Tobago, establish himself on fifty acres of land for a capital outlay of £100, "and expect by a modest computation to clear from the said fifty acres of land at least five thousand pounds sterling a year," at the end of the seventh year.

The manner in which the £100 was to be laid out is worth recalling. It was as follows:— Passages, £50; "manuals, with other things requisite and necessary for planting, as also provision for the first twelve months, together with the charge of household stuffs, and all other necessaries," £17 10s.; and a lease of fifty acres of land, at a rate of a shilling per acre, £2 10s. With Crown land now fetching fifty times 1/- per acre, it seems astonishing that Poyntz should have failed to land a sufficient number of fish with his well-baited hook to enable him to carry out his scheme of colonisation.

Poyntz certainly excelled in enthusiasm those optimists of later years who have been accused of exaggerating the advantages offered by the West Indies to settlers and capitalists. Nevertheless, though he has been accused of drawing the long bow, his general description of the island is remarkably accurate. In his foreword to the "courtous reader" he writes:—

"Thou art here presented with the present prospect of the island of Tobago, about forty leagues distant from Barbados; but far excelling that island, and indeed any other of the Caribbee Islands in the fertility and richness of the soil, and in the commodiousness of its bays and harbours; and it is no paradox to affirm, that though it lies more south, the air is as cool and refreshing as that of Barbados; and yet exempted from those affrighting and destructive hurricanes that have been often fatal to the rest of the Caribbee Islands. . . . And I am persuaded that there is no island in America that can afford us more ample subject to contem-

plate the bounty and goodness of our Great Creator in than this of Tobago; and this I speak not by hearsay, or as one that has liv'd always at home; but as one that has had experience of the world, and been in the greatest part of the Caribbee Islands, and most parts of the Continent of America, and almost all His Majesties foreign plantations; and after having view'd them all, have chosen this island of Tobago to take up my *quietus est in.*"

Generous Nature's Coconut Walk.

The "Bande de l'Est," as the East Coast of Trinidad is still often called, is divided into three distinct sections of approximately equal length by the promontories of Manzanilla and Radix that form, with those of Galera at the north and Galeota at the south, the immense open bays of Matura, Cocos, and Mayaro, in the first-named of which those of Balandra and Salybia are mere indentations.

But for a break here and there, and a reserve of forest trees stretching north from Manzanilla Point for a distance of about eight miles, which is preserved by the Government as a wind-break, practically the entire coast is now one vast coconut walk.

The production of coconuts and the preparation of copra—the evaporated kernels, which are dried, to reduce their bulk and so economise cargo space, by the primitive but effective method of spreading them out in the sun—now rank third among the agricultural industries of Trinidad. In 1919, which proved a "bumper" year, no fewer than 35,958,293 nuts and 1,795,033 lbs. of copra were shipped from the island, as compared with 12,240,306 nuts and a small quantity of copra twenty years before.

There is quite a touch of romance about the coconut industry of Trinidad. In the Balandra and Salybia districts the coconut palms were raised from nuts planted by hand. Elsewhere along the "Bande de l'Est" they owe their presence to a fortuitous circumstance. It is said that at some distant date a vessel laden with a cargo of coconuts was wrecked, and that many of the nuts, floating ashore, sprouted and took root. Thriving on the sandy shore, the palms grew and multiplied until to-day they fringe the shore for a distance of many miles, forming the famous "Cocal," whose beauty and charm proved such an irresistible attraction to Charles Kingsley when he visited the island.

"All this while," he wrote, "the dull thunder of the surf was growing louder and louder; till, not as in England over a bare down, but through thickest foliage down to the high-tide mark, we rode out upon the shore, and saw before us a right noble sight; a flat, sandy, surf-beaten shore, along which stretched, in one grand curve, lost at last in the haze of spray, fourteen miles of Coco palms. This was the Cocal; and it was worth coming all the way from England to see it alone. I at once felt the truth of my host's saying, that if I went to the Cocal I should find myself transported suddenly from the West Indies to the East. Just such must be the shore of a Coral island in the Pacific."

Borde, in his "Histoire de la Trinidad," gives currency to the belief that the vessel which conferred such a blessing on the Land of the Humming Bird was from West Africa, and that the nuts were carried to Trinidad by the Equatorial Current. Our old friend Joseph, on the other hand, says that the ship was one which had been sent to the mouth of the Orinoco to collect coconuts for the refreshment of the French Fleet. The reader can accept whichever version of the story he prefers—or neither; but there is no improbability about the theory that the Cocal owes its inception to nuts having been washed up on the shore, for the beaches of the East Coast are still liberally bestrewn with flotsam brought to them on the bosom of the turbid waters of the mighty Orinoco, to quote Longfellow's "Seaweed":

"Ever drifting, drifting, drifting
On the shifting
Currents of the restless main;
Till in sheltered coves, and reaches
Of sandy beaches
All have found repose again."

The Cocal was once the property of the Cabildo, or Municipality of Port of Spain, who for a while leased it to a Mr. Carter. From them it passed into the hands of the local Government, who fifteen or twenty years ago sold it to Mr. George F. Huggins, its present fortunate owner. It is now under the management of Mr. Edward Bovell, upon whom it has exercised such a spell that it is said that he is never happy unless he is within reach of its shade.

It was my good fortune to spend a week-end on the shores of Mayaro Bay, which possesses many of the characteristics of the Cocal, as the guest of Mr. J. Osborne Dolly, a very capable agriculturist who manages one of Mr. Gordon's cacao and coconut estates. To reach Beaumont, his charming little house, we motored diagonally right across the island, visiting on our way the famous Tabaquite oilfield, where we received a very cordial welcome from Mr. May, the manager of the Trinidad Central Oilfields, who had kindly arranged for one of his numerous producing wells to "gush" for our edification.

Here, in a punch-bowl, on rising ground, we found a miniature town of wire-screened, and therefore mosquito-proof, bungalows, with a commodious club-house and billiards saloon for the European staff.

Dotted about here and there in this busy bungalow-town were the tall derricks, some supporting the "strings of tools" by which the wells are drilled, and others resting begrimed with petroleum after serving their day. It should be mentioned, however, that in the dry season, at any rate, the Tabaquite field is comparatively clean, owing to the very light quality of the oil which it yields. Each derrick still in use had its concomitant engine—resembling a very large traction engine, and near each well was a "sump," or pond, to receive the oil in the event of its "coming in," or proving to be productive.

(To be continued.)

GOVERNORS OF JAMAICA.

BY FRANK CUNDALL.

VIII.—Charles, Earl of Carlisle. (Continued from page 459.)

He successfully recovered from the sea off Hispaniola the twenty great guns and 212 great shot lost in Captain Knapman's ship in Lord Vaughan's time.

In October, 1678, in writing home, he said that there were about 1,200 privateers abroad; if a war arose with France, Jamaica would need their assistance as there were not above four thousand whites able to bear arms, "a secret not fit to be made public."

In January, 1678-9, an aftermath of the Surinam settlement occurred when Vaughan heard that the Indians had raided that Colony, and the few remaining English who wished to leave had been forced by the Dutch Government into the castle for defence. Carlisle feared to send the King's



Arms of the Earl of Carlisle.

frigate, the *Jersey*, not knowing whether she might not be wanted off the island.

On February 18th, 1678-9, he wrote: "Exposing myself late one evening in the Savanna to the north wind, I took cold, which hath occasioned the gout gently to visit me for some days, but it is going off again."

In February, 1678-9, a Captain Carryl, a planter of Montserrat, arrived to settle in the island, with some twenty-five members of his family. They had experienced difficulty in being allowed to leave, and Carlisle urged the claims of Jamaica as a safer domicile than the Leeward Islands, but to this the Board of Trade and Plantations did not agree.

In July, 1679, Carlisle wrote to Secretary Coventry:—

"A week ago a vessel arrived from Nevis. She was in harbour, when two French men-of-war, passing by the fort where the King's flag was flying, refused to strike. The fort fired seven guns, two of which are believed to have struck the French hull, whereupon the Frenchmen, luffing, edged into the harbour, fired seven shotted guns through the harbour into the town, and so stood out to sea. On the 7th instant at 11 p.m., the Point was alarmed by the appearance of eight French men-of-war in the offing. The Point [Port Royal] fired guns to give the alarm to leeward. I received it myself at Guanaboa, 22 miles

from the Point, took horse, and was in with the forces at their arms before day. Being got early to the Point in a good condition of defending itself, I met there Count d'Erveaux, a Knight of Malta, with some other French officers who pretended to come from Count d'Estrées to ask leave to wood and water at Blewfield's Bay, or Point Negril, one of the most leewardly ports of this Island. The reason given was that they were bound first for Carthagena to demand thence all French prisoners, but, being driven to this coast by violent breezes, were now bound to Havanna to make the like demand; that they were unwilling to trust to Spanish courtesy for wood and water, which they intended to demand, but believed that the denial thereof by the Spaniards would lead to quarrel, they expecting the same privilege in the West Indies as in the Mediterranean. They told us they came from France 14 sail, but had left seven at Lisbon to attend Count Schomberg. To what end these French are come here we cannot possibly learn; they say against the Spaniards, but the people distrust their speech. They admired the Island, but said they should have a better in Cuba. They were respectfully treated from morning till evening, when a small frigate came into the harbour-mouth, took them aboard, and, after saluting the port, stood off to the fleet, which was cruising all day about two leagues to windward of our port. The Point was so alarmed that the inhabitants removed their goods and families for fear of a French descent; and several sloops coming in with advice that the French fleet was standing off to windward, this so increased their jealousies that I called a Council to the Point. It was agreed that a council of war should be held and martial law proclaimed for 30 days, which was done accordingly. The whole of the inhabitants, soldiers and slaves, were set to work to increase the fortifications, I being very glad of the opportunity of carrying on work which would otherwise have gone forward very slowly. Still, in my opinion, the French aim rather at Havanna than Jamaica, and if they get possession of this, the key of the West Indies, as they certainly may unless obstructed by England, they will command the treasure of this part of the world more to the prejudice of England than the Spaniards. Pray consider this. H.M.S. *Hunter* and two sloops are watching the French fleet. On 12th July, at 7 p.m., news came from Blewfield's Bay, to leeward, of eight French war-ships within the bay. This has quieted the people, who feared they were to windward. The occurrence has done us more good than harm, but the generality of people will not give up their opinion that the French fleet when reinforced is designed against this Island. The common law will take place again nine days before the meeting of the Assembly; a busy Session is expected. Pray move the Master of the Ordnance to hasten to us gun-carriages, powder, and small arms; the alarm has occasioned the using of all we had in store; and also the King to order recruits for the two companies under pay here. I shall continue or shorten the duration of martial law according to the progress of our defences."

In August, 1679, the Governor in Privy Council postponed all the Courts of the island except Port Royal until the following February on account of "the great suffering under the long and present drought."

They encouraged good piloting in those days. The pilot who ran the King's ship *Success* aground was fined by court martial and condemned to be whipped on board five several ships on three days, one after another, to be imprisoned for twelve

months, and to be incapable of ever again piloting a King's ship.

The island was then divided into seven precincts (sub-divided into fifteen parishes), each with its *Custos Rotulorum*. I., St. Thomas and St. David, Thomas Freeman; II., St. Andrew, Charles Whitfield; III., Port Royal, Sir Henry Morgan; IV., St. Catherine, St. Thomas-in-the-Vale, St. Dorothy, Sir Thomas Modyford; V., Clarendon, Vere, Samuel Long; VI., St. Elizabeth, St. James, Thomas Fuller; VII., St. John, St. Ann, St. George, St. Mary, John Copc.

As Royal Instructions and Private Instructions were given to Carlisle in November, 1680, it was obviously intended that he should return to Jamaica, but the state of his health perhaps prevented it. He received payment of salary as Governor while Morgan acted for him.

Carlisle allowed Morgan during this period £600 a year out of what he himself received ("out of what you have left me"); but Morgan considered the position unsatisfactory.

The Lords of Trade and Plantations had before them while Morgan was acting for Carlisle, "Reasons why a lieutenant-governor cannot serve his Majesty for Jamaica," which probably emanated from Morgan.

It has a strangely modern ring about it:—

(1) If the excesses that have offended the King, grieved the people and offended the Spaniards have been committed under the Royal Commission and Instructions, it is high time that these last were altered. (2) A Lieutenant-Governor passes for Lord Carlisle's lieutenant, otherwise he will be as much disobliged as if the title had been taken from him. (3) So long as Lord Carlisle keeps the title of Governor, his dependents, who are the people guilty of the irregularities, must be continued and countenanced, or his title becomes no favour. (4) It seems contrary to reason and a practice for a Governor here to have a title and no power. (5) Malice and envy will easily make it believed that a Lieutenant-Governor without salary is without credit, a man who will be superseded when he has served his turn; so he will be less dreaded by pirates, less respected by Spaniards and less obeyed by the people. (6) It seems to be the King's interest to have the affairs of the Government well fixed and settled without expense to himself or trouble to his ministers, so that he can send out Lord Carlisle or what great man he likes. (7) A Lieutenant-Governor sent hence will not think it worth the risk of taking his wife or children with him; but those that come without them to a young Colony are suspected to be come in search of money only. (8) A Lieutenant-Governor will hardly get his salary there. Indeed the people will settle no revenue while they think it will be remitted to Governors in England. (9) No man will go out with a subaltern title when it costs him much to make his passage, and he has nothing to expect at the end. (10) The hardships of such a case is made clearer by actual figures, which are given."

Carlisle died on February 14th, 1685, and was buried in York Minster, where is a monument to his memory. He had three sons and three daughters.

There is a portrait of him, an engraving by Abraham Blotling, in the History Gallery in the Institute of Jamaica.

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 Drought in Antigua.

Mr. A. P. Cowley, writing on October 15th, states that the Island is under the spell of the worst drought ever experienced there, and one for which it was quite unprepared. For many weeks there has been no public water supply in St. Johns, and one wonders what would happen if a fire started in that city.

At a recent meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to take steps to raise a loan for the purpose of ensuring a proper water supply, and to put the roads in repair, and a deputation has been appointed to put the Society's opinions before the Governor. Some very strong expressions were used as to the frittering away of Government revenue, and some members wanted to know what had happened to the amount said to be earmarked for road repairs from the sugar tax imposed during the past two years.

The Bahamas vote a Steamship Subsidy.

Miss Mary Mosley, who has recently returned from a holiday in Jamaica, writes under date October 13th, that the Police Commission shows no sign of reporting yet and its life has again been extended for another term of two months.

This House of Assembly has voted £20,000 to subsidise a mail passenger and freight service between Nassau and New York throughout next year. The Colonial Secretary has left for the United States to associate himself with the Colony's representative in the matter. For some years the Ward Line has refused to enter into a contract, although continuing to run steamers to Nassau. Negotiations have been recently opened with the Munson Line, and the Ward Line are now offering to tender. A regular service seems therefore assured. During the debate on the subject in the House of Assembly, it was stated that freight rates to and from Great Britain were so high as practically to preclude trading in that quarter.

Barbados Weather Improves.

Hon. Richard Haynes, M.L.C., has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee in succession to Hon. A. P. Haynes, M.L.C., who has resigned. The new Colonial Secretary, Hon. W. E. F. Jackson, C.M.G., arrived in the Island on October 6th.

The weather for September, says the *Agricultural Reporter*, was disappointing, some estates getting no rain for a fortnight. Since then, however, there has been a welcome change, with soaking showers. What the *Advocate* refers to as "the Pole pest" is widespread. A number of estates have entered into contracts with the coppersmiths of this nationality for the repair of taches, etc., and in some instances the matter has resulted in litigation.

Dr. J. H. Dixon has resigned the chairmanship of the Sanitary and Road Boards of St. Michael, being succeeded by Mr. C. L. Chinery. Mr. Howard Humphrey's report on the establishment of sewerage works for the city and rural parts has been received. Mr. Humphreys estimates that the preliminary works will cost £45,000.

The British Guiana Sugar Position.

Mr. V. P. Fitzpatrick, writing under date October 4th, states that both the New Sea Defence Bill and the Cattle Slaughtering Bill have been blocked in the Court of Policy by the non-attendance of all but one of the elected members.

Owing to the very precarious position of the sugar industry of the Colony and the improbability of several estates being able to carry on, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of the Sugar Planters' Association was held on October 3rd, when it was decided to approach the Government with a view to securing relief by way of remission of taxation or grant-in-aid.

The General Elections for the Court of Policy and the Combined Court took place at the end of October, and when the mail left there was considerable activity among political circles.

The weather has been hot and dry and occasional showers have been very useful. Crop prospects are excellent, particularly in Berbice, but a number of estates which started to grind recently have stopped for two or three weeks owing to the poor quality of the juice, which they hope will improve in the meantime.

58,000 carats of diamonds, valued at \$820,550, were exported from the Colony in the eight months ended August 31st, as compared with 15,140 carats valued at \$717,192 for the corresponding period of 1920. It is stated that important diamond fields remain to be opened up in the Carbari district.

In a further letter, dated October 15th, Mr. Fitzpatrick says that the Sub-Committee of the Sugar Planters' Association appointed to inquire into the ways and means by which the Government should be asked to assist the sugar industry, have agreed upon the following proposals: The Government to be requested to withdraw the Invoice Tax and Colonisation Tax paid by sugar estates from January 1st of this year, a refund being made of the amounts collected in respect of these duties since that date; the Colonisation Tax not to be re-imposed until the sugar industry can afford to pay it; the remission as from the first day of 1921 of the Reciprocity Tax and of all duty paid by sugar estates on machinery, coal, bags, mules, shooks, and staves.

A Million Dollar Loan for British Honduras.

A resolution, brought forward by Hon. S. Wolffsohn and seconded by Hon. I. R. Grant, has been carried in the Legislative Council, approving the administration of His Excellency Eyre Hutson, and recognising the abnormal difficulties with which he has had to deal. In moving the resolution, Mr. Wolffsohn congratulated the Governor especially upon the manner in which the outbreak of yellow fever had been dealt with. In stamping out the disease, His Excellency had saved the trade of the Colony, for if it had spread, ships would have refused to touch at Belize at all. Hon. S. Cuthbert said that \$4,000 was a small sum to pay for such a desirable spot as Sergeant's Cay. Hon. A. R. Usher stated that although they had never had a Governor who worked harder, yet the problems which were in existence when he arrived were the same to-day. He referred to such matters as the Riverside Estate, the Agricultural Commission, the erection of Public Offices, the dredging of the Belize River Bar, roads to the interior, the Stamm Creek Railway, and the drainage of Belize. In reply His Excellency, whilst thanking Members for their expression

of confidence, said he would have preferred that such a motion had not been proposed at all, or at all events before the end of his term of office.

A Bill has been introduced authorising the issue of a million dollars Public Loan in the form of debentures secured upon the general revenues. \$350,000 of the amount raised will be earmarked for new public buildings, and \$274,000 for harbour works.

Grenada Relief Measures.

Hon. J. T. de la Mothe presided over a public meeting held on September 21st to consider what steps should be taken to ameliorate the economic conditions arising from and accentuated by the storm. It was resolved to urge the Governor to adopt measures whereby houses might be rebuilt and foodstuffs procured for the needy, and to introduce legislation relieving persons from existing financial obligations for at least three years.

Hon. Herbert Ferguson, the Colonial Secretary, sailed for England on October 8th on nine months' leave of absence. The Attorney-General, Hon. Julian Patterson, K.C., has undertaken to act in his place during this time. In announcing recently in the CIRCULAR Mr. Walton's arrival as Chief Justice, it should have been stated that it was Mr. Patterson who then reverted to his substantive appointment of Attorney-General. The Governor has appointed a Committee of Members of the Executive Council to enquire into the financial condition of the Colony and to submit recommendations. £1,000 has been voted for assisting sufferers from the storm. Mr. C. V. C. Horne, in a letter dated September 26th, estimates the damage done by the storm earlier in that month at about £40,000.

One of Mr. Tripp's last letters.

A few days before the news arrived of Mr. Edgar Tripp's death, The West India Committee received the following letter from him in Trinidad, dated October 17th:—

We are looking with considerable interest to the visit of Mr. Wood. The most important point for his consideration in Trinidad would probably be the question of representation. In this connection the supporters of the movement and their particular organ of the Press have recently found it prudent to adopt a less abusive and more conciliatory attitude towards their opponents. There is no doubt that in a certain section of the community a very strong feeling exists in favour of an elective franchise, although the specific benefits that will result have not yet been very clearly explained. On the other hand, the great body of merchants and proprietors, who form certainly the largest tax-paying body in the Colony, are almost unanimously opposed to the reform suggested.

With regard to the vexed question of Certificates of Origin, the difficulty has been met here by the official notification that the Certificate of the supplier of the goods will in future be accepted.

Heavy rains have continued, and the fall to date is about double that of last year. On 9th, 10th, and 11th it rained in some parts of the country practically without ceasing, with the result that serious floods occurred, which did considerable damage to crops, and resulted in the Eastern and North-Eastern districts in very serious losses of property, and, I regret to add, several lives. A number of small houses and shops on low-lying lands were washed into the sea, in one case with the sleeping occupants, who were

drowned. It is estimated that the rainfall in one quarter reached over 15 inches in 24 hours, and on more than one cacao estate was over four feet deep. A great deal of distress has naturally resulted. The immediate loss, though heavy, might certainly have been much heavier. Probably, in the end, the complete soaking through of the country will be, on the whole, productive of good.

The news of the death of Mr. Guy Wyatt is genuinely regretted by all those of us here who had the pleasure of knowing him and of appreciating his sterling qualities. During the many years in which he was prominently associated with British Guiana, there was probably no one more popular amongst the visitors from other Colonies, whether in the realm of sport or business, than was he. Personally, I bear the kindest recollections of him, not the least of which was the courteous and cheery hospitality he extended to me at Cheltenham during my last visit to England.

The Georgetown Cricket Club has decided that in the present circumstances in the Colony it will not be practicable to co-operate with Trinidad and Barbados in receiving an English team, and I understand that, in view of this fact, the Barbados Committee has telegraphed to Mr. Austin in England, announcing that the visit will have to be deferred. As I write, I receive a communication from Demerara intimating that there is some prospect of a change of view in the matter, but I am afraid the projected tour must be considered off.

Supplemental Estimates for the year 1921 show that the unusually large sum of £378,398 would require confirmation beyond that already appropriated. The largest item is to provide for the temporary increase of salaries which was granted in view of the increased cost of living last year, amounting to £111,709. The large sum of £81,139 is now to be voted for the Railway, having, it is said, been under-estimated for the greater part of last year. On the whole it looks as if the Colony's handsome surplus is being very rapidly dissipated, and I am afraid the damages to works and buildings by the recent flooding will also add greatly to public expenditure.

An expert report upon the condition of the Trinidad Government Dock is to be afforded. It looks as if the Government will have to face a rather serious deficit as a result of the official handling of this commercial concern. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the existence of a Dock here has been a very useful and material asset which probably will counterbalance any financial loss. In any event, the Government cannot be blamed as in the matter of taking over the Dock their hands were undoubtedly forced.

The preliminary report by the Registrar-General on the Census has been issued. It shows that the total population on the night of the 24th of April was 362,780 as against 353,552 in 1911, an increase of 8.8 per cent. This increase is the lowest since 1871, and some explanation seems necessary. This would appear to be specially called for in the case of Port of Spain, where the increase is only stated to be 1,785, bringing the population of the town to 61,587. In the previous Census the increase was 5,696 persons. Seeing that the town has extended in every direction, that a vast number of new dwellings have been erected, and that the greatest difficulty occurs in securing house accommodation, difficulties such as never previously existed, one cannot understand how these figures are arrived at, unless there is some mistake, either in the present or in the last Census.

OUR LIBRARY.

CANE SUGAR, A TEXT-BOOK OF THE AGRICULTURE OF THE SUGAR CANK, THE MANUFACTURE OF CANE SUGAR AND THE ANALYSIS OF SUGAR HOUSE PRODUCTS. BY NOEL DEERR. *Second Edition, revised and enlarged.* NORMAN RODGER, ST. DUNSTAN'S HILL, E.C.5. Price, 42s. net.

Ten years have elapsed since the appearance of the first edition of NOEL DEERR's excellent work, and since then the author has considerably extended his practical acquaintance with the subject, begun on the estates of the Colonial Company in British Guiana, and continued in Mauritius and Hawaii, and, since the publication of the first edition, in Cuba. The work has been completely rewritten, the general arrangement of the first edition being, however, preserved. Much new matter has been incorporated, and a great feature is the reference to the source from which matter is taken, so that any reader desirous of obtaining further information on any particular point can easily do so. A full bibliography and a list of patents in connection with cane sugar manufacture are also appended. It is difficult in a work of such merit to particularise, but it may be pointed out that the agricultural portion of the book is of especial value, inasmuch as it affords a compendium of the latest work in connection with the sugar-cane itself in a form which is not easily obtainable elsewhere. The book may be said to be a mass of items of valuable information welded into a homogeneous whole by the great personal experience of the author, although we should have liked to have seen the subject of industrial alcohol dealt with, in view of its importance to-day. Good wine, however, needs no bush, and Mr. Deerr's name is so well known that it is sufficient to say of the present work that it fully maintains the world-wide reputation of its author. The name of the publisher is a sufficient indication of the fact that this valuable book is produced in irreproachable style. That it should—and probably will—be on the bookshelf of all connected with the sugar industry goes without saying.

INDUSTRIAL AND POWER ALCOHOL. 110 + x. pages. By R. C. FARMER, O.B.E., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.C. London: Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., Park Street, Kingsway, W.C.2. 2/6 net.

This little book forms one of Sir Isaac Pitman's well-known technical primers, and deals with the sources, power, production, and denaturing of alcohol, its manifold chemical and physical applications in industries and manufactures, and its use as a fuel for internal combustion engines, and deals with the technical, commercial, and excise aspects of the problem. It is, in the present position of alcohol in the industrial world, an extremely valuable little work, inasmuch as it brings the subject within the wants of the manager or overseer in cane sugar factories making rum or power alcohol.

MARRIAGE

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 2/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line. Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed "Colonial Bank."

SETON-BROWNE—HEARD.—On October 18th, at Christ Church, Simla, by the Bishop of Lahore, C. L. Seton-Browne, the Lieutenants Regiment, surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. Seton-Browne, "Dunfermline," Grenada, B.W.I., to Agnes Marjorie Bruce Heard, elder daughter of Colonel Heard, I.M.S.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.

Trade & Tariffs.

Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, Director of the Overseas Trade Department, replying to Mr. A. T. Davies on November 2nd, said that the principle that each part of the Empire should give specially favourable treatment and facilities to the produce and manufactures of other parts of the Empire, had been unanimously approved by the Imperial War Conference in 1917, and there was ample evidence that British industry had benefited by the preferences accorded by the Overseas Dominions.

The Indian Deputation for British Guiana.

Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, replying to Sir J. D. Rees on November 3rd, said that the Government of India had now decided to despatch a deputation to British Guiana to investigate local conditions and the suitability of the proposed colonisation scheme and to report whether further guarantees respecting the status of Indians were necessary. The deputation would consist of the following:—Mr. G. F. Keatinge, I.C.S., Director of Agriculture, Bombay; Diwan Bahadur Keshava Pillai, Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council; and Mr. Venkatesa Narayan Tewary, of the Servants of India Society.

An Assured Preference.

Replying to Mr. Gideon Murray, M.P., on November 7th, the Prime Minister said: "I am aware that most of the West Indian Colonies have extended to the United Kingdom the benefits of the preferential tariff arranged with Canada for a period of ten years. Representations have been received that the preference accorded by the United Kingdom should be assured to these Colonies for a similar period, and this suggestion is now being carefully examined."

[This subject is dealt with in a leading article in the present issue.—Ed.]

Indians in Kenya.

Mr. Ronald McNeill asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a proposal had been made that Indian immigrants in the East African Colony and Protectorate should be placed on an equal status with Europeans; whether he had consulted the opinion of white inhabitants of the countries concerned with reference to this proposal; and if he would decline to accept it unless it appeared that it was supported by such white opinion.

Mr. Churchill, in replying, deprecated any further discussion on this side as being likely to prejudice the success of Sir Edward Northey's negotiations. The Governor had announced that no hasty decision would be taken in the matter, and that in any event no radical change would be made in the existing constitution until the end of the three years for which the present Legislative Council was elected, and that he was prepared to nominate one Indian member to the Executive Council, and, after consulting with the local Indian Association, to nominate four Indian members to the Legislative Council in place of the two at present provided for, this being an interim measure pending the settlement of the main question of policy.

[In British Guiana and Trinidad, Indians enjoy full equality and rights of citizenship with Europeans.]

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes Ltd.

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. *Coronado*, Avonmouth, October 30th:—

Major G. E. Helfforth	Lieut. & Mrs. J. H.	Miss M. Labitte
Mr. S. M. Roden	Dumbrell	Miss E. Melendez
Mr. F. Corlovez	Mr. & Mrs. K. S.	Major & Mrs. C. E.
Mrs. P. de Cordovez	Prucer	Ogle
Rev. & Mrs. C. E.	Mr. & Mrs. F. R.	Mr. S. J. Portal
Dauncey	Farmer	Mr. T. Robertson
Sir John Dinsdale,	Miss C. Jean	
Hart		

Sailing to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Bayano* October 24th:—

Mr. W. Abbott	Mr. J. J. Galloway	Mr. S. C. P. Probyn
Rev. & Mrs. H. T.	Miss H. C. Gordon	Sir George Rhoads
Bridge	Mr. & Mrs. J. Hay	Hart
Mr. & Mrs. P. J.	Mr. & Mrs. W. H. A.	Mr. & Mrs. G. B.
Brownie	Hcaid	Russel
Mr. P. D. Burnett	Mr. D. Hendry	Mr. N. W. C.
Mrs. K. P. Carusi	Lt.-Col. H. W. Joynr	Sicewright Timney
Miss M. Clare	Miss G. P. Joynt	Mrs. G. Steven & fam.
Comdr. & Mrs. E.	Mr. R. A. Leslie	Mr. & Mrs. J. Tapley
Coltrington Hall	His Honour Judge H.	Mrs. F. E. Taylor
Mrs. & Miss Cooke	W. Lu. J. Wilson, K.C.	Mr. F. W. Watson
Mrs. F. Cowlin	Mr. & Miss Lynch	Baker
Mr. W. Cradwick	The Misses McGregor	Mr. & Mrs. S. H.
Miss V. Ellis	(2)	Whittingham
Mrs. B. Espeit	Mrs. C. Newcomen	Mr. Woollicott
Miss J. M. Evelyn	Rev. T. R. Picut	Miss H. L. Woods

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth in R.M.S. *Changuinola*, November 1st:—

Mr. H. J. C. Brown,	Mr. R. H. Mason	Mrs. V. H. O'Keilly
K.C.	Mr. & Mrs. C. J.	Blackwood
Miss K. H. Draper	Masou	Mr. L. L. Roper
Mr. & Mrs. G. E.	Mrs. H. Murray & Sons	Mr. & Mrs. J. E. R.
Grabham	Mr. & Mrs. W. P.	Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. H. Krug	Newman	Miss W. E. Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. V. E. Manton	Miss B. L. Newman	

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Venezuela*, Plymouth, October 19th:—

Mr. Edward Haaler	Mr. J. B. Enitge	Mr. & Mrs. H. N.
Mr. H. M. Berry	Mr. C. A. Falconer	Leacock
Mr. S. I. Bullen	Mr. W. H. Godden	Mr. T. Pearson
Mr. W. Butler	Mr. R. A. Godden	Mr. J. E. Rattan
Mr. P. J. Cassidy	Mrs. Margaret Gourtes	Miss K. M. Nonrke
Mr. J. H. Corless	Mr. J. W. Haigh	Mr. & Mrs. N.
Mrs. P. Delley & fam.	Mr. W. Hayes	Sutherland
Mrs. A. Dick & fam.	Mrs. A. Highfield	Mr. George Tatton
Mr. & E. D. Drayton	Mr. G. E. G. H.	Mr. G. J. Will & fam.
Mr. & Mrs. F. M.	Johnston	
Elliott		

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Stuyvesant*, Plymouth, November 1st:—

Mr. F. Elliot	Mr. H. G. Heron	Mr. & Mrs. R.
Miss Sybil Grossley	Miss M. M. Meals	Whitworth
Mr. T. Haddon	Miss Idez Kowse	Miss E. Whitworth
Mr. S. Hawkins	Mr. H. J. Staglet	Mrs. Alice Wood & Son
	Mr. J. Towers	

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique.

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Puerto Rico*, St. Nazaire, October 28th:—

Mr. A. Audubert	Mr. & Mrs. Graham	Mr. & Mrs. Hupin
Mr. & Mrs. Nell & fam.	Mr. & Mrs. Grausel	

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 \$5 per annum, and the compounding subscription for life membership for individuals is £10 10s. (\$50.40).

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Their Agricultural Development.

The Report of Mr. C. A. Gomez, Curator of the Agricultural Department of the Virgin Islands for 1919-20, is a record of a year of agricultural prosperity for the Presidency. Of Sea Island cotton 28,425 lbs., a record quantity, was shipped during the year. The system of cultivation, however, still leaves much to be desired. On the gravelly and light level lands, the methods of simply clearing the land of grass and opening holes on the flat is still practised. On sloping, rocky hillsides, the planting is performed by the opening of holes with a pickaxe, no other implemental cultivation being in vogue. Instead of manuring, the practice is to keep a field under cotton for a year or two, and then to abandon it and to seek for new land for its cultivation. The cotton worm, the cotton stainer and the leaf-blister mite remain the chief insect pests, but their ravages did not greatly affect the crop, of which only 2.1 per cent. was stained.

Stock raising must be classed among the Presidency's chief industries, but interest has also been roused in the cultivation of onions, sugar and sweet potatoes, which in the period under review were being increasingly grown. Mr. Gomez says that the islands had completely recovered from the destruction wrought by the hurricane of 1916, all trace of its disastrous effects having disappeared.

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Div.	Antigua	4	Redeemable 1919-44	Nov. 8
4 1/2%	Barbados	3 1/2	Redeemable 1925-42	65-67
4 1/2%	British Guiana	4	Redeemable 1835	61-63
4 1/2%	British Guiana	3	Redeemable 1924-45	77-79
4 1/2%	Grenada	4	Redeemable 1917-42	59-61
4 1/2%	Jamaica	4	Redeemable 1914-49	67-68
4 1/2%	Jamaica	3 1/2	Redeemable 1922-44	78-80
4 1/2%	Jamaica	4	Redeemable 1919-44	62-64
4 1/2%	St. Lucia	4	Redeemable 1917-42	58-60
4 1/2%	Trinidad	4	Redeemable 1919-44	67-69
4 1/2%	Trinidad	3	Redeemable 1922-44	71-73
4 1/2%	Trinidad	3	Redeemable 1922-44	59-61
10%	The Colonial Bank			62-63 ex.
8 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary			78-81 ex.
8 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Preference			69-72
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 4 1/2% Debentures			74-77
4 1/2%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. 5% Debentures			76-80
6 1/2%	Angostura Bitters Part Preference			105-110
7%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 6% Debentures			7-43
—	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.			4/
—	St. Madeleine Sugar			31/10/
—	Apeex (Trinidad) Oilfields Ltd			1/10
—	Petroleum Options Ltd. 10%			51/104
10%	Trinidad Central Oilfields			1/-
10 1/2%	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd., 10%			32/6
10 1/2%	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. (£1)			12/-
—	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.			
4 1/2%	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock			30-40
7 1/2%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref			100-105
4 1/2%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref			57-62
4 1/2%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debentures			53-58 ex.
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., Ordinary			4-4
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 5% Cum. Int. Pref.			11-21
—	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 5% Int.			13-21
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd., 5% Debentures			80-85

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone—
Central 6642.
Telegrams—
"Curib. London."



15, SERRING LANE,
LONDON, E.C.3.
November 8th, 1921

BANK RATE. Reduced to 5 per cent. from November 3rd, after having remained at 5½ per cent. from July 21st

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Oct. 25th.	Nov. 8th.		Oct. 25th.	Nov. 8th.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To U.S.A.	16 2	16 3	To Spain	1 3 5	1 3 1
France	2 2 2	2 2 10	Germany	32 12 0	55 2 11
Belgium	2 3 7	2 4 2	Austria	317 18 0	541 4 4
Italy	3 19 3	3 14 3	Holland	19 5	18 10

The intrinsic value of the gold sovereign is £1 4s. 6d.

SUGAR. The Home market is steady. Crystallised West India is quoted at 38/- to 48/-, spot terms. Home granulated is quoted at 50/3, American granulated at 49/- spot; Belgian granulated 19/9, f.o.b.; Cubans, 96 deg. November-December shipment, 14/9, c.i.f.

The Terminal Market values are:—

	14/11	March.	May.
96	14/11	14/4	14/6
White	18/11	18/6	18/7

There has been no change in the prompt New York market since the date of last summary, yesterday's price of duty-paid Cubans being 4.11c., equivalent to 2.50c., c.i.f. The future market was slightly depressed, the value of landed in bond Cubans being: December 2.40c., January 2.33c., March 2.25c., and May 2.35c. One central was still grinding in Cuba. The receipts at shipping ports up to October 31st had been 8,361,446 tons, as against 3,624,645 tons at the same date last year.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, under date the 4th inst. states that the French beet crop will be unsatisfactory from every point of view. The returns are very varied, ranging from 12 to 28 tons per hectare (2.47 acres), in many districts not being higher than 18 tons per hectare (a normal return is about 30 tons per hectare). The juice is highly coloured and difficult to work.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on October 29th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Imports	41,833	58,729	42,483 Tons.
Deliveries	41,376	50,859	42,613 "
Stock	11,861	16,006	6,262 "

RUM is quite flat. Good common Jamaica, present year distillation, is valued at 4/- to 4/6 per gallon.

The stocks in London on October 29th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,127	10,285	8,217 Puns
Demerara	17,548	15,838	14,958 "
Total of all kinds	38,543	36,691	28,789 "

CACAO is dull, with little or no export. Grenada is easier at 52/- to 53/- for fine; Trinidad unchanged at 56/- to 61/-.

The stocks in London on October 29th were:—

	1921.	1920.	1919
Trinidad	20,709	38,656	33,469 Bags
Grenada	16,586	27,000	15,567 "
Total of all kinds	124,905	249,788	119,513 "

ARROWROOT continues very quiet, at firm prices. Quotations, 3½d. to 6½d.

BALATA continues steady. West Indian sheet, 3/6 to 3/9 spot, 3/5 to 3/6 c.i.f.

BAY OIL remains quiet, with sellers at 12/6 per lb

COFFEE generally is quiet, but steady. Home trade qualities are in good demand, but export is slow. At auction 73 barrels of Blue Mountain Jamaica were sold at 109/- to 192/-, according to size and quality. Ordinary Jamaica is nominal at 55/- to 60/-. Total stocks in London, October 29th, 12,897 tons.

COPRA is weak, and demand poor. West Indian (ins.) is valued at £27 c.i.f. United Kingdom or Continent

COTTON. West Indian Sea Island is neglected, but rates are unchanged at: medium 30d., fine 35d., extra fine 45d. Imports in the 43 weeks ending October 27th, 4,540 bales.

HONEY. At public auction there was a better demand for the paler grades, but values of dark show no improvement. Choice white set Jamaica realised 97/6—an extreme price—and dark liquid to polish set sold at 35/- to 65/-.

LOGWOOD remains dull, and buyers are scarce. Last nominal quotation for St. Lucia, £13 per ton, ex wharf London.

LIME PRODUCTS. **Lime Oil.** Handpressed is quiet, with sellers at 17/6. Distilled continues neglected. **Lime Juice.** Concentrated is unchanged, with sales of West India at £24. Raw is firmer, with good quality Jamaica selling at 2/4 to 2/5 per gallon

ORANGE OIL. After a fair business doing in Sweet during the past fortnight at 7/6, c.i.f., there are no further offers from the islands. Bitter is quoted at 5/6 per lb., but not required for.

PETROLEUM. Pennsylvania crude was further advanced by 50c. to \$4.00 per barrel on November 2nd.

RUBBER is dull and inactive, but there is no pressure to sell. Spot crepe 9½d., sheet 9½d.

SPICES. Jamaica **Ginger** is scarce, values ranging from 155/- for wormy to 180/- for fine quality. **Pimento** is quoted at 20/-, c.i.f. sellers; spot 2½d. **Nutmegs** are in good demand at 1d. per lb. dearer for large, and ½d. dearer for small, values ranging from 6½d. to 1/7. **Mace** is steady at 1/- to 1/6 for ordinary to bold pale.

TRINIDAD OIL. Production for October: Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., 11,900 tons. Apex Trinidad (Oilfields) Ltd., 1,300 tons. United British Oilfields of Trinidad, 6,215 tons.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following cablegrams have been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 25th: "Good showers generally throughout the island."
Demerara (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), November 3rd: "It is again raining, but we have had an interval of a few fine days"

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
R'dos & T'dad	Dover	Venezuela	Nov 12
Jamaica	Glasgow	Dakarlan	" 12
Jamaica	Birkenhead	Chirifjo	" 14
Jamaica	Bristol	Putuca	" 15
West Indies	Glasgow	Counsellor	" 16
West Indies	Liverpool	Governor	" 18

St. Lucia, T'dad & Demerara	St. Nazaire	Haiti	Nov. 26
West Indies	Halifax	Caraquet	Dec. 9
B'mas, J'aca & B I'das	Halifax	Canadian Forcster	" 23
W I Cruise	New York	Mcquint	Jan. 17

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms.

Telephone
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



15, SKETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3
November 22nd, 1921.

Home-Grown Sugar.

ON the occasion of the opening of the Sugar Factory at Kelham, on November 2nd, the Mayor of Newark urged the Government to make home-grown sugar free of tax. He pointed out that this year the Company was paying £4 a ton for beet, which meant an outlay of £19,000, or more than they would get for their sugar even if it cost nothing to make. He explained that as this was a new crop they had to induce the farmer to grow it by offering him a high price so as to compensate him for losses due to lack of experience. He added that they would not be able to make ends meet next year unless they could get beet delivered at the factory at 30/- per ton, a statement which evoked the enquiry: "Where will the labour come in at that price?" The Mayor admitted that the price was extremely low, but added that the Company proposed to divide equally with the farmer any advantage obtained through an increase in the sugar content and sugar price. The question as to the price at which sugar beet can profitably be grown is one on which the success or failure of the Kelham experiment must depend. As pointed out by SIR ARTHUR BOSCAWEN in the House of

Commons on November 10th, home-grown beet sugar now enjoys a preference in the duty of 6/2½ per cwt. over foreign sugar, and 1/11 over Colonial sugar, and it is evident from the remarks made at the opening of the Beet Sugar Factory that an attempt is to be made to secure the removal of the duty altogether from home-grown sugar. This would amount to a protection of no less than £25 13s. 4d. per ton against foreign, and of £21 7s. 6d. against Colonial sugar, whose representatives would have something to say in the matter! The question as to whether the British farmer is likely to be induced to grow beet is discussed by the Agricultural Correspondent of the *Morning Post* in the issue of that paper for November 8th. The Correspondent points out that beet cannot compare with mangolds in the way of yield per acre, though it offers several manifest advantages. It is a cleaning crop, and requires considerable labour, being rather more difficult to pull than the mangold; but where the farmer is near, or not far, from a railway station or waterway, he would, in many cases, welcome an alternative cleaning crop which he could grow by contract. He suggests that this year the actual weight of the crop grown is likely to amount to about 11 tons per acre, which would give a yield of £44 per acre to the farmer, and assuming that carriage, which was paid by the farmer, amounted on the average to 10/- per ton, the return would thus be £34 10s. Apart from this, the Agricultural Correspondent points out that when the farmer grows sugar beet he is not merely producing a crop that sells, he is also raising food for stock, for the pulp, which may be dried, and is saleable at a reasonable price, has a high feeding value, which a practical farmer has stated to be worth about eight times that of the ordinary mangold. His land is also improved by adopting beet as a rotation crop. The great rival to the beet is the mangold; but if mangolds, where they are saleable, are worth about £1 per ton, there is no reason why sugar beet should not be grown more extensively. In many districts, however, the mangold has practically no marketable value, and if it cannot be eaten after storage then it has only one function on a farm—and that is as a cleaning crop. The same argument might be applied to roots generally, but the ordinary turnips and swedes have the advantage that they can be fed off on the land. Still, they have little or no market except in certain districts, and that is one of the strongest arguments why more attention should be devoted to sugar beet growing, where there is a means of disposal in the neighbourhood. The question is, to a large extent, an agricultural one. If sugar beet growing can be

made to pay, the farmer would grow it, and would welcome a large development of the industry, which would give so much employment, and at the same time be of benefit on the farm. A question which has yet to be answered by our agricultural economists is as to whether the production of sugar beets on an extensive scale would displace domestic dairy products. Our imports of cheese, butter and milk, the bulk of which come from foreign sources, have reached a value of between £80,000,000 and £90,000,000 per annum, whilst the value of sugar imported is under £40,000,000. Inasmuch as ample sugar for the requirements of the United Kingdom could be produced in the Colonies, it would appear to be a matter for consideration whether the energies of British agriculturists could not be more usefully applied to the production of dairy products, live stock, etc. Nevertheless, we should welcome the development of a home beet industry, within limits, as it would mean the establishment of a powerful sugar producing party in this country, which would be an advantage to Empire sugar growers generally.

West Indian Produce in the Home Market.

THE Board of Trade Returns for October show that, although the promise of a rapid increase in the consumption of sugar in the United Kingdom, which the July figures seemed to hold out, has not been fulfilled, there is a distinct tendency towards a greater absorption of this valuable food product by the public. In September the increase in consumption was 22,368 tons over the figure for the corresponding month last year, while in October the increase over the amount consumed in October, 1920, was 33,037 tons, and as the consumption for the ten months of the present year shows a total increase of 172,387 tons, it will be noted that the rate of progression is now greater than it was in the earlier months of the year. This does not carry us far, but it marks a distinct step towards the pre-war rate of consumption, which in the first ten months of 1913 amounted to 1,120,506 tons, and it would be contrary to all the laws of supply and demand if the comparatively low retail prices which now obtain were not to increase the demand. The present retail price of refiners' granulated is 5½d. per lb., of which, it may be remarked, 2½d. represents duty, and at this figure consumption should steadily rise, especially in the improved industrial conditions to which the Board of Trade figures point. It is a satisfactory feature about our sugar imports, as shown by the Returns, that the United Kingdom has lately been less the happy dumping ground for foreign sugar than it used to be, the proportion of imports from the Empire being 25.6 per cent. in the ten months of the present year, as compared with 3.9 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1918. There is no evidence in the Returns of an increased output on the part of the home refineries, which in the first ten months of this year turned out 659,975 tons, as compared with 682,893 tons in the same period in 1920, a comparison which indi-

cates that direct consumption sugar from outside will be more and more required as the use of sugar develops, and it is worthy of note that during the ten months, in spite of the adverse exchange, 169,436 tons of sugar have come from the American refiners in competition with the home-refined sugar. As regards rum, the figures do not reflect any improvement in the matter of public consumption; in fact, very much the reverse. The home-distilled spirit trade is also suffering in this respect, but in a far less degree, the consumption for the first nine months of 1921 being only 13.97 per cent. less than for those months in 1920, while in the case of rum the diminution is 40 per cent. It is an interesting fact, in connection with the consumption of spirits in the United Kingdom, that the big diminution in rum consumption only set in this year, while that of home-made spirits was of much earlier date. In the first nine months of 1913 the consumption of home-made spirits was 18,109,951 proof gallons. It sank in the 1920 period to 11,930,502 gallons. The consumption of rum for the two periods was, on the other hand, 2,491,804 gallons and 2,310,260 gallons, respectively, the big drop only occurring during the present year. The temporary rum taste of the demobilised troops was probably the cause of the sustained 1920 consumption. There are, however, welcome signs of a slight revival in the export trade in rum. In respect of cacao, the October figures show an increased demand for home consumption, which although less this year than in 1920, is more than 60 per cent. higher than in 1913. The consumption of imported cocoa preparations and chocolate, however, remains fairly constant, pointing to the increased demand for cacao being due to its greater use by the public, and not to change in the source of supply.

THE HON. EDWARD WOOD'S TOUR.

Owing to the occurrence of a fresh case of fever in British Honduras, a modification of the Hon. Edward Wood's programme has become necessary. He had intended to reach Belize from New Orleans; but the sailings of the United Fruit Company between those ports have been temporarily abandoned, and therefore Mr. Wood will now make Jamaica his first port of call. His amended itinerary is as follows:—

AVONMOUTH, leave		ST. VINCENT	arrive 11 Jan
in s.s. <i>Mo'agan</i> , 29 Nov		- leave	13 Jan
JAMAICA - arrive 14 Dec		BARBADOS - arrive	13 Jan
- leave 26 Dec		- leave	18 Jan
St. Kitts - arrive 30 Dec		GRENADA - arrive	19 Jan
- leave 1 Jan		- leave	23 Jan
ANTIGUA - arrive 1 Jan		TRINIDAD - arrive	23 Jan
- leave 4 Jan		- leave	2 Feb
DOMINICA - arrive 5 Jan		BRITISH GUIANA, arrive	4 Feb
- leave 8 Jan		- leave	13 Feb
St. Lucia - arrive 8 Jan		TRINIDAD - arrive	14 Feb
- leave 11 Jan		leave, in s.s. <i>Ingoma</i> , 1 Mar	

Mr. Wood will take with him as Private Secretary the Hon. Arthur Ormsby-Gore, M.P., eldest son of the third Lord Harlech.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"EVERY day no Christmas, an' ebery day no rainy day."

MESSRS. JAMES NOURSE, LTD., announce that s.s. *Hughli* or s.s. *Ganges* will sail from Calcutta for the British West Indies and Cuba in December.

ACCORDING to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, the Java 1921 crop may be taken as equal to 1,636,000 tons of white, or 1,727,000 tons of raw sugar.

THE value of the cotton woven in India during the three months ending June 30th last was 15,82,25,061 Rs., comparing with 15,02,60,739 Rs. for the corresponding period of 1920.

MR. EDWARD P. CONNER, a Glasgow trained engineer of varied experience, has established himself as a consulting engineer for the West Indies, with his headquarters at Roseau, Dominica.

INTENDING visitors to the West Indies from England will have an opportunity of making round cruises at reasonable rates in the Harrison Line steamers *Intaba* and *Ingoma*, sailing from London on January 13th and February 24th respectively.

IN the presidential address of Professor Gibson to the Engineering Section of the British Association, at Edinburgh, it was stated that the world's available water power was somewhere in the neighbourhood of two hundred million horse-power, of which twenty-five millions only were at present developed or in course of development.

ONE scheme which is being tried in Central Africa, with the view of making the natives attach themselves to the land, is by compelling them to plant oil palms down each side of the main road to their village, and behind the houses, and it is hoped that this will instil the idea of possession into the native mind, with a basis of agriculture, and prevent the continual shifting of villages.

A WELCOME visitor to Jamaica this winter should be Sir Julian Orde, who sailed with his wife in the *Patuca* on November 15th for Kingston, in search of health. Sir Julian was, during the war, the moving spirit of the Royal Overseas Officers' Club—the Automobile—which entertained many West Indian officers, who will now, no doubt, take the opportunity of reciprocating his kindness.

MR. E. C. BUCK, M.Inst.C.E., who was Director of Public Works in British Guiana from 1913 until a few months ago, when he retired, is returning in November to the West Indies, where he proposes to practise as a consulting engineer and direct representative of various engineering firms. He intends to make his headquarters at Port of Spain, Trinidad, and thence to operate in all the West Indian Colonies, as well as in the Northern States of America.

MR. WALLWYN POYER B. SHEPHEARD, who was the recipient of many congratulations on the occasion of his eightieth birthday on September 25th, has, we are glad to learn, made a good recovery from his recent illness. He writes: "Mr. Wallwyn Poyer B. Shephard desires to avail himself of the courtesy of the Editor of the Committee's CIRCULAR to return his sincere thanks for many kind inquiries from esteemed friends on The West India Committee. Mr. Shephard is happy to say that his recovery from severe illness is as complete as his advanced years permit."

MR. W. A. HOBBS, described as one of the ablest sugar men to-day, has succeeded Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon as president of the Atlantic Sugar Refineries, Ltd., of Montreal. Mr. McGibbon now becomes chairman of the Finance Committee of the company, and will accompany the president on a visit to Europe, to be undertaken with the object of strengthening its connections in England and France. Mr. H. W. Beauclerk and Mr. W. D. Ross, directors of the Bank of Montreal and the Bank of Nova Scotia respectively, have joined the directorate.

MESSRS. FURNESS, WITBY & Co., who purchased the Quebec Steamship Co. and the Trinidad Line last year, propose to improve the West Indies services which they maintain by placing better steamers on the routes. As an initial step, they have purchased the fine passenger and freight steamer, *Fort St. George* (14,000 tons), which will make cruises to the Windward and Leeward Islands and Trinidad this winter, sailing from New York November 26th, January 4th, February 4th, and March 4th. These cruises will be continued on the route if the business warrants it.

THE report of the Committee appointed to advise the Ceylon Government as to the proposals recently put forward in connection with the Development of the Economic Resources of that Colony, recommend the strengthening of the research staff, the provision of laboratories' equipment and bungalows, the establishment of one or two rice mills, and further experiments in the cultivation of sugar and its extraction, and of cotton. A tariff protection for rice is also advocated. The report does not recommend any immediate action as regards the establishment of an agricultural college.

DR. JOHN ALCINDOR, the President of the African Progress Union, has just received a compliment upon which a wide circle of friends will congratulate him heartily. It is the certificate of thanks of the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England. "in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war." Dr. Alcindor, who graduated from Edinburgh, and fills various public offices, among them that of a district medical officer of the Borough of Paddington, was born at Port of Spain, Trinidad, in 1873, and educated at St. Mary's College.

THE revised edition of "The Manufacture of Cane Sugar," by Llewellyn Jones, M.I.E.S., and Frederic I. Seard, F.I.C., will be published next month under the auspices of The West India Committee, by Messrs. Duckworth & Co. This standard work has been carefully brought up to date. It will deal not only with the growth, cultivation, and chemical composition of the sugar-cane, methods of extraction and steam generation, etc., but also with the manufacture of by-products of cane sugar, such as rum, industrial alcohol, and cattle food. Orders for the book, the price of which will be 25/- net, may now be sent to The West India Committee.

THE strength of the East Indian community in Trinidad has been further demonstrated by the appearance of another journal published in its midst. This is *The East Indian Patriot*, which is to be devoted to the social, intellectual, and moral advancement of the entire community, and will be largely edited "of the people, by the people, and for the people." It is noteworthy that Mr. Sarraj Teelucksingh, its managing editor, Mr. A. Bharat Gobin, its business editor, and Mr. Abdul Gany, its treasurer, are all members of The West India Committee. With a declared circulation of 1,000, our latest contemporary, whose appearance we welcome, has made a good start.

THE Cuban mission, under General Mario Menocal, the former President of Cuba, who now comes as Special Ambassador, arrived in London on November 2nd, and has left again. The other members of the mission are Dr. Ortez, Cuban Minister in Paris; Colonel Pujol, of the Cuban Army; Senhor Baro, of the Cuban Foreign Office, who holds the rank of Introducer of Ambassadors; and Senor Ximeno, Commercial Attaché in London and Paris. During their stay they were entertained by the King at Windsor Castle, and by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. Their object has been to promote the development of trade between the United Kingdom and Cuba.

THE tragic fate of those members of the Southern Syncopated Orchestra who lost their lives when their steamer, *Rowan*, was sunk after a collision in the Irish Sea, on October 9th, reminds us that its musical director, Lieut. Thompson, who died after being rescued, was connected with the British West Indies. Born in Sierra Leone, he migrated as a boy to those Colonies and joined the band of the 1st West India Regiment. He accompanied the band to England in 1905, and was its principal solo cornetist during its engagement at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in that year. During the war he was Bandleader in the American Expeditionary Force.

IF Cuba's coming crop, says *Facts about Sugar*, is no more than 2,500,000 tons, which authorities agree is as much as the island in its own interest ought to produce, the problem before Cuban producers will be to dispose of, approximately,

3,500,000 tons. Deducting the local consumption of 150,000 tons, the quantity which will probably be called for by various minor markets, and potential sales to Europe of 1,000,000 tons, will leave 2,250,000 tons to be disposed of in the United States. This amount, our contemporary states, can be absorbed by the United States markets in addition to the prospective domestic production of, roundly, 2,000,000 tons, and possible receipts of other outside sugars, amounting to 100,000 tons.

At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee held on November 17th, the Chairman referred to the great loss which The West India Committee, and, indeed, the West Indies, had sustained through the death of Mr. Edgar Tripp, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Cyril Gurney and carried unanimously:—

"That the Executive of The West India Committee hereby record their deep regret at the death of Mr. Edgar Tripp, for nearly twenty-five years their Honorary Correspondent in Trinidad, and their sense of appreciation of his valuable services in that capacity, and that the expression of their sincere sympathy in the loss which it has sustained be conveyed to the family."

Obituary notices of Mr. Tripp appeared in last CIRCULAR, in *The Times* of November 8th, *The Morning Post* of the 9th, and *The Financier* of the 14th.

WE have received from Messrs. Cadbury a copy of the interesting paper on The Gold Coast Cocoa Industry and its recent developments, read by Mr. F. I. Organ at the recent Tropical Products Exhibition. After pointing out the great danger to the future of the industry from its rapid growth, which in face of the present low prices may lead to faulty cultivation, abandonment of estates, and from the falling off of atmospheric humidity owing to too great a clearance of the forest, Mr. Organ concludes that "The question of quality is the one outstanding problem of this great industry, and a close and careful study of the trade since 1910 has convinced me that there is only one solution to the present difficulties and the future dangers. If the European buyers will take the trouble to insist on a uniform well-prepared and well-fermented cocoa they can raise the standard of Gold Coast cocoa to a consistently high level. A very great responsibility rests in their hands, for it is on them, and on them alone, that depends the decadence or survival of this great industry."

PLUM PUDDING.—1 lb. raisins, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. currants, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. prunes, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. citron, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. bread crumbs, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. suet, 8 well beaten eggs, half gill brandy. Stone and cut up the fruit and citron, mix all the dry ingredients well together, then add the beaten eggs and brandy, an oz. of grated nutmeg, and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of beaten spice; mix all thoroughly. Butter your mould and stick half prunes and raisins all over it and pour in the mixture; cover or tie down tightly with a floured cloth; boil for five or six hours.—MRS. J. THOMAS.

THE HON. EDWARD WOOD, M.P.

Entertained by The West Indian Club.

The Hon. Edward Wood, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, was entertained to dinner by the members of The West Indian Club in their Club Rooms at 4, Whitehall Court, on Wednesday, November 16th. Mr. Charles F. Wood presided, and the company present included:

Colonel S. H. Wilson, C.B., C.M.G., Governor Elect of Trinidad; Sir Owen Philipps, G.C.M.G., M.P.; Sir John Chancellor, K.C.M.G., D.S.O.; Sir F. M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., V.D.; Sir Edward Davson; Mr. G. E. A. Grindle, C.B., C.M.G.; Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G.; Lieut-Colonel Ivan B. Davson, O.B.E.; Mr. H. D. G. Austin; Mr. P. Bruce Austin; Mr. E. Hyslop Bell; Mr. C. T. Berthon; Mr. Roland L. E. Bryce; Mr. G. O. Case; Mr. E. R. Darley; Mr. E. A. de Pass; Mr. Archibald de Pass; Mr. Alexander Elder; Mr. Thomas Greenwood; Mr. Cyril Gurney; Mr. A. J. Hirsch; Mr. Thomas B. Hull; Mr. W. P. Humphrey; Captain G. N. Knight; Mr. A. N. Lubbock; Mr. F. N. Martinez; Dr. G. B. Mason; Captain F. F. C. Messum (Hon. Secretary); Mr. P. M. G. Mitchell; Mr. F. J. Morris; Mr. T. W. B. O'Neal; Mr. R. M. B. Parker; Mr. George Parrott; Mr. H. F. Previté; Mr. R. Rutherford; Mr. Arthur Scaife, J.P.; Mr. Howard Smith; Mr. G. Moody Stuart; Major Claud Wallace; and Mr. R. A. Wiseman.

In proposing the health of the Guest, Mr. Charles Wood, in a speech brim full of epigram and wit, said that they welcomed the decision that the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State would make a tour of inspection through the British West Indies, and the opportunity which would thus be afforded to Mr. Edward Wood of studying the needs and conditions of those Colonies on the spot. It was an admirable arrangement also that Mr. Wood should be accompanied by Mr. R. A. Wiseman, for whilst Governments occasionally perished and portfolios changed hands, permanent Officials, like the brook, went on for ever. In meeting the ignorance which prevailed amongst people in this country regarding the Empire, he was reminded of the child who was asked what he knew about the beasts and birds of Australia, and replied that the most famous birds were the nightingale, the larkspur, and the pink flamingo, whilst the beasts were the kangaroo, the boomerang, and the peccadillo. He proceeded to say that inasmuch as the members of the Executive of The West India Committee had been afforded an opportunity of laying before their guests officially their views regarding such matters as Imperial Preference, cable and steamship communication, uniformity of legislation, and health and infant welfare, there would be no need for him to refer to these subjects on that occasion. After touching lightly on the currency question the speaker concluded by wishing Mr. Wood all success in his mission, and said that it was a true message of hearty goodwill that he was taking to the West Indies from the Mother Country.

The toast having been honoured, Mr. Edward Wood, who on rising was received with applause, said that following the last speaker made his task a difficult one. It was said that the wise man

talked mainly of what he knew, or else chose his audience. He had only been six months at the Colonial Office, and would be wise by selecting the former alternative. He hoped, however, to be able to resist the temptation which it was generally believed no visitor to the West Indies could withstand—that of writing a book. He agreed with the Chairman that there was great ignorance in this country regarding our West Indian Colonies, and his own constituents seemed firmly convinced that it was India that was his forthcoming destination. What was the motive underlying the trip he was to make? His main purpose was not to enquire into this or that problem, be it currency, administration, or systems of government. He took a far more simple view, and intended that the object of his mission would be to get into touch with West Indians on the spot and find out for himself what it was they wanted. He welcomed the hint that on his return he should meet the members of The West India Committee and The West Indian Club and discuss the many problems requiring solution in the light of the experience he would then have gained. He was taking with him a permanent official, and he hoped that the tour would result in real and lasting benefit. His own comparison would be that he (the speaker), during his term of office, was like a sparrow that flew in for a brief while out of the darkness into the light, whereas Mr. Wiseman was like the poor, whom they had always with them. He was going out with an open mind, knowing that any question worthy of discussion had at least four sides to it. The West Indies were not inarticulate, nor indeed was their opinion quite uniform. He hoped, however, that with the help of a broad tolerance, and by emphasising only what was crucial, all parties could be got to meet together, when the divergence of view between the centre and the circumference would tend to disappear.

Sir Owen Philipps, in proposing the health of the Chairman, said he looked upon the tour which Mr. Wood and Mr. Wiseman were to make as of the utmost importance, and thought that this excellent example should be followed constantly. He had always held the view that Colonial Office Officials should visit the Colonies more often than they did, and he mentioned the interesting fact that before the War he had offered to take young civil servants from the Colonial Office free to any of the British Possessions served by his steamships.

Colonel S. H. Wilson, Governor-elect of Trinidad and Tobago, briefly expressed his great pleasure in meeting a number of Trinidadians who were guests that evening, and especially his friend the late Governor, Sir John Chancellor. He wanted Trinidadians to rest assured that he would do his best to advance the interests of the Colony and its inhabitants.

A CORRESPONDENT in San Francisco recently applied for full particulars regarding The West India Committee, stating that it was proposed to establish an organisation on similar lines in connection with the Philippine Islands. This is not the first time on which such a compliment has been paid to the Committee, which is receiving increased recognition as the oldest and most active body of its kind.

TROPICAL MEDICINE.

Lieut.-Colonel A. W. Alcock, Professor of Medical Zoology of the University of London, delivered a masterly and illuminating address in proposing the toast of the London School of Tropical Medicine at the annual dinner of that body, which was held at the Trocadero on November 9th.

The school had, he said, now well come of age, and its twenty-first year was a turning point in its history. He had no need to remind anyone present that the idea of the school emanated from Sir Patrick Manson. The wonderful originality of that great man was revealed many years ago, when, amid the exigencies of a busy practice, he carried through those exact experiments—a habit rare among general practitioners—which opened out new domains of pathology and preventive medicine, of which the school was only one of the results. But that fine idea of Sir Patrick Manson might have come to nothing if it had not been imparted to a statesman of vision in Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, who instantly grasped its full significance. Even then the idea might not have struck root so deeply nor borne fruit so soon had it not been for the Seamen's Hospital Society. He had often been asked what there was in common between a hospital for merchant seamen and a school of tropical medicine. It needed only a moment's thought to realise that in the scheme of the British Empire the two things went naturally together. The life of the crowded population of these islands depended for the most part on the raw material which the seamen brought from other shores. What better help could be given to those seamen than to provide healthier ports of call in the rich tropical dominions from which they brought their cargoes? Who could think of our immortal Drake, the founder of our sea power, cut off by dysentery in his mid-fifties, or of our incomparable Nelson, sent home invalided and not expected to recover from the effect of his two years' service on the East Indies station, without understanding something of what tropical disease—and therefore tropical medicine—might mean to the destinies of these isles? It was to the everlasting credit of the Seamen's Hospital Society that it set its seal upon these truths by an instant and generous response to the grand design of Manson and Chamberlain.

During the life of the school seventeen expeditions had been sent out to investigate various problems of tropical disease, and more than two thousand medical men had gone through the school's course; these had been men of every race and nation from China to Peru, destined to fill all kinds of positions in the tropical world—medical officers of plantations, of railways, of industrial concerns in those regions, as well as medical missionaries and private practitioners. The school kept its laboratory in close touch with the wards of the hospital. So practical was the course, so full of demonstration and exhibition, so faithful in the mirror held up to Nature, that even students who knew little or no English were able to go through with it. He knew from his own experience the difference in outlook between the man who went to his work in the tropics by way of the London School or the sister institution at Liverpool and the man who, however keen, never had that chance. The vicissitudes of the school, as of all human institutions in twenty mutable years, were not to be forgotten. In the fullness of time Sir Patrick Manson had to relinquish his participation in the school's work. Sir Patrick was

the *pontifex maximus*, the patriarch of tropical medicine. While he was with the school the eyes of the world were upon it. Wise men came from the West as well as from the East to leave their blessing with his foundation. The school again suffered severely in the loss of Dr. C. W. Daniels, a man who, though he did not wear his heart upon his sleeve or affect the graces of the courtier, was to be picked out of 10,000 men, and for his experience, insight, breadth of outlook, and solid worth of judgment was fit to sit with Manson in the gate. If such losses could ever be recompensed by material gains—which he doubted—the school in its twentieth year had an accession of fortune which might satisfy the materialist if that were ever possible. It arose in this way. In the war the sturdy British sailor had gone on his lawful occasions, little concerned for himself, though he gaped on every side of him, and in admiration for his valour and sympathy with his suffering the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John bestowed upon the sailor through the Seamen's Hospital Society the very appropriate gift of the hospital in Eadsleigh Gardens.

In one branch of the work the school now showed a deficiency exactly where, from its close association with such an important adjunct of the mercantile marine as the Seamen's Hospital Society, it ought to show a conspicuous excellence: this was in tropical sanitation. The school would certainly not fulfil its expectations if it did not soon provide a course in tropical sanitation, practical and adequate for the man who meant to take up the important subject of preventive medicine in the tropics. The authorities of the school were aware of the need, and only lack of money prevented them from meeting it. He hoped it would not be forgotten that the tropics where Manson and Bruce and Ross made their fruitful discoveries, was the proper place for the study of the causation and consequences of tropical disease, but he did not think that this sort of work need be done any longer by means of costly and ostentatious expeditions from home. Such expeditions had had their day. They were necessary at the beginning to awaken public opinion at home and to stimulate local effort abroad, but now that influential men at home understood the importance of the subject, and that institutes for medical research had sprung up in so many of the tropical dominions, while a steady stream of men trained in London or Liverpool was flowing to the tropics year by year, these large expeditions from home might do more harm than good by appearing to disparage those local efforts which it was so extremely necessary to foster and encourage. The policy of the school should be to co-operate with these indigenous institutes, to try to develop a common life with some of them, and this might be most economically done by allocating here and there a member of the staff, especially a junior member, to maintain touch and to work in association with them. But there was one most promising branch of research which for climatic and other reasons was better attempted in a tropical hospital at home than in the tropics themselves: the application of biochemical methods to the study of tropical pathology. That was a study with such infinite possibilities that, whether it was regarded from the scientific or from the practical standpoint, if the school did not go on to provide for some such study it would fall below the modern academic standard.

A full report of Professor Alcock's address is given in the *British Medical Journal* of November 19th, to which the CIRCULAR is indebted for the above extract.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Edgar Tripp & Co., the CIRCULAR is able to publish the statistics

relating to sugar-cane farming and the local sugar crop for the years 1913-1921. 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 canes.	No. of Farmers	
						East Indian.	West Indian
Brechin Castle ...	2,961	1,917	26,263	14,617	\$58,468	628	402
Bronte ...	3,730	1,685	17,996	24,467	98,925	835	349
Caroni ...	5,175	2,240	31,510	42,839	171,356	1,686	1,342
Craignish ...	825	169	2,363	9,296	42,866	929	1,183
Esperanza ...	2,462	1,220	15,267	16,356	73,058	687	420
Forres Park ...	1,900	987	11,843	13,114	62,943	625	195
Golden Grove †	500	60	1,080	6,581	48,430	120	185
Hindustan † ...	1,043	212	2,809	8,758	69,363	304	368
Reform ...	775			11,436	54,860		
Tacarigua Factory ...	4,591	1,568	19,670	38,803	217,293	753	820
La Fortuné ‡ ...	4,073	2,312	27,141	21,616	100,153	554	471
Usine Ste Madeleine ...	17,740	8,122	84,232	106,367	464,248	5,132	3,643
Waterloo ...	6,554	2,700	32,375	52,750	219,000	2,000	1,500
Woodford Lodge §	2,694	1,015	14,425	22,399	92,264	793	501
	54,933	24,207	286,974	389,399	1,773,227	15,046	11,379
Return for 1920 ...	58,416	28,953	319,421	344,226	2,924,404	14,536	10,824
" .. 1919 ...	47,850	24,656	275,451	270,324	1,210,155	12,370	8,568
" .. 1918 ...	45,256	22,544	252,783	266,144	812,247	12,158	8,244
" .. 1917 ...	70,891	36,102	378,999	384,650	1,093,770	12,055	8,984
" .. 1916 ...	64,231	35,653	426,106	363,775	1,008,665	14,014	8,212
" .. 1915 ...	58,882	34,376	426,262	325,071	869,790	9,202	7,078
" .. 1914 ...	55,488	35,690	407,797	201,799	486,630	7,450	5,253
" .. 1913 ...	42,331	31,095	346,912	136,724	330,364	6,942	5,513

*Estimated. †No returns. ‡Estd. †Numbers of farmers Estd. §Includes estimates of Syrups in Tanks to be cured Sept. Oct.

AGRICULTURE IN MONTSERRAT.

The Report of the Montserrat Agricultural Department for the financial year ending March 31st, 1920, is now to hand. A considerable amount of experimental work was done during the year in the breeding of new types of cotton, the variety H.28,213, which gave such satisfactory results in 1917-18 receiving especial attention. Types from St. Vincent and St. Kitts were also tested in comparison with the above Montserrat variety, and it was found that the latter gave the best results as regards quantity of lint, length, weight of seeds, lint index, and percentage of lint, but that the St. Vincent variety was reported upon by the Cotton Spinners' Association as being the best as regards quality of lint. Limes, sugar-canes, and bay trees were also experimented with.

The Report states that the area planted in cotton in the season was approximately 3,200 acres, the production for the crop being 548,397 lbs. of lint. The exports of raw lime juice were 96,851 gallons, of concentrated lime juice 424 gallons, of citrate of lime 276 cwt., and of lime oils 92 gallons. Fifty-eight tons of muscovado sugar were exported, 1,070 lbs. of papain, 35 gallons of bay oil, £128 worth of onions, and 270 barrels of tamarinds.

SHIPOWNERS' LIABILITY.

At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee on November 17th the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That the Executive of The West India Committee approves the Hague Rules in principle and recognises them as a basis for the settlement of the respective liabilities and rights of shipowners and merchants under bill of lading.

The Hague Rules, which were referred to in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of September 15th (page 381), have as their object the definition of sea-carriers' responsibility to shippers for loss or damage of goods entrusted to them.

Rule 4 lays down that neither the carrier nor the ship shall be responsible in any event for loss or damage to or in connection with goods in an amount beyond £100 per package or unit, or the equivalent of that sum in other currency, unless the nature and value of such goods have been declared by the shipper before the goods are shipped and have been inserted in the bill of lading.

At the same meeting it was decided to forward a memorandum to the Imperial Shipping Committee setting out The West India Committee's objections to the Rebate system.

HOW TO CULTIVATE COFFEE.

A Hint for West Indian Producers.

For a great many years the coffee dealers and coffee roasters of the United States have known that the high grade of Java coffee was due to a certain "ripening" process that the green coffee underwent in being transported from Java to the United States in slow sailing vessels. It was well known that the same original grade of Java coffee brought to that country by fast steam vessels arrived in a condition that was materially different from that coming in the slow vessel.

This change was so well known that masters of sailing vessels used in the coffee trade were paid a premium for coffee that had heated and had undergone this "ripening" process, which was necessary to produce the highest-grade Java coffee. This "ripening" took place in the hold of the vessel while passing through the tropics, where humidity is great and the temperature hot.

A few years ago, scientific investigation showed that the coffee underwent a distinct "moulding" process under the factors of high humidity and temperature due to the long trip through tropical seas, and Messrs. Robinson and Beeson, the scientific experts employed, found that certain types of mould, particularly *Othraceus* and *Aspergillus Wintii*, when grown upon the green Java coffee for about ten days, produced a change identical with that due to the sailing vessel transportation. The final result was the organisation of what is now the "Cultured Coffee Company," who act as agents in treating green Brazilian coffee to produce the Java-like character so much desired by coffee roasters, which they do under contract for 2½ cents a pound.

The method pursued, for a description of which we are indebted to *The Tea and Coffee Trades Journal*, is as follows:—

A spiral conveyor, which is built at an angle of about 30°, carries a continuous volume of coffee through about four lineal feet of spray area, where the coffee is washed by a powerful spray of water.

It is then carried by the conveyor to a section where a cultured solution, consisting of a culture mixed with water, is pumped over it and allowed to drain away. The coffee is then elevated into a hopper, from which trays are filled and placed in the incubating room. These culture trays consist of shallow boxes about 6 inches deep, 2½ feet wide, and 5 feet long. The trays are constructed of 1½ inch slats, having small spaces between to allow for ventilation. The wet cultured coffee is run into these trays and levelled to about the depth of the tray.

Stacks of trays, approximately six feet in height, are then placed in an isolated culture room, which will hold approximately 200 trays. This room is equipped with heating and ventilating facilities so arranged as to give careful temperature control and also maintain uniform humidity. The air is at first constantly pumped from various sections of the room and back into a pipe running along the floor at the sides. This gives uniform distribution of moisture and temperature. When the rooms are

first filled they are maintained at about 90 deg. Fahr., with a dew point of only about five degrees less, for about two days.

At the end of this time a sufficient heat has been generated by the fermenting coffee grains so that added heat is turned off and the culture allowed to grow for four or five days, or longer.

About the end of the third day there appears over the surface of the coffee berries a fine white growth. This is the hyphæ of the mould which are growing into the berry. On the fourth day the fruiting heads appear and give the trays a yellowish-brown appearance.

The coffee is then dumped from trays into bins having a capacity of 100 bags. Here the enzyme secreted from the mould growth continues its function, causing the mass of coffee to heat, the temperature gradually increasing till it reaches its peak. When the temperature starts to recede it signifies completion of the internal activity. The moisture content of the coffee itself gradually falls throughout this 10-day period, and when taken from the bins it has only slightly more moisture than when originally received at the plant. The coffee is then put through a tumbling and scouring process and sacked for return to the coffee roaster. The change that takes place causes the berry to change colour from a slaty green to a light tan or yellow in exterior appearance, and to become more brittle and softer.

The weekly output of "cultured" coffee is stated to be at present 2,000 bags.

"BARBADOS ISLAND."

In an account in *Nature* by Prof. Stanley Gardiner, F.R.S., of Prof. C. C. Nutting's Report on the Barbados-Antigua Expedition of 1917, the following reference is made to "Little England."

"Barbados Island itself is the most eastern of the Antilles, and although now consisting largely of elevated coral and limestone rocks, contains the remains of land connecting it in early Tertiary times to South America. It was then sunk to great depths and overlaid by beds of ooze, 'Barbados earth,' noted for their richness in radiolaria and foraminifera. The uplift raised the sea bottom high enough for corals to thrive, and subsequent elevations are responsible for the terraced effects so apparent in the topography of the present land. The island is about 21 by 14 miles, and has now a population of nearly 200,000. All is cultivated, and land collecting was hence little likely to yield results of much value. The expedition, indeed, mainly concentrated on marine work, and the more striking animals of different groups are described; the whole forms a guide which will be of value to future workers. The general variety of life is interesting, but uniformity of all tropical marine life in the coral reef regions of the world is still more striking; indeed, Professor Nutting's description would apply almost equally well to faunas from similar grounds off Ceylon, Seychelles, or Fiji."

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

Thirty one New Members Elected.

At a meeting of the Executive on November 17th the thirty-one candidates whose names are given below were admitted to membership of The West India Committee, bringing the total number elected this year up to 267.

Names	Proposers and Seconders
Mr. H. P. Flack (London).	Mr. W. A. Boyd.
Mr. Nat Forte (London).	Mr. H. A. Bligh.
Messrs. Gomes Bros. (British Guiana).	Captain Nathaniel Forte.
Mr. G. W. C. Hulse (British Honduras).	Mr. Gay C. Edghill.
Mr. R. K. Masson (British Honduras).	Mr. H. B. Gajraj.
Mr. Vyvyan Grey-Wilson (British Honduras).	Mr. A. S. Rohoman.
Brig.-Gen. C. E. Rice, C.B.E., D.S.O. (British Guiana).	The Hon. A. M. Usher, M.B.E.
Mr. A. H. Yearwood (Barbados).	Mr. F. Aurelio Vargas.
Mr. A. W. H. Hall (Trinidad).	The Hon. A. M. Usher, M.B.E.
Mr. André du Boulay (St. Lucia).	The Hon. James Cran, O.B.E.
Mr. R. G. H. Clarke (St. Lucia).	The Hon. A. M. Usher, M.B.E.
Mr. J. T. de Coteau (St. Lucia).	Mr. S. Wolfsohn.
Mr. William Frank (St. Lucia).	Mr. C. A. Campbell.
Messrs. Macfarlaue, Junior, & Co. (St. Lucia).	Mr. E. R. Campbell.
Mr. A. R. A. Beauhron (St. Lucia).	Mr. W. F. Mandeville.
Mr. O. M. Francis (St. Lucia).	Mr. W. E. Mandeville.
Mr. Bruce Skinner (Country).	Mr. Edgar Tripp.
Mr. Gordon Graham (Dominica).	Mr. Geo. F. Huggins, O.B.E.
Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy, Ltd. (Scotland).	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. W. A. Peterkin (Trinidad).	Lieut.-Colonel Robert Deane, O.B.E.
Mr. T. Harrison Hughes (London).	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. G. W. Harris (Jamaica).	Lieut.-Colonel Robert Deane, O.B.E.
Mr. H. G. Hill (Bermuda).	The Hon. William Peter Deane, O.B.E.
Mr. J. F. Snow (London).	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.
Mr. L. A. Ryan (St. Kitts).	The Hon. William Peter Deane, O.B.E.
Messrs. Drury & Allen (London).	Mr. Archibald J. Brooks.

Messrs. W. & T. Avery Ltd. (Country).	Mr. E. C. Buck, M.I.C.E.
Dr. A. W. Lewis (St. Vincent).	Mr. Robert Rutherford.
Mr. C. E. F. Richards (St. Vincent).	Mr. P. W. Verrall.
Mr. Alfred G. Hazell (St. Vincent).	Messrs. John H. Hazell, Sons & Co.
The Kingstown Club (St. Vincent).	Mr. P. W. Verrall.
	Messrs. John H. Hazell, Sons & Co.
	Mr. P. W. Verrall.
	Messrs. John H. Hazell, Sons & Co.
	Mr. P. W. Verrall.
	Messrs. John H. Hazell, Sons & Co.

OBITUARY.

HON. CHARLES C. ANDERSON.

We regret to state that the Hon. Charles Campbell Anderson died in Jamaica on October 22nd.

Mr. Anderson was a popular official whose death has caused general regret throughout the Island which has been for so long his home. Formerly Secretary to the Kingston General Commissioners, he was appointed Collector of Taxes in Kingston in 1909. On April 1st, 1912, he was promoted to be Island Treasurer, a position which he filled with ability until his final illness. He was Chairman of the Board of Management of the Government Savings Bank and of the Agricultural Loan Bank and the success of both institutions was largely due to his personality and hard work. He leaves a widow and one daughter who is married and resides in England.

MR. E. CLARRIBUT SKINNER.

We regret to state that Mr. E. Clarribut Skinner died at his residence, "Pembury," Gladstone Road, Broadstairs, on November 5th.

Mr. Skinner was for twelve years Superintendent of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the West Indies, with headquarters in Trinidad, where he will be affectionately remembered by many friends. He had intended entering the medical profession after leaving school, but his health breaking down in 1888, he made four voyages to the Cape as Captain's clerk under the flag of the Union Line. Upon his return to shore he entered the Advertising Department of the Company. He joined the Royal Mail Company in 1903 and sailed in December of that year to Trinidad, where he filled the position of Superintendent with tact and ability until his retirement, which was due to the state of his health. His death came with a suddenness which was painful to his wife, who survives him, but she must feel consolation that the sufferings which he experienced for many years are ended.

MRS. LYNCH THOMAS.

We regret to announce the death, on November 7th, at her residence, Mon Repos, Earley, Berks, of Mrs. Lynch Thomas.

Mrs. Thomas was the widow of Dr. Lynch Thomas, at one time Government Medical Officer in British Guiana, and daughter of William Augustus Wolseley, who served as Staff Surgeon during the Crimean War. Mrs. Thomas lived for many years in Demerara, both at the Farm and at Laisignan with her brother, Mr. W. A. Wolseley, and she was intimately connected with the social life of the Colony. Her elder daughter, Rosa, married Sir Charles Davson, Chief Justice of Fiji. Mrs. Lynch Thomas will be regretted by a large circle of friends, both in the West Indies and at her home in Berkshire.

CACAO CULTIVATION.

Conditions in Grenada and Trinidad.

Sugar at one time was the staple crop of Grenada, but when prices fell in the middle of last century its cultivation was more or less abandoned, and that of cacao substituted by small proprietors. In an interesting address delivered before the members of the Naparima Agricultural Society in Trinidad on October 17th, Mr. R. O. Williams, who for two years was Superintendent of Agriculture in Grenada, drew an interesting comparison between the conditions prevailing in that island and in Trinidad in connection with cacao cultivation. In 1855, he said, the exports of cacao from Grenada are stated to have been 5,069 bags (of 180 lbs.), rising in 1880 to 28,775 bags, until they now range from between 70,000 to 80,000 bags of 180 lbs. each per annum. There is, however, little prospect of further increase, as most of the cacao plantations have reached full bearing, and but few more acres were being planted.

Agriculturally, Mr. Williams said, Grenada was more fully developed than Trinidad, and under present conditions it would be better to concentrate further agricultural efforts on the production of ground provisions and other local foodstuffs.

"With very few exceptions cacao in Grenada is much more closely planted than in Trinidad. The actual distance varies owing to the irregular manner in which planting operations were carried out, but an average distance could probably be estimated at about nine or ten feet. The irregularity of planting is due to the fact that most of the estates were planted on the Metayer system, under which the peasant was responsible for the planting as well as the care of the young trees. In Trinidad most of the cacao has been established under the contract system by which the peasant makes himself responsible only for the care and not for the planting of the young trees. The irregularities so common in Grenada are not only detrimental to a proper well-balanced development of the trees, but are also troublesome when laying out drains. Although cacao in Grenada is largely grown without permanent shade, the young plots are planted in much the same manner as practised in Trinidad—bananas, plantains, canes, tannias, etc., being used as temporary shade.

"The question probably of most interest to the Trinidad planter is that of permanent shade, and it is on this point principally where the Grenada methods of cultivation differ from those of this colony.

"Many of the cacao fields in Grenada are entirely without shade, others have numbers of other trees, principally bread-fruit and fruit trees, scattered through them, and in a few cases a systematic planting of Immortelles has been practised. Before we go further with this question I should say that the Grenada planter fully recognises that when cacao is grown without shade it must either be naturally protected from wind or else be supplied with good wind-breaks; that the soil must be fre-

quently forked and manured, and the land thoroughly drained. If he neglects these essential conditions in a shadeless plot he is only courting failure. In a plot shaded by large trees, such trees, besides various functions, assist in carrying off the surplus water from the soil, and thus serve as a form of natural drainage. In places where there are none or few shade trees a stricter attention has to be paid to drainage than in those carrying a large number. Instances have occurred in Grenada where it has been thought advisable to cut out large trees protecting the cacao, with the result that the cacao suffered badly from exposure and the resultant maladies, and in some cases efforts were afterwards made to re-establish shade trees.

"The question of shade for plants in general is largely a matter of what the plants have been accustomed to. Plants reared under shaded and protected conditions are much more delicate than those reared without, and are bound to suffer if such shade or protection is suddenly removed. An example of this was proved on the shadeless plot at River Estate, where for a few years after the Immortelles had been removed the crop dropped below its average of former years, till eventually, when the trees became accustomed to the new conditions, the crop increased.

"When cacao is grown without shade, not only is it necessary to pay more attention to drainage, but it is also essential to give better agricultural condition by forking and manuring, and this the Grenada planter usually does in a very thorough manner. He endeavours as far as possible to keep a good tilth of his soil, and it is doubtful, if his efforts in these matters were relaxed, whether it would be possible to make a paying concern of cacao growing without shade. The actual position in Grenada seems to be that the planter endeavours by forking and manuring to do what Trinidad planters do largely with shade trees. The Trinidad planter protects his soil from loss of organic matter by the action of the sun and wind, and the Grenada planter replaces loss. The latter is no doubt preferable as long as it can be maintained economically, as in the shadeless fields of Grenada little loss from pod rot is to be observed, and this fact alone should more than compensate for considerable extra expense and labour. It is marvellous to see on certain of the exposed seaboard of Grenada in what good condition the trees are maintained by cultural measures, although the tops of the trees present a close clipped appearance from their exposure to the wind. The close planting referred to helps, of course, to a certain extent also the soil from exposure to the wind and sun. Whether this close planting will have an ultimate detrimental effect on the life of the tree remains to be seen, but it is very probable that it will.

"As regards manuring, the Grenada planter has been in the habit of treating his plantation fairly generously, as, besides the large amount of artificial manures recently applied, large quantities of pen manure were either bought from peasants or made on estates, it being quite a common practice for the estates labourers to take over the feeding of an animal, and to be paid for the manure. Horse beans (*Canavalia ensiformis*) are used to a large ex-

tent for the purpose of green manuring or mulching. On the best estates a system of rotation in manuring is practised—the first year pen manuring, the second green manuring, the third mulching, and the fourth artificial manuring.

"A good deal of attention is given to wind-breaks, Galha (*Calophyllum Culaba*) being one of the principal trees used, while the Almond (*Terminalia Catappa*), Cashew (*Anacardium Occidentale*), Mango (*Mangifera Indica*), and other trees are also used.

"After giving an account of the common pests met with, and their method of treatment, the lecturer stated that whereas, on a rough average, the return per acre would in Trinidad be from 5 to 6½ bags of 165 lbs. per acre, in Grenada it was from 7½ to 9 bags of 180 lbs. In conclusion, Mr. Williams said that the Agricultural Officers resident in the island were always at the service of planters and peasants (of the latter of which there was a considerable number growing cacao) for advice and demonstration in all matters connected with agriculture, while a stock of spraying materials was kept at the Botanic Gardens for sale or hire to planters, or for gifts to needy peasants. In addition, the Officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture paid occasional visits to the island."

A paper was recently read before the Society of Public Analysts by Messrs. Francis G. H. Tate, F.I.C., and John W. Pooley, B.Sc., A.I.C., on the subject of detection and estimation of illipé butter used as a substitute for cacao butter. This fat, says the *Confectioners' Journal*, does not appear to have received that consideration which its extensive use and close similarity to cacao butter demands, stated the authors. In the state in which it is usually offered for sale, it can be distinguished from cacao butter by the absence of the typical smell of the latter and by its green colour. In order to investigate the physical and chemical features of these two fats, a number of samples were obtained and tests made. The fats were extracted direct from test samples of chocolates received from different sources, and the method invariably indicated percentages of illipé butter approximating very closely to the actual. In no case had illipé butter been indicated where not present, or missed when used in manufacture. The following properties were considered: Specific gravity at 60°/15.5° C., and at 90°/15.5° C., co-efficient of expansion, viscosity, melting point, iodine value (Wijfs), refraction [N] 40/D (Zeiss), saponification equivalent, mean molecular weight of fatty acids, melting point of free fatty acids, and "titre" test on fatty acids. The authors gave tables of their results and observations, and in conclusion pointed out that they did not regard this investigation as completed. Further work was proceeding, and

more data being accumulated. Their work had been done on the fat known commercially by that name, which in its individual, physical and chemical constants could not be differentiated with certainty from cacao butter.

Fruit Inspection in Jamaica.

THE "Fruit Inspection Law (No. 25 of 1921)," which has been passed by the Jamaica Legislature and will come into operation upon such date as shall be fixed by the Governor in a Notice to be published in the *Gazette*, empowers the Governor-in-Council by means of Proclamations published in the *Gazette* to prohibit or govern the buying, selling, or exporting of immature fruit, when it has come to his knowledge that it has become the practice in the Colony to buy, sell, or export such fruit. The expression "fruit" is defined to mean bananas and citrus fruit, and any fruit which the Governor may declare to be fruit for the purposes of this Law, and the expression "immature fruit" is defined to mean fruit which in the opinion of an inspector appointed under this Act would on arrival at the port to which it is intended to be exported be regarded as insufficiently mature or full.



A Gouty Yam from Antigua.

A Remarkable Yam.

The CIRCULAR is indebted to Mr. Jose Anjo for the photograph of a remarkably human-looking yam, which is reproduced above. At first sight it might be taken for the foot of a victim of elephantiasis. It is a matter for regret that this delightful vegetable has not been obtainable in this country since the war. The yam (*Dioscorea* sp) only requires to be known to be appreciated, for many prefer it infinitely to the potato, whether sweet or otherwise. This esculent tuber assumes many shapes and sizes, and though its exterior may be unpromising in appearance, its interior is soft, floury, and particularly appetising when properly cooked.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

By "Agronomist."

A suitable fertiliser for pineapples in Australia contains 3 per cent. nitrogen, 3 per cent. potash, and 15 per cent. phosphoric acid, and is usually applied at the rate of 8 cwt. per acre, about two months after planting. Six months afterwards a dressing of dried blood is made.

* * *

A good test of the purity of beeswax is to put a piece the size of a small nut into a test tube, add spirits of turpentine, and carefully warm over the flame of a spirit lamp. If the solution is cloudy, or a deposit is thrown down, the wax is adulterated, as pure beeswax is completely soluble in spirits of turpentine.

* * *

It is reported that the United States Department of Agriculture has evolved a way of extracting phosphoric acid from phosphatic rocks for manure purposes by heating the mineral phosphate with sand and coke, the resulting product containing 64 per cent. of phosphoric acid as against the 16 per cent. ordinarily obtained by the sulphuric acid process, in a soluble form.

* * *

The Australian beet sugar industry, although very small in extent, is still alive, and the beet-growers of the Mafia district are endeavouring to obtain Government sanction for an increase of the price paid for the beets from 35/- to 40/- per ton, and aid for the re-modelling of the factory. They also suggest the purchase of land by the Government for the purpose of being leased for beet growing.

* * *

The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* for September contains a leading article on the question of the effect of prohibition on the consumption of coffee in the United States, and the conclusion that the writer arrives at is that it is pretty evident that a considerable increase in consumption has resulted, although it is early days to gauge the effect. If the present *per caput* consumption of 12 lbs. is maintained for two or three years the evidence will be stronger.

* * *

At a lecture given recently at the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the dehydration of fruit for commercial purposes, the lecturer stated that recently, when in Edinburgh, he purchased a pound of dried pineapple, which he consumed on the journey from that city to London. Although the quality was inferior, he experienced no ill-effects, and was convinced that as a sweetmeat dried pineapple would find a market anywhere in the world.

* * *

Every eater of water-melons would be glad if the seeds could be abolished. This feat has, according to a Chicago newspaper, been accomplished, a car-load of seedless melons having arrived in that city. These came from New Mexico, and were produced

by covering the end of the vine when growth has arrived at three or four feet in length with earth. The end takes root, and it is then cut loose from the old root. The first blooms are then plucked, and the melons grown from the second are seedless.

* * *

The cultivation of coffee in Venezuela began in 1784. It is produced in the temperate regions at altitudes of 1,500 to 6,500 feet above sea level, the average tree producing annually about a quarter of a pound of berries. The number of trees under cultivation is stated to be 260,000,000, and the capital invested in the industry \$16,000,000. The *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal* gives the imports of Venezuelan coffee into the United States as having been 53,654,080 lbs. in 1918, 109,777,831 lbs. in 1919, and 65,971,000 lbs. in 1920.

* * *

The oil-palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) is found on the coast lands of West Africa, in a district stretching from the Senegal to the Congo, 2,485 miles in length, and from 30 to 620 miles in depth. As the palm grows equally well throughout this area, which must necessarily contain many kinds of soil, it would appear that it does not require any special description of soil, although the best results are obtained with not too heavy, rich soils. A minimum rainfall of 40 inches per annum is, however, essential. The oil palm, however, is not restricted to coast lands, but is also found at altitudes of from 4,000 to 4,750 feet above sea level. It is at present singularly free from pests and diseases.

* * *

In 1920 the total coffee production of the Dutch East Indies, comprising Java, Sumatra, Celebes, and Bali, was 109,805,176 lbs., while the estimate from these sources for 1921 is 133,975,504 lbs. The bulk of the coffee grown is of the Robusta variety, the other varieties being Liberian and Java. In 1920, 83.5 per cent. of the coffee was Robusta, 13.7 per cent. Java, and 3.3 per cent. Liberian; but the cultivation of the Java and Liberian varieties is being given up, the proportions in 1921 being: Robusta, 91.8 per cent.; Java, 5.4 per cent.; and Liberian, 2.8 per cent.

* * *

Beeswax is secreted in the body of the worker bee from pollen and honey. The bees fill their stomachs with honey, and hang on the hive in chain-like clusters, remaining perfectly quiet for twenty-four hours. A considerable amount of pollen is consumed to make up for the wear and tear during wax secretion. During this period the wax glands convert the honey taken from the body into liquid wax, which exudes through tiny perforations into eight small pockets situated on the under-side of the last four abdominal segments, where it hardens into small white scales. It is then made plastic by the addition of saliva, and utilised for the building of the comb, the hermetic sealing of the honey cells, and, with the addition of pollen, for the porous sealing of brood cells.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENTS.

An Object Lesson in Bermuda.

As already announced in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, the Bermuda Development Co. has been organised in Bermuda by Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd., who have purchased a tract of over six hundred acres of land at Tucker's Town, about half way between Hamilton and St. George's, with the object of erecting upon it an attractive up-to-date hotel, and also a number of bungalows for visitors. The hotel will, it is said, have a fine 18-hole golf course and club house, besides tennis courts and bathing facilities for both surf bathing and smooth water bathing. Mr. Charles D. Whitmore, of Warren & Whitmore, will be the architect of the hotel, and Mr. Charles B. McDonald, a well known New York banker, and one of the greatest experts on golf courses, has also visited Bermuda quite recently. Under his advice Mr. Seth Raynor, an expert, is now laying out the course at Tucker's Town, which it is hoped will be completed early next spring.

Mr. A. J. Outerbridge, who recently returned to New York from a visit to Bermuda, recently gave to a representative of the CIRCULAR some further particulars regarding this development, which will, no doubt, be watched with close interest in the West Indies, which are far behind the neighbouring Colony in the matter of hotel accommodation.

The new hotel will command wonderful views, including the ocean on one side, Castle Harbour on the other, with fine beaches for both surf and smooth water bathing, and also the beautiful rolling country included in the six hundred acres tract. It is proposed to construct about eight miles of bridle paths for horseback riding throughout the property. It is expected that the construction of the hotel will be begun very shortly, but the building will hardly be ready for occupancy for a couple of years.

Meanwhile, Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd. have purchased the Hotel St. George, at St. George's, which they are now renovating and improving with an outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, etc., and there is a nine-hole golf course immediately adjoining, which belongs to the Bermuda Government, but over which the hotel guests have the privilege of playing. It is the intention to run a large motor-boat from St. George's across the Sound to Tucker's Town property and the golf courses, and when the entire development is completed it will enable the Furness Bermuda Line to operate more steamers on the "New York—Bermuda Route."

WE are pleased to see that Professor Mackenzie, Director of the Cambridge University Experimental Farm, in a lecture to the Cambridge Branch of the National Farmers' Union on "How to eke out roots, hay and straw," has recommended the use of "Molascuit" in the rations of all animals. It is hoped that this will lead to an increased demand for this product among British farmers.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 480.)

A Tabaquite Gusher.

The chief object of interest in this oil-field was the gusher. Now, there are gushers and gushers. In the heavy oil areas of Fyzabad and Vessigny, on the west side of the island, the pressure of gas, suddenly released when Nature's reservoir is reached by the drill, at times blows the drilling tools out of the well sky high, with an immense fountain of petroleum which deluges the surrounding district. In the light oil region this phenomenon is not seen, and the gushers are more orderly. The one which we were shown was evidently on its best behaviour, oil and gas alternately spouting from the well with a rushing noise resembling that made by a single cylinder steam engine.

As already indicated, the oil yielded in the Tabaquite district is exceptionally light in character, containing as it does no less than 45 per cent. of gasoline. We were, indeed, told that a motor-car had been actually run on crude oil from these wells without mishap as far as Port of Spain. There was, however, no need to make a further experiment of this kind, since the Trinidad Central Oilfields have their own refineries, and supply motor-spirit to the passing traveller from one of those ingenious roadside pumps which automatically measure the quantity to be delivered with a precision which seems quite uncanny.

The price charged for the petrol seemed remarkably reasonable when compared with that demanded in London and New York; but the local agricultural community—who regarded the newly-fledged oil industry with distrust and suspicion, fearing that it would pollute their streams and filch their labour supply complained that it was exorbitant, and that Trinidad people should be privileged to purchase Trinidad oil at a rate far below that at which gasoline could be imported. This seemed somewhat inconsistent, since many of these self-same agriculturists were protesting vehemently against being compelled by the local Government to sell a proportion of their sugar crops at a figure below the world's price for the benefit of the local consumer. The question of the pollution of the rivers was also a very burning one, but it has now been adjusted by the passing of an Ordinance which has gone far towards meeting the views of agriculturists, and has been accepted by the oil companies. There remains the complaint that labour is being diverted from agriculture to the production of oil. Statistics published by the local Inspector of Mines show, however, that the daily average number of persons employed in the local oil industry was only 4,046 last year, so that it cannot be said that it has any serious foundation as yet.

Mr. Alexander Duckham was the first to exploit the light oils of Trinidad which are yielded by the central anticlines. He came across indications of their presence during a visit to the island in 1910,

and invoked the assistance of Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, who reported favourably on the prospects of the field. As the outcome, a company was formed in 1911 to exploit the area. Having satisfied himself as to the potentialities of Trinidad as an oil producing country, Mr. Duckham proceeded to extend his interests to other parts of the island. Separate syndicates for the purpose of prospecting were formed, and in February, 1917, these were incorporated in the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd., which holds by way of lease and prospecting licences the oil rights over some 70,000 acres. The company has its own railway siding connected with the Caparo branch of the Government railway, and a pipe-line running for a distance of eighteen miles, from Tabaquite to Claxton Bay, where it has storage tanks of over 10,000 tons capacity, a pumping station and a pipe-line for delivering the oil straight to tank steamers.

With our petrol tank replenished, we now sped on past Rio Claro, a rising hamlet of wooden houses, now the terminus of the Caparo branch of the railway, past cultivation of proprietor and peasant, through glades and over streams and the larger Ortoire river, until we reached Beaumont, where we received a hearty welcome from Mr. Dolly. His trim little house, so characteristic of many others occupied by managers and small proprietors in the island, is built of wood all, alas, imported, for little attempt has been made to exploit the forests of the West Indies for building timber. It stands about fifty or sixty yards from the beach, in a coconut grove, with an irregular avenue of tall palms leading down to the shore. Behind it is a well-kept yard, with cacao-curing houses and raised drying floors or boucans, on which the cacao nibs and the kernels of the coconut are dried in the sun, each provided with moveable roof on wheels, that can be hurriedly run over it when a shower comes on. Behind these, again, is a green pasture for the live stock, and, beyond all, acre upon acre of coconut palms in every stage of growth and development, straggling over hill and dale.

The tropical beach at Mayaro would be a perfect paradise for a beach-comber content with what Nature has to offer. It is a treasure house of shells and molluscs, and of strange nuts and woods carried across from the continent of South America by the outflow of her mighty rivers. Here he would find the quaint "Portuguese Men of War," looking, when stranded on the sand, like iridescent soap-bubbles, and resembling when afloat miniature fleets of tiny ships drifting before the wind with their little sails hoisted. He would see, too, as the tiny wavelets following each other in row upon row expended themselves on the sand and receded, the surface of the water agitated as if by rain drops, and he would find that this was due to the little fish known as "gros-yeux," which are as elusive as the land crabs, that would swiftly sidle into their holes as though drawn in by a string held by an invisible hand as he approached.

With an abundance of coconuts to supply him

with "meat" and "milk," no one need ever starve at Mayaro. If, however, a diet of nuts became too monotonous, all that he would need to do would be to take a sieve-full of sand and sift it with water. He would then find left behind many tiny shells of the diameter of a shilling-piece. These would be the little "chip chips" which make an excellent soup. With a little more exertion and piscatorial knowledge, he would secure an abundance of fish; and the size of the catches along this coast made one wonder that the people should prefer that thirst-making abomination, salt fish, to the fresh article which is in their seas in immense quantities, and also in their rivers. Of the sea fish alone, Mr. Harry Vincent, Trinidad's Izaak Walton, identified no fewer than 116 species, of which 85 are recognised as being good for food.* Mr. Vincent showed that the total weight of fresh fish entered at Port of Spain fish market in 1908 was 1,527,956 lbs., or an average of 4,186 lbs. per day—a small enough ration for a population of between 50,000 and 60,000—while in the same year salt and smoked fish to the value of about £85,000 was imported from Canada and Venezuela. He expressed the confident belief that Trinidad could be rendered more self-supporting in respect of fish, and that the price of that important item of food could be materially reduced if the local fishing industry were developed. To this end he advocated the purchase of a steam trawler, which could then have been purchased on the Clyde for £1,800, equipped and complete. Nothing, however, came of the suggestion, and last year Trinidad paid away no less than £149,713 for imported fish.

At daybreak on the following morning we were awakened by the mellow notes of the Conch—a shell which, by the simple expedient of lopping off its sharp extremity, is made to perform the function of a horn. This proved to be the "driver"—the suggestive name, like the use of the conch, survives from the bad old days of slavery—summoning the labour gang to work, and shortly afterwards we could hear the chatter and merry laughter of the negroes and East Indians as they "danced" the cacao from an estate aback on the drying floor. The object of this process, which partakes more of the nature of a shuffle with the bare feet than of a dance, is to remove the pulp adhering to the cacao-beans after they have been sweated or allowed to ferment in large boxes specially prepared for the purpose.

Breakfast over, we rode along the beach and into the coconut grove. Here one realised that it is altogether a mistake to suppose that this prolific palm does not respond to careful cultivation. Mr. Dolly showed us how a single diseased tree could infect its neighbours, and impressed us by his novel method of securing an even distribution of manure. Instead of allowing cattle to roam at their will through the plantation, which might lead to one part of it being more favoured than another, he ties a heast to each tree—as far as the numbers of the stock permit in such a way that the full extent of its perambulation can only be round and round that tree. Next day the beasts are removed

* "The Sea Fish of Trinidad," by Harry Vincent.

to other trees, and the manure which they leave behind them on their last camping ground is well forked in just where it is needed—a system which struck one as particularly economical. Mr. Dolly also showed his ingenuity by his coconuted roads. Granite and similar materials needed for Mr. Maradám's process being at a premium in this remote district, Mr. Dolly uses instead the husks of coconuts, which afford an excellent surface on the loose sands behind the beach.

From Mayaro we extended our tour to Guayaguayare, another superb bay on the south coast, admirably sheltered from the north-east trade wind by the promontory which Columbus called "La Galera," because of its resemblance to a ship. The point is now better known as "Galeota," some old-time geographer having arbitrarily and without any real justification transferred the name Galera to the north-east promontory—an error perpetuated by the maps of the island ever after.

On his third voyage Columbus made a vow that he would dedicate the first land sighted in the New World to the Holy Trinity, and it was a remarkable coincidence that after Alonzo Perez of Huelva had descried the island on July 31st, 1498, Columbus should have seen the summits of three mountains to remind him of his vow. From that moment the island became *Trinidad*—Trinity—now corrupted into Trinidad. The three mountains or hills which the great discoverer first sighted have been identified as those now called the Three Sisters, which lie to the east of Guayaguayare Bay.

The high road from Manzanilla to Guayaguayare, except where it dips inland behind the promontories, is the firm sandy beach. Having no groynes or breakwaters whatever, it serves its purpose admirably, and must relieve the Public Works Department of much trouble and anxiety, since it is levelled every day by the tides. It would make a wonderful track for motor races, and is much used for carting produce to the points of shipment into the coastal steamer.

Where the road goes inland behind Mayaro it passes what must surely be one of the wonders of Trinidad. Going down the islands from St. Thomas we had seen avenues of cabbage palms and many single trees, but here was an actual forest of these noble giants standing shoulder to shoulder in serried ranks, each tree as straight and tall as a Norwegian scaffold-pole, and each surmounted by a mass of immense leaves, which by comparison with the tall stems looked light and feathery. It would have been worth coming all the way from Port of Spain to see this remarkable forest alone!

(To be continued.)

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailing
B'dor & T'dad	Dover	Stuyvesant	Nov 26
Jamaica	Liverpool	Manzanares	" 28
Jamaica	Bristol	Motagua	" 29
B'dor & T'dad	Liverpool	Antillian	Dec. 2
West Indies	London	Intaba	" 2
Jamaica	Bristol	Camito	" 5

WEST INDIA 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.

Advices from our correspondents overseas are now arriving more regularly, as will be noted from the letters, extracts from which are given below. It would be too soon as yet to state that the trade depression is over, but in several directions improvement may be noted. The favourable prices obtaining for Sea Island cotton have been a satisfactory feature; cacao has been moving more readily, and arrangements for financing the coming sugar crop appear to have been made. The unemployment problem, caused by the influx of returned emigrants who left for Cuba during the "boom," is likely to be aggravated by arrivals from the Panama Canal Zone, where numbers of British West Indians are being discharged by the Administration and are, it is said, now in a serious plight. Relief measures are being adopted by the Government of Jamaica. Meanwhile, Mr. Adamson draws an interesting picture of the plight of some of the prodigals who endeavoured unsuccessfully to effect a landing at Barbados, conditions of the overcrowding of the schooner recalling the worst features of the old days of slavery.

The Water Problem in Antigua.

Hon Donald McDonald, writing on October 15th, states that rain has continued to fall over the entire Island, doing a great deal of good to the crops. So far, however, nothing like the heavy pond rains, required after so long a drought, have fallen; and Walling's Reservoir and the Boly Ponds, the sources of the Island's water supply, are still unable to provide a water service, which has now been locked off for a considerable time.

His Excellency Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, Acting Governor, has lost no time in dealing with the many questions of importance awaiting settlement. The Preferential Import Duties have been extended to goods from the British West Indies, as was originally intended. The matters of improved water supply and roads have also engaged His Excellency's attention. As the outcome of a meeting at Government House recently, when the whole subject was dealt with, the Agricultural and Commercial Society have since passed a resolution urging that a loan be raised in order to improve the water supply and put the roads in a satisfactory condition.

Permission has been given to the Antigua Electric Light Co. to continue erecting posts and running wires in St. John's, and this important undertaking bids fair to be an accomplished fact at an early date.

The rates of money orders on Canada and the United States have been raised to correspond with the rate of exchange with those countries.

The Ven. Archdeacon Farquhar, who left Antigua, his birthplace, over thirty years ago to proceed to the Rio Pongo as a missionary has re-visited the Island recently, receiving a very hearty welcome from one and all. After a short stay, the Archdeacon intends returning to his mission.

Drainage Scheme for Barbados.

A fortnight's favourable weather has brought great improvement in the appearance of the canes, according to the *Advocate* of October 25th. With the break up of the drought, the typhoid epidemic has considerably abated.

The Brazilian battleship *Minas Geraes* paid a visit to the Island, and the officers were entertained by the Acting Brazilian Consul, Mr. Frank Walrond, but the men were not allowed shore leave as a precaution against influenza.

The Legislature was due to meet again on October 25th, after the long adjournment, one of the questions to be discussed being that of amalgamating the offices of Superintendent of Public Works and Manager of the Water Works.

Mr. Howard Humphrey's report on a drainage scheme for Bridgetown is now published. The estimated cost of the proposed work is £43,822, and it is pointed out that a city which is "a combination of dense central congestion and long straggling suburbs can never be drained very economically." Mr. Humphrey thinks that, in spite of economic depression, it will pay to take a forward step in the matter of drainage at once, as although it is well known that Barbados has the finest climate in the West Indies, the knowledge that sanitary matters have been neglected has had the effect of keeping many American tourists away.

British Guiana Election Results.

Mr. J. V. Fitz-Patrick, writing on October 25th, reports the results of the General Election for the Combined Court of Policy as follows:—

Georgetown.—Members of Court of Policy: Mr. P. N. Browne, K.C. (re-elected) and Mr. M. Nascimento.

Financial Representative: Mr. J. E. Strickland

East Demerara.—M.C.P.: Mr. J. S. McArthur (re-elected).

West Demerara.—M.C.P.: Mr. J. J. Da Silva.

County of Demerara: F.R.: Mr. E. M. Walcott.

New Amsterdam.—M.C.P.: Mr. E. G. Woolford (re-elected, unopposed). F.R.: Mr. John O. Dow.

County of Berbice.—M.C.P.: Mr. J. A. Abbensetts (re-elected, unopposed). F.R.: Mr. A. R. F. Webber.

North West Essequibo. M.C.P.: Mr. R. E. Brassington (re-elected, unopposed). F.R.: Mr. J. W. Galbene (re-elected, unopposed).

South East Essequibo.—M.C.P.: Mr. Francis Dias (re-elected, unopposed). F.R.: Mr. J. A. Luckhoo (re-elected).

The weather has been remarkable for the time of year, and there have been several small showers during the course of each 24 hours. On the East Coast 14 or 15 inches of rain have fallen, as compared with less than an inch for the corresponding period last year. Sir John Harrison points out that in the Agricultural Department's rainfall records, which extend from 1846, the present year is the only one with a record of nearly 6 inches in the first fortnight of October. No serious damage, however, to cultivation is reported as a result of this exceptional rainfall.

The negotiations between the Government and Major Cochran-Patrick, of the Bermuda and West Atlantic Aviation Co., with a view to the latter bringing one of his machines that have been engaged in oil prospecting in Venezuela to the Colony to give a demonstration of aerial survey, seem likely to be successful.

In addition to the concessions mentioned in last CIRCULAR, the Sugar Planters' Association are also

requesting the Government for the creation of a Sugar Board of Control, for a guarantee to the Banks against loss on advances to estates, and for the suspension of the sinking funds for Sea Defence Loans in respect of 1921-22.

As the result of the recent protracted control of rice, which formed the subject of representations by The West India Committee this year, the industry is in a critical state. A deputation of farmers led by Rev. W. G. Burgan, was granted an interview by His Excellency Cecil Clementi on October 11th, when it was pointed out that the farmers were unable to meet the advances already made to them by the merchants, that owing to the unremunerative price that paddy was fetching, further advances were not forthcoming, and that without assistance the coming crop could not be reaped. On His Excellency's suggestion, the farmers are submitting concrete proposals to the Government as to the form the relief should take, and it is understood that the Government will grant assistance through the Loan Banks.

On October 10th, the total subscribed to the Government's five million dollar loan was \$842,550.

Since the departure of Dr. G. M. Vevers, who was recently engaged on an investigation of the incidence of filaria among the Aboriginal Indians of the North West, the work of the Filaria Commission has been carried on, says the *Argosy*, by Dr. J. Anderson.

His Excellency Cecil Clementi, who has been on a tour of inspection of the North West District, a region which is greater than the combined area of Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands, but has a population of only 5,000 souls, states in an interview given to the *Argosy* that this district is more suitable for settlement by immigrants than any other part of the Colony, and it is now at last comparatively accessible by roads. Further surveys are in progress as the result of which it is hoped that overland communication may be established with the great highways of the Colony as they exist today. Mr. Clementi is convinced that the future of the District should be agricultural and that the inhabitants will do well to put their faith in limes, coffee and rice rather than gold or oil.

Dr. J. H. Conyers, who was born in the Colony 57 years ago, and was the second Guiana scholar, has retired from the office of Surgeon-General.

The deaths are reported of Mr. A. D. Mearns, son of Mr. W. Mearns, late Manager of P.N. Hope, at the age of 21, and of Mrs. Carlos Gomez, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Dias at the age of 26.

"Taxpayers" unite in British Honduras.

Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E., writing on October 28th, states that notice has been given in the Legislative Council of the following resolution:—

"Resolved that in the opinion of this Council the time has arrived for amending the existing political constitution of this Colony by providing either partly or entirely for the elective principle of representation on the Legislative Council instead of the nomination of all the Unofficial Members by His Excellency the Governor as at present and it is further Resolved that His Excellency the Governor be asked to forward this Resolution to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies requesting that steps may be taken by the Appointment of a Commission or otherwise to consider and advise on the best means by which proposals for the

change may be submitted for the gracious approval of His Majesty the King."

The *Clarion* records the formation of a British Honduras Taxpayers' Association, with Hon. A. R. Usher, M.B.E., as President, and Mr. H. H. Cain as Secretary. Whilst the primary object of the new body will be the protection of taxpayers, the promoters hope also to foster a healthy public opinion in the Colony, and educate the people politically and patriotically, at the same time acting as a medium between Government and citizens. Membership is confined to taxpayers, but "as everybody who eats pays indirect taxation, in effect the membership is thrown open to everybody above twenty-one years of age."

Claim for Representation in Dominica.

At a meeting held at St. Gerard's Hall, Roseau, on November 28th, and attended by over two thousand people, Mr. J. R. H. Bridgewater, M.L.C., moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. C. G. Harris, and carried with enthusiasm.

"That the present system of Crown Colony Government is unsuited to the requirements of Dominica, and that the time has arrived when the people of Dominica should be granted a measure of Popular Representation on the Councils of Government."

A further resolution urging the withdrawal of Dominica from the Leeward Islands Confederacy was moved by Mr. S. L. V. Green, seconded by Mr. J. H. Steber, and also carried unanimously. The meeting, which was probably the largest ever held in the capital, was presided over by Mr. A. R. C. Lockhart, who was supported on the platform by Mr. C. E. A. Rawle, Acting Chairman of the Roseau Town Board; Mr. J. R. H. Bridgewater, M.L.C.; Mr. S. Didier, M.L.C.; Mr. S. L. V. Green, Senior Elected Member of the Roseau Town Board, Mr. C. G. Phillip, and Messrs. W. C. Winston, C. G. Harris, L. I. Corriette, Gerald Grell, P. W. Bellot, J. P., J. H. Steber and T. P. Etienne.

Mr. Marryshow returns to Grenada.

Mr. T. Albert Marryshow arrived back from his mission to England on October 20th. There were 67 Grenadians on board the repatriation ship which was sent by the Cuban authorities to St. Kitts and Barbados with West Indian labourers, and the *West Indian* takes the Government of the latter Colony to task for not allowing these men to land, thus causing their return to Cuba. For the first time in the history of Grenada, says our contemporary, all the Members of the Executive Council are Grenadians, as also is the Hon. N. J. Paterson, the officer administering the Government.

At a recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. John Barclay presiding, it was agreed that the Government's statement that when any amendments were being made to the Income Tax Ordinance, the Chamber's suggestions would be considered, was not sufficiently definite, and it was decided to ask when the clauses considered defective would be amended. It was also agreed to ask on behalf of the Chamber for the right to recommend for nomination one of the three unofficial members of the Legislative Council, who under the new constitution are to be appointed by the Governor.

Mr. John A. Harbin, who came to Grenada 37 years ago, the Inspector of Schools, has resigned, his duties at present being performed by the Assistant Inspector, Mr. H. H. Pilgrim.

A Chinese Feast in Jamaica.

The question of the Panama disease of bananas was considered by the Jamaica Agricultural Society on October 20th. A report by Mr. Adam Roxburgh discloses a serious state of affairs. It states that the disease is far more prevalent than is commonly supposed. The Claremont Branch urges far more rigid enforcement of preventive regulations, and points out that the disease has continually spread during several years, until it now covers an area of roughly 20 miles extending from St. Ann's Bay to Pedro River, and unless precautions are taken it is only a matter of time before the whole banana industry is extinct in this district.

At a public meeting at Montego Bay, on October 19th, which was addressed by Hon. A. G. Nash, Hon. Rev. W. T. Graham, Hon. D. F. Wint, Hon. Rev. G. L. Young, and Hon. P. F. Lightbody, a resolution was passed unanimously, endorsing the movement for reforming the Island's Constitution. There are now two distinct movements, one in favour of full representation and another advocating a measure of representation only.

The 1st Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment reached Kingston in the troopship *Brandenburg*, on October 19th, and relieved the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

A proposal has been put forward by Messrs. Fred L. Myers & Son for the establishment by legislation of a compulsory bonding period of one, two, or three years for rum consumed in the Island, with a sliding scale in the excise duty to permit of the older rums being advantageously sold. They point out that there is sufficient fully matured rum in Jamaica for the scheme to be worked.

On October 27th, Mr. E. H. Chanalloy, J.L.R. presided at a banquet given by the Chinese community in honour of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese Republic. The function took place at the Myrtle Bank Hotel, and there were about 60 guests, including Mr. C. L. Latham, the United States Consul, Mr. R. W. Bryant, Mayor of Kingston, and Mr. H. G. de Lisser.

Mr. Charles Hope Levy has been sworn in as Custos of St. Thomas.

The Jamaica press is urging that the British Exhibition Ship should visit the British West Indies. The question of building a light railway in order to enable settlers on Crown lands in remote districts to send their produce to market, is being considered by the Government. A Bill to enable foreign companies to hold land in Jamaica has been introduced in the Legislative Council by the Attorney General. Under this Bill, the Government will be empowered to collect a fee for the licence to such companies to acquire land in the Island, and to refuse without assigning reasons any application for the licence.

St. Kitts "Transport" Scandal.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, writing on October 22nd, refers again to the schooner, which put in at Basseterre with returned labourers from Cuba some weeks back (See CIRCULAR of October 13th, page 438), and being refused permission to land any passengers, proceeded to Barbados. It now appears there were 28 deaths in all on the ship, 16 of which occurred between St. Kitts and Barbados, whilst several of the living were lying on deck in a comatose state on arrival at Bridgetown. Of the 64 passengers said to belong to St. Kitts, only 11 really answered this description, for

it is reported that the Captain, having people for Antigua, Montserrat and Dominica, thought it would be a good idea to get rid of them all at Basseterre.

On October 20th, the planters entertained the staff of the Basseterre Factory at a most enjoyable function. Originally intended for a cricket match pure and simple, between planters and factory staff, it was soon agreed to invite an audience and to wind up the entertainment with a dance. The planters went in first and made 112 for 3 wickets and declared, and Mr. Gordon's side, whose strength was considerably augmented by outside assistance, put up 81 for 5 wickets. Stumps had to be drawn early to allow for adjournment to Brighton House to negotiate the ample meal before dark, after which dancing soon started. His Honour the Administrator and Mrs. Burdon, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Poyser were among the guests. For the planters, Dr. Clarke scored 49 and W. E. Watlyn 42 not out; on Mr. Gordon's side the principal scores were himself 25, Dr. E. Branch 20, and T. Branch 15. Altogether it was a most enjoyable outing and much

dency by the storm of September 8th. Of the above number, 563 were in the Grenadine dependencies, which suffered the severest effects. The prompt relief measures, on which £3,000 was voted in all, undertaken by the Government, through District Committees, have helped to alleviate the original distress. The Colony was fortunate in having built up a reserve fund. In spite of the return of numbers of labourers from Cuba, the *Sentry* does not fear an unemployment problem, as there is no over-population, and the land can support all.

His Honour R. Popham Lobb has personally investigated the wreckage off Petit Savan, 20 miles south of St. Vincent, and no doubt remains of its identity as part of the ill-fated schooner *Majestic*, overtaken by the September storm, when on a voyage from Demerara to Barbados with pupils for Harrison's College and other passengers on board, of whom all are presumed drowned. Charges of looting are to be brought against certain inhabitants of Bequia in connection with this wreck.



An Intercolonial Cricket Match in Trinidad.

This photograph was taken during the recent match between Trinidad and Barbados on the spacious grounds of the Queen's Park Cricket Club. It will be noted that some spectators have ingeniously overcome the pay gate difficulty by mounting ladders.

appreciated by everybody and its success was largely due to the successful organisation of Mr. George Yearwood and the hearty assistance of other planters.

Mr. G. C. Johnson, the Treasurer, returned to the Island by s.s. *Guiano* on the 15th inst., looking in the pink of condition after his holiday in England. Mrs. Johnson remains on the other side for some months more.

The Price of Limes in St. Lucia.

The Agricultural Department has recently been paying 2s. per barrel of sound ripe limes and 3d. per gallon of pure lime juice testing 12 oz. and over, brought to the Government Factory at Castries.

In welcoming His Honour F. D. Laborde, J.S.O., as Acting Administrator on June 30th, Hon. G. Williams said that the Colony was passing through a serious crisis, for apart from the slump in the price of its products, the once thriving coasting trade had all but disappeared.

Hurricane Losses in St. Vincent.

The official reports give 1,861 inhabited houses as the total number destroyed or damaged in the Presi-

The Royal Sussex Leave Trinidad.

Mr. George F. Huggins has been asked by the Chamber of Commerce to reconsider his resignation of the office of Vice-President of that body, but adheres to his previous decision, adducing as his reasons his state of health, and the fact that the question of the Conference Lines is again to come up for consideration. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Alexander Rae, has also resigned, owing to his numerous other duties.

The detachment of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, commanded by Colonel G. Impey, was due to leave the Colony at the end of October by the troopship *Blankenburg* from Jamaica. Farewell functions arranged in the detachment's honour included a football match against an All Trinidad eleven, a dinner to the officers given by the officers of the local forces and a dance at the St. Clair Club.

The publication of the Warden's reports for 1920 reveals the fact that the sanitary condition of some of the villages is not altogether satisfactory. The general state of health in the County of Caroni, for instance, is shown not to be so good as in previous years, and it is pointed out that little improvement can be hoped for until the proposed scheme for laying concrete drains is carried out.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

The State of Dominica.

SIR,—I crave permission for space in the columns of your valuable paper with reference to a matter of some public importance.

The effect of the financial strain in these islands, consequent on the depreciation in the value of their products is driving some of them, and even those with alleged recuperative abilities, full speed into a state of bankruptcy.

It is known beyond controversy that the conditions which exist almost everywhere, in both the Old and New Worlds, are the results of the four years conflagration in Europe; and although the United States of America appears to be the only nation which emerged profitably under those circumstances, her proposal to the other powers for disarmament leaves the impression that she, with her acquired wealth, considers retrenchment an important factor in the world's reconstruction, hence she undertakes to extend the olive branch to the other belligerents. The Government of any country can only exist when provision is made for its maintenance and like other concerns, when new conditions arise threatening its financial existence the very best measures necessary to meet such conditions should promptly form the subject of thorough and exhaustive investigation.

It is not the purpose of this letter to discuss any blunders of our Legislative Body, nor its apparent lack of foresight in not providing against the possible depletion of financial resources consequent on an unprecedented world-wide conflict. The consequence of the action of our Legislative Council in raising within nine months from a comparatively small and impecunious community a gift of ten thousand pounds for the Mother Country is now being keenly felt; and though well deserving the favourable comment which it provoked at the time from the *Globe* as exceeding *per capita* contributions from any other country in the world, yet it stands to-day as evidence that our indiscretion in the matter was misplaced generosity and exceeded our ability for anticipating consequences that would have arisen.

In these abnormal times the condition of an empty Treasury in an impoverished country with its staple product a-begging on the continents, calls for serious, careful and cautious deliberations whereby practical solution of the problems confronting us can be confidently hoped for, by approaching the people as a first resort. Such an enquiry can be best instituted through the Chamber of Commerce whose recommendation, rather than that of a selected few (which latter may have nothing to risk from any error in judgment) should engage the earnest attention of the Council in framing any legislation at this time. It is highly probable that some of the suggestions emanating from the Chamber may be very helpful.

Any reasonable individual must admit that imports, especially items required by the poorer classes, such as flour, rice, biscuits, sugar, kerosene, clothing, etc., can bear no further taxation without seriously affecting the price of labour, which must ultimately be met by the planter. They, in turn, even without the recent pressure have been unable to make two ends meet. Whilst some estates are practically closed down, most others are in the market for sale. The

remaining few, except those having contracts to fill, can hardly cover working expenses.

In an agricultural as in a mineral or a manufacturing country it is the market value of the industry that regulates the purchasing power of the people. As a country suffers by any considerable drop in the price of its staple product, similarly its source of revenue is impaired and its capacity for taxation is reduced. This being an agricultural country the important question should be, what are the best means to encourage planters, already hard hit by the fall in the price of produce to continue their operations, rather than placing increased taxation on a country obviously unable to bear it. This step will eventually kill energy on their part to carry on with the consequent result of widespread unemployment through gradually but surely killing the goose which lays the golden egg by taxes in every direction.

I am of the humble opinion that if retrenchment is applied on a basis as is being recommended by those in authority in other hard hit countries with a few economic measures enforced by legislation somewhat on the lines contained in suggestions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, below, the necessity for increased taxation on commodities already referred to will have been obviated.

Increased taxation on the absolute necessities of life means increased cost of living to all, and in the case of the Government official his increased salary must be absorbed in proportion to the advanced cost of living which the increased taxation must mean for him. His salary will again become inadequate and there will be necessary increases *ad infinitum*.

If there must be taxation, it occurs to me the only sources that remain capable of being tapped are (1) a Head Tax on persons going abroad, (2) a Road Tax on residents in the Town of Roseau, (3) an Income Tax on those not now taxed for incomes. At present direct taxes are borne by everyone in the Island except by certain people living in the first town. When the period for collecting the Road Tax arrives, scores of labourers flock into Roseau and thus avoid payment besides filling Roseau with numerous idlers. It would seem therefore that they are the only ones in Dominica who are not made to feel by experience that such institutions as schools, hospitals, prisons, police, etc., have claims on them for maintenance.

In conclusion I beg to submit the following suggestions:—

- 1.—Retrenchment: (a) In public expenditure. (b) Amalgamation of some offices in such a way as not to impair the efficiency of the Civil Service. (c) Promotion to other Colonies of high salaried officials and filling the vacancies with cheaper men.
- 2.—Head Tax: A fee to be collected from all persons leaving the Presidency permanently for abroad.
- 3.—Road Tax at Roseau.
- 4.—Raising Savings Bank Interest to 4½ per cent. and so induce depositors, and make use of deposits.
- 5.—Issue of Paper Currency.
- 6.—Vagrancy Act: Compulsion of everyone to prove visible means of livelihood.
- 7.—Encouragement of provision gardens.
- 8.—Rigid punishment of prædial larceny: the offender to be humiliated by being compelled to cultivate a plot of land within an allotted time in the district where the offence was committed. The proceeds of garden to be applied to the use of such public institutions as hospitals, prisons, etc.
- 9.—Income Tax to be paid by those not yet assessed for same.

A. A. BARON.

WEST INDIES AT WESTMINSTER.**German Missionaries.**

Sir C. Yate was informed by Mr. Wood on October 26th that so far as the latter was aware, no German missionary had been permitted to return to any British Colony since the war.

Trinidad and Representation.

Replying to Colonel Wedgwood on November 1st, Mr. Edward Wood said that he would be enquiring into the question of representative government for Trinidad and Tobago during his forthcoming visit to the Colony, and meanwhile hoped that he would not be expected to make any statement on the subject.

Grenada Teachers' Salaries.

Mr. Wood informed Major Gray on November 10th, that representations on the subject of the conditions of service and remuneration of primary school teachers in Grenada had been made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies through the National Union of Teachers; but the proper course for the Grenada teachers was to make such representations to the Governor. Should they adopt this course and ask that he (Mr. Wood) should receive a deputation when he visited Grenada, he would be prepared to do so, if his other engagements permitted.

Kelham and the Sugar Duties.

Sir Arthur Boscawen, Minister of Agriculture, replying to Lieut.-Colonel Willey on November 10th, said that at the prevailing rates for wages and transport it was possible that the proposed minimum guaranteed price for next year's beet was below the present cost of production, but in addition to benefiting by any decrease in costs of production, the farmer would share equally with the company in any profits derived from any increase of sugar content above 16 per cent. and of sugar price above £43 per ton duty paid. As regards remitting Excise Duties, home-grown sugar was already receiving favourable treatment, the Standard Excise duty being 19s. 5½d. per cwt., as compared with 25s. 8d. on foreign sugar and 21s. 4¼d. on colonial sugar.

[For the beets now being handled the farmers received £4 per ton; but a price of £1 10s. only is foreshadowed for next campaign.]

The Constitutions of Grenada and St. Lucia.

Mr. Wood, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, informed Mr. Percy Hurd last month that the memorial signed by about 2,000 residents of St. Lucia, petitioning for a system of representative Government, had been received, and the signatories had been informed that as he (Mr. Wood) hoped, if possible, to visit St. Lucia during his forthcoming tour in the West Indies, he would then acquaint himself on the spot with public opinion regarding the suggested change in the constitution, and the Secretary of State would therefore defer considering the matter pending his return. As his (Mr. Wood's) visit was largely the result of this and similar representations, it did not seem unreasonable to delay a decision for three months.

As regards Grenada, a local Commission had investigated the details of the scheme for the introduction of an elective element into the Legislative Council, and their report was being considered. The main difference between the cases of Grenada and St. Lucia was that the request for representative institutions was received six months sooner from the one than the other.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.**Another Trinidad Oil Venture.**

An offer of 3,000,000 2/- shares in the Anglo-Burma Oil Company was published on October 31st. This concern has acquired the share capital of the New Indian Petroleum Company and 110 acres of freehold surface and mineral rights of the Allum Estate, and 700 acres of mineral rights close by, in Savanna Grande, for a cash payment of £81,000 and £40,000 in fully-paid shares, of which £21,000 in cash remains to be paid. Lord Carrick is Chairman of the Board of Directors, who include Mr. Charles E. F. Dumas, M.C.

Jamaica Salt Co., Ltd.

This private company was registered on September 6th. Capital, £5,000 in 4,000 Preference shares of £1 each and 10,000 Ordinary shares of 2s. each; to carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in salt and bye-products of salt manufacture, chemicals of all kinds, including magnesium chloride and sulphate, magnesium bromide and iodide, potassium chloride and sulphate and potash salts, and any derivative from salt or sea water; importers, exporters, brokers, refrigerators, shipowners, charterers of ships or vessels, etc.; to acquire, improve and cultivate estates, lands, and hereditaments in the West Indies, and to adopt an agreement with A. T. W. Henshaw. Registered office 23, Austin Friars, E.C.2

Trinidad Lands Reclamation, Ltd.

This is the title of a company which has been registered with a nominal capital of £100,000 in £1 shares, to acquire land, mineral properties, and mining, water, forest cutting, and other rights in Trinidad or elsewhere; to adopt an agreement with Spurling and Co., etc. The first directors are:—Mr. D. Elliott Alves, President, British Controlled Oilfields; Sir E. Mackay Edgar, Bart., Mr. A. T. Teniers, and Sir John Esplen, Bart., Voting Trustee, British Controlled Oilfields, and Director Furness, Withy and Co. The registered office is at 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C. This company will, it is understood, institute the draining of the Orojanche Lagoon in Trinidad, and subsequently the British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., will bore for oil there.

Kern River Oilfields of California, Limited.

The interests of this company in Trinidad, comprising approximately 3,000 acres of freehold property, have been vested in the Kern Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., registered in December, 1920, the whole of the issued share capital of which, less directors' qualification shares, is owned by the parent company.

The annual report of the latter company states that Mr. Albert Mitchell, chairman of the Trinidad Company, and Mr. C. B. Stocken, a director, visited the properties in the island in January to March last, and organised the commencement of operations. Drilling began in June, and a small production is being obtained from the upper sands in the case of Well No. 1.

The charge for the announcement of Births, Marriages and Deaths is 3/6 for three lines and 1/- for each additional line. Cheques, postal orders, etc., should be made payable to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, and crossed "Colonial Bank."

BIRTHS.

IRVING.—On June 10th, at Georgetown, Demerara, Jessie (née Cattanach), wife of Thomas H. Irving, Colonial Civil Service, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

BETHUNE.—On June 11th, at Holcombe, Moretonhampstead, Devon, Beatrice Mary, wife of Charles F. Bethune.
THOMAS.—On November 7th, at Mon Repos, Earley Berks, Eliza Porter Thomas, widow of Lynch Thomas, M.D., and granddaughter of William Bertie Wolseley, at one time Government Secretary, British Guiana, aged 77.

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone: Central 6642.
Telegrams:—Carib London.



15, SKETHING LANE,
LONDON, E. C. 3
November 22nd, 1921

BANK RATE. Five per cent. as from November 3rd.

EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Nov. 8th	Nov. 22nd	Nov. 8th	Nov. 22nd
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
in U.S.A.	16 3	18 5	1 3 1	1 3 0
France	2 9 10	2 4 4	55	2 11 53 17
Holland	2 4 2	2 5 9	541	4 4 454 10
Italy	3 14	3 15 6	Holland	18 10 18

The intrinsic value of the gold sovereign is £1 to 2½d.

SUGAR. There has been no change in the New York market since the date of last Summary, the c.i.f. value of Cubans remaining yesterday at 2.50c. Sales of Porto Ricos have been made at 4.00c. The futures market quotations for Cubans landed in bond were: December 2.31c., March 2.21c., and May 2.31c.

As with the American, the Home Market has remained practically unchanged. London granulated is quoted at 19/10½. Spot West Indian crystallised, 38/- to 42/-, with Muscovados at 32/-. Spot American granulated sold at 49/-; spot white Java was quoted at 47/-, with spot white Natala at 44/-. Yellow crystals sold at 44/9, or 2/9 above the highest West Indian crystallised price.

Values in the terminal market yesterday were:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
96	14/10½	19/1½	18/9	14/6½
White	19/9½	19/1½	18/9	18/2½

Willet and Gray estimate the 1921-22 sugar crop of the world at 15,620,000 tons, showing a decrease of 935,000 tons on the 1920-21 crop, principally due to lessened Cuban production. The same authority gives the Cuban 1920-21 crop as having been 3,730,077 tons, including local consumption.

The Board of Trade Returns for October show that the total imports for the month amounted to 56,686 tons, of which 23,176 tons were entered under the head of "refined," and 33,508 tons under "unrefined." These figures bring up the imports of sugar for the ten months of the year to 1,098,573 tons, as against 1,120,573 tons for the corresponding period of last year. During the month 11,812 tons of refined sugar were imported from the Continent, including 5,378 tons from Holland and 3,874 tons from Belgium; 7,611 tons came from the United States, and 1,549 tons from Java. For the ten months of the year, 79,302 tons have come from Holland, 19,990 tons from Belgium, and 169,438 tons from American refiners. The principal source of the unrefined sugar for the month was Cuba, which sent in 13,429 tons, making 918,052 tons for the ten months. The British West India Islands and British Guiana were credited with 7,267 tons, bringing their total for the ten months to 97,404 tons. Mauritius supplied 2,250 tons, making the total from that Colony to 152,240 tons for the ten months.

The quantity of sugar which went into consumption for the month from the home refineries was 67,808 tons, bringing the total for the ten months to 657,325 tons, as against 687,893 tons for the corresponding period of last year. The consumption for the month was 113,961 tons, as against 80,922 tons for October, last year. The ten months' consumption of the present year has been 1,156,403 tons, contrasting with 984,016 tons, the consumption for the first ten months of 1920, and with 1,426,506 tons, the consumption of 1913 for the corresponding period. The stocks in hand in the United Kingdom on October 31st were 208,100 tons, as against 335,050 tons on the same date last year.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on November 12th were:—

	1921	1920	1918
Imports	45,670	60,577	46,906 Tons.
Deliveries	43,756	52,824	44,245
Stock	10,318	15,889	8,853

RUM. Since the temporary demand from Germany was satisfied, the market has become again quite dead.

The imports for the month were 119,359 proof gallons, as against 167,201 gallons for October last year, and the consumption for the month was 171,475 proof gallons, as against 244,578 gallons for last October. The total imports and consumption for the ten months of the present year have been 3,832,457 gallons and 1,481,847 gallons respectively; contrasting with 3,487,349 gallons and 2,351,260 gallons for the corresponding period last year. The stock on hand on October 31st was 12,416,000 gallons, as against 12,227,000 gallons at the same date last year.

The stocks in London on November 12th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,120	10,563	7,075 Puna.
Demerara	17,481	15,637	14,912
Total of all kinds	38,677	36,504	28,603

CACAO is quiet with a tendency to easier prices. Fine Grenada spot is offering at 50/-; business is doing in fine Jamaica at 48/-; Trinidad spot is steady at 55/- to 61/-, but to arrive is weak.

The imports of cacao for the month were 37,214 cwts., as against 39,156 cwts. for October last year, and the consumption 98,759 cwts., as against 70,301 cwts. The total imports for the ten months have been 1,008,635 cwts., as against 1,991,995 cwts. for the same period last year, and the consumption 759,484 cwts., as against 848,499 cwts. The exports for the month were 93,241 cwts., as against 105,411 cwts. in October, 1920.

The stocks on hand on October 31st were 751,000 cwts., as against 1,233,000 cwts. on the same date last year.

The stocks in London on November 12th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	19,168	32,893	30,445 Bags
Grenada	16,565	24,865	14,680
Total of all kinds	113,489	233,508	106,790

ARROWROOT continues quiet and unchanged at 3½d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet, 3/5 to 3/6 c.i.f.; spot, 3/8 to 3/10, landed terms.

BAY OIL. Heavy arrivals have resulted in sales down to 10/- per lb.

COFFEE. There is only a moderate demand. Very little Jamaica is on offer, with ordinary quoted nominally at 60/-. Export is flat.

COPRA is steadier. West Indian f.m.s. is valued at 42c c.i.f. London or Marseilles.

COTTON. Immediately after the publication of last CIRCULAR, the quotations of West Indian Sea Island were reduced 200 points at: medium 28d., fine 36d., and extra fine 43d. The demand is small.

HONEY. There is practically no change since the last auctions reported in our last issue.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There is no business to report in Handpressed, but sellers are willing to meet the market. There are sellers of Distilled at 2/3 per lb., but no sales since last report. **Lime Juice.** Raw is steady, but quiet with values unchanged. The market is overstocked with inferior grades, but really good qualities are scarce. The last business done in Concentrated was early in October at 42d.

LOGWOOD is dull, with values nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is dearer. Jamaica shippers are now asking 10/6 c.i.f., whilst spot holders ask 10/- per lb. There is no business or change to report in Bitter.

SPICES. First hand stocks of Jamaica **Ginger** are now practically exhausted. Good common to good middling, 165/- to 185/- per cwt. **Pimento** is dull, with spot sellers at 28d. To arrive offers at 20/- have not resulted in business.

The West India Committee Circular

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The West India Committee Rooms

Telephone:
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



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

December 6th, 1921

Princess Mary's Betrothal.

THE news of PRINCESS MARY'S engagement to VISCOUNT LASCELLES, which was announced on November 22nd, will have been received with very great satisfaction throughout the West Indies, whose people, whatever their race or creed, will be second to none in wishing the affianced pair happiness and prosperity. PRINCESS MARY is deservedly popular. During the war she organised a Voluntary Aid Detachment and later took up regular duties as V.A.D. nurse at the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street. VISCOUNT LASCELLES is the elder son and heir of the EARL OF HAREWOOD, who, it will be recalled, presided at THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE'S Banquet at THE PRINCE OF WALES in June last. LORD LASCELLES served with distinction during the war in the Grenadier Guards and was awarded the D.S.O. and French Croix de Guerre. In Barbados especially, the forthcoming marriage will be the subject of rejoicing, having regard to the long-established connection between the family of the prospective bridegroom with that island. This connection dates from shortly after the Restoration, when HENRY LASCELLES, the grandson of COLONEL FRANCIS LASCELLES, who fought in the Army of the Parliament, went out to Barbados as Collector of Customs. It is still maintained at the present day by the EARL OF HAREWOOD, President of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE, and owner of the Belle and

Mount Plantations in Barbados, upon whose son and heir PRINCESS MARY has conferred so signal a mark of favour. HENRY LASCELLES, returning to England in 1743, purchased the Harewood Estate in Yorkshire, and carried on business in London as a West India merchant; his son, EDWIN LASCELLES, was created first BARON HAREWOOD in 1790, but died five years later. EDWIN left his estates to his cousin, EDWARD LASCELLES, the son of HENRY LASCELLES'S half-brother, who was also a Collector of Customs in Barbados; and the Barony of Harewood was revived in favour of this EDWARD LASCELLES, who was afterwards created EARL OF HAREWOOD in 1812. Other members of the Lascelles family made Barbados their home in the Eighteenth Century, and we may feel certain that the hope which will be uppermost in the minds of Barbadians and indeed of West Indians generally at the present day, is that LORD LASCELLES may some day be accompanied by his Royal bride on a visit to those Colonies, with one of which his family has been so closely identified. Meanwhile, it will be the fervent prayer of the people of the West Indian Colonies that every happiness may be showered on the happy couple.

The Future of British Honduras.

IT is a matter for very real regret that, owing to the outbreak of an epidemic in British Honduras, the HON. EDWARD WOOD, M.P., should have been compelled to omit that colony from the itinerary of his West Indian tour, on which he embarked on November 29th. It must not be deduced from this decision that the outbreak is of a serious nature; but MR. WOOD had to bear in mind the possibility of his mission being quarantined by the islands subsequently to be visited if his original plan to call at Belize were carried out. Besides, the sailing of the steamer by which he had intended to proceed from New Orleans to British Honduras was suspended, and he had, therefore, no alternative. MR. WOOD would have found in British Honduras an object lesson of the results of neglect by successive British Governments by which he could not fail to have been impressed, for it is doing the colony no injustice to state that it is more backward in many respects than any of its neighbours in the New World. That is, unfortunately, a generally recognised fact. Its finances are in so parlous a condition that, unbelievable as it may seem, the Court House and Public Buildings, which were destroyed by fire in 1918, have not yet been rebuilt, and what is even worse, the Government has been compelled to abandon the very practical scheme put forward by MR. W. R. DUNLOP, who spent several months last year investigating the resources and possibilities of the colony, for establishing an Agri-

cultural Department with a view to relieving the dangerous dependence of British Honduras on the timber and chicle industries. The gathering of chicle, or sapodilla gum, which forms the basis of chewing gum, is a declining industry, whose decline is likely to be accelerated if, as is understood to be the case, the manufacturers of chewing gum have found more economical products with which to replace it, and a colony living by a timber industry without a policy of replanting, is very obviously living on its capital. The supply of mahogany near the rivers is already becoming exhausted, so that the woodcutters have to go farther inland in search of suitable trees. Efforts to establish an industry in cohune nuts or cohune nut oil have so far met with little or no success, and the future would appear to lie in the development of agricultural industries on the lines suggested by MR. DUNLOR. The obstacles in the way of this would appear to be lack of funds and the fact that large areas of suitable agricultural land are the property of individuals who do not make use of it themselves and are loath to part with it at a reasonable price. Both these obstacles could surely be overcome as they were when a similar problem presented itself in St. Vincent; and with regard to finance, it is perfectly clear that no real progress can be made until the Government takes a bold step and realises that to make money, money must be spent. It will be remembered that fifteen years ago a scheme was drawn up locally by men well acquainted with the needs and requirements of the colony for opening up the country by a railway to connect Belize with Guatemala. This scheme could have been carried through at a comparatively small cost to the colony; but the Government of the day, fearful lest the railway should eventually be thrown on their hands, rejected it and substituted in its place a toy railway with a 3-foot gauge running from Commerce Bight to Middlesex, which has cost \$802,115, and has proved a failure because it has no through traffic and the bananas planted in the district, which were to form its "goods," have been stricken by disease. Probably, if the bolder scheme had been undertaken, the condition of British Honduras would have been very different from what it is today. The participation of British Honduras in the Trade Agreement with Canada, as the outcome of which the colony now enjoys steamship communication with Jamaica and New Brunswick, leads to the hope that better days are in store for our much neglected possession in Central America; but a steamer service is of little use unless there is produce for the steamers to carry, and it is earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that MR. DUNLOR'S proposals for the development of agriculture will not be indefinitely shelved. As an example of what can be effected by the judicious application of Government grants to agriculture, we may refer to the recent report of MR. F. T. MEREDITH, Secretary of Agriculture for the United States, who showed that at a cost of \$200,000 it had been possible to introduce and establish the rice industry in California, which now yields a crop worth \$21,000,000 per year. Again, the Department spent \$40,000 in introducing into Arizona the cultivation of Egyptian cotton, the crop of which is now worth \$20,000,000

a year and is increasing annually. The shortage of labour could, we believe, be overcome by the establishment of a colonisation scheme and settling people on the land; and it is, we believe, by the extension of peasant proprietary that the future of the agricultural prosperity of British Honduras will depend. It would, indeed, be a reproach to the Government if the agricultural development of British Honduras were to be held up through lack of population, while some thousands of British West Indians are reduced to such straits that their deportation to Fiji is, as we show in another column, under consideration. These, among others, such as the question of representative Government, are no doubt problems which MR. WOOD would have investigated if he had been able to visit the colony. The abandonment of MR. WOOD'S call at Belize will be a bitter disappointment to those interested in the colony no less than to the residents, and we would suggest that when health conditions at Belize are again normal, some permanent official of the Colonial Office might be commissioned to visit the colony with a view to acquainting MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL with its conditions and requirements.

SIR SAMUEL WILSON, K.B.E.

Honour for Trinidad's Governor.

Colonel Samuel Wilson was received in audience by the King on December 2nd, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Trinidad and Tobago, when His Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood, and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division).

CIVIL SERVICE CHANGES.

A New Under-Secretary.

Mr. Charles T. Davis, C.M.G., has been appointed an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in succession to Sir Henry Lambert, K.C.M.G., C.B., who has been made Senior Crown Agent for the Colonies, on the retirement of Sir William H. Mercer, K.C.M.G.. Lieut.-Colonel Carmichael has been made an additional Crown Agent.

Mr. Davis, after a brilliant career at Oxford, where, as a Balliol Scholar, he took a double first, entered the Admiralty as a first-class clerk in 1896, but was transferred to the Colonial Office in the following year. In 1920 he became an Assistant Secretary, and he has been the Assistant Secretary to the Imperial Conference since the year 1914. Colonel Carmichael, who has had wide experience of railway work in the East, has been head of the Engineering and Works Department of the Crown Agents since 1904.

Particulars regarding Membership of The West India Committee can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.3.

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"Dog run fe him character; hog run fe him life."

A COMPANY with a capital of £500,000 has been formed at Shanghai for the erection of a sugar refinery there.

S.S. "GANGES," of the Nourse Line, will load for the British West Indies and Cuba at Calcutta in the last half of December and the first half of January.

RECENT discoveries of oil are reported to have been made in Western Australia. Prospectors engaged in boring for oil having reached the oil-bearing strata at a depth of 29 feet on the Fitzgerald River near Bremer Bay. This is the result of 18 years' prospecting.

LIEUT.-COLONEL SIR SAMUEL HOARE, M.P., managing director of the Belize Estates and Produce Co., has been appointed by the League of Nations Deputy High Commissioner for the care of the Russian refugees now scattered about Europe. The High Commissioner for this purpose is Dr. Nansen, of Polar fame.

THE *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* says that a point which producers of cane sugar, and particularly Cubans, seem quite unable to grasp is that its present prices leave a fairly good margin of profit inside the various European protected frontiers. "We have no reason," our contemporary says, "to be greatly dissatisfied with the present position."

OUT of the 270,038,091 lbs. of cacao imported by the United States in the first eight months of 1920, 28,151,551 lbs. came from the British West Indies, and 76,783,000 lbs. from British West Africa. In the first eight months of 1921, 237,591,606 lbs. were introduced, of which 43,689,500 came from the British West Indies, and only 44,458,697 lbs. from British West Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN citrus fruit-growers have decided to unite for trade purposes by forming local co-operative associations, with a central organisation. It is claimed that such an organisation will be able to control grading, prevent glutting of markets, and put an end to the shipment of unsound fruit, as well as be in a position to supplement the regular sailings of vessels with fruit-carrying accommodation by arranging for special charters when necessary.

COFFEE trading in the American Colonies, says the *Tea and Coffee Trade Journal*, probably had its beginning about the middle of the 17th century, supplies of the green bean being imported from the Dutch East Indies, Arabia, Haiti, and Jamaica. In 1683 the price of the raw bean was 18/9 per lb. In 1781, owing to the prevalence of paper money, it

reached 96/- a lb., but in the following year the price had fallen to 2/1 per lb.

THE following statistics regarding the American beet sugar industry are of interest:

	1920.	1921
Factories working	74	97
Yield per acre (short tons)	9.36	9.80
Sugar in beets	16.30	15.99
Extraction of Sugar	13.86	15.99
Paid farmers per short ton	86.12	\$11.63
Sugar made (short tons)	\$20,657	1,090,021

A BARBADIAN was the only one of the British members of the Foreign Legion which has been fighting for Spain in Morocco to stick it out when they were given the opportunity of being discharged and repatriated. This interesting statement was made in *The Times* of November 26th, which devotes an article to the suffering of the members of the Legion. The name of this gallant son of "Little England" is not, however, disclosed.

THE first meeting of the Administrative Council of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation was held at the Board of Trade on November 17th. The Corporation, which is the permanent body incorporated under Royal Charter to develop the growing of cotton in the British Empire, is to receive a grant of £978,715 from the Government, conditional upon a levy being made by the spinners at the rate of 6d. per bale of 500 lbs. on all raw cotton forwarded to them.

THE consumption of petrol in Japan during 1920 amounted to 1,321,000 cases, against 929,000 cases in 1919. The country's output of petrol last year amounted to 711,000 cases, an increase of 48,000 cases on the 1919 production. At the end of 1919 there were 42 oil companies in Japan, but last year many were either dissolved or amalgamated, the result being that the number was reduced to 11. The total paid-up capital was reduced from 63,157,050 yen to 61,705,000 yen.

THERE is just a possibility that the British trade ship which is to make a tour of the world with samples of English goods of many kinds may visit the British West Indies on her way to South America. Nothing yet has, however, been definitely decided, and the invitation forwarded to the organisers from The Jamaica Imperial Association through The West India Committee for the vessel to make Kingston a port of call is now under consideration.

SIR WILLIAM HAYNES SMITH, formerly Solicitor-General and Attorney-General in British Guiana, and Governor of the Leeward Islands and the Bahamas, who was adjudged bankrupt on June 21st last (when his liabilities were estimated at £37,115 and his assets were valued at £1,585), has, as his many friends will be pleased to learn, already received his discharge. The principal creditor was the son, who had advanced £22,521. The Registrar, in deciding to grant the order of discharge, was influenced by Sir William's age and public service.

SIR EDWARD DAVSON, President of the Associated West Indian Chamber of Commerce, covers much interesting ground in his annual "pastoral" letter to his members, and encloses copies of letters addressed to the Government regarding preference, anti-dumping, the provision of dredgers (which he suggests might be purchased on the easy payment system), and West Indian currency. He takes the opportunity of thanking the Chambers for three silver-gilt bowls, copied from an old masterpiece of 1740, which they presented to him on the occasion of his marriage.

SIR WILLIAM GOODE, formerly Hon. Secretary of the West Indian Club, and recently Reparations Commissioner in Austria, had an unpleasant experience in Vienna on December 1st, when his room at the Hotel Bristol was besieged by a mob exasperated by the high cost of living and lack of food. All his clothes were stolen, one rough having the impudence to dress himself in a suit of Sir William's clothes, leaving his own clothes behind. Sir William's fur coat was rescued, but otherwise he has nothing but what he stands up in. Another rowdy threw a telephone at him, but fortunately he missed his aim.

THE Hon. Edward Wood, M.P., left Avonmouth for Jamaica in the *Elders and Fyffes S.S. Motagan* on November 29th, accompanied by the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Mr. R. A. Wiseman, of the Colonial Office. During Mr. Wood's absence, his duties as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies will be discharged by the Duke of Sutherland, who, it will be recalled, represents the Colonial Office in the House of Lords. Mr. Wood, whose itinerary was published in last CIRCULAR, is due back in England on March 4th, his passage having been booked in the *Harrison Line S.S. Ingoma*, scheduled to leave Port of Spain on February 15th.

VISCOUNT SANDON, whose engagement to the Hon. Helena Coventry, elder daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Deerhurst, has just been announced, will be remembered in West Indian circles as Assistant Private Secretary in 1918-20 to Viscount Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lord Sandon is the only son of the Earl and Countess of Harrowby, who, it will be remembered, so kindly entertained overseas officers during the war. He visited Jamaica last year, and whilst his father extended his tour to Panama he himself proceeded to British Honduras, where he spent several weeks, during which he made himself very fully acquainted with the conditions of life and industry in the Colony. Lord Sandon was wounded during the war while serving with the Royal Field Artillery. He is a member of The West India Committee, and the CIRCULAR congratulates him upon his forthcoming marriage.

A CORRESPONDENT claiming prophetic powers forecasts what would happen if the home beet industry were to prove so successful that England gradually produced enough sugar to satisfy her

teeming millions. The first effect would, he thinks, be the displacement of white continental and other foreign white sugars, followed by the supplanting of the white sugar coming from Colonial sources. Finally there would be direct competition, aided by high protection, with the established refining industry of the United Kingdom. Whether this would be successful or not would depend entirely upon the extent of the development of the taste of the British public for granulated sugars. The confirmed tea-drinker would doubtless feel that tea was not "tea" if the teaspoon had to be substituted for the sugar-tongs in conveying to it the means of sweetening. There would therefore probably be a lingering look for the traditional "lump" of sugar from the refineries. But the competition with the refineries would be a serious one for them.

HITHERTO cassava has been planted in the form of short portions of the stalk, measuring from six to nine inches long. It has been found, however, that when the whole length of stalk is planted the tubers ripen and are fit to eat in $4\frac{1}{2}$ months, as compared with eight months involved by the old method. The manner of planting is simply to insert the lower end of the stalk into the ground not more than two or three inches deep; and in order to secure the growing plant against the force of the wind, if in an exposed position, the plant should be tied to a stake. Planting is usually done in the month of May. In new lands as much as 12 to 15 tons of fresh tubers can be obtained, whereas in old, partially worn-out lands, unless a liberal supply of manure is allowed, not more than six to eight tons of tubers can be depended on.

THE Cuban Sugar Committee, which has for some months controlled the sales of Cuban sugar, is likely to come to an end, as a Bill has been introduced into the Cuban Congress having for its object its dissolution. If this should come about, the outlook for sugar prices in the near future will not be encouraging, as the holders of the stocks of sugar now in the island will be at liberty to dispose of them as they may wish, or rather, as they may be compelled by financial weakness. The stocks on hand unsold are estimated as being from 1,000,000 to 1,250,000 tons. Should, however, this scrapping of the sugar stocks take place, although a slump in prices is bound to occur in the process, the clearing off of these stocks will have the effect of relieving the market and lead to a healthier future in a shorter time than if the control continued and the sugar doled out by the committee.

GREEN BITTERS.—Take 3 or 4 leaves of fresh wormwood, bruise them and add to them a wine-glass of good old rum, 2 wine-glasses of falernum. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ a wine-glass of water and as much crushed ice as will make it very cold, swizzle well, then strain and serve at once.

[This well-known West Indian appetiser was referred to by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at The West India Committee Banquet on June 24th.]

THE EUROPEAN SUGAR CROP.

BY DR. H. C. PRINSEN GEERLIGS.

Dr. H. C. Prinsen Geerligs, who has kindly contributed the following original article to THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, is a well-known sugar expert. He is the author of several valuable works on sugar, including "Practical White Sugar Manufacture," "Cane Sugar and its Manufacture," and "The World's Cane Sugar Industry—Past and Present."

The 1921-2 beet sugar crop has begun rather early this year. This is due in the first place to the very small stocks in most countries of production, which necessitated an acceleration in the supply of new crop sugar in order to keep the public supplied, and in the second place to the early ripening of the beets as a consequence of the very dry summer of 1921.

In the month of September the foliage of the beets had already become yellow, while the sugar content of the roots was much higher than in ordinary years at that time. It is true that the high sugar content was only partly due to early ripening, and that the drying up of the roots and the concentration of their juice also contributed towards that phenomenon; but, anyhow, it induced the farmers to make haste with the pulling of the roots. Further, the very high temperature prevailing on the continent during the entire month of October induced the manufacturers to slice the beets as rapidly as they could, since the sugar content was bound to decrease if the ripe beets were kept in piles at high temperatures during too long a period.

The pulling of the beets went on without a hitch. No early frost interfered with that operation, nor with the carting of the crop to the factories, which were able to deal with them without trouble, so that, as far as we can judge now in the second half of November, no serious obstacles will prevent the continental beet crop being worked up smoothly.

It appears, however, that the high sugar content of the beets, observed all over Europe, does not make up sufficiently for the agricultural results being poorer than had been anticipated. The drought has killed many beet plants and checked the growth of the other ones, causing the tonnage of beets per acre to remain greatly under that of normal years. The result is that the estimates, based at the outset of the campaign on the high sugar content and the expected tonnage of beets, have not been realised, and that in almost every European country the real output fails to meet estimates.

The first estimates of the GERMAN crop, made in June, ran up to the amount of 1,500,000 tons, but when the lack of rain persisted it became evident that so high a figure could not be maintained. An inquiry held among its members by the Association for the German Sugar Industry, which was answered by all but four, came to the result that 7,403,300 tons of beets were expected, which with a yield of 16.73 per cent. would produce 1,248,610 tons of sugar. Besides, 20,000 tons of sugar are expected from the extraction from the molasses, thus bringing the total amount of the German crop of 1921-2 to 1,268,600 tons raw value. Since that

inquiry nothing has happened likely to bring a notable change in this estimate.

The Prospects of Czecko-Slovakia.

The prospects in CZECKO-SLOVAKIA were very bright at the outset of the vegetation period, but in Bohemia the drought was very persistent, while in Slovakia and Moravia tiny caterpillars attacked the beets and devoured the leaves. It was generally expected that late rains might wipe off the damage, but the weather remained dry, and, especially in the eastern parts of the republic, the results were far under estimate. Up to October a total production of 650,000 tons raw value was anticipated, but in the first half of November the Association of Sugar Manufacturers held an inquiry among the manufacturers, which gave as a prognostic the figure of 606,000 tons raw value. It is true that from another source estimates of 625,000 have been given, but as the manufacturers are in a position to know what they are to expect, we think it safe to adhere to their figure.

In AUSTRIA and in HUNGARY the Governments have done their utmost to promote the sugar production in order to be able to supply the population with home-grown sugar. The very low value of the Hungarian and the Austrian crown renders purchase of sugar from other countries so extremely costly that every effort was made to make the country self-supporting in this respect. The dry weather has here, too, done great damage, so that Austria will only produce 20,000 tons of the 64,000 which it needs, while Hungary will be only 10,000 tons short of its requirements, estimated at 60,000 tons.

The beet sowings in POLAND were larger than in the year before, when 170,000 tons were made. We have not heard of later prognostics than those of October, which were put down at 207,000 tons raw value. We believe that it will not be too far from truth if we anticipate a little disappointment in respect to the tonnage in that country and estimate the Polish sugar crop of 1921-2 at 200,000 tons.

At last we have heard reliable news as to the probable outcome of the RUSSIAN sugar crop. The Government Sugar Bureau had ordered the sowing of 200,000 *desjatins* or 218,000 *hectares*, but the seed was so bad and the work was done so carelessly that no less than 60,000 *desjatins* had to be sown anew, which work lasted till the month of June, or much too late to be of some avail. Excessively high temperatures, uncommonly prolonged drought, and attacks of insect pests did the rest, so that on the 1st of September only 96,900 *desjatins*, or not even half the originally planted area had remained. The Sugar Bureau expects from that area a beet production of 600,000 tons, with a sugar output of 75,000 tons raw value. We have the experience of the year before, when out of the amount of beets harvested, no less than one quarter had disappeared before it had reached the factories, while another 10 per cent. of the beets brought in was not worked up at all. If we take this into consideration, and know that the only fuel available for that work is wood, which is scarce, we think that a maximum production of Russia of 60,000 tons will be near the mark.

Irrigation helps Holland.

In the NETHERLANDS the area sown with beets had been greatly extended; but not all of the land sown was contracted for by the sugar factories, so that it is not at all impossible that part of the beets harvested will be used as cattle-food or exported to neighbouring countries. Holland did not suffer very much by the drought, as most of the beet-land is situated below sea-level and could be irrigated from the rivers. But the hay and other fodder crops failed, and that is why the beet growers have this year been in the habit of cutting off uncommonly great heads and supplying the sugar factories with too lowly topped roots. Owing to this circumstance the tonnage of beets will be smaller than was expected. Moreover, the keeping quality of the beets has been affected. Our first estimates of the Dutch sugar crop had been 350,000 tons raw value, but now we have reduced it to 320,000 tons, and even about that figure we are not entirely sure.

The BELGIAN sugar-beet crop had suffered largely from drought in summer; but in that country copious rains came down in September, which could still bring great improvement. Although the pulling of the beets has been finished in Belgium, we have no figures about the average tonnage. The first estimates of Belgium oscillated between 275,000 and 200,000 tons raw value; but the latest reports received here point to the final figure of 270,000 tons.

The sugar crop of FRANCE is very bad, chiefly in consequence of the dry weather, which began very early there and lasted for a very long time. The enlarged area of sowings and the favourable spring weather had led to rather optimistic forecasts; but it soon appeared that much of the seed did not germinate at all, or, if it germinated, the young plants died off from lack of moisture. The estimates, which in the beginning had been rather high, and had amounted to 305,000 tons raw value, diminished every week, and finally the figure given by the International Association of Sugar Statistics is only 254,000 tons raw value, while the production of the so much smaller area of 1920-1 had been 833,000 tons. The crop in that country will be soon finished, and we do not believe that later estimates will offer a more favourable aspect.

In ITALY the area sown with beets has undergone a very great extension since last year, namely, from 50,000 to 75,000 *hectares*. The amount of sugar to be expected has accordingly increased. In the year 1920-1 it was 136,000 tons from 1,234,000 tons of beets, whereas in 1921-2 no less than 2,000,000 tons of beets are expected, with a sugar extraction of 222,200 tons. Since the country consumes 200,000 tons of sugar per annum, it will not have to import sugar, and may keep some stock of the end of the campaign, as exportation is quite out of the question on account of the high costs of production in Italy.

The reports from SPAIN show a very marked decrease in the production. Last year that country produced 238,655 tons of beet sugar from 1,792,825 tons of beets, and some 6,000 tons of cane sugar, bringing the total sugar production of Spain to 245,000 tons, of which about 200,000 may be put down as serving to cover the home consumption.

The price of sugar went down, while that of the beets remained high—in fact, the monetary value of the sugar produced was not sufficient to pay for the raw material and the excise duty, not to speak of the manufacturing expenses, bags, coal, etc. It is therefore not at all strange that manufacturers were loth to go in for large contracts for beets this year. The total crop of 1921-2 is estimated at 838,000 tons of beets with an output of 111,730 tons of sugar. Add to this a probable crop of 5,000 tons of cane sugar, and we then come to a total figure for the Spanish sugar production of 117,000 tons, or by no means sufficient to supply the wants of the country.

In DENMARK the area sown with beets has undergone a decrease from 88,526 to 84,714 *hectares*, but since the dry weather has not had a bad influence on the growth of the beets in that country, close to the sea, the sugar crop is expected to yield a higher figure now than last year. In the year 1920-21 the country produced 138,000 tons, and for this year a crop of 155,000 tons is foreseen.

The SWEDISH crop is equally expected to exceed last year's, but in that country the sowings have occupied a much larger area. Government had guaranteed to the farmers a good price for the beets, and had maintained prices of sugar in the country at a high level in order to enable the sugar manufacturers to pay much for the beets. The consequence was an extension of the beet sowings from 36,000 *hectares* to 41,000. The amount of beets is expected to be 1,409,000 tons against 1,007,410 tons last year, and that of sugar 253,230 tons, against 182,450 last year.

The other countries of minor importance as beet producers are BULGARIA with an estimate of 22,000 tons, YUGO-SLAVIA with 30,000, ROMANIA with 25,000, the UNITED KINGDOM with 10,000, and SWITZERLAND with 5,000 tons.

Taking everything into consideration, we find for the total European sugar crop a maximum amount of 3,900,000 tons, raw value, while eventual untoward circumstances may still cause it to become less. Last year Europe produced 3,700,000 tons, so that the hoped-for considerable increase which was anticipated in the early spring of this year has not been materialised.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOSEPH THEODORE THIBOU.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Joseph Theodore Thibou, formerly of St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua, which took place in Trinidad on October 16th.

Mr. Thibou, who was for many years in the Civil Service in St. Kitts-Nevis, where he filled the positions of Registrar and Provost-Marshal, retired nearly a quarter of a century ago on account of his health. He then embarked on journalism, and was for a long period identified with the now defunct *Antigua Standard*. A zealous freemason (and he was initiated as far back as 1870), he was Past Master of the Mount Olive Lodge in St. Kitts, and it was appropriate that a large concourse of the craft should have assembled at the funeral to pay a last tribute of respect. Mr. Thibou possessed a fund of information regarding Antigua and its people, among whom he lived for so long.

CACAO CONTAMINATION.

Moths and Beetles in the Store.

The insect pests which attack cacao beans in store have not received the attention which the importance of the subject deserves in agricultural literature. At the Tropical Products Exhibition, however, last summer, Mr. A. W. Knapp read a valuable paper on this subject, which is reproduced in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. It is there shown that the beans can become infected on the drying platforms and in tropical stores by small moths of the Pyralid type, which Mr. Knapp has seen in Trinidad hovering round the drying platforms and flying in the cacao store. In transit also the cacao may be placed alongside infected cargo in the liner's holds, so that practically all cacao is liable to be contaminated with insect life when it is received in the stores in Europe.

The most frequently found pests are small silvery Pyralid moths belonging to the genus *Ephestia*. It was the caterpillar of this moth which worked great destruction in our soldiers' biscuits during the Boer War. Mr. Lechmere Guppy has identified it in a Trinidad cacao store as *Ephestia figuililla*, which lays its eggs in irregular clusters on or between the beans at any season of the year. With the exception of this type, the moth's eggs are usually laid singly, each individual depositing about 250 eggs in all. The time taken to hatch out is from one to two weeks. After a lengthy caterpillar stage of from eight to eighteen weeks, the caterpillar becomes a chrysalis, and in about two weeks the moth emerges. In tropical countries the whole life cycle takes little more than two months. In England it usually takes a year.

Beetles are also frequently present in the cacao store, especially apparently in the case of Accra cacao. The loss of cacao through the pests is considerable. If the individual beans are examined they are found to contain holes often filled with a brown dust which is the caterpillar's excreta. As the caterpillar's excreta will be weighed with the cacao, it is possible that very little loss will be noticed in the weight of the bags of "grubby" cacao. The cacao, however, has been spoiled, and if a manufacturer uses this cacao he must very carefully clean it, which entails a considerable loss. One caterpillar may nibble several beans, but nearly always is content with one, and to grow 100 caterpillars from birth to maturity requires as much material as there is in ten cacao beans (i.e. about 11 grams, or two-fifths of an ounce). In a bag of cacao containing 1 per cent. of "grubby" beans, the caterpillars will have eaten up to three ounces.

As regards preventive methods, Mr. Knapp chiefly recommends the avoidance of production of cracked, broken, or germinated beans, or beans of which the shell is very fragile or brittle. Although Ceylon cacao is of fine quality, it is often found to be slightly "grubby," due probably to the fact that the cacao is washed, and hence the shell is thin and brittle. The shell becomes broken in handling, and broken beans offer a more readily available foodstuff to the caterpillars, which under ordinary conditions do not nibble through the shell.

The percentage of "grubby" beans varies very much, but in recent years has in the main bulk of the world's cacao—seldom fallen below 1 per cent.; the average for the world's production is from 1 to 2 per cent. The following table gives the mean of samples taken at intervals from 1916 to 1920:

Kind of Cacao	Insect-attacked beans per cent.
Grenada	0.5
Bahia	0.5
Trinidad	1.0
Samoa	1.0
Jamaica	1.0
Arriba	1.0
Para	1.0
San Thome	1.0
Carupano	1.5
Surinam	2.0
Machala	2.0
Ceylon	2.0
Accra, Grade 1	2.0
Accra, Grade 2	2.5
Cameroons	3.0
Accra, Grade 3	4.0
Mean	1.6

It might be thought that claying the cacao would be an advantage from the point of view of preventing attack by insects. It may assist, but it is unnecessary, as can be seen by noting that Grenada cacao, which is unclayed, is remarkably free from insect life, and actually better in this respect than Trinidad cacao, which is clayed. The thick coating of earth, as used in Venezuela, does discourage the caterpillars from attacking whole beans, but is no protection if, as is usual, a number of the beans are broken. There is no evidence that clayed cacao, as bought, is more free from insects than unclayed. For example, in a sample of earthen Venezuela cacao, 10 per cent. of the beans were attacked by insects, whilst in a sample of Venezuela cacao not earthen, purchased at the same time, only 1 per cent. was attacked.

Another way in which the planter can help is by bagging his cured cacao as soon as produced, and not leaving it on the drying platform or elsewhere in uncovered heaps. He should also get rid of any broken beans or cacao rubbish, as this provides a suitable breeding ground for insects.

The floor, walls, and roof of a cacao store should be as smooth and free from crevices as possible. The floor may with advantage be concrete; the walls lime-washed, and the roof flat. As far as freedom from insect life is concerned, there is no better way of keeping the store in good condition than by providing ample ventilation. The store should preferably have a large opening at each end, so that, in whatever direction the wind may be, there is sure to be a through draught. The cacao moth thrives best in stagnant air, and objects strongly to a cold draught. Probably the best method of achieving this is to replace the ordinary doors by doors made of metal gauze, as then even at night-time, when the stores are shut, they remain well ventilated. It is usual in some stores to place the bags on boards in order to get ground

ventilation. This is good, provided the boards are kept clean, but they may become a breeding-ground for caterpillars. In place of boards, triangular rods of hard polished wood might be preferable. The keeping of the store clean, the lime-washing of the walls at frequent intervals, and the immediate removal of infested material are obvious precautions. The more rapidly the cacao is in and out of the store the better, as movement is an aid to prevention. The store should be kept as cool as possible.

In order to prevent the caterpillars passing from one stack of cacao to another, it is the practice in some stores to place on the floor pieces of cardboard which have been smeared with a sticky material like birdlime. Boiled linseed oil preparations are best. The preparation sold under the name of "Bandite" is useful for this purpose. Besides larvæ, beetles are sometimes caught by these boards, which are most useful in England in August and September. Mr. Knapp does not believe in the practice of placing sticky paper near an electric light, as cacao store moths are exceptional in that they are not attracted by a bright light. Large, shallow pans of water, or tea, placed near a lamp are recommended. Strangely enough, even cocoa prepared for drinking is not so attractive to the moth as tea.

Pouring one-fifth of a drachm of carbon disulphide upon cotton wool, which is placed in each sack, the latter being then tightly closed, is moderately effective for *ephestia*, but does not appear to inconvenience the beetle. Of the various chemical insecticides, formaldehyde is the least harmful, being neither inflammable nor poisonous, but none of the chemical treatments have proved entirely satisfactory.

The application of heat is, in Mr. Knapp's opinion, the most effective method of destroying eggs, moths, and caterpillars. It was found in one experiment that they all died on exposure to the comparatively low temperature of 120 deg. F. (49 deg. C.) for twenty minutes. Provided the temperature of 160 deg. F. (71 deg. C.) is not exceeded, the cacao is not detrimentally affected. It is a lengthy operation, however, to get the heat to permeate a heap of bags of cacao, and a store containing large stacks of cacao, to be successfully treated, will probably require two or three days' continuous heating.

To show the great development which has taken place in the use of internal combustion engines in recent years, the following statistics are given in the Report of Lloyd's Register:—

Recorded in Register Book.	Motor Vessels.	Gross Tons.
July 1914	297 of	234,287
July 1919	912 of	752,506
July 1920	1,178 of	955,810
July 1921	1,473 of	1,248,800

The quantity of rum on hand in the United Kingdom on October 31st would require a vat 430 feet in diameter by 100 feet in height to hold it.

A BANANA BANQUET.

Elders & Fyffes' Staff Dinner.

The s.s. *Coronado*, which Messrs. Elders & Fyffes kindly consented to divert to Trinidad so that the Governor of that colony might reach the island under a British flag, is fully booked up. "Thus," said Mr. A. H. Stockley, presiding over the annual dinner of the Company and the Fruit Distributing Company, on Saturday last, "is virtue rewarded."

Over three hundred members of the staffs of the two companies attended the banquet, which was held in the Grand Hall at the Hotel Cecil, and it is hardly necessary to add that the banana figured largely on the menu in various guises, and in the speeches. Mr. Stockley, addressing the gathering, said that the Americans, who had been accustomed to losing sometimes whole and sometimes half cargoes of bananas on the short run from Jamaica to the United States, had declared that it would be impossible to carry the fruit to England. Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. and the present Company had proved otherwise, and the Americans then spent \$10,000,000 in building banana steamers. The business was developing again in Europe, and if it could be proved that bananas contained vitamins, up would go the demand for the fruit. Mr. Roger Ackerley, who also spoke, referred to the chairman's great knowledge of ships.

Mr. G. R. Sims, in a characteristically humorous speech, addressing the company as "Brother Bananas," congratulated them on having survived another year of peace, and declared that the banana was the gentleman among fruits, as its clothes were always a perfect fit, and there was nothing messy about it. He had, he said, been for years connected with Covent Garden through "Mustard and Cress," under which title the speaker's weekly notes in the *Referee* appear. He hoped that Messrs. Elders & Fyffes might flourish "Root and Bunch."

The West Indian Council will, it is understood, meet in January according to plan, though the Legislature of Barbados has declined to send representatives to the West Indian Conference, particulars of the proposals for the holding of which were given in the CIRCULAR of November 10th. The Governor of Jamaica has decided that the Jamaican delegation shall include no officials. It will be composed of three elected members of the Legislature.

The members of the Indian Sugar Committee, regarding the continuation of the manufacture of gur with improved methods, suggest that Fryer's concretor, now almost forgotten in the sugar world, might be very suitable for the purpose. In this process the clarified juice was concentrated by being passed over a shallow tray, much like the Mauritius tray, treated with megass as in the copper work, the finishing concentration being effected in a revolving drum by means of hot air. The resulting product was run into bags in which it immediately solidified. The concrete thus made was a superior kind of gur.

JAMAICA'S INDUSTRIES.

Their Progress during Last Year.

A feature of the Annual Report of the Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture in Jamaica, which has just been published, is that, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it covers the calendar year instead of the financial year, in order to bring it into line with the Statistical Reports of the Trade of the Colony.

The year 1920 was not only an extremely bad one for agricultural industries, but also climatically one of the most extraordinary the island had ever experienced. The average rainfall was the lowest recorded for forty-eight years, and yet the sugar estates of the western end of the island suffered from excessive rain to such an extent as seriously to hamper the manufacture of sugar. But over large areas of the island, severe conditions of drought were experienced, causing a lack of food-crops and loss to stock-owners, and the banana industry, especially in the St. Mary district, experienced a severe set-back.

The year, however, witnessed an unprecedented inflation in the prices of produce in the world's markets, coupled with such an active demand that the exporter was tempted to export produce of inferior quality. The result of this was that, in spite of adverse climatic conditions, the total exports showed a value of over £7,000,000 more than that of those of previous years.

The exports of sugar did not exceed 37,000 tons, a figure considerably below the estimate, in spite of a large increase in the areas under cane cultivation and in factory capacity. The crop, however, realised £3,000,000, and the Report states that "the capacity of factories now in existence or in course of erection is sufficient to maintain an export of about 60,000 tons of sugar, and, given a market from which fairly remunerative prices for sugar may be obtained, Jamaica should in future contribute to this extent to the supplies of sugar for the British Empire." The tendency at present is to extend the production of bananas rather than that of sugar, but it is expressly stated that the advantage of the island having a fairly large sugar industry while developing the trade in bananas is obvious to everyone who has had experience of the two industries in Jamaica. The exports of bananas for the year amounted to 9,000,000 stems, of the value of £1,630,000, and the coconut crop showed an increase in export of over 4,000,000 nuts as compared with 1919. The value of the nuts and of the 700 tons of copra shipped was £356,000, as against £300,000 for the previous year.

The logwood industry enjoyed a period of great prosperity, with an export value of £700,000, although, at the date of the Report, logwood was almost unmerchantable, and the local dye factories had almost ceased to work. This state of things is stated to be due, not to competition with German dyes, but to paralysis of trade and the cessation of manufacture of woollen and leather goods, for which logwood dyes were largely used.

The cacao crop was 30 per cent. short of that of the previous year, but fetched £212,000, while the citrus industry is stated never to have recovered from the closing of the American market. A new era, however, is now opening for the industry as the result of the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty, as to which the hope is expressed that it will afford a protective encouragement for the disposal of Jamaica citrus fruits in the Dominion.

The shortness of the coffee crop was compensated for by the prices received, and the celebrated Blue Mountain coffee is stated to have sold at higher prices than has been the experience of any living planter. Pimento was in demand, but the supply for export was only half that of 1919, and cotton was under a cloud, the revival of 1919 failing to restore it to the status even of a minor industry.

The Report speaks encouragingly of the new sisal hemp industry. Sisal hemp is now figuring in the list of exports, two small factories being in active operation and considerable areas being planted. "Even at the present low prices there would seem to be a margin of profit when the manufacture is efficiently carried out."

The cigar industry is also prospering, the large sum of £119,000 being credited to the Jamaica cigar account for the year. As regards the cattle industry, the year 1920 marked the greatest progress ever made in Jamaica in the importation of fresh blood of the finest breeds of cattle for use there for the purposes of beef, milk and draught. In this connection it is interesting to note that a complete small experimental plant was erected for the manufacture of condensed milk.

BRITISH BAY RUM.

A Possible New Industry.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR'S suggestion that a bay rum industry might be started in the British West Indies has received favourable comment. In the *Agricultural News*, No. 509, the prospects of the development of the industry are discussed by Mr. F. Hardy, chemist on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. He considers that the manufacture of bay rum on a large scale in those British West India Islands where the bay tree flourishes would appear to come into the sphere of practical politics. The necessary demand, Mr. Hardy is of opinion, could be created by the adoption of modern systems of advertising.

In the present condition of the rum market, additional uses for alcohol are urgently wanted. The manufacture of bay rum involves the employment of large quantities of this sugar by-product; but the writer gives a word of caution as to the uselessness of attempting to establish a bay rum industry in any British West Indian island without very careful preliminary planning and without an adequate supply of the necessary apparatus and equipment, and, it ought to be added, of the bay leaves which are essential to its manufacture. The bay tree grows freely in Dominica, Montserrat, and St. Lucia, and apparently readily adapts itself to orchard cultivation.

CUBAN SUGAR AND THE TARIFF.

Where does the Preference go?

A correspondent has drawn the attention of *Facts about Sugar* to the fact that in the case of Cuban sugar the full tariff duty is not added to the price paid by the United States buyer, but is deducted from that received by the Cuban producer.

Commenting on this, our contemporary says: "This fact was clearly illustrated when the emergency tariff law went into effect at the end of last May. The last sale of duty-paying 96 degree test sugar made in the New York market before the new law went into effect and the first sale after it went into effect were made at exactly the same price, despite the advance of 60 cents a hundred that had taken place meanwhile in the cost of bringing Cuban sugar into the country. Within a few days the price went still lower than it had been before the change in duty, not, of course, because of the advance in the tariff rate, but because of other factors that created a declining market.

"As has been pointed out in studies of this subject which we have published from time to time, the incidence of the tariff depends entirely upon market conditions prevailing at any given time. The reason why Cuban producers were unable to increase the selling price of their sugar by the amount of the advance in the tariff rate last May, when the emergency law went into effect, was that the amount of sugar available to the United States market was more than it could take. In order to hold his position in the market, therefore, it was necessary for the Cuban to absorb the increase. Had the amount of Cuban sugar available been less than was needed to supply the requirements of this market, and had there been no other foreign grown sugar competing for the market, the Cuban's price would have risen by the amount of the increase in duty, or by a substantial part thereof.

"The fact that Cuban producing interests are compelled to pay out of their own pockets the additional duty imposed by the emergency tariff law, which is estimated by the Cuban Commercial Mission to amount to \$32,000,000 in the course of a year, raises the interesting question whether, under the conditions that are likely to prevail in the near future, Cuba will be able at any time to pass along the duty to the purchasers of her sugar. Now that Cuba's crop has increased to nearly 4,000,000 tons, and is unlikely, except under official restrictions, to fall as low as 2,500,000 tons, it appears improbable that the Cuban producer will be able to add the duty to his selling price. With domestic production in the United States amounting to 2,000,000 tons and Cuban production at any figure in excess of 2,500,000 tons, it is obvious that with all this sugar seeking the United States market, which is capable of consuming a little over 4,000,000 tons, Cuba will not be able to shift the duty to the purchaser. Only an increase in the consuming power of the United States or a decrease in the available supply of sugar can change this condition."

FIJI AND WEST INDIAN LABOUR.

A Case for Immediate Action.

Recalling the outcry which there was in British Guiana in 1919 as to shortage of labour in that colony, it is indeed astonishing, to say the least of it, to learn that the British Legation at Panama has been in correspondence with the Government of Fiji with reference to the possibility of British West Indians emigrating to that colony. The prospective emigrants to Fiji are some thousands of British West Indians who are stranded in the Panama Canal Zone, the authorities there having no further use for their services. It is understood that the Fiji Government, while sympathetic towards the proposal, will not make a definite offer of employment to these British West Indians until after the visit of a deputation from India, which is to visit Suva and the neighbouring islands to report on the question of the resumption of Indian emigration to British colonies. It is unnecessary to remind readers of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR that Fijian sugar is a competitor with West Indian sugar in the markets of Western Canada, and it seems incredible that our West Indian colonies will allow Fiji to take British West Indians from before their very eyes. No doubt the "Panamazonian" West Indians have been accustomed to drawing higher wages than the West Indian sugar industry could under present conditions afford to pay, but we have yet to hear of any offer having been made to them by British Guiana. But, apart altogether from the question of employment, broader principles and considerations are involved. There are large areas of land in British Guiana, British Honduras, and several West Indian islands eminently suited for development by peasant proprietors, and it would indeed be regrettable if the opportunity now afforded of securing an increase in the population of British Guiana and British Honduras, which has been described as such a crying need, were to be lost; and we hope that this aspect of the situation will be borne in mind by the Colonial Office and the colonies concerned.

MORE WINTER CRUISES.

To the goodly programme of West Indian "winter cruises" from America published in the Circular of November 10th can be added four tours to be undertaken by the Furness Bermuda Line's s.s. *Port George*. The itinerary will be as follows:—

Destination	Leave New York			
	Nov. Arrive	Jan. 4. Arrive	Feb. 4. Arrive	March 4. Arrive
St. Thomas	Dec. 1	Jan. 9	Feb. 7	Mar. 6
St. Croix	Dec. 2	Jan. 10	Feb. 8	Mar. 7
St. Kitts	Dec. 3	Jan. 11	Feb. 9	Mar. 8
Antigua	Dec. 4	Jan. 12	Feb. 10	Mar. 9
Guadeloupe	Dec. 5	Jan. 13	Feb. 11	Mar. 10
Dominica	Dec. 6	Jan. 14	Feb. 12	Mar. 11
Martinique	Dec. 7	Jan. 15	Feb. 13	Mar. 12
St. Lucia	Dec. 8	Jan. 16	Feb. 14	Mar. 13
Barbados	Dec. 9	Jan. 17	Feb. 15	Mar. 14
Trinidad	Dec. 10	Jan. 18	Feb. 16	Mar. 15
Arrive New York	Dec. 13	Jan. 21	Feb. 19	Mar. 18

From England intending visitors to the West Indies will have an opportunity of making round cruises at reasonable rates in the Harrison Line steamers *Intaba* and *Ingoma*, sailing from London on January 13th and February 24th respectively.

BOOTS FOR WEST INDIANS.

An Opportunity for English Firms.

The spectacle of West Indians walking to church and carrying their boots in their hands is familiar to all visitors to the Antilles. It is, no doubt, due to the footwear not fitting sufficiently well and to the high West Indian instep, which the Acting Trade Commissioner in Trinidad has discovered to exist.

The Department of Overseas Trade has recently circulated the Chambers of Commerce in the United Kingdom regarding the opportunities now afforded by the Preferential Tariffs in the British West Indies for increasing the sale of English boots and shoes in those Colonies. The Acting Trade Commissioner in Trinidad points out that the annual consumption of boots, shoes, and other forms of footwear in the British West Indies is probably in the neighbourhood of 100,000 dozen pairs. The imports from Canada are almost entirely canvas and rubber shoes, which are also obtained in large quantities from the United States. The imports from Venezuela are comparatively large. This is due to the large trade done in alpagatas, a form of slipper consisting of a stout leather sole with a wide canvas band across the instep and a narrow one behind the heel.

As the import statistics show, the United Kingdom improved its position considerably in the year 1920, but having regard to the advantages offered by the high American exchange rate and the preferential duties, there appears to be no reason why the home country should not supply all the leather footwear required in the British West Indies. It is estimated that it costs between 60 and 70 per cent. of the value of a pair of American shoes to land them in Trinidad, while the landing charges from London are little more than 15 per cent.

As to shapes, there is little to be said, but it may be remarked that although the United States has for the last six years supplied the bulk of the footwear, there is no pronounced feeling in favour of American models. In ladies' footwear, plain rather than fancy models are preferred. The heels should be of medium height (semi-Cuban), and the toes not too pointed. As the West Indian instep is usually rather high, the Derby shape is preferred by men. While there is a steady demand for a good medium.

From enquiries made in various quarters, it appears that large quantities of British boots and shoes are at present on order for delivery during the next few months, says the Acting Commissioner. There is little doubt that American firms will attempt to maintain their position by cutting prices, and this can, perhaps, best be countered by the organisation of an inexpensive advertising campaign in the British West Indies. I was recently visiting one of the local stores when a large packing case from an American shoe manufacturer was being opened. This case contained nothing but advertising material—plaster models, wall plaques, large

and small show cards in artistic designs, well printed pamphlets for distribution, and a number of blocks for advertisements in the local Press. This firm, who are also the sole retailers in Trinidad of a certain mark of British boots and shoes, and import from a number of other firms, were thus encouraged to devote a whole window to a special display of the manufactures of the American firm. It is, however, not suggested that in a comparatively small market, where boots and shoes are generally retailed by departmental stores, a large sum of money should be appropriated for this form of advertisement. It would appear to be much more effective, and certainly more economical, if firms interested in this market reserved a full page in each of the principal West Indian papers for, say, a week every six months, in order to call attention to the superior quality of British footwear.

UNITED STATES' SUGAR SUPPLY.

The following official figures have been issued at Washington showing the comparative sources of sugar supply of the United States of America for the years 1907 to 1920, and the total duties paid annually :—

Year.	Total U. S. consumption	Free* supply.	Cuba sugars imported in U. S. A.	Balance requirements from other countries	U. S. revenue on sugars and molasses imported fiscal years ending June 30th
	Long tons.	Long tons.	Long tons.	Long tons.	\$
1907	2,993,979	1,287,582	1,310,400	365,297	60,338,523
1908	3,185,789	1,539,333	916,712	729,744	50,168,155
1909	3,257,660	1,629,688	1,427,531	200,441	56,114,134
1910	3,350,355	1,637,780	1,610,182	72,393	53,105,357
1911	3,351,391	1,743,070	1,409,259	199,062	52,809,371
1912	3,504,182	1,732,969	1,664,863	106,350	50,951,199
1913	3,743,139	1,731,750	1,990,831	17,558	53,481,801
1914	3,760,227	1,693,915	2,018,851	18,058	61,870,157
1915	3,801,531	1,939,200	1,841,602	20,729	49,607,651
1916	3,658,607	1,977,118	1,666,518	14,991	55,875,639
1917	3,683,599	2,171,248	1,506,876	5,475	55,471,361
1918	3,495,606	1,595,059	1,881,241	19,303	49,092,779
1919	4,067,671	1,912,882	2,067,051	57,738	68,608,819
1920	4,084,672	1,396,954	2,133,699	554,019	79,536,137

* Free supply means sugar produced in the United States of America and its insular possessions.
 † Including 10,700 tons Philippine sugar in 1907 and 45,089 tons in 1908 paying 75 per cent. of full duty rates; beginning 1908 these sugars were admitted free and were included in "Free Supply" column.

IN the course of an address on the "Dehydration of Food-Staffs," Mr. D. I. Latham said that if the material was to retain its natural appearance, colour, and flavour, chemical changes in the tissues must be checked. Some of these produce darkening discoloration, others break down the fragments present, causing the fading of the characteristic colours of the material. Others affect the flavour, due to escape of essential oils. Excess of temperature causes partial destruction of the proteins, while rapid heating in dry air of freshly-cut slices of fruit or vegetables permits of the escape of water, which carries with it dissolved sugars, salts, and flavouring substances.

PRINCESS MARY'S BETROTHAL.

The following was issued from Buckingham Palace on November 22nd :—

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

It is with the greatest pleasure that the King and Queen announce the Betrothal of their beloved Daughter Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles, D.S.O., eldest Son of the Earl of Harewood.

At a Council held at Buckingham Palace this evening His Majesty was pleased to declare his consent to the Marriage.

November 22nd, 1921.

This interesting announcement forms the subject of a leading article in the present issue of the CIRCULAR. It has been received with the liveliest satisfaction by the public and the Press, who rejoice that the Princess should have chosen a consort of British birth. Viscount Lascelles is the son and heir of the Earl of Harewood, who, as it is hardly necessary to remind readers of the CIRCULAR, is the President of The West India Committee.

In the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute, Mr. Gerald C. Dudgeon, C.B.E., lately Consulting Agriculturist to the Government of Egypt, discusses the causes which have led to the decline in the yield of cotton in Egypt. Whereas during the six years ending 1899 each acre under cotton produced on the average an annual crop of over 500 lbs. of cotton, during the eight years ending 1913 the average yield had fallen to just over 400 lbs., and in 1920 it was as low as 320 lbs. per acre, the reduction in twenty years thus amounting to 36 per cent. Such a decline, if not checked, must in time have a serious effect on the prosperity of Egypt, which depends so largely on the cotton growing industry. It is pointed out that although the chief causes to which the decline is due have been recognised, the proportionate share of each in the result is often so unduly emphasised as to produce a misleading impression, and this is apt to lead to the adoption of incorrect procedure.



Viscount Lascelles

The elder son of the EARL OF HAREWOOD, K.C.V.O., President of The West India Committee.
From a photograph by C. Vaadyk, Ltd.

AGRICULTURE IN ANTIGUA.

The report of the Agricultural Department of Antigua for 1919-20 states that there was a considerable presence during the year of the Brown Hard-Back Beetle (*Lachnosterna* spp) in the sugarcane fields, and a definite relationship seemed to be established between the appearance of canes attacked by root disease (*Marasmius Sacchari*) and those attacked by the grubs of the beetle.

In controlling the pest, pigs appear to be of great service. In an experiment carried out in

a one-acre field, in which it was calculated that 100,320 grubs were present, a pen occupying an area of 160 square feet was constructed, and six pigs were allowed to run wild in it. After two days the pigs were removed, and it was found that they had accounted for 441 grubs, an average of 73½ grubs per snout, and the conclusion is drawn therefrom that the use of pigs in the world can be extended in the control of the Antigua Brown Hard-Back. A natural enemy of the pest is the parasite *Tiphia parallela*, which is also a controlling agency in the case of the Mauritius Brown Hard-Back, *Phytalus Smithii*.

Cotton was severely attacked by the cotton-worm during the year. The report of the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association states that the amount of seed cotton purchased by it during the year was 23,275 lbs., 152 peasant proprietors co-operating in the sale of seed cotton to the Association. The price paid per pound of seed cotton was 21 cents for clean cotton and 7 cents for stained. The quantity of lint obtained on ginning was 24 bales of clean and 2 bales of stained cotton. The crop was disposed of locally at an average price of 5/- per lb. for clean and 2/- for stained lint. At the close of the season a second payment was made to the peasants by way of bonus of 5 c. per lb.

The quantity of sugar exported during the calendar year 1919 was 12,285 tons, of which 11,239 tons were crystals and 946 tons muscovado. In addition, 3,303 puncheons of molasses were exported. The exports of lime products were: 48 casks of concentrated, 51 casks of raw, and 181 barrels of green limes. 477 crates of onions and 33 barrels of pineapples also figured in the exports.

A USEFUL QUARTERLY.

From time to time the CIRCULAR has drawn attention to the advantage which would accrue to the West India sugar industry by the adoption of a system of mutual interchange of estate and factory results and experiences, as is done in modern progressive sugar producing countries. Unfortunately, nothing has been carried out in the West Indies in this way, but the Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company has set a good and altruistic example to other concerns by the publication of their *Quarterly Review*, No. 3 of which magazine is now before us. It includes matters of general interest in connection with the affairs of the company in Trinidad, but to the sugar producer its great attraction centres in the results of the crop working, as given by those in charge of the several departments. Thus we learn that for the 1921 crop the company turned out 17,741 tons of sugar, all except 641 tons made at Malgretout being turned out by the Usine Ste. Madeleine. Of this, 7,687 tons were shipped to the United Kingdom, 4,000 tons to the Eastern Counties ports, and 4,500 tons to Vancouver; 1,496 tons were sold locally, and 58 tons remained on hand in the form of massecuite. Cane growing is a strong point in connection with the Ste. Madeleine Company, out of the 186,000 tons of canes which passed through the mills in the course of the 1921 crop, no less than 102,000 being supplied by 8,775 farmers, or an average of 11.6 tons per individual.

It is stated that during the growing season, June 1920 to January 1921, there was great keenness shown by the farmers in attending to their cane cultivation, as it was generally anticipated the price paid for canes for the 1921 crop would reach a higher figure. Applications for loans from the Agricultural Credit Societies were accordingly heavy and frequent, as were also requests for estate advances. These societies alone advanced \$79,228 for cane cultivation, \$47,458 for purchase of carts and animals, and \$21,570 for erection of new dwellings and repairs to existing ones. Later in the year prices dropped, and "the resulting disappointment has given one and all a check, which will take time to overcome." The manufacturing results were not so satisfactory as those obtained in the 1920 crop, 10.37 tons of canes having been taken at the Usine per ton of sugar, and 12.17 tons at

Malgretout. The chemist's report gives the cause of this as being the lesser proportion of sucrose in the canes. In the 1920 crop this stood at 12.09 per cent., whereas in the 1921 crop the proportion was only 11.45 per cent. The *Review* also gives the results of the experience of the Usine with seedling canes grown on its estates. From these we learn that 48.47 per cent. consists of B156, B347 standing second on the list with 15.12 per cent., the balance comprising individually small quantities of 22 other varieties. The above constitute a few of the many items of interest in the *Quarterly Review*. Its frontispiece represents it as emanating from the factory chimneys in the form of smoke. It would be to the advantage of the West Indian sugar industry if other producers were to utilise their escaping energy in the same manner.



Princess Mary

Whose betrothal to Viscount Lascelles was announced on November 22nd. From a photograph by C. Vandyk, Ltd.

OUR LIBRARY.

A WEST INDIAN CURRENCY. By LIEUT.-COL. IVAN DAVSON, O.B.E. Published by WILLIAM CLOWES & SONS, LTD.

In this pamphlet of 46 pages, Colonel Davson supplements his views on West Indian currency, which, it will be recalled, he ventilated in THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR. His proposals fall under two heads, first that the West Indies should melt their own silver and thus gain the benefit of the "seigniorage" or profit arising therefrom, and secondly, that the currency should be established on a decimal basis with the existing sterling denominations minted down to the shilling, which would represent 50 mils, nickel and alloy coins being struck to represent 25, 10, 5 mils and 1 mil. His statement is lucid and well written and it is evident that he has devoted much care and research to its compilation. Colonel Davson anticipates and answers adverse criticisms of his schemes, and the pamphlet should do much towards enlightening public opinion in the West Indies regarding a question which is extremely complex. Following his statements are a report of a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of British Guiana, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, when Mr. Cecil Clementi, the Colonial Secretary, supported the proposals; and favourable resolutions passed by West Indian Chambers of Commerce. In a foreword to the pamphlet, Sir Edward Davson states that the proposals constitute an endeavour to secure for the West Indian colonies funds for the advancement of their own interests and to give them an efficient and complete currency system.

TRINIDAD POLICE REPORT.

Echo of the Strike of 1919.

The salient features of the Reports of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conduct of the Constabulary during the disturbances which occurred in Port of Spain on December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1919, have now been published, with a covering despatch from Mr. Churchill.

The Commissioners were Mr. Justice A. D. Russell, Mr. H. L. Elphinstone and Colin J. A. Bell Smythe, C.B., C.M.G., and the Secretary of State for the Colonies gives the conclusions which he has drawn from their reports.

His views are substantially in accord with the principal findings of the Commissioners. He declares that the investigation was thorough, and that its results may be accepted with confidence. Inasmuch as the reports embody the evidence of witnesses who gave it on the understanding that their names would not be disclosed, they are not published in extenso. Mr. Churchill proceeds:—

“The riot appears to me to have been brought about primarily by the failure of an influential group of employers to remedy the genuine economic grievances of their employees. Although the agents of the steamship companies had already convinced themselves that an increase in wages would be justified, they were not prepared to grant this increase unless the Trinidad Working Men's Association first called off the strike. Neither were they prepared to discuss this matter with the representatives of the

Association until Sir John Chancellor intervened on December 2nd. From the moment of Sir John Chancellor's intervention the situation appears to have improved, and I consider that credit is due to the Governor both for the way in which he handled the difficult situation which had arisen on that date, and for his administration of affairs throughout the period of the disturbances.

“It is possible to argue that the vigorous employment of force to quell the riot before December 2nd would have prevented its further development. On the other hand, I consider that it is at least as likely that such action might have had a result much more serious than actually occurred, not only in its immediate, but also in its more lasting consequences to the Colony, and I regard it as fortunate that the community escaped from any such consequences.



The Earl of Harewood, K.C.V.O.

The EARL OF HAREWOOD, whose elder son is to be married to Princess Mary, is the President of The West India Committee.

“It appears to me that the policy of forbearance which was uniformly adopted by the Police cannot rightly be criticised as having been in itself mis-conceived, but I consider that in certain respects it was carried too far, and that it was followed under conditions in which it had ceased to appropriate. For instance, I concur with the view expressed by Mr. Justice Russell, that the warehouses and stores might and should have been defended by a timely and resolute employment of moderate force, such as the use of police batons. I note that the crowd was unprovided with firearms, sticks or missiles, and I consider that it is probably the case that Colonel May exaggerated the danger involved in making arrests and in resisting the crowd to the extent indicated in the preceding sentence. I consider that more arrests should have been attempted, and the facts that an arrest was successfully made on the second day of the riots, and that other arrests were made without any difficulty at Mr. Huggins' store on the third day, go to show that the danger of attempting arrests was, in fact, exaggerated. At the same time, Colonel May's difficulties were accentuated by the fact that many of the rank and file of the Constabulary were half-hearted in their action, and failed to do their duty properly. . . .

“It is obvious that in a series of occurrences extending over several days mistakes are apt to occur on the part of those responsible for maintaining law and order, and in the light of the information which has become available, as the result of the investigations made since the riot, it has now become possible to criticise, in certain minor respects, the judgment displayed in the handling of the Constabulary. At the same time, I do not consider that as regards any of the criticisms which I have made, it can be definitely proved that if Colonel May had adopted a course other than the one he actually took, the situation at the time, and afterwards, would certainly have been altered for the better. My criticisms are therefore of the nature of an expression of opinion after a careful review of all circumstances, a review which it was, of course, impossible for anyone to make while the riot was in progress. The nature of these criticisms is not such as necessarily to involve a censure upon Colonel May, and it is not my intention to convey any such censure.”

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

BY "AGRONOMIST."

In the United States the quantity of wood as a waste product in the process of converting the felled trees into merchantable timber is estimated as being equivalent to 4,000 cubic feet per diem, much of which is not utilised.

Professor Barber has recently installed at the Audubon Experiment Station in Louisiana a plant for the preparation of poisoned syrup, for the destruction of the Argentine ant, which causes so much damage in that country and elsewhere. The syrup can be obtained in barrels.

As showing the prejudicial effect which the mosquito exercises on the industry of a country, the annual report of the State Department of New Jersey says that the industrial value of that State would be increased in 20 years by \$100,000,000 if mosquitoes could be exterminated from it.

It is stated by Mr. F. R. Brandt, chief veterinary officer of the Northern Provinces of Nigeria, that the live stock in that Colony in 1920 numbered about 2,500,000 cattle, 2,000,000 sheep, nearly 4,000,000 goats, over 130,000 horses, and 250,000 donkeys, the total value being estimated at £20,000,000.

The *Australian Sugar Journal*, on the subject of the manufacture of rum, says that thirty years ago Queensland rum was selling in successful competition with Demerara and Jamaica rum in Mining Lane, and that, if the Commonwealth Shipping Line fulfils its purpose it can again profitably enter the market. It is to be feared that the position of the home rum market is not realised in Australia.

The husks of the coconut are extremely valuable as a manure, containing, according to Mr. Kelway Bamber, 46 per cent. of salt, 30.7 per cent. of potash, 4.14 per cent. of lime, and 1.92 per cent. of phosphoric acid. The husks should be buried in trenches when fresh, and allowed to rot in them. Although this process takes a long time, it is preferable to burning them, and thus losing the humus.

An editorial in the *Tropical Agriculturist* for August advocates the establishment of a lime industry in Ceylon, and it is stated that the Department of Agriculture was taking the matter up. Limes grow well in Ceylon, where the rainfall is adequate, up to 2,500 feet, and numerous specimens heavily laden with fruit and free from pests and diseases may, it is said, be seen in the damper districts of the Colony.

As regards the extraction of papaine from the papaw fruit, the Government agricultural chemist of Ceylon says that it might be possible to express the juice from ripe or unripe fruit, and after filtering to precipitate the papaine with sulphate of ammonia, purifying it by re-solution and by precipitation finally with alcohol. The fruits might, he says, be sliced and sun-dried, then disintegrated

and extracted with water or glycerol before precipitation as above. The course of events points to a future for the papaw.

In incubating eggs, says Nicko's, the egg chamber is always hotter at the top than at the bottom. Turning equalises the heating of the eggs, and should be done morning and night, many operators being in favour of an extra turn at noon. The turning of the egg also prevents the blastoderm coming in contact with the inner lining of the shell and sticking to it. Once the germ does this it perishes. Small eggs, i.e. eggs weighing less than 2 ozs., should be rejected, and all dirty shelled eggs should be washed and dried.

The *Queensland Agricultural Journal* contains a description of the "mealy," or "Greyback," cane beetle (*Lepidoderma albobirtum* Waterhouse), which is the principal beetle pest in the Queensland sugar industry. The damage is done by the grubs, which destroy the stools. The beetle is deep-brown in colour, almost black in fact, and is more or less covered with white, sharply pointed, pear-shaped scales. These impart a grey appearance to the newly emerged beetle, but become more or less rubbed off in the course of a day or two. The grub is creamy white in colour, bluish, and somewhat translucent after moulting.

The subject of the use of shade for coffee, to which reference has been made in a previous "Jotting," is dealt with in the *Tropical Agriculturist* of August last. In this it is stated that coffee thrives under trees of the ficus tribe, although one objection to their use is that unless there is a good depth of soil their roots mostly permeate the surface, and thus deprive the coffee of nourishment, although this is more than counterbalanced by the heavy mulch they afford. The only tree suitable for the purpose which draws its nourishment from the subsoil is the jak (*Artocarpus integrifolia*). It is claimed that the use of *Erythrina lithosperma* as a shade tree for coffee with the cuttings and leaves used as a mulch, gives a big yield, without any manure of other description being necessary.

The area planted with oil palms (*Elaeis guineensis*) on the East Coast of Sumatra is, according to Dr. A. H. L. Rutgers, increasing rapidly. At the beginning of 1920, about 15,000 acres were in cultivation, of which 5,000 acres had been planted the previous year. It is anticipated that the total area under this cultivation will be extended to 100,000 acres within the next ten years. With this average an annual yield of nearly 100,000 tons of oil may be expected. This approximates to the pre-war West African figure of 125,000 tons of palm oil and 325,000 tons of kernels. It is estimated that the annual production of oil and kernels per acre, when the oil palms are planted 26 feet by 21 feet is, in the five to ten years, 0.5 ton oil and 0.12 ton kernels, in the 11th-30th years, 1.55 tons oil and 0.37 tons kernels, and in the 31st-50th years 0.62 tons oil and 0.15 tons kernels.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

By ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 501.)

A Neglected Opportunity.

Two little rivers, the Pilot and the Lizard, with the inevitable mangroves near their mouths, empty their waters into Guayaguayare Bay, which otherwise differs little from its neighbour to the north. During the days of slavery, cotton was extensively cultivated in the neighbourhood, but owing to labour difficulties which followed emancipation, it was abandoned, and no serious attempt has since been made to revive the industry, in spite of the high prices ruling in Lancashire in recent years. This seems strange, for many of the peasants' cottages throughout the island have growing alongside them shrubs of cotton whose appearance made it very evident that this plant flourishes in Trinidad. We gathered some of the cotton. It was very white and silky, and fairly strong, with a staple of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland, to whom it was submitted shortly after my return, reported that it "would compete with the $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Memphis, and would be worth 60d. to 62d. when ginned," at a time when Sea Island was quoted 80d. to 90d. according to quality. Yet no attempt has been made to collect and market this peasants' cotton, much less to encourage and regularise its production.

Coconuts now form the sole staple at Guayaguayare pending the development of the oil industry. But no mention must be made of sugar, which we saw being produced by a group of negroes in its most primitive form. They had made a large hole in the stump of a coconut palm. Into this they inserted the end of a stout stick in such a way that it could be moved up and down. Into the hole and under the stick was put a sugar-cane. The stick was then levered up and down, crushing the cane, whose juice was collected into a tin can by an attendant satellite. By him it was transferred to the "copper wall"—a single bowl in which it was being evaporated over a wood fire by the "pan boiler"—to the admiration of several laughing black piccaninies, who awaited with eager anticipation the completion of this simple process. The aroma of the boiling juice was certainly delicious, and the resulting sugar was probably far sweeter to the taste than the white sugar which the over-civilised insist upon having to-day. One again realised what a happy place the West Indies must be for those content to lead the simple life.

The only habitations near this sandy beach are a collection of wooden shanties, and several large hungalows effectively screened by wire gauze from the mosquitos that abound in the neighbourhood. These hungalows are the property of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., an English company which includes amongst its extensive holdings in the island a large area of oil-bearing land in this district.

Guayaguayare was the scene of the early operations of Major Randolph Rust, who did so much towards calling attention to the possibilities of Trinidad as an oil-producing island.

Raleigh as an Oil Pioneer.

Without knowing it, Sir Walter Raleigh was perhaps the first European to discover oil in Trinidad, for it is now recognised that there is a close geological connection with the pitch, with which he payed his ship at La Brea, and petroleum. Subsequent writers on Trinidad all refer to the existence of oil in the island. Joseph in 1837 wrote of "streams" and "rills of petroleum" on the surface of the Pitch Lake. He could speak with authority, having once lost his way when crossing the lake, and having consequently been compelled to spend a night wandering about it; but no subsequent visitor has ever identified "streams" and "rills" of anything but water there. De Verteuil, in his "Trinidad," published in 1858, tells of springs of petroleum in the High Woods, or virgin forest, and the map issued with the second edition of his work shows a "spring of petroleum" to the north-east of Savanna Grande, and a "submarine spring of petroleum" off La Brea point. Forde again, in his *Histoire de l'Île de la Trinidad*, written in 1876, states that petroleum was found in the neighbourhood of the Pitch Lake.

The discovery of this valuable product in Trinidad is, then, nothing new. But until the invention of the internal combustion engine, and the recognition of the advantages of petroleum as fuel, mineral oil was used for few purposes other than as an illuminant and for lubrication. The demand for it was comparatively small, and consequently there was little inducement to develop new sources of supply to compete with those in the United States and Russia.

Nevertheless in 1856 a concern called the Merrimac Company endeavoured to distil oil from pitch or asphalt as a commercial proposition. It met with no financial success; but ten years later a Trinidad Petroleum Company, with a capital of £150,000, was formed by Mr. H. B. Sheridan, M.P., and the eleventh Earl of Dundonald, to bore for petroleum. They struck oil near La Brea, but owing to the company being unable to compete with oil-producing firms in the United States, and to other adverse circumstances, it was soon forced into liquidation. The next oil adventurer to appear on the scene was a civil engineer named Derwent. He "brought in" a well at Aripiero in 1858, but soon found that there was no money in it, and suspended his operations. From the date of the abandonment of his well until 1901 no further attempt was made to win oil in Trinidad. In that year, however, Randolph Rust, a man of boundless energy and irrepressible optimism, staked his fortune in the purchase of modern drilling machinery, and drilled a well near the spot where Derwent had bored his forty-three years before. It proved productive and thus justified the confidence of its pioneer, whose efforts had hitherto been ridiculed. The local Government, which had been inactive in the matter of oil development, now retained the services of Sir, (then Mr.) John Cadman as mining engineer, and of Mr. Cunningham Craig, the well-known geologist, who located, in the southern part of the island, three well-defined anticlines, the ownership of the mineral rights over which became in later years the basis of much active speculation.

A Progressive Industry.

Though much pioneering work was done by individuals and companies, little real progress was, however, noticeable until 1910, when, following the flotation of the Trinidad Oilfields, Ltd., whose capital was very largely over-subscribed, many new syndicates and companies were formed to exploit the Trinidad oil-fields, and oil-bearing lands, and licences changed hands at prices undreamed of a few years before. Meanwhile the concessionaires of the Pitch Lake had been boring near La Brea, and on April 27th, 1911, Sir George le Hunte, the then Governor, opened a valve at the end of their pipeline which conveyed Trinidad oil to a steamer lying alongside their pier at "Brighton," and thus formally inaugurated a new industry.

The high prices resulting from the war gave a great impetus to the production of oil, and though the companies operating in the island were hampered by the difficulty in securing the delivery of drilling tools and material generally, the industry has gone ahead rapidly, the output from the local wells having increased from 9,985,740 imperial gallons in 1911 to 72,872,393 last year, while the total number of feet drilled has risen from 14,485 to 77,376.

The Guayaguayare oil-field was not being operated on the occasion of my visit. It was regarded as "proved," and was being held in reserve. The custodian, however, courteously allowed us to see all that there was to be seen, and escorted us on a man-handled trolley along a light railway line penetrating the bush for a distance of a little over a mile. This brought us to a clearing, where we were shown the various wells, now indicated only by the casing-like water-mains projecting from the ground and securely "capped." Near them was a derelict engine and a square tank which, if it should prove to be Major Rust's earliest oil receiver, should find a place in the Museum of the Victoria Institute in Port of Spain when it rises again from the fire that destroyed it soon after my visit.

It is believed that the destruction of the building was the work of a "fire-bug"—or "bugs." If this was the case, it would be difficult to imagine a more insensate act of folly. The Victoria Institute, opened in 1892 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, contained, besides a museum of birds, shells, reptiles and insects of the island, reading and lecture rooms, where instruction was given in book-keeping, shorthand, languages, painting, etc., which the People—with a capital P—had not the opportunity of learning elsewhere. As recently as 1914 a King Edward Memorial Wing was opened, a notable feature of which was a large concert hall.

Here Mrs. Perez, the wife of Dr. J. J. Perez, the Government Medical Officer for St. Joseph—a Scotch lady who has made Trinidad her home for the past twenty-three years—first held her theatrical entertainments which benefited war charities to the tune of £12,000. The Technical Workshop, presented by the late Mr. Bruce Stephens and his brother, Mr. J. W. Stephens, fortunately escaped the conflagration, and it is now "up to" the local Government to provide a grant to supplement the Insurance funds, so that the main fabric may be

rebuilt, and the work of this valuable local "Poly" carried on with renewed vigour. The Institute deserved a better fate than to be destroyed by a member or members of the community for whose enlightenment through lectures and classes it was established.

Trinidad's Black Virgin.

Returning from Mayaro to Port of Spain, we took the route which lies through the famous Montserrat district in the central range of mountains, where the cultivation of cacao is seen at its very best, and where the objects of interest include a Black Virgin. The latter is enshrined in the little church of Notre Dame de Montserrat at Tortuga. Her features are European, but her face quite black. She was imported from Spain by a Mr. Joaquim Colomer, who is not alive to say what her complexion was like when she left Europe. One recalled having seen a similarly black Virgin in a church near Pompeii, and was told that there was yet another at Siparia, who had been taken into Port of Spain by a Priest, but had found her way back to her home like the miraculous Bambino in the Ara Coeli at Rome.

Like sugar, cacao has had its vicissitudes in Trinidad. Its cultivation was started by the early Spanish settlers, who introduced the varieties known as "Criollo," or Creole, from Mexico, and that called "Forastero," or foreign, from the Brazils.

The industry made little progress until the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, when, under an agreement between His most Christian Majesty and His most Catholic Majesty, the Royal Company of Guinea, established in France, was allowed to supply the Spanish colonies with 48,000 negro slaves at the rate of 4,800 a year. Cacao now began to be extensively planted, and all went well until 1725, when most of the cacao trees succumbed to blight. This disaster was attributed by many to the appearance of a comet; but Father Gumilla, the Jesuit, declared that it was due to the planters failing to pay their tithes. Whatever the real cause may have been, the planters found themselves in a desperate plight. Having no agricultural scientists from whom to seek advice, as their successors have, they simply abandoned their plantations, and many were compelled to sell their plate and even their slaves in order to provide money wherewith to purchase the necessaries of life. It is, indeed, recorded that in a petition addressed to their Sovereign in 1740 they declared that the failure of the cacao crop had reduced them to such a state of destitution that they could not go to Mass except once a year, when they appeared in clothes borrowed from each other, and that the Illustrious Board of the Cabildo had only one pair of small clothes for all its members!

The Spaniards evidently made no serious attempt to re-establish the industry, for when the island was captured by the English in 1797, only six cacao plantations remained in cultivation as compared with 130 coffee plantations, 103 cotton estates, and 159 sugar estates. It was not until about 1860 that the cacao industry was revived, and from that year onwards its development has been practically

unchecked, until the exports of the "golden bean," as cacao has been appropriately called, have reached 56,000,000 lbs. per annum, and a yearly value of £2,592,686.

In Trinidad most of the planters believe in growing their cacao under shade trees, and when the Bois Immortel, which is generally used for this purpose, throws off its leaves and is covered instead with a mass of orange-red blossom, the appearance of the cacao plantations is truly impressive.

We lunched under the cool country residence of Mr. J. D. Sellier, one of the foremost lawyers of Trinidad, who lives with his sister, who kindly entertained us, in the heart of this land of cacao. It must not be supposed that we were relegated to the cellar, but Mr. Sellier's house was raised on columns, and the luncheon table was on the ground level, open to every breeze of heaven and yet shaded from the torrid rays of the sun. Afterwards, piloted by one of the overseers, I ascended a knoll near by commanding a superb view of mountain and valley over which the cacao tree now replaces the tall trees of the primeval forest. One learnt that most of the cacao plantations in the island had been established by the "contract" system, which is still adopted in laying out new areas under cacao.

Under this system, which was regularised in 1880 by the Agricultural Contracts Ordinance, the landowner hands over his land to a peasant, who undertakes to plant and cultivate an agreed number of cacao trees upon it. In return for his services the peasant has the free use of the land for growing provision crops until the fifth or sixth year, when he hands it back to the owner, who pays him an agreed price for each cacao tree in bearing. The peasant then moves off, seeking fresh fields and pastures new. The system has proved a very convenient one for the landowner; but it is altogether opposed to the modern ideas of the settlement of peasant proprietors on the land, on which the future of many West Indian islands will probably depend.

(To be continued.)

The Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, of which Sir Daniel Hall is head, has arranged to hold an "At Home" in the offices of the Department in Whitehall on the afternoon of the third Wednesday in each month, with the object of bringing together, for informal intercourse, agriculturists who may have difficulties and experts who may be able to assist in solving them. We understand that visitors from the West Indies will be welcomed on these occasions.

In the recent issue of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute, an account is given of the giant grasses, many somewhat similar to bamboo, which exist in India and the Far East, in connection with their suitability for paper making. With many of them preliminary trials have been made, a satisfactory yield of pulp having been obtained which produces good paper. In the case of the so-called elephant grass of Eastern tropical Africa, these results have been confirmed on a large scale, and the paper thus made is used in Uganda for the Government.

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 in Antigua.

Mr. Donald McDonald, writing on November 1st, reports that continual rains have fallen, to which the crops are responding rapidly, the growth, however, all over the island being very far below what it should be at this time of the year. Body Ponds and Wallings are again well enough supplied with water to stand the resumption of the water service now locked off for so long, but really heavy, sound rains are still wanting.

The question of pilferage of cargo continues to occupy the attention of the authorities, and a Committee has been appointed to make recommendations for dealing with this nuisance. The lighting of the city with electricity ought to assist materially in the more careful handling of cargo that is landed late in the evening.

Two more small estates have changed hands recently, Hodges Bay bought by Mr. Haines for £3,500, and the Union Estate purchased by Mr. de Cambra for £3,500. The Antigua Grammar School opened the Michaelmas Term with a larger number of boys on the books than for many years. Two new Assistant Masters have also arrived in the island and commenced duties in the school, Captain A. C. Radford, B.A., Gonville and Caius, Cambridge, and Mr. H. C. Carrington, Inter-Arts, London.

Search for Oil in Barbados.

Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, writing on November 14th, reports favourable weather during the first week in November, but since the 8th there has been no rain, and the canes are again showing the want of moisture. They are so backward that continuous showers are required to bring them on for next year.

The Barbados Turf Club arranged a most successful meeting on the Savannah for Bank Holiday on November 9th.

Trade continues dull, but in spite of the stagnation and the return of many labourers from Cuba, there is no unemployment problem in the island.

The Advocate mentions, as a general impression, that the indications revealed to the British Union Oil Company in their search for oil are very satisfactory.

The Governor has appointed Mr. W. L. C. Phillips, O.B.E., Colonial Treasurer; Mr. R. J. Clinckett, M.B.E., Official Assignee, and Mr. H. W. Lofly as Local Commissioners of Income Tax as from March 1st, 1921. The administration of the income tax for the year is expected to amount to £1,150.

The action brought by the Polish coppersmiths against a number of estate owners whose taxchests they had undertaken to repair, has been discontinued, and it is understood that a compromise has been effected.

Mr. F. O. Jackman has been appointed to a seat in the Court of Appeal in succession to the late Mr. Justice F. N. Briggs. He is succeeded as Magistrate of District A by Mr. C. N. Roach.

Help for British Guiana Rice Farmers.

As foreshadowed in last CIRCULAR, the Government have come to the assistance of the rice farmers with a loan of \$150,000, and Mr. C. Shankland has begun to

make advances on the basis of \$5 per every acre under cultivation, interest being charged at 7 per cent., and the loans being secured by the retention of 8 bags of paddy for every \$5 advanced. The Rev. E. R. O. Robertson has written to the *Argosy* expressing the gratitude of those interested in the industry for the great help given them in this crisis by the Sugar Planters' Association.

Sir Wilfred Collet returned to the Colony on October 22nd by s.s. *Arakaka*, and resumed the administration of the Government.

Hon. R. E. Brassington and Hon. M. Nascimento have resigned their directorates of the *Daily Chronicle*, Ltd. The year's profits of the Company amounted to \$5,549, for the year ended April 30th, 1921, but no dividend was declared.

The diamond industry is experiencing a boom. In the Kurupung Creek in the Mazaruni District, a day's work often yields 100 to 200 carats.

An agricultural census of the Colony taken by the Board of Agriculture shows that there was a falling off in all agricultural products in 1920. Owing to the habit of rice cultivators in planting too late, there were 9,000 acres less under rice cultivation than in the previous year. The figures are as follows:—

Crops of	1919. Acres.	1920. Acres.
Sugar Cane	70,876	59,532
Rice Total Acreage	61,405	54,453
Rice Spring Crop	12,820	14,023
Rice Autumn Crop	61,405	51,718
Rice Total Acreage Reaped	74,225	65,741
Coconuts	27,518	24,425
Cacao	2,147	1,846
Coffee	5,125	5,051
Rubber	4,042	2,813
Limes	1,325	1,054
Ground Provisions	18,192	15,686
Maize	no returns	1,147

What British Honduras Wants.

The questions which the Governor was to have brought before the Hon. Edward Wood, in addition to the subject of representative government, were as follows: The establishment of a sugar or other industry in the Stamm Creek Valley to save the railway; direct wireless communication with Jamaica for all purposes; the need for British and Canadian capital for developing the natural resources of the Colony; the line of demarcation between the Colony and Guatemala; and the establishment of a Forestry Department.

The Resolution regarding Representative Government, the terms of which were given in last CIRCULAR, was moved in the Legislative Council by Hon. Sydney Cuthbert, seconded by Hon. F. R. Dragten, and unanimously supported by the unofficial members, the officials not voting. Mr. Cuthbert pointed out that British Honduras was already in a different position from that occupied by any other Crown Colony, since the unofficial members had a majority in the Legislative Council, and the Constitution rested on a local law and not on a Royal Order in Council. The Governor promised to recommend the setting up of the Commission asked for in the Resolution, which he undertook to forward to the Secretary of State.

Longevity in the Cayman Islands.

The census taken on April 24th last disclosed a population of 5,253, as compared with 5,564 in 1911. Of the 1921 total, 1,004 were classed as white (though many were Octoroons or darker), 2,551 as coloured, and

828 as black. The table of ages accompanying Mr. H. H. Hutelings' report shows that Georgetown boasted one centenarian and forty-two nonagenarians. Another table shows, by the excess of married females, that the breadwinner goes abroad to earn his living.

Jamaicans' Average Incomes.

Mr. Vincent Astor, one of the principal directors of the Atlantic Fruit Co., has been on a visit of inspection of the properties which his Company bought some time ago from Sir John Pringle for £612,000.

In the new Session of the Legislative Council, which was expected to start on November 22nd, amongst other important business to be dealt with was the consideration of a Bill to amend the Tariff, giving a preference to Imperial goods. Although one of the first of the West Indian Colonies to ratify the Ottawa Agreement, in Jamaica alone the enactment of the conditions then agreed upon remain to be carried out.

In spite of the many criticisms levelled at the Government Railway, and of the fact that a Commission has been appointed to enquire into its working, the concern carried more in the year ended March 31st last than in any previous year, according to the report of the Directors. On the other hand, owing to the high cost of coal and the diminution of traffic as a result of the trade slump, it spent more than it earned, and there was a loss of £4,657. Much of the expenditure was non-recurring, and there is now a sufficient equipment in engines and rolling stock to last for many years with proper maintenance.

Since the opening of the hookworm campaign in Spanish Town last February, more than 2,100 people have been cured of the disease. In the Caymanas district as many as 56 per cent. of those examined were found to be infected. Exhibition of the film "Unhooking the hookworm" has been instrumental in many cases in securing the patients' attendance for treatment.

Armistice Day was commemorated by a special parade at Up-Park Camp, in which there took part detachments of Royal Artillery, the Royal Engineers, the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, the West India Regiment, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, the Jamaica Militia Artillery, the Kingston Infantry Volunteers, the Jamaica Constabulary, and ex-Service men of the British West Indies Regiment, etc.

The annual report of Mr. Rickman, the Special Income Tax Commissioner, shows that the persons and businesses paying income tax in Jamaica amount to 8,900, of whom nearly a third return their incomes as not exceeding £190 per annum, and in their case the revenue actually loses by collecting the tax. Only 385 persons and businesses enjoyed incomes of over £2,000 in 1920.

At a representative meeting of planters and others interested in the banana industry at Hog Walk, speaker after speaker declared that the shipment of bruised and immature fruit was ruining the Jamaica banana industry, the Island's fruit fetching far less in New York than bunches from Costa Rica and Santa Marta. In a letter to the Rev. G. L. Young, the Governor stated that the law on the subject was defective, as the Privy Council had no jurisdiction until they could obtain proof that the practice of cutting immature fruit had become prevalent.

The Pink Boll Worm in Montserrat.

Mr. K. P. Penchoen, writing on November 7th, speaks of the sale of some of last cotton crop. Whilst

the prices received were below what was expected, relief is felt that sales have been made to make room for the present crop. If shipping could be obtained, it was hoped to make a shipment of cotton of the present crop during November.

The pink boll worm has made its appearance, but has not spread to the extent expected from last year's experience. Endeavours are to be made to control the pest by destroying the cotton plant early and heating the seed for planting. The Island's crop will be a short one, the acreage planted being less than previously, whilst only in a few favoured areas was early planting permitted by the weather.

The marriage of Mr. M. S. Horner, one of the managers of the Montserrat Co., to Miss Annie Haines, second daughter of Canon Haines, was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church on October 25th, the ceremony being performed by the Rector of St. George's. The bride's father was the popular Rector of St. Anthony's for many years.

St. Kitts Factory Returns.

The last case of smallpox has been discharged some time in Anguilla, and the quarantine is to be lifted.

Miss Aileen Phillips, daughter of the late Mr. J. J. Phillips, Magistrate of District D, and Mrs. Phillips, was married to Mr. J. E. Mestier, Chemist at the St. Kitts (Basseterre) factory. Mr. and Mrs. Mestier left for the United States by s.s. *Guiana* on their honeymoon trip. Mr. J. J. Phillips, who only arrived in the Island at the beginning of the year, died on September 27th, after a long illness. The death also is announced in Antigua of Mrs. A. Roger, daughter-in-law of the late Captain Roger, a Magistrate in St. Kitts for many years. She is regretted by a large number of friends. Dr. Foreman, who for 28 years was Medical Officer of the Dieppe and Sandy Point Districts, has returned to the Island after a two years' stay in England and France, and it is hoped that he will soon be restored to good health. Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Shelford and Miss Shelford left on October 2nd for a few weeks' holiday and change in Canada.

Last sugar crop turned out by the Basseterre factory amounted to practically 8,000 tons. The tonnage returns of cane per acre were very low in the Basseterre district. Arrangements are being made for bringing in a considerably bigger tonnage next year from the Sandy Point end of the Island, and this will be towed in lighters from piers to be put up at Pump and Walk Bays.

St. Vincent's Cotton Cultivation.

With dry and favourable weather, cotton picking has continued throughout the Island, according to the *Times* of November 3rd. The amount reaped is small, and the crop will be late. The area under cultivation has been considerably reduced on the advice of the British Cotton Growing Association. Much of the cotton damaged in the September hurricane is showing healthy signs of a second growth. A fairly large crop of sugar for St. Vincent is expected. Many arrowroot fields continue to be abandoned, owing to the unremunerative prices.

Tobago's Crops Erratic.

Mr. Robert S. Reid, writing on November 9th, complains of the necessity on "non-mail or Trinidad week" of posting before the mail arrives. Meanwhile it appears to be definite that R.M.S. *Belize* will be withdrawn in 1923.

The weather continues showery and favourable for growth, but the cacao trees seem not to have recovered

from the shaking which they suffered in the storms of September 8th and October 8th. The crops look very erratic, there being few ripening pods for this year, and hopes are centred on good pickings from February onwards. The sudden drop in prices locally has had a depressing effect. Fortunately the cost of food and clothing is considerably lower. A demand has been voiced for a reduction in Government bonuses, and the matter is to be discussed at a meeting of the Planters' Association. At present, road labourers are 25 per cent. better off than estate workers, and staffs and buildings seem to be ever on the increase.

Mr. O'Connor, manager of the Government River Estate, is visiting Tobago, and planters are pleased to be able to compare notes with him on the spot.

Colonel Howell, D.S.O., of Arden Estate, and Mr. Archibald, of Roxburgh, have returned from holidays overseas, while Mr. Cathcart, of Agenza, has left for England for the winter months. After a spell of three weeks without a doctor, Dr. Marin has arrived as D.M.O. of the District, and has been very busy in view of the usual big rainy-season sick list, especially among the negroes. The long-promised General Hospital at Scarborough and the receiving station and motor ambulance at Roxburgh will be welcomed.

Trinidad's Certificates of Origin.

The Government have adopted the form of combined certificate of value and origin recommended by the Imperial Customs' Conference, 1921 (which was printed in the Circular of September 15th, page 386), with the exception that the enquiries 1 to 5 and the enquiry as to Royalties appearing at the foot of the form of invoice in Appendix A are not included in the Trinidad form.

Dr. Arthur Hutton McShine has been elected Mayor of Port of Spain for the ensuing year, and Mr. J. O. Luniss, Deputy Mayor. "The few citizens," says the *Guardian*, "who take any interest whatever in Municipal matters should be in agreement that the selection was the best that could be made."

In moving a resolution of regret at the death of Mr. Edgar Tripp, Mr. Warner, Vice-President of the Agricultural Society, paid a warm tribute to its former Secretary, to whose devoted services to the Society for over a quarter of a century, he said, the fact that it continued to exist at all was due.

Miss Cecile de Verteuil, second daughter of the Hon. Carl de Verteuil, was on November 12th married to Mr. Wilfred Knox, of Williamsville.

A Cotton Windmill in Grand Turk.

Many who rushed into the cotton business have become disheartened, according to the latest report of the Direct West India Cable Co. Having put up gineries, they find that the yield per acre falls very short of what they figured, and it is feared there may be a repetition of what happened to this industry in the Dependency 21 years ago. The Parrot Cay Cotton Co., Ltd., and the West India Development Co., have cut down working expenses. Mrs. O'Reilly, wife of the medical officer, contemplates putting up a windmill to drive her gin at Bottle Creek. Meanwhile the Government have several thousands of pounds of cotton on hand ready for ginning.

The conch shell industry shows signs of revival, some 1,500 shell lips having been shipped to New York. This business can only be remunerative in the hands of a few parties. Otherwise a glut occurs, and when stored the shells fade.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Motagua*, November 29th:—

Miss E. M. Alexander	Mr. D. K. Hodgson	Mr. F. Pineda Lopez,
Mr. C. M. Bethell	Dr. W. Honeywell	Jr.
Maj Gen Sir Hamilton	Mr. S. Knowles	Mrs. & Miss Simson
flower	Mr. & Mrs. E. Lazarus	Col. & Mrs. H. C. Stout and family
Mrs. F. Calder	Mr. D. D. Mills	Miss I. Tolmie
Mrs. C. J. Daddow	Col Hon. A. McDonnell	Mr. J. H. Warren
Miss B. M. Deeks	C.B., C.M.G.	Mr. J. M. P. Wilkie
Mr. S. H. Doubleday	Mrs. H. Moxsy	Mr. R. A. Wiseman
Mr. & Mrs. T. Griffin	Maj. Hon. W. G. A.	Hon. F. F. L. Wood
Capt. W. J. C. Hibbert	Ormsby Gore M.P.	M.P.
Miss E. M. Hedges	Mr. & Mrs. F. Pineda Lopez	

Sailings to Jamaica and Bermuda, from Avonmouth, in R.M.S. *Canito*, December 3rd:—

JAMAICA.		
Mr. W. Adams	Miss J. Dillon	Miss D. Madon
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Allen	Mr. & Mrs. A. Gordon	Mrs. M. Malcolm
Mr. & Mrs. S. M. H. Heard	Miss M. M. Green	Mrs. W. Macalmont
	Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Gulliland	Dr. & Mrs. E. V. W. Mellad
Mr. H. Hoddington	Miss M. Gulliland	Mr. C. V. Mellad
Mrs. A. C. Bullock	Mr. & Mrs. P. S. Hamilton	Mr. & Mrs. T. M. M. Nesbitt
Dr. & Mrs. J. A. J. Calder	Miss G. C. Hay	Mr. & Mrs. J. Prentice
	Dr. G. A. Leon	Miss E. M. E. Russell
Miss C. M. Calder	Mr. C. M. MacNee	Miss E. M. Stephenson
Miss M. H. Clark	Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Madan	Rev. S. A. Swaby
Miss E. C. Collins		
Mr. A. de Pass		
Mrs. M. de Dillon		

BERMUDA.		
Mr. A. Barwell	Mr. D. C. Dowell	Mr. A. J. Rice, M.B.E., R.N.
Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Bates	Rear-Admiral A. Farrington	Mr. S. J. Smith
Mrs. A. J. Collier	Mr. W. A. Hedderwick	Mrs. E. J. Thomas
Miss Collier	Mr. W. Herring	Miss H. Thomas
Lieut. Col. & Mrs. C. H. G. Collins	Mr. O. J. Lambert	Capt. & Mrs. A. E. Whiting Baker
Miss R. M. G. Collins	Mrs. L. E. Luxton	Mrs. A. E. E. Woodley
Miss V. B. Connolly	The Misses Luxton (2)	

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in R.M.S. *Bayano*, Avonmouth, November 27th:—

Mrs. & Miss Alexander	Mr. C. Lodge	Mr. S. S. C. Probyn
Mr. C. F. Berkeley	His Honour Judge H. W. Lush-Wilson	Sir G. W. Rhodes, Bart
Mr. R. F. V. Boler	Mr. M. J. D. Mackay	Dr. A. Schoenets
Sir Daniel Gooch	Mr. M. W. Macchini	Mr. R. H. F. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. John Hay	Mr. R. A. H. Mayhew	Mr. F. W. Watson
Mr. P. D. Hogk	Sister Lucy Peake	Raker

Frederick Leyland & Co., Ltd.

Sailings to West Indies, from Liverpool, in s.s. *Antillian*, December 3rd:—

Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Allen	Mr. & Mrs. D. C. C. Da Costa & family	Dr. E. M. Skeete
Miss M. V. M. Calder		

Thos. & Jas. Harrison.

Sailings to West Indies, from London, in s.s. *Intaba*, December 3rd:—

BARBADOS		
Mrs. & Miss Dennyery	Mr. T. H. Hull	Dr. & Mrs. G. A. MacDonald
Dr. K. W. Earle	Miss Hutchinson	Miss Mailey Part
Mrs. & Miss Herbert	The Misses Ince (2)	Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Miss K. Hollinsed		
DEMERARA.		
Mrs. F. J. Anstey	Mrs. Dodds & fam.	Rev. & Mrs. Salmon
Mr. W. M. Bellamy	Dr. F. E. Field	Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Smith & family
Dr. P. Brazao	Mr. M. F. Laing	
Mr. W. A. S. Cates	Miss L. M. Paterson	
GRENADA.		
	Mrs. M. Lang	Dr. Lessey
TRINIDAD.		
Dr. S. F. Animon	Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. J. McIlush
Mr. & Mrs. Corstophine	Miss D. Keates	Rev. F. I. Merry
Miss C. J. Deale	Mr. & Mrs. F. Jackson	Dr. K. Nathaniel
Mrs. & The Misses Fraser	Mr. Gaston Johnston	Dr. & Mrs. Perez
	Mrs. & The Misses Liddlelow	Capt. Randall
Mr. & Mrs. A. J. Hamlyn	Mrs. R. C. Maude	Mr. C. A. P. Southwell
		Mr. S. D. Stewart

Compagnie Generale Transatlantique.

Sailings to West Indies, from Bordeaux, in s.s. *La Navarre*, November 16th:—

Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Ruck	Sister Thomas Destoepelleire	Sister Rafael Lasne
Mr. R. W. Compain	Mr. & Mrs. Dressler & family	Sister Therese
Sister Clement		

Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in a s. *Stuyvesant*, November 26th:—

Miss G. Appleby	Mr. & Mrs. Hicks & child	Mr. & Mrs. Mosley & family
Mr. Bizzell		Mr. K. Nall
Capt. F. Berry	Mr. W. Ivey	Mr. R. H. O'Neill
Mr. A. Cairns	Mr. C. James	Mr. & Mrs. Peterkin
Mrs. J. Camacho	Mr. J. Jones	Miss M. F. Robertson
Mrs. & Master Camacho	Mr. A. Joseph	Mr. Rulder
Mr. R. H. Cengrecoet	Sir Norman & Lady Laing	Mrs. Smith & two children
Mrs. J. L. Clarke	Mr. MacMurtrie	Mrs. J. Sowray
Miss Edmed	Mr. S. Marshall	Mr. & Mrs. Trimmingham
Miss Gomes	Miss McHenry	Mr. C. Williams
Mr. H. H. Halpin, K.C.	Mr. R. A. Mondal	
Mr. C. St. Hilaire		

Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Cryssen*, Plymouth, November 29th:—

Mr. J. B. Banks	Mr. H. F. Hawthorne	Mr. W. Moore
Mr. J. Boyce	Mr. E. W. Keith	Mr. J. Mylton
Mr. G. P. Chaplin	Miss L. Manning	Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Rijkenberg & family
Mr. R. Corner	Mr. J. Marshall	Mr. S. Yard
Mr. & Mrs. V. Hauschel & family	Mr. F. C. B. Metcalie	

STEAMER SAILINGS.

The following dates of steamer sailings must be regarded as approximate only, and intending passengers should make enquiries from the respective shipping companies regarding actual times of sailings.

To	From	Packet	Sailings
B'idos & T'dad	Dover	Van Rensselaer	Dec 10
Jamaica	Liverpool	Manistee	12
Jamaica	Bristol	Changinolu	13
B'idos & T'dad	Liverpool	Nubian	16
Jamaica	Bristol	Hayao	19
West Indies	Glasgow	Senator	20
West Indies	London	Commodore	21
Jamaica	Liverpool	Nortonium	22
Jamaica	New York	Tivives	Jan 3
W. I. Cruise	New York	Fort St. George	4
West Indies	Halifax	Chaleur	5
B'idos, J'aca & B.H'das	Halifax	Canadian Fisher	13
W. I. Cruise	New York	Megantic	17
W. I. Cruise	New York	Empress of Britain	21

WEST INDIAN SECURITIES. LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Div.				Dec 6
4%	Antigua	4%	Redeemable 1919 44	65 07
3%	Barbados	3%	Redeemable 1925 42	61 63
4%	British Guiana	4%	Redeemable 1935	79 81
4%	British Guiana	4%	Redeemable 1923 45	59 81
4%	Grenada	4%	Redeemable 1917 42	67 69
4%	Jamaica	4%	Redeemable 1934	64 88
3 1/2%	Jamaica	3 1/2%	Redeemable 1919 49	57 58
3%	Jamaica	3%	Redeemable 1922 44	67 69
4%	St. Lucia	4%	Redeemable 1918 44	64 88
4%	Trinidad	4%	Redeemable 1917 42	71 73
3%	Trinidad	3%	Redeemable 1922 44	59 61
10%	The Colonial Bank			64 64
8%	Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ordinary			78 83
6%	Angostura Bitters Part Preference			108 110
6%	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co. 4% Debentures			74 4
7%	Consolidated Rubber and Balata Estates Pref.			41 15
	St. Madeleine Sugar			36 9
	Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Ltd.			110 4
	Petroleum Options, Ltd. 10%			67 1/2
10%	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd. 10%			78 1/2
	Trinidad Dominion Oil, Ltd. 10%			39 9
12 1/2%	Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd. Ltd.			14 6
	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd.			6 9
	General Petroleum of Trinidad			
4%	Demerara Railway Company Ordinary Stock			30 40
7%	Demerara Railway Company 7% Perp. Pref.			100 105
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Ex. Pref.			57 62
4%	Demerara Railway Company 4% Debenture			53 58
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. Ordinary			11 1/2
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd. 6% Cum. 1st Pref.			11 1/2
	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co. Ltd.			33 21
5%	W. I. and Panama Tel. Co., Ltd. 5% Debentures			80 85

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

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



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
December 6th, 1921

BANK RATE. Five per cent. as from November 3rd
EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Nov. 22nd	Dec. 8th		Nov. 22nd	Dec. 8th
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	18 5	16 8	In Spain	1 3 0	1 2 11
.. France	2 4 4	2 3 3	.. Germany	53 12 5	45 3 5
.. Belgium	2 5 9	2 4 11	.. Austria	454 10 0	589 10 0
.. Italy	3 15 8	3 6 8	.. Holland	18 8	18 9

The intrinsic value of the gold sovereign is £1 3s. 11d.

SUGAR. As regards Cuban sugar, the New York market has remained stationary for spot sales, the price yesterday being 1.11c. for duty-paid landed, equivalent to 2.50c. c.i.f. as at the date of last summary. Free sugars have, however, receded in value, 4.87c. having been paid for Porto Ricans, 0.24c. below the Cuban parity. A future indication of the trend of events as regards prices was afforded by the sale yesterday of 10,000 bags of uncontrolled new crop Cubans at 3.73c. duty paid, equivalent to 2.11c. c.i.f. New York, for shipment the last week of the present month.

There has been also a drop in the futures market during the fortnight, yesterday's prices being: January, 2.16c.; March, 2.16c.; and May, 2.27c. There has been a drop in the home market during the fortnight for all descriptions. West Indian crystallised yesterday was quoted from 38/6 to 41/-, with Muscovados at 33/- to 37/-. The value of London granulated was 49/-, and of American spot granulated 48/6, white Cubans 48/- spot, white Java 46/3 spot. Yellow crystals were worth 43/6, 2/6 above that of the West Indian crystallised. The terminal market quotations are also lower. Yesterday's values were:—

	Jan.	Mar.	May.
96	13.9 1/2	13.3	12.3
White	18.0	17.7	17.7

The Cuban crop finished on November 11th, and Himey gives it as having been 3,995,433 tons, as against 3,728,975 tons for the 1919-20 crop.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on November 26th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Imports	46,000	61,056	47,607 Tons.
Deliveries	46,175	56,142	46,074
Stock	8,229	13,050	7,725 "

RUM. Spot and to arrive is quite flat, and values are nominal.

The stocks in London on November 26th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	11,018	10,167	7,490 Puns.
Demerara	17,460	15,116	14,527
Total of all kinds	38,545	36,004	28,592 "

CACAO. The market generally is quiet. Small sales in West Indian sorts have been made at: Grenada 50/- spot; fine Jamaica 47/- spot; Trinidad 55/- to 61/- spot, or to arrive 48/6, c.i.f.

The stocks in London on November 26th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	16,084	31,421	27,461 Bags.
Grenada	15,471	23,095	12,583
Total of all kinds	104,261	221,345	126,742 "

ARROWROOT. Only small sales passing. Prices are firm and unchanged at 3 1/2d. to 6 1/2d.

BALATA. West Indian sheet is quiet but steady. There are spot sellers at 3/8 per lb.; forward positions 3/6 c.i.f.

BAY OIL is slightly firmer, with business at 11/- per lb.

COFFEE generally is quiet but steady. Fine qualities are firm, but other sorts slow. Only small offerings of ordinary Jamaica have been made at auction; the nominal quotation is 60/- to 65/-. Sales have been made for ordinary Jamaica, direct shipment, at 71/- c. & f. Total stocks in London, November 26th, 12,019 tons.

COPRA. The market is undecided. West Indian f.u.s. is valued at £27 15s. to £28, c.i.f. London.

COTTON. West Indian Sea Island is neglected, and quotations have again been reduced generally, at medium 28d., fine 34d., and extra fine 42d. Imports in the 17 weeks ending November 24th, 4,735 bales.

HONEY. No further auctions have been held since November 3rd (reported in our November 10th issue), when the following prices for Jamaica were paid:—Liquid dark to palish amber, 35/- to 50/-; dark set and setting, 37/6 to 40/-; pale liquid to good pale set amber, 55/- to 80/-; fine pale to choice white set, 80/- to 97/6.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. There is no change to report in Handpressed, but sales in Distilled have been made down to 2/- per lb. **Lime Juice.** The market for concentrated is weak, with no fresh business to report. The last quotation remains quite nominal. There is nothing doing in Raw.

LOGWOOD remains dull and unchanged, and prices are nominal.

ORANGE OIL. Sweet is steady on the spot, with sellers at 10/-. For shipment sellers ask 10/-, but indicate that less would be entertained. There is nothing doing in Bitter.

RUBBER. During the past fortnight a considerable business has been done at an appreciable advance in prices. Spot crepe 11 1/2d., spot sheet 12 1/2d.

SPICES. Supplies of Jamaica Ginger in first-hands are exhausted. 155/- to 185/- per cwt. is quoted for small partly wormy to good middling sound. In Pimento there is only a small business passing. There are spot sellers at 2 1/2d. per lb. Offers at 20/-, c.i.f. Hamburg from Jamaica have failed to attract buyers owing to unfavourable exchange.

TRINIDAD OIL. Production for November: Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., 18,000 tons. United British Oilfields of Trinidad, 6,045 tons.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

The following cablegram has been received regarding the weather in the West Indies:—

Demerara (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), December 1st: "We are having constant heavy showers, with very little sunshine."

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.

ADVERTISER, with life experience West African trade, desires agency for pure West Indian Rum, commission terms, very large turnover possible in bulk and for cases on cash terms against documents. Write for interview. "Africa," c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

BIRTH.

DE PASS. On November 29th, at 42, Lowndes Street, to Jean, wife of Harold de Pass, a son.

The West India Committee Circular

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1921.

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No. 606

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The West India Committee Rooms

Telephone
CENTRAL 6642

Telegrams:
CARIB, LONDON.



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

December 20th, 1921

The Trinidad Oil Industry.

THE difficulties, financial and otherwise, attendant upon the production and marketing of oil are exemplified by the fact that though ten years have elapsed since petroleum was first exported from the Gulf of Paria, there have been only two Trinidad Oil Companies in the dividend-paying list, and that one of these, the Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., which paid 12½ per cent. last year, has just passed its dividend. This circumstance need not, however, cause those interested in the Trinidad oil industry any undue apprehension, for it has not arisen from any such catastrophe as producing wells going to salt water or becoming exhausted. The accounts show that the production for the year ended June 30th last amounted to 158,046 tons, while the crude oil treated by the refinery was 176,642 tons, as compared with 141,126 tons in the preceding year. The passing of the dividend must then not be attributed to any set-back in the oil industry, and the cause must be sought elsewhere. It lies rather in the very magnitude of the undertaking. It would appear that at a time when delivery of materials was subject to great delays, large quantities of stores were ordered in the belief that two years would elapse before the orders could be completed. Then came the world-wide slump, and the supplies were delivered with embarrassing rapidity, involving the expenditure of large sums of money, some of which would otherwise no doubt have been distributed among the shareholders.

Again, heavy capital expenditure was incurred during the year in extensions to the refinery, the installation of a cracking plant, additional tankage and pipeline facilities, and in the sinking of wells. These circumstances combined made it necessary to arrange a temporary advance and precluded the payment of the dividend. Shareholders will, however, find comfort in the fact that the results of the year's trading show a substantial profit, while the extensions of the refinery and the other developments now undertaken should improve the company's earning capacity. Those interested in the Trinidad oil industry generally will, on their part, recognise in the large expenditure incurred the Directors' implicit confidence in their undertaking, and will welcome the prospect of the company being in a position to handle more and more oil from the outside producers which have no means of dealing with it themselves. One point which should be recognised by the Government is that the Trinidad oil industry as a whole can hardly be said as yet to have set itself free of leading strings, and it is very clear that for some little time to come it will require all the sympathy and encouragement which the local Government can give it. It was rumoured last year that the industry was to be subjected to increased taxation, but it is very certain that it is not as yet in a position to stand this, and it is to be hoped that the last has been heard of the suggestion for some time to come. Like other commodities, petroleum and its products have suffered from the world-wide slump, but in Trinidad the intrinsic position remains sound, and though some of the smaller companies are suffering from lack of capital, which is hard to obtain in these days, and may have to suspend operations owing to that cause, the future of the larger producers would seem to be as favourable now as ever it was.

The Canadian General Election.

THE Canadian General Election, which took place on December 6th, resulted in as complete a landslide as that of 1911, which brought down SIR WILFRED LAURIER and his Liberal Ministry. This time, however, it was the turn of the Conservative party to be swept off its feet, with MR. MEIGKEN, the Premier, and several of his Ministers. There is, however, this difference between the two elections, for whereas in 1911 the Conservatives secured a working majority over all other parties combined, the Liberals on this occasion have, according to the results already declared, a majority of one only over the combined forces of the Progressives and Conservatives, which, by union with the two Labour members returned, could put them in a minority. The question which will naturally have occurred to our readers will be: "What bearing will the result

of the election have upon the development of trade between Canada and the West Indies?" We have ascertained the views of our Correspondents in the Dominion on this subject, and are glad to be able to state that they are altogether reassuring. It must be remembered that Canada is definitely pledged by the Trade Agreement of June, 1920, to give a Preference in the Customs Duties on various kinds of West Indian produce for a period of ten years, and to provide for an improvement in steamship communication between the West Indies and Canada. We can confidently assert that no political party coming into power in the Dominion, and much less the Liberal party, would upset that Agreement. We mention this because some of our readers may have experienced anxiety on learning that one of the issues of the election was "Free Trade" against "Protection," and may have been misled by the use of the terms "Liberal" and "Conservative." They should, however, be reminded that these words have an entirely different significance in Canada from that which they bear in this country, and, fortunately, the narrow-minded and bigoted Free Trader of Great Britain is an unknown quantity in the Dominion. In England it was the Liberal party which was strenuously opposed to the establishment of real Free Trade by the imposition of duties to countervail bounties, and similarly opposed the adoption of Imperial Preference. In Canada, on the other hand, it was the Liberal party, under the leadership of the late SIR WILFRED LAURIER, that first afforded to West Indian products, in 1898, a Preference in the Customs Duties of 25 per cent., which was extended to 33½ per cent. a few years later, and it was SIR WILFRED LAURIER, with that equally valued friend of the West Indies, THE HON. W. S. FIELDING, who paved the way for the first Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, which was signed the year after they went out of office, MR. FIELDING having been a member of the Royal Commission appointed under the Chairmanship of the late LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH to discuss the best means of bringing this about. The attitude of the Progressives is not so clear. It is known that they have a leaning towards Free Trade, but not the "sham" Free Trade of the doctrinaires in this country, and we do not believe that any party in the Dominion would be opposed to the principle and practice of Imperial Preference, which has now been part of the settled policy of the Dominion of Canada for so many years. We understand that there is a probability that MR. W. S. FIELDING may hold a portfolio in the Ministry which MR. MACKENZIE KING will be called upon to form, and he will have the support of a solid phalanx of sixteen Liberals from Nova Scotia (which enjoys the lion's share of West Indian trade), including MR. A. K. McLEAN, MR. E. M. MacDONALD, MR. HANCE LOGAN, and MR. D. D. MACKENZIE. Bearing in mind MR. FIELDING's unique knowledge of West Indian affairs, gained whilst he was Finance Minister of Canada, and during the sittings of the Balfour Commission, we can say with confidence that this appointment would be very generally welcomed throughout the West Indies. The

Liberals in Canada have always been good friends to the West Indies, and if they secure some measure of co-operation from the Progressive party, and thus have a working majority, we may feel confident that during their tenure of power the development of closer trade between Canada and the West Indies, which we all desire to see consummated, will be further developed. While saying "Vale" to MR. MEIGHEN, whose attitude towards the West Indies, like that of his predecessor, SIR ROBERT HORDEN, has been so sympathetic and helpful, we would add an "Ave" to MR. MACKENZIE KING and his party, without being accused of interfering in Canadian politics.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive of The West India Committee on December 15th, fourteen candidates, whose names are given below, were admitted to membership of The West India Committee, making the total number elected this year 281.

Names	Proposers and Seconders
Mrs. Stanley Woolrych (London).	{ Mr. P. I. Sourd, F.I.C. } Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. D. R. Clacken (Jamaica)	{ Mr. R. B. Daly. } Messrs. E. A. de Pass (& Co.
Mr. L. Lywood (British Guiana).	{ Mr. John Macdonald. } Mr. C. Farrar
The Dominica Free Library (Dominica).	{ The Hon. H. A. Alford } Nicholls, C.M.G., M.D. } Mr. H. H. Vivian } Whitechurch.
Mrs. E. M. Cooper (Ireland)	{ Mr. H. P. Flack. } Mr. H. A. Bligh.
Mr. W. H. Fox (London)	{ Mr. W. A. Boyd. } Mr. H. P. Flack.
Miss E. Joyce Isaacs (London).	{ Mr. Robert Craig. } Mr. E. A. de Pass.
Mrs. Henrietta S. Adamson (Country).	{ Mr. A. D. C. Adamson. } Mr. William Gillespie } Mr. D. A. Knight, M.A. (Ch.B.
Mr. R. E. Batson, M.B., Ch.B. Edin. (Country).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. A. E. Perkins.
Messrs. H. L. Savory & Co., Ltd. (London).	{ Mr. R. Rutherford. } Mr. R. Rutherford.
Mr. Herbert W. F. Temple (Country).	{ Mr. H. Crum Ewing } Mr. Archibald J. Brooks
Mr. J. C. Du Boulay (St. Lucia).	{ The Hon. G. Laffitte. } Mr. K. P. Penchoen.
Mr. O. R. Kelsick (Montserrat).	{ Mr. H. R. Howes. } Mr. K. P. Penchoen
Mr. H. T. North (Bermuda).	{ Mr. H. R. Howes.

The new members elected during the current year reside in the following countries:—

London and Country	100	Nevis	2
Antigua	2	St. Kitts	22
Bahamas	3	St. Lucia	13
Barbados	12	St. Vincent	9
British Guiana	18	Tortola	1
British Honduras	8	Trinidad	24
Dominica	5	Miscellaneous	18
Grenada	7		
Jamaica	25		281
Montserrat	12		

SOME NOTES OF INTEREST.

"COCKROACH gie dance him no ax fowl."

THE Star of Rumania, with the rank of Commander, has been bestowed on Sir William Grey-Wilson, in recognition of his services as chairman of the Rumanian Red Cross during the war.

HOME readers need not be alarmed at the statement in a recent number of *Agricultural News*, that "large areas of Indian corn were being planted in the Piccadilly district." The Piccadilly referred to is in Antigua.

SIR SAMUEL WILSON, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., Governor-elect of Trinidad and Tobago, who leaves for Port of Spain in the *Coronado* on December 31st, will be accompanied by Captain Hugh Baker, M.C., R.H.A., as A.D.C.

THE Australian sugar producers have a grievance in connection with rum, the difference between the import duty and excise being in the case of whisky 4/- to 7/-, of brandy 4/- to 5/-, and of rum 2/- to 3/- per gallon.

MESSRS. JAMES NOURSE, LTD., announce that the rates of freight per s.s. *Ganges*, which is due to sail from Calcutta to the West Indies in January, are 60/- per ton of 20 cwts., or 50 cubic feet, for rice and dhall, and 70/- for gunnies.

THE largest output of sugar on record of any sugar factory in the world was made by Central Delicias, in Cuba, which finished its record crop with 109,768 tons of 96° sugar. The season lasted from January 21st to September 10th.

THE Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail Service are offering first class return passages from this country to Barbados, Trinidad, La Guaira, or Curaçao during the winter months, at a fare of £100, provided that the return journey is completed by April 4th.

THE Mayor and Council of Kingston, Jamaica, have under consideration a suggestion that the body of an unknown Jamaican soldier should be transferred from one of the battle fronts to be buried on national lines in front of the War Memorial which is being erected at Kingston.

THE headquarters of the Canadian Trade Commissioner for the Western group of the West Indies have been transferred from Havana to Kingston, Jamaica, where offices are to be opened at the corner of Duke and Tower Streets by Mr. G. R. Stevens, who has been appointed the Commissioner in succession to Major Chisholm.

THE Department of Agriculture have permitted a mixture of Nauru mineral phosphate and basic slag to be sold as slag phosphate. Buyers of

slag phosphate, that is to say of the product obtained in the Thomas process of steel production, should obtain from the sellers a guarantee that the product sold to them is entirely slag phosphate.

THE Rev. Oswald Hutton Parry was consecrated on October 18th at St. George's Cathedral, Georgetown, and afterwards enthroned as Bishop of British Guiana. The Bishops of Antigua, Trinidad, and Barbados were present at the ceremonies, the last-named preaching the sermon. Bishop Parry is the fourth bishop of the name to work in the Province.

DR. J. F. E. BRIDGER, who was Port Health Officer at Barbados from 1905 until 1921, when he was transferred to Colombo as Sanitary Commissioner, has been elected the Vice-President for Ceylon of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine at the Congress held in August last at Weltevreden, Java. He has also been appointed Lecturer in Hygiene at the Medical College of Ceylon.

A CANADIAN Banks Football Club has been started in London with a view to putting a combined Association football team into the field this winter. Mr. Charles Cambie, Manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is President of the Club, and the following other banks are represented: Union Bank of Canada, Bank of Montreal, Merchants' Bank of Canada, Dominion Bank of Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia, and the Royal Bank of Canada.

THE Australian jam manufacturers have been allowed by the Government to import for themselves the sugar required for jam and preserves manufactured for the purposes of export. This industry, however, according to the *Australian Sugar Journal*, is in a bad way owing to the high price charged for the fruit by the growers. This, of course, prevents successful competition with jams made elsewhere from cheaper raw material.

WE have received from the Harvey Engineering Co., Ltd., a booklet giving an historical account of the firm and many elegant illustrations of the principal items of sugar machinery in which it specialises. The cover is a thing of beauty in itself, giving as it does a representation of a complete Harvey Evaporator sailing peacefully on a lake—or can it be the Caribbean Sea?—the shores of which are adorned with sugar-canes, coconuts, and bananas.

IT is claimed for the chata, a small fish the size of a sardine, that as a result of its activities in Ecuador the incidence of *stegomyia* mosquitoes there has been reduced by 98 per cent. The chata, it is said, feeds ravenously on the mosquito's larvae if there is no other organic matter present in the water, and the Government of Ecuador has established a hatchery, whence it provides the fish to all who will use them, with the above satisfactory result.

THE King has approved of the privilege granted to ex-officers of Dominion Forces and Colonial Volunteers being extended to cover the wearing of service dress uniform on special occasions, such as ceremonies and entertainments of a military character, at home and elsewhere throughout the Dominions. The privilege enjoyed by ex-officers who held commissions between August 5th, 1914, and August 31st last of retaining their rank has also been extended to be effective throughout the Dominions.

THE R.S. *Araguaya*, of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, is scheduled to make a series of trips from New York to Bermuda this winter. Leaving for Hamilton on January 4th, she will sail weekly thereafter until the middle of April. It has been suggested to the Postmaster-General by The West India Committee that opportunity might be taken to send mails to the Leeward Islands via New York and Bermuda, where they could be transferred to the Canadian Royal Mail Steamers due to arrive two days after the *Araguaya*.

THE hero of "Satan," the new novel by Mr. H. de Vere Stacpoole (London, Hutchinson & Co.), has been so named for the not very sufficient reason that when a boy he had yelped like the Prince of Darkness. The more or less lawful occasions on which his ketch, the *Sarah Tyler*, was engaged off Palm Island, "a lone spot, gull-haunted, west of Andros," and other islands of the great Bahama bank, are feelingly portrayed, as are his encounters with certain light-fingered gentry from Havana in the course of a quest for ancient Spanish treasure, whilst there are some excellent descriptions of the beautiful scenes to be met with by anyone cruising among the lesser known cays and reefs of the archipelago.

ANALYSES show that the material of the emergency war ration of the United States army is far from being sufficient to supply enough nourishment for an active man for twenty-four hours. The chocolate cake, which apparently consists of equal parts of cacao and cane sugar, contains 1.84 per cent. water, 1.95 per cent. ash, 7.26 per cent. albuminoids, 23.65 per cent. fats, and 16.40 per cent. of starch and other non-nitrogenous organic matter. The meat biscuit contains 9.78 per cent. water, 3.51 per cent. ash, 53.43 per cent. nitrogenous matter, 2.58 per cent. fats, 47.39 per cent. of starches, and 1.61 per cent. cellulose. The quantity supposed to be consumed in twenty-four hours only yields 1,239 calories, which is too low.

DURING the calendar year 1920 the net production of sugar in India, including date sugar and palmyra palm gur, was 2,951,000 tons. Of this, not less than 350,000 tons were used in the modern refineries and in the small works making country sugar. In addition, 680 tons of gur were imported, and 6,398 tons exported by land. The exports by sea of raw sugar were 22,875 tons, leaving 2,572,400 tons of gur left in

the country for consumption as such. During the year India imported by sea 812,998 tons of white sugar. The exports of home refined amounted to 2,715 tons, and the re-exports to 77,689 tons, of which 30,000 tons went to the United States and 17,000 tons to Great Britain. The trade in sugar extends to Persia, Chinese Turkestan, Central Asia, West China, and North and South Siam.

A LADY in Balham has found an autograph letter signed by Benjamin Franklin among the pages of a book 245 years old. It reads as follows:—

Gentl.—Being well informed that William Gray, Esq, formerly Provost-Marshal General of the Island of Jamaica, and Member of the Assembly there, has on several occasions in his public capacity and otherwise, manifested his Good Will to the American Cause and towards our Countrymen in general: I beg leave to recommend him to your particular civilities, in case the Fortune of War should put him into your hands. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient humble servant, B. FRANKLIN. One of the Commissioners from the United States to the Court of France. Passy, near Paris, Jul 6, 1778.

The *Daily Chronicle*, which published this interesting item of news, suggests that possibly it may meet the eye of some descendant of William Gray.

THE Shipping Board of the United States has collected data respecting the average cost of running an American merchant vessel. The distributed costs per ton of deadweight per annum, based on 603 voyages of vessels of various tonnages, were:—

Wages	\$8 4027
Subsistence	2 7681
Fuel	13 8104
Miscellaneous Expenses	4 0908
Fixed Charges	11 3213
	\$40 3963

The *New York Tribune*, also, has been going into the relative cost of running American and foreign steamships, and deduces the following figures, including depreciation, interest, insurance, repairs, wages, feeding, stores, and all the usual charges except fuel, based on an 8,000 ton steamer.

American	\$500	Japanese	\$275
French	400	Spanish	200
British	360	German	150
Norwegian	300		

FLYING FISH PIE.—Take 12 boned flying fish, richly seasoned and cooked by steaming or frying; cut each into three pieces. Slice 1½ lbs. of cold boiled yam into wafers. Beat up two yolks of eggs, adding two tablespoonfuls of salad oil drop by drop, together with the same amount of melted butter, one tablespoonful of harvey sauce, anchovy to taste, a little cayenne pepper, one gill of the water in which the fish was strained, and a gill of sherry. Then arrange the fish in layers, with sliced hard-boiled eggs, yam, and sliced cooked onion. Let a layer of yam be on the top, and on each slice a pat of butter. Pour on the sauce and bake until the yam is brown. Tomatoes may be added if liked.

INCOME TAX ANOMALIES.

A Call for Uniform Legislation.

The West India Committee forwarded a Memorandum to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on December 7th calling attention to the anomalies resulting from the lack of uniformity in respect of the general provisions of the Income Tax sections of the Finance Acts of the United Kingdom and the Income Tax Acts and Ordinances in the Colonies. The full text of the Memorandum is given below.

Income Tax Bills have been or are being passed in the Colonies not possessing responsible government, and advantage is being taken of the concessions provided for in Section 27 of the Finance Act 1920 to collect tax from individuals, companies, etc., non-resident in the respective colonies.

The Royal Commission on Income Tax under Section 6 of their Report dealt very fully with the grievance of double taxation within the Empire, and evolved a scheme under which this could be avoided. The broad principle of their suggested settlement was that there should be deducted from the rate of the United Kingdom income tax the whole of the Colonial tax charged in respect of the same income, subject to the limitation that in no case should the maximum rate of relief given by the United Kingdom exceed one half of the rate of the United Kingdom income tax to which the taxpayer might be liable, and that any further relief should be given by the Colony concerned.

An attempt has been made in both the United Kingdom and Colonies to carry this suggestion into effect. Unfortunately, however, the Acts or Ordinances passed in the various Colonies are not identical with the United Kingdom Finance Acts, and it is submitted that the discrepancies give rise to considerable difficulties, hardships and anomalies, of which the following are examples:—

1.—The United Kingdom still levies tax on the average of the profits earned in the three years preceding the year for which tax is to be paid. In the Colonies Tax is being levied on the actual profit earned in the preceding year. Tax therefore is payable on a sum in the United Kingdom quite different from that on which it is payable in the Colony, and in some cases there may be no liability in the Colony but a heavy liability in the United Kingdom or vice-versa.

2.—In the United Kingdom there is a flat rate of 6/- in the £ payable by a Company on all its profits and also by the individual, with allowances for earned income and relief for married men, etc. In the Colonies there is a sliding scale somewhat analogous to the system under which super-tax is levied in this country. Consequently the rate at which tax is paid in the Colony will depend on the actual profits earned and the rate of tax paid each year, and will vary accordingly. The amount recoverable in the United Kingdom therefore can only be determined after the figure in the Colony has been arrived at.

3.—Under the present system the taxpayer will have to pay the full tax to which he is assessed in both the United Kingdom and the Colony, and sub-

sequently make a claim for repayment in either or both countries. Delay is bound to occur, and in view of the heavy rates now in force the locking up of the sums held in suspense will most seriously cripple the businesses affected.

4.—In the United Kingdom the tax on interest on a mortgage payable by an individual, and interest on debentures and dividends payable by a Company, is levied at the source. In some if not all of the Colonies these items are allowed as a deduction by the taxpayer from the amount on which he has to pay tax and the mortgagor, debenture holder, or shareholder has to account separately for the tax. If this method of collection is continued, shareholders and debenture holders in Companies doing business in the Colonies and lenders of money on Colonial securities will be assessed additionally for Colonial income tax, and even if not liable will be put to considerable trouble and expense. [It may be mentioned that in some of the Colonial Ordinances a Company, non-resident in the Colony, is made liable as agent for payment of assessments on its non-resident shareholders while there is no method laid down or machinery available to enable the Company to recover payment.]

5.—Various precedents have been established by custom in the United Kingdom for dealing on a uniform basis with items such as bad debts, reserves, depreciation, etc. There are no provisions as to how these points are to be treated by the Colonial Assessors, and as the Colonial Ordinances differ it is obvious that the assessor in one Colony may take an entirely different view from an assessor in another Colony or from the Surveyor in the United Kingdom. Furthermore cases may be fought out in the Law Courts in the Colonies and in the United Kingdom upon the same point but with a totally different result owing to the lack of uniformity in the Income Tax Acts.

6.—A taxpayer resident in this country making a profit in one Colony and a loss in another part of the world can set off the loss against the profit earned. There is no uniformity in the manner in which a case such as this is treated in the Colonies.

7.—Companies and individuals carrying on business in the United Kingdom and one or more Colonies will have to keep separate and special accounts to show how the profits are to be allocated between each country. It is essential that some general rules should immediately be laid down defining what are to be considered Colonial and what British profits. Until this is done it is impossible to give instructions as to how the accounts are to be kept.

8.—A uniform basis of relief between the Colonies should also be established.

The soundness of the principle that some proportion of the Income Tax should be received by the authorities in the Colony where part of the profits are made is admitted, and the provision that the gross amount of tax payable by a Company or individual should not exceed the larger rate payable in the United Kingdom or the Colony is regarded as perfectly equitable. It is the question of the practical application of these principles that has to be decided.

After the most careful and most exhaustive consideration of the various Ordinances and of the

practical difficulties and hardships that arise under the present systems it is earnestly submitted—

(a) That there must be uniformity both as to the basis of taxation and as to the principles on which that basis is arrived at.

(b) That the only practical method of securing uniformity and of protecting the taxpayer against the varying decisions of local Surveyors or being compelled to lock up his money in various parts of the world, and to wait long periods before recovering it, is for every individual or Company to be assessed in the place where he or it is resident or has his or its principal place of business. The whole tax can then be paid in such place, and adjusted between the respective Governments, or alternatively directions could be given by the Assessment authorities as to the proportions in which the tax is to be payable between the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

Experience has shown that the accounts and materials which it is necessary to submit for assessment purposes can only be conveniently submitted at the principal place of business where are also resident the individuals who can give the personal explanations and information which are so vitally necessary. Furthermore it is in most cases very undesirable for non-resident individuals and Companies to submit all their accounts to their local agents for examination and argument with the local assessor. The points raised must in very many cases be submitted to the principals for explanation, thus causing months of easily avoidable delay.

It can be stated as a fact that the present uncertainty regarding the liability for Income Tax is operating as a serious deterrent to the investment of British capital in the Colonies.

Jamaica Assessors' Report.

Whatever may be the case elsewhere, income tax legislation would appear to be working with comparative smoothness in Jamaica, which enjoys the advantage of having Mr. C. H. Rickman, formerly of the Board of Inland Revenue, as Chairman of the Assessment Committee. The very wise decision to reap the benefits of the provision of Section 27 of the Finance Act, 1920, of the United Kingdom for the benefit of the Colony was, however, only arrived at in September last. To quote Mr. Rickman's report on the Local Income Tax Assessment Committee for the period ending March 31st, 1921:—

"The Bill preliminary to the Income Tax Amendment Law, 1921, contained several important provisions, the principal being the repeal—at the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies—of Section 39 of the Original Law, which dealt with 'Double Income Tax within the Empire.' By such repeal a large amount of duty—estimated at £27,000—would have been automatically added to the Jamaica Income Tax Revenue entirely at the expense of the Home Government, the total aggregate duty payable by persons assessed to Income Tax both in this Island and the United Kingdom remaining unaltered. A further repeal proposed was that of Section 15 of the Original Law, which allowed as a deduction from the Income Tax payable by any person one-third of the Property Tax paid by such person.

"Relieving sections permitting the trading, etc., losses of one year to be carried forward and set against the profits of the three following years, and a deduction in respect of 'Obsolescence' in cases where Plant and Machinery is replaced by that of an improved type, were also included. The Bill was, nevertheless, thrown out on the motion for its third reading. It was, however, with the omission of the Section repealing the Property Tax Allowance (Sec. 15) and the addition of a Section repealing Sec. 27 of the original Law by which Interest was charged on Income Tax in arrear, re-introduced in a subsequent Session and passed its third reading on 2nd September."

Mr. Rickman, reviewing Jamaica Income Tax legislation, says that it soon became evident that the original Income Tax Law (24 of 1919), practically a replica of the Grenada Income Tax Bill (1918) (which, however, did not reach a third reading) would, as soon as it approached the stage of actual working, be found to require amendment in many respects. This, in itself, justifies the representations made by The West India Committee regarding the Bill at the time.

Various Amending Acts based on the experience of Mr. Rickman were subsequently passed. Mr. Rickman, in the concluding paragraphs of his report, defends the principle of income tax:—

It is unfortunate, he writes, that a wave of trade depression and financial stringency—temporary, it is hoped should have synchronised with the first demand for payment of the Income Tax charged under the Law of 1919. Had the undoubted exceptional prosperity of that year and the greater portion of 1920 continued, it is apprehended that comparatively few objections would have been raised to the new duty, especially in view of the very moderate rates in force. When, however, the tax fell to be collected at a period of scarcity of money, and the future outlook, as regards business and monetary conditions, not re-assuring, it was perhaps inevitable that the novel impost, from its very nature inquisitorial in its administration and operation, would prove—in some quarters at all events—unpopular, and hence be subjected to adverse criticism. The latter appears to be levelled under two main heads:—

(1) That Income Tax, even if suitable to other countries, is ill-adapted to Jamaica, a Colony primarily dependent on agriculture, an industry always at the mercy of hurricanes, drought, and other inopportune visitations of nature, involving planters in very heavy losses, to be recouped out of the profits of subsequent years.

Moreover, that these conditions must militate against Income Tax ever being relied upon as a stable and uniform source of Revenue.

(2) That the tax in itself is iniquitous, and should never have been imposed.

Dealing first with (1), it may be remarked that this is not the only Colony which is subject to adverse climatic conditions, e.g., the recurring droughts in Australia often entail very serious losses on the sheep farmers, etc.; Income Tax Laws have nevertheless been in operation in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania, for many years past, and there is no suggestion of their failure or contemplated repeal.

THE TRADE OF TRINIDAD.

The trade of Trinidad in 1920 reached a record, with imports valued at £8,400,232, and exports at £8,408,011, a total trade of £16,808,243. The transit trade also increased, and added to the imports and exports gave an aggregate trade of £18,914,711.

The United Kingdom took the leading place in the total amount of trade of the Colony, the United States being second, and Canada third. In each case there were substantial increases shown over the previous year.

The following statement will give the particulars as to these three countries :-

Country	Imports	Exports	Total trade
United Kingdom	£2,219,483	£3,695,041	£5,914,524
United States	3,474,607	2,148,570	5,623,177
Canada	1,257,877	194,780	1,452,657

The revenue received from Customs was largely in excess of any previous year, reaching £701,125. This was due to an increase made in the Customs tariff during the year and to the increased prices of merchandise subject to *ad valorem* duties. The revenue exceeded that of 1919 by £223,295.

The increase in the total value of the imports

£40,000. The same remarks apply to edible oils, salt, sugar, coal, and patent fuel, the latter items showing a value in excess of 1916 of £81,000, though about 10 per cent. less was imported. In cotton piece goods there were nearly the same number of yards imported in 1916, but the value of the imports of cotton increased over £400,000.

Mr. A. G. Robinson, Registrar-General of Trinidad and Tobago, in his preliminary report on the Census of Trinidad and Tobago for 1921, gives the following detailed figures, comparing the results with those of the 1911 census.

	1911.	1921
County of St. George	124,133	132,280
County of St. David	6,593	6,679
County of St. Caroni	55,707	53,768
County of St. Andrew	20,554	23,582
County of Victoria	69,264	76,306
County of St. Patrick	26,951	33,570
County of Nariva-Mayaro	8,760	12,313
Ward of Tobago	20,749	23,378
Waters of the Colony	841	904
	333,552	362,780

THE "GOVERNOR'S BOAT."

The s.s. *Coronado*, which will leave Bristol on New Year's Eve for Trinidad might be called the

"Governor's Boat," for she will be diverted from her usual route to that island in order to carry Sir Samuel Wilson to his seat of Government. She will also have on board four members of the Executive of The West India Committee in the persons of Sir Edward Davson, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, and Mr. A. W. Rogers, besides other distinguished passengers, including Lord Salisbury, who will be making a holiday tour.



s.s. *Coronado*.

was due almost entirely to higher prices, as the following details, taken from the report, show.

The imports increased in value during the five-year period 1916-20 from £8,708,309 in 1916 to £8,400,232 in 1920. In the case of articles in which the quantity is given in the returns, over one-half show that a greater quantity was imported in 1916 than in the year under review. About 10 per cent. more dry salted fish was imported in 1916, and yet the value is greater in 1920 by about £73,000. Over 200,000 lbs. more butter was imported in 1916, but the value is now greater by £93,000. Practically the same quantity of flour was imported in 1916, but the value shown in the imports for 1920 is greater by £462,187. There was also a large import in 1916 of beef, pork, ham and bacon, but the returns in 1920 show a greater value by

THE CANADIAN ELECTION.

A Liberal Government.

The Canadian General Election, which took place on December 6th, resulted in the defeat of the Meighen Government, and gave the Liberal Party, with 117 out of the 235 members composing the House of Commons, a majority of one over the total of the next two parties. Mr. Meighen, the Premier, lost his seat, as did six other Cabinet Ministers, including Mr. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine. Mr. Mackenzie King, the leader of the Liberal Party, will probably be invited by the Governor-General to form a Government. The strength of the various parties in the new House is as follows:—Liberals, 117; Progressives (Farmers), 65; Conservatives, 51; Labour, 2.

THE PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Rockefeller Foundation's Work.

"A railway spends more money on train and track inspection than on wreck crews. The average automobile owner is on the watch for signs of motor trouble and does not wait until there is a breakdown. The factory manager looks solicitously after his machines and does all he can to guard against interruptions in production. The human body, which is vastly more complex than any machine, is in need of vigilant care and frequent examination. Yet for the most part it is neglected until pain and disability sound an unmistakable alarm. Then the doctor is called in and too often is expected to do the impossible. He is thought of as a wreck crew rather than as a train and track inspector."

With these words Mr. George E. Vincent, of the Rockefeller Foundation, introduces the subject of the world-wide activities of the organisation over which he presides, in his Review for 1920. The results of these activities are very striking. To take the case of malaria, for example, he shows us that the reduction in the infection rate has been marked where effective preventive measures have been adopted.

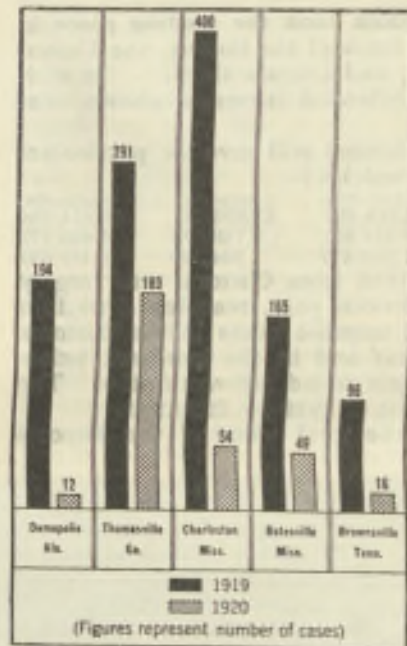
Since 1915 the International Health Board has been engaged in demonstrating the possibility of ridding small communities of malaria infection at a cost well within their resources. Experiments in towns in Arkansas and Mississippi have proved that the infection can be reduced by from 75 to 95 per cent. at an annual per capita cost, varying with conditions, from 45 cents to \$1. During the war the United States Public Health Service was strikingly successful in reducing malaria infection in the areas surrounding the army camps. From the outset the state boards of health and local authorities had a part in these undertakings.

As a result of a conference held in 1919, the United States Public Health Service, state boards of health, the International Health Board, and local authorities joined during the summer of 1920 in a concerted demonstration which included 52 towns in ten southern states. Each partner in the enterprise contributed personnel or funds, or both, to a common staff and a common budget. The machine worked smoothly. The specific results were gratifying. Adequate control was secured and the amount of malaria was definitely reduced at a per capita cost of 78 cents, exclusive of central supervision. The by-products in community pride, popular education, and interest in health problems were valuable, and give promise of future progress.

While the scientific basis of malaria control is well established, there is ample opportunity for experiment in testing various practical measures under different conditions. The infection is transmitted by the *Anopheles* mosquito, whose habits are known. Of these the most important is the depositing of eggs in water. Furthermore, by means of quinine, the blood of an infected person may in almost all cases be sterilised—i.e., the disease may be eliminated. It follows that if the *Anopheles* can be prevented from breeding or from gaining access to in-

dividuals, or if malaria carriers can be freed from infection, the disease cannot survive. In a given locality one or all of these methods may be employed. Where water can be drained away, or covered with a film of oil, or policed by fish that eat the mosquito eggs, *Anopheles* control may be the sole method. In regions where water is more abundant, resort may be had to screening or to quinine.

In Hinds County, Mississippi, a rural area of 36 square miles with a population of 830 was selected in 1918 for an experiment in countryside mosquito control. The work was continued in 1920 and demonstrated that a reduction of 76.7 per cent. in the disease could be secured at a cost which is not prohibitive. The top minnow proved to be an effective ally. It is estimated that each minnow eats about 165 large mosquito larvae and many eggs a day. In Sunflower County in the same state the sterilising of malaria carriers, begun in 1918, was



Reduction in Malaria.

Since 1915 the International Health Board has been engaged in demonstrating the possibility of ridding small communities of malaria infection at a cost well within their resources. The above chart shows results achieved in five Southern towns.

prosecuted, with the result that the rate of infection was still further reduced and the per capita cost lowered. At Mound, Louisiana, experiments in screening houses were carried out. The records showed that what an old coloured woman called "screams" are of appreciable value in malaria control.

With regard to yellow fever, Noguchi's vaccine has played a significant part in recent developments of the campaign. At last reports more than 7,500 persons had been vaccinated. While it is still too early to make a definite announcement as to the effectiveness of the vaccine, the results so far are distinctly encouraging. Several Central American countries have agreed to accept certificates of vaccination in lieu of quarantine detention. Representatives of business houses are being vaccinated before they leave for fever-infested areas. Stocks of vaccine, prepared at the Rockefeller Institute, are now available in all the countries where there is any likelihood that yellow fever may appear.

HEALTH PROGRESS IN GRENADA.**Successful Treatment of Yaws.**

In his report on the Medical Department of Grenada for the year ended December 31st, 1920, Hon. G. W. Paterson, the Colonial Surgeon, states that the general health of the Colony was on the whole satisfactory, for, in spite of a prevalence of enteric fever, which accounted for 37 deaths, the total number of deaths recorded was 1,318, as compared with 1,332 in the previous year, a rate per thousand of 17.5 and 17.9 respectively. Dysentery and intestinal diseases were as prevalent as in 1919, with a higher mortality, but there was an improvement in the incidence of malaria and fewer deaths were attributable to it.

The rate of infantile mortality continues to be serious, the percentage of deaths of children under five years being 43.9, as compared with 41.3 in 1919, and 46.1 in 1918. Diarrhoea and enteritis remain the principal causes of death. A marked reduction is shown in the number of deaths from syphilis. Ankylostomiasis is found generally throughout the Colony, but the campaign against it, which was discontinued in 1916 by the International Health Board, has not yet been restarted. Pellagra is as a rule met with only among the inmates of the Colony's lunatic asylums and poor houses. One case of leprosy was notified during the year, making the total number of cases 21, but there are no means yet of effecting the segregation of the Colony's lepers.

The campaign against yaws has been waged intensively, and the results would certainly appear to justify the year's expenditure on it (over £8,000), for out of some 5,000 cases treated, nearly 4,000 (says the Report) cures are reported. "The effect of injections on patients suffering from that condition of the disease known as 'crab' of the feet can only be described as spectacular, for after a comparatively brief term of treatment, these patients, who after varying long periods of inability to move about, regain the use of their feet and engage in some profitable occupation and cease to be an encumbrance on their friends."

In the matter of sanitation, a good deal of activity has been displayed by sanitary inspectors, but in spite of all that is being done, the question of latrine accommodation must still be regarded as unsatisfactory.

German Steamers for West Indies.

The "Actien-gesellschaft Hugo Stinnes für Seeschiffahrt und Überseehandel" has inaugurated a regular steamship service between Hamburg and the West Indies with four steamers of 6,000 tons dead-weight. The ports visited in succession will be Havana (Cuba), Vera Cruz, Tampico, Matanzas (Cuba), and New Orleans.

It is rumoured that a powerful syndicate has been formed in Berlin to take over the Russian sugar industry, or rather what remains of it. The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* believes that it is probably correct.

A MENACE TO BARBADOS.**Dr. Bridger's Grave Indictment.**

Dr. J. F. E. Bridger, lately Port Health Officer at Bridgetown, Barbados, has several suggestions to make in his report for 1920 for the better prevention of infection being brought to Barbados from outside. He points out that any port which is in direct communication with a port which is infected with rat plague is liable to become infected in its turn, especially if the healthy port is an importer of rat food cargoes, such as rice, maize, and pollard, and he recommends that not only the Port Health Authority, but the City Sanitary Authority, should pay attention to the reduction and control of the rat population by requiring foodstuffs to be stored in rat-proof warehouses, and by routine examination of rats for plague. In this connection, Dr. Bridger would like to see one sanitary authority responsible for Bridgetown as well as the shipping. "At present the Port Health Officer has power to deal in any way with ships, passengers, and crew in order to prevent the admission of disease, but he is in the unenviable position of knowing that his job is to prevent a case of smallpox entering a community, 90 per cent. of which are unvaccinated; to keep hubonic plague out of a town that is infested with rats, where rat food cargo imported from plague infected ports is kept in warehouses which are not rat proof; to prevent the entrance of an infected stegomyia or a case of early yellow fever into a city where the tide of anti-mosquito effort rises and falls with a variation that cannot be mathematically determined; to exclude cholera from a country where, although the water supply is *sans peur et sans reproche*, yet where, judging from the incidence of typhoid as the result of an uncontrolled milk supply, defective conservancy methods, and prevalence of flies, cholera would, if introduced, prove a serious menace."

THE COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

The following recent appointments and promotion affecting the West Indies are notified by the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

APPOINTMENTS.

Lieut. C. A. P. Southwell, M.C., Geologist, Mines Department, Trinidad.

Lieut. A. G. Bailey, Economic Botanist, Trinidad.

Mr. J. D. Kettle, Assistant Government Analyst, Trinidad.

Mr. H. K. Ryan, 2nd Assistant to Attorney General, Jamaica.

PROMOTION.

Mr. J. G. Gray (Chief Clerk, Post Office, British Guiana), Postmaster-General, British Guiana.

[Mr. Gray, who entered the Civil Service as Clerical Assistant to the British Guiana Immigration Department in 1883, was appointed a Clerk in the Administrator-General's office in the following year. After six years in the treasury, he became Chief Clerk in the Post Office in 1912.]

PLANTATION WHITE SUGAR.

Some Hints for its Manufacture.

Mr. H. R. Sayre, who was at one time Superintendent of Manufacture of the Sterling Sugar and Railway Company, gives in the *Louisiana Planter* the following particulars of a method of manufacturing plantation white sugar by the use of decolorising carbon. He says that the raw juice is slightly limed to about 1 cc. acidity, 10 ccs. of juice being tested with N/10 hydroxide and phenolphthalein, and Kieselghuhr added with subsequent heating and filter pressing.

The expressed juice which is to go to the evaporators is concentrated to 30 deg. Beaumé, and is then ready for the pans. In order to start operations it will be necessary to produce raw sugars for a day or so, to remelt them, and to send the liquor through the Norit presses, as in refining. When a sufficient quantity of this Norited liquor is returned to the pan supply tanks, the sugar boiler can draw the quantity needed for graining into his pan and complete the strike with syrup as it comes from the evaporators.

The proportion of melt and syrup should be such as to give a purity to the massecuite of about 80 or 88. This will produce an excellent grade of standard granulated sugar with good keeping qualities. Of course, the pans must be seeded, and a good, hard, fine setting secured before boiling in the syrup.

The resulting molasses, if run together with the washings, should be about 75 purity, and can be boiled back, purged hot, and the sugar remelted, continually furnishing the footings for the white sugar pans.

The run off from these boil-back or remelt sugars is to go to the hot room or crystallisers, and it is in turn to be remelted and sent through the Norit presses with the boil-back melted sugars. Any third sugar can also be mixed in, or if there is any shortage of sugar for melting, thirds can be bought cheaply to supply the deficiency.

However, before this hot room or third sugar is melted the polarisation must be raised from 88 to 98 deg., as an 88 deg. sugar, if melted and passed through the Norit would not make the clear white liquor necessary for the footings of the white sugar pans. This raise in purity is made possible by mingling the sugar with some of the run off from the boil-back strikes and drawing this magma into one of the pans, concentrating it and boiling in some of the molasses from the white strikes, a massecuite of about 75 purity resulting. It is then purged a second time, the sugar melted and sent to the Norit presses at about 98 purity, and the run-off boiled to string for the hot room.

A receptacle for holding the second and third sugar magma until there is sufficient to start the strike can be any cylindrical vessel with a stirring apparatus to keep the sugar in motion. All purities and quantities can be adjusted to the best operation of the house and maximum grinding capacity.

This system of working will, says Mr. Sayre, be found to have many advantages and economies over other methods.

A "FAIRRIE" TALE.

In a lecture on the "Production and Refining of Cane Sugar," delivered at Bradford on the 7th instant by Mr. Geoffrey Fairrie, of the firm of Fairrie and Co., Ltd., refiners, of Liverpool, the lecturer revived some of the old-time statements made by the refiners as regards the horrible things to be met with in raw sugar. This included the old chestnut, the *Acarus Sacchari*, the contemplation of "the effect of these insects on the tender lining of our digestive organs" causing him to shudder. The other biological horrors were moulds, which caused deterioration, and bacteria which produced acidity in milk. The non-vital bodies he instanced were particles of cane, clay, fibres from sacks. He also showed his ignorance of modern methods of manufacture of direct consumption sugar by stating that the process of manufacturing sugars abroad was carried out largely by natives, whose habits were neither altogether unobjectionable nor characterised by scrupulous cleanliness.

Mr. Fairrie lives in an age long past as regards tropical sugar-making. The processes by which direct consumption crystals are now produced are such that no *Acarus* or bacterium as described by him, however hardy, could possibly exist in them, and Mr. Fairrie's horrors are no more likely to occur in modern direct consumption "raw" cane crystals than in Mr. Fairrie's refined products. From the time, also, that the juice emerges from the mills until it is packed in the bags it undergoes no handling whatever. Indeed, it would be impossible to turn out modern plantation direct consumption sugars if the methods of manufacture were such as to lead to the conditions Mr. Fairrie describes. If sugar which has passed through the hands of the refiner is so essential to the health of the people, how is it that the refiners have taken no steps to increase their output and thus preserve the inhabitants of this country from the deadly harm of the plantation whites and Demerara crystals which are imported to make up for the refiners' deficiency of output?

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN HAWAII.

The following figures show the sugar production of Hawaii during the last seventeen years, together with the acreage and labour supply.

Year	Total Sugar, 2,000 lbs.	Acreage.	No. Laborers.
1904	367,475	91,798	44,230
1905	426,428	95,444	44,949
1906	429,213	91,798	41,303
1907	440,017	99,716	44,575
1908	521,123	101,380	44,789
1909	535,156	106,127	41,748
1910	517,090	110,247	42,846
1911	566,821	112,796	44,268
1912	595,258	113,866	46,930
1913	546,798	118,548	45,875
1914	617,038	114,458	46,213
1915	648,445	117,078	44,299
1916	593,483	114,269	46,117
1917	644,574	120,251	46,695
1918	516,842	119,747	44,708
1919	603,563	120,629	45,311
1920	556,871	115,118	44,295

WEST AFRICAN CACAO.

Mr. Theodore Ruete, in the course of his articles on "What West Africa sends to Europe," now appearing in *West Africa*, says:—

"Cacao has suffered more severely from the slump in values than almost any other African product. Prices are down to less than half of what they were a year ago, but there seems a disposition now, on the part of sellers, to resist further reductions. The better grades of West African cacao have become so well known and so well liked that they are always sure of good enquiry, so long as sellers do not indulge in 'flights of fancy.' This is a triumph for the Agricultural Department of the Gold Coast.

"From small beginnings, in 1905, the cacao export of this Colony, practically non-existent before, has continued to expand, till last year the exports from the Gold Coast alone reached the astounding figure of 200,000 tons, or nearly half of the world's supply. This is largely due to the untiring efforts of the Administration, which, amused by the successful transportation of other economic plants from their natural habitat, determined to see if it were not possible to establish the growing of cacao as a new industry among the none too numerous ones of the Gold Coast and neighbouring lands. Accordingly, young cacao trees, or beans of the most suitable variety, were obtained, agricultural stations set up, and practical, proper methods of treating trees and crop shown to the people, with the above results.

"In view of former prices, present ones are, no doubt, discouraging to growers and producers. An improvement may be anticipated, once the world recovers somewhat from the effects of the war, and gets to work again. The great thing is not to let this temporary set-back lead to deterioration in quality. Many other lands, stirred by West Africa's success, have gone in for cacao-planting more fully than before, and it is as necessary as ever—more necessary, in fact—to put West African cacao on the market in the best condition—well fermented and prepared.

"For much of the subsequent value of the cacao-beans depends upon proper fermentation, which reduces the naturally bitter taste of the raw product, besides effecting other changes in it that improve its ultimate quality. Accordingly, in farms intelligently conducted, after the beans have been scooped out of their shells, they are heaped up in great masses, in specially prepared containers, and covered with layers of banana-leaves.

"All sorts of contrivances are tried to replace a proper sweat-bin. One old fellow I saw up country had rigged up an open square of small logs, or short tree-trunks, lined with sacks and banana-leaves, into which he heaped his cacao-beans. A simple hole in the ground is better than nothing, but boxes which, with little trouble, can be suitably provided with drip holes and arranged on a proper slope, are the best."

PRAEDIAL LARCENY.

More Peasants mean Less Crime.

Lieut.-Colonel Bell is in the happy position of being able to record a diminution in the number of cases of Praedial Larceny in the Leeward Islands in his report on the police force of that Colony. For the whole Colony they were 392 less in 1919-20 than in the preceding year. The most marked decrease was that of 294 in the reported cases for Antigua, the figures for 1919 being 287 as compared with 521 for the previous year. This gratifying decrease can, in Colonel Bell's opinion, be attributed mainly to the sharp sentences imposed by the district magistrate on offenders convicted on praedial larceny charges, and in this connection, in support of his opinion, he points out that a great scarcity of ground provisions prevailed in Antigua during the greater part of the period under report, and the price of imported foodstuffs was very high. St. Kitts-Nevis also records a substantial decrease in the reported cases of praedial larceny, the figures for 1919 being 289 as against 436 for 1918. Conditions in St. Kitts-Nevis, as to the scarcity of ground provisions, would be similar to those prevailing at Antigua.

Dominica, following a gratifying falling off in praedial larceny cases in 1918, shows for 1919 an unwelcome increase in the reported cases, the figures being 518 for that year, as compared with 434 for the previous year. The increase is not very serious, but calls for remark and attention. In spite of the temptation to steal high priced cotton, Montserrat, on the other hand, shows a very marked decrease of praedial larceny cases, the figures being 74 for 1919, as against 109 in the previous year. As usual, the Virgin Islands record no case of praedial larceny, and in this connection it is worthy of comment that the agricultural industry of the Virgin Islands is carried on almost entirely by peasant proprietors. It is the experience in this Colony that praedial larceny assumes unwelcome proportions only in islands where the agricultural industry is mainly in the hands of large owners.

Meanwhile, it is only by the firm administration of the law that praedial larceny will be checked, and those who share this view will welcome Mr. L. C. Levy's pronouncement in the City Court at Kingstown, St. Vincent, on November 4th. Passing sentence of imprisonment on a labourer convicted of stealing potatoes from Arno's Vale Estate, he said: "I do not propose, during the time I occupy this bench, to fine for praedial larceny. Persons convicted of this offence before me will be sent to prison without the option of a fine."

MR. G. C. DU BOULAY, who was for ten years in the Civil Service in St. Lucia, and afterwards Private Secretary to Sir Charles O'Brien when Governor of the Seychelles, has been appointed Senior Assistant Colonial Secretary of Sierra Leone. Recently Mr. du Boulay has been Assistant Secretary in the Colonial Secretary's Office at Gibraltar, and he returns to England on his way to West Africa early next month.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

Developments in Ceylon.

Opening the new buildings of the School of Tropical Agriculture at Peradeniya, Ceylon, on September 24th, Sir William Manning, Governor of that Colony, said he was glad it had been his opportunity during his tenure of office to extend the facilities for the School of Tropical Agriculture, which he believed, as his hearers believed also, might eventually develop into the College of Agriculture of Ceylon. Of all conservatives, the most conservative was the agriculturist, and he trusted that such a school as this would do a great deal to spread the gospel of the necessity for greater attention to the modern scientific methods of agriculture. Both to those who were, or eventually would be, the owners of the land, and to those who desired to take up agriculture as a profession in which they expected to earn their means of livelihood, the school would be a great boon. He was much satisfied that the planting community were now applying to the School for assistants. Agriculture, in its professional requirements, was closely allied to the human body. Just as the general medical practitioner, after diagnosing a case, very often said he must call in the specialist, so in the science of agriculture there must be a number of specialists ready to deal with the various ills that affected plant life.

In conclusion, he expressed his personal appreciation of the work of the staff, and congratulated them on the clear lines of their work, which he hoped was laying the foundations for an Agricultural College in Ceylon. It would be a blessing to that island, and he felt confident that their work would revolutionise the present system of agriculture, and would likewise prove a blessing to the island. He endorsed the appeal made to proprietary planters to give an opportunity to students trained there of showing their real worth, and that to agriculturists to send their sons there for technical training before placing them in positions of responsibility. Finally, the thanks of the whole community were due to Mr. Stockdale, Director of Agriculture, and to the members of the Agricultural Department, for the breadth of view shown in laying down a scheme for the work of the School. It was to benefit all classes, from the landed proprietor to the village tiller, and Mr. Stockdale deserved that this scheme should be a success.

At a meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, on December 14th, the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council informed Mr. Edward Wood that one of the needs of the Island was an Agricultural College, and Mr. Wood, in his reply, welcomed the spirit of inter-island competition, but said that he felt that Jamaica should join the other Colonies in supporting the West Indian Agricultural College in Trinidad. He desired to plead for a generous measure of inter-island co-operation in order that the interests of all should be advanced. The Trinidad College would pave the way for healthy progress. He suggested that a West Indian Agricultural Conference should be held in Jamaica to discuss scientific production.

MR. EDWARD WOOD'S TOUR.

Mr. Edward Wood, M.P., the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, on November 14th, and was received by the Governor, Sir Leslie Probyn, and heads of departments, and a guard of honour of the West India Regiment.

In an interview, reported in *The Times* of the following day, Mr. Wood said he was pleased with his first glimpse of Jamaica. The 5,000 miles separating the island from England made a difference in the matter of keeping the people at home informed of the requirements of the Colony. He hoped that one result of his investigation would be to bridge that difficulty. Closer contact with the Colonial Office was necessary.

Mr. Wood will make a tour of the island, visiting, if possible, the interior and every town.

Representatives of Jamaican agricultural interests have prepared two memorials for presentation to Mr. Wood, urging development of trade with Great Britain, the adoption of an "anti dumping" measure in England to protect the cane sugar industry, a ten-year trade agreement between the West Indies and the United Kingdom, the establishment of a West Indian currency, and the foundation of a State bank in Jamaica to assist agriculture.

WORLD'S PRODUCTION OF OIL.

According to statistics compiled by the United States Geological Survey, the world's output of oil last year amounted to 694,854,000 barrels of 42 gallons each. The production of the various countries contributing to this immense total is shown in the following table:—

	Production Barrels.	Percentage of Total
United States	443,402,000	63.8
Mexico	163,540,000	23.5
Russia	25,429,600	3.6
Dutch East Indies	17,529,210	2.5
Persia	12,352,655	1.8
India	7,500,000	1.1
Roumania	7,435,344	1.1
Poland (Galicia)	5,606,116	.8
Peru	2,816,649	.4
Japan and Formosa	2,139,777	.3
Trinidad	2,083,027	.3
Argentina	1,665,989	.2
Egypt	1,042,000	.1
British Borneo (Sarawak)	1,015,949	.1
Venezuela	456,996	.07
France (Alsace)	388,700	.06
Germany	212,046	.03
Canada	196,937	.03
Italy	31,180	.005
Algeria	3,916	.0005
England	2,909	.0004

The West Indian Council.

The proposal to hold a West Indian Council or Conference in Trinidad next month has now, it is understood, been abandoned, the colonies of Barbados, British Guiana, and the Windward Islands having decided that they could not see their way to participate.

JOTTINGS FROM MY NOTEBOOK.

BY "AGRONOMIST."

It is a noteworthy fact in connection with the sugar-cane that there has been no improvement in the sugar content on what it was a hundred years ago. In fact, if the records of Barbados estates are examined, it will probably be found that the juice now is not so good as it was then in this respect.

Considerable attention is being given in Australia to the cultivation of the papaw, and apart from its value as a source of papain, the fruit is largely used in the manufacture of chutney; indeed, Nicko's states that hundreds of tons are used in Australia annually for that purpose. It is also stated that a considerable demand is growing for the papaw as a dessert fruit.

In the brewing of tea on a large scale in Chicago, several gallons of water are raised to the boil in a porcelain lined urn heated by a steam jacket. The tea, in the proportion of three ounces to a gallon of water, contained in a sterilised cotton bag, is then immersed in the water, the bag being kept in a state of motion. After five to eight minutes it is then withdrawn. Thus prepared, the flavour of the tea is retained for, it is stated, quite twenty hours.

The primary object in poultry breeding, says Mr. Hendrickson, of the Porto Rico Experiment Station, is to raise hens with high egg-producing power. He describes this type as being generally characterised by a long, graceful body. In profile the neck and tail appear to be placed at an angle of 45 deg. to the body. The back is long and straight, and the breast evenly curved from the head to the legs. The general appearance is elegant, never heavy or dumpy, and the bird is of a vigorous temperament.

At the Government Maize Secherie in Mauritius, 28,164 kilos (about 276 tons) of corn in the cob were purchased in 1920, which gave 18,294 kilos (180 tons) of shelled corn. In addition, 78,230 kilos (768 tons) of maize already shelled were bought, making a total of 948 tons submitted to the drying process. The cost of the kiln drying was Rs. 25.03 per ton. The loss of weight during drying averaged 13.7 per cent. The maize is stated to have been in good condition and to have sold for Rs. 220 per ton.

In 1906 the initiative was taken of constructing mixed plantations of Hevea rubber and Robusta coffee in Java. There was considerable doubt about the success of either cultivation at that time, so in order to diminish the risk the Hevea cultivation was interplanted with the Robusta coffee. It soon became apparent that the advantages of the system were in excess of the disadvantages, and the example thus set was followed by other planters, for the last ten years it having been the rule in East Java to cultivate the rubber interplanted with coffee.

The production of cloves is an important factor in the agriculture of Zanzibar. According to the

Indian and Eastern Druggist (Vol. 11., No. 7), there are in the two islands about 52,000 acres in cultivation, with about 4,700,000 trees in bearing. There is a considerable variation in the amount of output, trees bearing heavy crops periodically every three or five years, but the average crop lately has been 11,000,000 lbs. A sixty-year old tree gives 8 lbs. annually, but the bulk of the present cultivation only dates from 1872. Ninety-eight trees are planted to the acre.

Before the advent of seedling canes, the late G. S. Jenman, the Government Botanist of British Guiana, experimented with the varieties of canes then known, especially as regards selection, and one of the experiments with the Bourbon cane was carried out by carefully choosing plants from the worst stools, with the view of endeavouring to get back to first causes and discover what the original cane was like. A thin, hard, reed-like cane resulted, rich in fibre and poor in sugar. The contrary object of endeavouring to improve the Bourbon by selection from the best stools failed to produce a higher quality of cane. It was evident, therefore, that the Bourbon, as then known, was the result of progressive cultivation, and had reached its apex of power of production of sugar.

"Planter," writing in the *Indian Scientific Agriculturist*, lays great stress on the advantages to be gained by growing coffee under shade trees, and sums up these as being diminished exhaustion, and consequently increased longevity of the plant, reduced cost of cultivation, a conservation of the nutritious properties of the soil, and an actual increase of these by the continuous fall of decaying leaves, which add organic matter to it. The sole drawback of shade for coffee is a diminished yield, varying according to the density of the shade and the heat of the climate. "While," "Planter" says, "coffee grown in the open would crop more largely, the trees will be sooner pumped out; the coffee grown under shade shows no signs of exhaustion, but will go on bearing a crop of 3 or 4 cwt. every year indefinitely."

Dealing with the pests of the coconut palm, the *Tropical Agriculturist* (Vol. LVIII., No. 2) mentions three, viz., the Black-headed Coconut Caterpillar (*Nephantis Serinopa*), which attacks the underside of palm leaves, causing them to wither and die, the Rhinoceros or Black Beetle (*Oryctes Rhinoceros*), which does the damage by boring into the crowns of trees and feeding on the sap, and the Red Weevil (*Rynchophorus ferrugineus*), which is an exceedingly dangerous pest, since the grubs are capable of killing palms by tunnelling in the stems. The eggs are laid in wounds or injuries to the trees, and the grubs breed very rapidly. The control measures recommended for the caterpillar are to keep the trees in as good condition as possible, to trap the moths by light and kerosene tins, and to remove infected branches. For the beetle, to cut down dead palms and cover the stump with 8 inches depth of sand, clean out the cavities in the roots and cover with sand, and cut off and burn the tops of fallen coconut and palmyra palms. The same measures are recommended for the weevil as for the beetle.

THE WEST INDIES REVISITED.

BY ALGERNON ASPINALL.

(Continued from page 526.)

Some Famous "Brews."

Though sugar, taking value of exports as the criterion, is no longer the principal crop of Trinidad, it stands a good second to cacao, and is of very great importance to the colony, since it gives employment to more labourers than any other industry—and employment, moreover, of a kind that is particularly valuable to a growing community. On a sugar estate men are trained to be not only agriculturists, but also engineers, mechanics, chemists and electricians, and technical education has many obvious advantages where, as is the case in the West Indies, openings in professional and clerical life are comparatively few.

When Trinidad was captured by Sir Ralph Abercromby in 1797, Port of Spain stood in the midst of fields of waving sugar-cane, which extended from the rich Tucker Valley, to the north, aback to Diego Martin, and on the south from Caroni and Orange Grove—estates still under cane—to the neighbourhood of St. Joseph, where the West Indian Agricultural College will soon be standing. It was through the cane-piece of Peru, now a straggling Indian village just to the north of Port of Spain, that the British troops marched on the capital, refreshing themselves on the way with "grog" which they made in an original manner at the sugar works of the estate. Breaking open the distillery, they emptied the contents of two hogsheads of sugar and three puncheons of rum into a well, and then, drawing up the mixture in buckets, proceeded to regale themselves with it and to make merry.

Appropos of this "brew," one is reminded of an occasion when "punch" was made on even a more liberal scale. This was at Cadiz, on the Mediterranean station in 1694, when the Right Honourable Edward Russel, Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief, of His Majesty's Forces, entertained a large concourse of guests at a cold collation in his garden.† To wash down the repast a fountain of punch was provided. The ingredients consisted of four hogsheads of brandy (in the absence of rum), eight hogsheads of water, 25,000 lemons (the more refreshing limes being unobtainable), 18 cwts. of fine sugar, 5 lbs. of grated nutmegs, 300 toasted biscuits, and a pipe of dry mountain Malaga. This unique concoction was served out to the guests by a small boy, who rowed round and round the fountain in a boat. Possibly it was this fête that Abercromby's troops endeavoured to emulate in Trinidad.

At an earlier date the Savannah was also under cane, but one after another the sugar estates in the immediate vicinity of Port of Spain succumbed to economic causes and went out of cultivation. Trini-

dad was, however, more fortunate than her neighbour Barbados, for she had other industries to fall back upon when sugar failed, whilst "Little England" could find no other crop which could give employment to a tithe even of her teeming population. Consequently, Tucker Valley is now a flourishing cacao estate, and the exports of the fragrant bean appropriately called by scientists "food of the gods" from Port of Spain, are far greater than those of sugar ever were.

The sugar estates to the south of the capital fared better than the properties to the north. Those which endured to the end were saved and, at the time of my visit, were prospering greatly in consequence of the abnormally high prices for sugar which followed the conclusion of the war.

The Kiskadee's Song.

It is hardly necessary to say that a pilgrimage to the principal sugar estates was included in the programme of my visit to Trinidad, and one morning we were up with the "kiskadee" and speeding along the now familiar road to St. Joseph, en route to Naparima, the cane garden of the island. The "kiskadee," it should be explained for the benefit of the uninitiated, is one of the distinctive features of Trinidad. A pretty bird with yellow breast, brown wings and tail, and black, yellow and white head, it shrieks out the interrogation, "*Qu'est-ce qu'il dit?*" "*Qu'est-ce qu'il dit?*" "What does he say?" incessantly throughout the livelong day. The answers he gets are not always polite! No sooner have the cocks, dogs and frogs ceased their nocturnal chorus, which makes the "still" tropical night what it is, than the "kiskadee" begins its vocal activities to remind one of the malicious saying that "In the West Indies the birds have no song, the flowers have no scent, and the women—" but the remainder of the adage will not bear repetition, for it is a gross libel and quite incorrect.

As the crow flies the distance from Port of Spain to San Fernando, the second town of Trinidad and the shipping port of the Naparimas, is about 24 miles, but by road or rail it is 35, since to get from one town to the other one has at present to go round the Caroni swamp. When, however, Mr. A. H. Cipriani's beneficent operations in the direction of the reclamation of that pestilential morass are completed, a saving of fully 12 miles will be effected.

From St. Joseph, for travellers to San Fernando, road and railway—by which no one who can beg, borrow or otherwise acquire a motor car travels if he can possibly avoid it, so dilatory are its trains turn south, and after crossing the Caroni river by a steel bridge, pass the sugar factory of the same name, with alongside it the new palatial manager's house, representing the last word in comfort where tropical residences are concerned. The Hon. W. G. Kay, its present occupant, had seen to that, and one felt that it was worthy of a better site than one overlooking an evil-looking and muddy stream, which, however, affords good sport for gun if not for rod, since alligators lurk on its banks among the mangrove roots, and commands a glorious view of the northern range of mountains.

The Caroni sugar factory embodies the latest

* This popular beverage owes its name to the fact that it was first prepared and served out to the Royal Navy on the instructions of Admiral Vernon of Porto Bello fame, who was known in the service as "Old Grog" from the boat cloak of program which he used to wear.

† The Naval Chronicle, Vol. xii., p. 14.

improvements in cane-sugar manufacture, and produces the finest quality of West Indian Crystallised Sugar, whose natural yellow hue has proved so attractive to the public that the English refiners try to imitate it by applying dyes to white sugar. Try as they may, however, they will never succeed in reproducing the exquisite natural flavour of cane juice, which is almost totally lost in the process of refining.

The Growth of Cane-farming.

The methods of sugar-making have been often described, and an intending visitor to a factory when the great mills are "going about" would do well to make himself acquainted with their principal features before entering its portals, for once inside, what with the scrunching noise of the rollers as they crush the canes, and the whirr of the machinery, there is such a deafening noise that it is well-nigh impossible to follow the explanations of one's mentor, even though he may have a voice like Bonapartes. The factory had recently begun crop, and trainloads of sugar-canes brought up by fussy little locomotives were entering its insatiable maw on the endless conveyor known as the cane-carrier.

While many of these canes were grown on the estate, others, one learnt, were produced by farmers, and it is not too much to say that cane-farming has been the mainstay of the Trinidad sugar industry. In the late 'seventies the managers of the muscovado estates of the Colonial Company began to purchase canes from outside growers, and in 1882 Mr. (afterwards Sir) Nevile Lubbock, during a visit to Trinidad, introduced the system of settling Indians and others on estates' lands for the purpose of growing canes for the factories, that still prevails on several estates, though it did not prove altogether successful on the property on which it was first started, where it has, however, been recently revived. After this the tendency was in the direction of encouraging small proprietors and peasants to cultivate sugar-canes on their own land, and to sell them to the highest bidder. The industry in its present form has made remarkable progress. Its extension was advocated by the Royal Commission of 1897, whose members, in their report published in 1898, declared that its general adoption would be attended by many advantages. In that year 6,150 farmers sold 105,753 tons of canes to the estates. Since then the numbers of individuals engaged in the industry have been almost steadily progressive, rising last year to 26,425 farmers (of whom 15,046 were East Indians and 11,379 West Indians), who disposed of 389,399 tons of cane, for which they received \$1,773,227. The interests of these farmers are jealously watched over by a Cane Farmers' Association, of which Mr. G. C. Wyatt, a member of the Committee of Management of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, is President, and when the Estates' proprietors agree to co-operate, the canes are purchased on a sliding scale, the price paid moving up or down with the sugar market.

(To be continued.)

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.

Vaccination Vindicated.

Of the 23 cases of small pox which occurred in this year's outbreak, only two affected inhabitants of Anguilla, the remainder being passengers from Santo Domingo. The medical officer turned his earliest attention to re-vaccinating the families of contacts, and succeeded in preventing infection in all but these two cases, where re-vaccination was evaded.

British Guiana's New Legislature.

The opening of the Combined Court with the usual impressive ceremonies took place on November 15th. The Governor, in his speech, referred to the general industrial depression, but thought that a slight improvement in the prices obtained from the Colony's products, and a slight reduction in the cost of production, would soon put producers back on a sound basis. Many other parts of the world were suffering more than they were. Capitalists regarded British Guiana with a certain amount of interest, but until a constant influx of population was secured, they saw little justification for investing large sums of money. In this connection, he trusted that, as a result of the visit of a delegation from India to the Colony early in 1922, East Indians would once more make Demerara their home. He hoped it would be practicable to resume the immigration in 1923. The census was disappointing showing as it did (irrespective of Aborigines) a total increase of population of only 1,650. For over 80 years the Colony had been, as regards labour supply, living from hand to mouth. The fact that there were not more Europeans in the Colony now than there were in 1830 was not due to the climate, as the death-rate among Europeans in British Guiana was smaller than that of the United Kingdom. Turning to finance, His Excellency foreshadowed the introduction of an income-tax during the coming session.

As the result of the munificence of Mr. Alexander Duckham, a member of the Executive of The West India Committee, the village of Nabachis, on the East Coast, has been provided with a pure water supply, the work being carried out under the direction of Dr. Minett. The Governor and a distinguished company attended at the opening of the improved well on November 15th, when Sir John Harrison conducted an exhaustive test of the purity of the water.

Grenada's Cacao Crop Prospects.

The Governor, returning from a tour of inspection of St. Vincent, was accompanied by Sir Charles O'Brien, Governor of Barbados, who is paying a visit to Grenada. The Hon. D. S. De Freitas and Mrs. De Freitas have also returned to the Colony. Hon. M. E. H. Martin has been made a King's Counsel. Mr. J. T. de la Motte, as Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, congratulated Mr. Paterson, in the Council, on being selected to administer the Government of the Colony during the Governor's absence. Mr. George Gentle and Mr. F. M. Commissiong have been sworn in as official members of the Council.—Mr. C. V. C. Horne, writing on November 21st, speaks gloomily of the prospects of the coming cacao crop, the storm having delayed and partly destroyed what would have been a very fine crop, so that planters will consider themselves lucky if they obtain a total of

40,000 bags, as compared with an average of 65,000. Hon. M. E. H. Martin and Mr. C. E. Bain have been appointed members of the Income-tax Appeal Committee.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Jonas Browne & Son, the CIRCULAR is able to publish the following figures showing the exports from Grenada and the Grenadines for the last five years.

CROPS	COTTON-			
	COCOA	SPICES	COTTON	SHED.
Oct. 1st to Sept. 30th,	Bags	Pkgs.	Bales	Bags
1920-1921	52,434	11,750	1,191	3,599
1919-1920	63,100	12,261	1,260	6,011
1918-1919	62,377	17,979	1,088	4,863
1917-1918	68,240	16,388	1,730	3,953
1916-1917	78,852	10,439	930	4,450
Of the above the following were shipped:—				
	To North America		To Barbados	
1920-1921	7,993	7,653	164	3,599
1919-1920	10,788	6,311	—	4,079
1918-1919	11,858	6,691	—	4,863
1917-1918	43,801	6,828	—	3,938
1916-1917	30,184	7,674	—	4,450

and the remainder to Europe

Jamaica Welcomes British Warships.

All sections of the community have been extending a hearty welcome to the officers and men of H.M.S.s *Raleigh*, *Constance*, *Calcutta* and *Cambrian*, of the British North American and West Indies Squadron, which anchored in the harbour on November 15th. The entertainment in honour of the visitors included a garden party at Government House and a ball at the Myrtle Bank Hotel.—The postponement of the M.C.C. tour has caused general disappointment, and the Cricket Council is endeavouring to secure the visit of a Canadian cricket team to the island during the coming year. The pros and cons of Mr. Fred L. Myers' proposal for the establishment of a bonding period for Rum in Jamaica are being actively discussed in the columns of *The Daily Gleaner* by those interested. On the whole, the letters published favour the scheme.

At a meeting of the Board of the Agricultural Society on November 17th, the President (Sir Leslie Probyn) presiding, it was decided that power be given to the Agricultural Instructors to take the necessary steps, including the cutting of trees, where necessary, to prevent the spread of Panama disease in the banana plantations.—There is a movement on foot to revive the rice industry of the island. During the war rice was grown extensively in the island, but at present not more than about 500 acres under rice (all of which is cultivated by East Indians) can be found.—An earthquake was felt throughout the island on the afternoon of November 25th, but the shock, although in parts severe, only lasted from ten to twenty seconds, and no damage is reported.

The Montserrat Cotton Crop.

Mr. K. P. Penchoen, writing on November 21st, reports good weather. Cotton is still being ginned, and a steamer is expected to call for cotton and cottonseed. Offers have been made by Mr. Wildy, on behalf of the Pine Cotton Spinners, but only a small amount has changed hands as yet. Planters have taken heart from the recent sale in England of Montserrat cotton of last crop, the whole of which they hope will be disposed of before this crop is reached.

The Governor's Visit to St. Lucia.

Mr. Archibald J. Brooks, writing on November 8th, states that the Governor-in-Chief recently spent ten

days in the island, but owing to indisposition, did not get about much, although he managed to get as far as Soufriere.—The Cacao crop promises to be good, but limes are at present a little backward. Market values are still very low, and do not give much encouragement to planters generally.—The Baby Welfare League, which was formerly known as the Castries Crèche, intends to widen its sphere of activity in the near future. Dr. F. Sutherland Richards, P.M.O., has been enrolled a willing member, and it is now proposed to employ a trained nurse for district visiting. The committee, consisting of Mrs. W. Peter (President), Miss V. Degazon, Mrs. G. Williams and Mrs. C. Cuff, the last being the wife of the house surgeon at Victoria Hospital, propose holding a fête in the Castries Gardens on December 15th for the purpose of raising the necessary funds.—Mr. T. G. Westall arrived back on November 17th, and was welcomed by Mr. McVane and Mr. E. D. Cadet, President and Vice-President respectively of the Representative Government Association, on whose behalf he had undertaken his mission to England. His Honour E. D. Laborde, I.S.O., the Acting Administrator, presided at the meeting on November 14th, when it was decided to organise a series of entertainments in the island with a view to equipping the Victoria Hospital with an X-Ray apparatus.

A St. Vincent Scholarship.

By ordinance No. 41 of this year, a St. Vincent scholarship has been established of the annual value of £250 and tenable up to five years at any university or college in Europe or Canada, or any Agricultural, Scientific or Technical College in America approved by the Governor in Council.—Manchester is again in the market for Sea Island Cotton, the manager of the local branch of the Colonial Bank having been authorised from there to negotiate drafts on clean lint at 1s. 6d. per lb.

Favourable Crop Weather in Tobago.

In a letter dated November 17th, Mr. Robert S. Reid pays a warm tribute to the memory of Mr. Edgar Tripp. "During my twenty-one years' residence in Trinidad," he says, "I met Mr. Tripp almost daily and regularly at the Chamber of Commerce, and in connection with the Electric Company's and other meetings. His mental energy was unbounded, and he had a genuine interest in the development of the Colony. You will be fortunate if you can secure an equally good correspondent."—Mr. and Mrs. Davkins, who have been visitors at Louis D'Or for the last six weeks, leave by this week's *Belize* for Trinidad and expect to go to other of the islands before returning to the Old Country. They express pleasure at the climate, scenery and resources of Tobago, and evidently enjoyed their visit, and especially their tennis, of which both are energetic devotees. The weather has been more like the dry season, with the north-easterly breezes and occasional light showers. The October rainfall in this district was 12.76 inches, more than double 1920, and the thorough soaking of the earth ought to help make good the recent storm damage. The cacao crop will not start before February, and the bulk of it will come in later still. All depends on the weather, which seems to be no more dependable than markets these days. The recent drop in prices is of serious concern to cacao planters, who would be glad to see a better market.—Writing on November 23rd, Mr. Reid says that the *Belize* on her last trip brought a number of Trinidad visitors, includ-

ing Mr. Strange, the late Warlen, to enjoy the cool sea breezes on the "round trip," which he and many others think the ideal short holiday. The weather continues favourable for the ripening crops, and some light pickings are being made as usual. Trinidad planters will hardly believe that on some Tobago estates cacao is picked all the year round, with, of course, bulk pickings during the crop months. Coco-nuts had such a sudden relapse in prices that all growers are now making copra.

Income Tax Increase in Trinidad.

The death is reported of Mr. C. A. R. Farrell, the chief City Engineer of Port of Spain. At the meeting of the City Council on November 24th, the Mayor referred to Mr. Farrell as a faithful and efficient and zealous officer who had served the Corporation for over 20 years.—Mr. R. R. Thompson, M.I.M.E., Director of Lands and Mines, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.—The *Trinidad Guardian* mentions that the work of erecting the leper settlement in the island of Chacachacare has reached a stage justifying the transfer in the near future of the first batch of lepers from Cocorite Asylum.—In bringing revised estimates for 1922 before the Legislative Council, the Acting Governor stated that with an estimated revenue of £1,834,355 there would be a deficit of £93,898. £100,000 had been taken out of the reserved surplus to meet the emergency. It was not considered equitable to levy the Produce Tax at a time when the staple products were suffering severely, and this would involve a loss of £50,000. On the other hand, it was estimated that additions to the duties on wines, spirits, beer and tobacco would bring in £69,000. An increase in the income-tax would be suggested.—The Chamber of Commerce has decided to make representations to the Canadian Government Merchant Marine in favour of lower freight rates on the West Indian route. The Agricultural Society is seeking affiliation with the British Empire Producers' Organisation. The Society has also passed unanimously a resolution inviting the Government's attention to the state of the Colony's labour supply, which is likely to become serious in view of the cessation of Indian immigration and the repatriation of time-expired immigrants.

COLONEL HERBERT BRYAN, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who has been in England recuperating from the effects of over-work, returns to Kingston in the *Patuca* on Tuesday next. His health, one is glad to learn, has greatly improved.

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.—Assistant for Balata Producing Estates in British Guiana. Previous experience of a similar nature essential; also ability to handle natives and to act on own initiative. Good salary offered to experienced man, single preferred.—Apply, stating age and salary expected, and former occupation, to B. B., c/o THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

EXPERIENCED ENGLISH GOVERNESS desires engagement. West Indies; Barbados, Trinidad preferred. All subjects, good languages, music, games, modern methods, excellent references. Good salary and travelling expenses.—Apply "D," care of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.3.

SOME COMPANY NOTES.

Trinidad Lands Reclamation, Ltd.

Messrs. Sperling & Co. have been offering for subscription at par £100,000 two-and-a-half year bonds in this company. The bonds will carry interest at 5 per cent., and repayment at a premium of 10 per cent. in 1924 and interest are guaranteed by the British Controlled Oilfields Company. The Trinidad Lands Reclamation, Ltd., was formed to undertake for British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., the carrying out of a contract with Mr. A. H. Cipriani for the drainage of the Oropouche Lagoon, an estimated area of about 4,000 acres, and in consideration it will, on completion of the works, acquire from British Controlled Oilfields, Limited, the surface of the lands reclaimed as the result of such operation of drainage, together with a royalty, payable by British Controlled Oilfields, Limited, equivalent to 10 per cent. of the amount of the gross moneys derived from the sale of all crude oil which may be won from all the areas (including the Lagoon), covered by a Concession granted by the Government of Trinidad to Sir William James Ingram, Bart., and now vested in British Controlled Oilfields, Limited, and from certain other areas in the Lagoon or in its vicinity which have been acquired by that Company from Sir William J. Ingram.

The Hon. A. H. Cipriani, one of the Members of the Trinidad Board of the Company, who is now under contract with the Government of Trinidad to drain the extensive Caroni Lagoon, near Port of Spain, has recently completed a comprehensive survey of the Oropouche Lagoon, and has contracted to carry out the drainage work at the actual cost price, which is not to exceed £75,000, plus a fixed commission of £5,000, and a bonus of 25 per cent. of any saving to the Company in the expenditure of the £75,000; assuming that no such saving is effected, the cost will be £80,000. As part of the drainage scheme, the Government of Trinidad have decided to raise, at the Government expense, the level of the road between the lagoon and the sea.

The London Board comprises Mr. D. Elliott Alves, President of the British Controlled Oilfields, Ltd., Sir F. Mackay Edgar, Bart., Mr. Alfred T. Teniers, and Sir John Esplen, Bart., while the Local Board has been formed consisting of the Hon. A. H. Cipriani, M.B.E., Mr. G. P. Huggins, O.B.E., Mr. S. D. Harding, Mr. L. A. P. O'Reilly, K.C., and Major George Gonsalves, O.B.E., M.Inst.C.E.

Trinidad Leaseholds Ltd.

The Report of the Directors for the year ended June 30th, 1921, states that the net profit for the year, after providing for depreciation, charging administration and general expenditure, and making provision for Corporation Profits Tax, amounted to £151,483, making, with the balance brought forward from 1920, a total of £194,897. After provision for Income Tax, there remained a balance of £171,897, which the Directors recommend should be carried forward. Capital expenditure to the extent of £460,763 was incurred during the year, mainly in extensions to the refinery, installations of plant, provision of landage and pipelines, and in sinking of wells. The amount expended on stores, namely, £528,107, is due to the fact that in 1919, and during the greater part of 1920, deliveries of material became so uncertain that in order to ensure continuity of operations it was necessary to place very large orders. When the slump came, the suppliers rushed forward material, the delivery of which it was expected would be spread over at least two years. It has, consequently, been necessary to arrange for an advance of £131,608, and in spite of the substantial profit on trading, to pass the dividend. The output amounted to 158,046 tons, a decrease of 19,663 tons on the previous year's

results; 33,803 tons was purchased from other companies, and the total quantity treated was 176,642 tons, as compared with 141,126 tons. The present capacity of the refinery at Pointe-à-Pierre is 800 tons per day, being nearly double the average output during the year. When the installation is completed, a capacity of over 1,000 tons per day is anticipated. Mr. J. L. Siddall has taken the place of Mr. F. R. Phillips on the Board.

The *Financial News* gives the following comparative table to show the results for the past three years:—

	1921-21	1919-20	1918-19
Output	158,046	177,709	171,286
Footage drilled	—	22,011	22,113
Oil refined (tons)	176,642	141,125	119,411
Working profit	£262,092	£356,056	£254,122
Other receipts	7,853	1,446	939
Total	£269,945	£357,502	£255,361
Expenses, &c.	9,480	17,205	13,971
To depreciation	102,701	131,200	54,010
Corporation profits tax	7,000	7,500	—
Net profit	£151,484	£198,597	£187,380
To reserve	—	80,000	50,000
Dividend	—	131,156	131,156
Rate	—	12½ p.c.	12½ p.c.
Directors' extra remuneration	—	£6,558	£6,558
Balance	£151,484	£19,117	£335
Brought in	£42,913	62,030	62,365
Income tax	£194,397	—	—
Carried forward	£22,500	—	—
Carried forward	£171,897	£42,913	£62,030

CORRESPONDENCE.

The views expressed by correspondents under this heading are not necessarily those of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Jamaica and Canada.

Sir,—May I draw your attention to the following extract from an article which appeared in the *Edmonton Journal* of November 8th, under the heading "Jamaica would welcome union with Canada."

"Jamaica is looking hopefully ahead to the time when the governing of the island will be in the hands of Canada," stated Dr. E. H. Stafford, of Kingston, Jamaica, to *The Journal* on being interviewed Saturday. "There is no doubt that England would be only too glad to give over the West Indies management to this Dominion and it would be the best thing that could happen from either the point of view of the islands or of Canada." . . . The islands are at present considered to be a dead loss by Britain, says the Doctor, but one American company is making two million a month out of the fruit crop. England is too far away to realise what can be done, he claims, and the handing of the reins of government to Canada is the only real solution to the problem. The great majority of the inhabitants, while being a high type of native, are not able to govern themselves.

If I may venture to comment on the suggestion of Dr. Stafford, I would say that I do not for a moment believe that Canada would wish to undertake the government of the West Indies; her hands are already full with the projected development of the Dominion and she would have no time or money to give to the development of the West Indies. Furthermore it would be impossible to arouse the electors of Canada to any real interest in the West Indies, and it would not be to the advantage of the West Indies to be drawn into the vortex of Canadian politics.

The solution of the West Indian question lies, I believe (and have hammered at it for thirty years), in the federation of all the West Indian Colonies under one Governor-General with self-government within certain limits. This would give them a voice and influence in the Empire by virtue of population and wealth, analogous to that of, say, New Zealand. Every effort could then be made to divert to Canada the trade at present going to the U.S.A. Many products of the West Indies now reach Canada through the United States and vice versa.

I have been more or less associated with the West Indies since 1881 (although a Welshman by birth) and with Canada for twenty years. This trip I have already been in Canada nearly six months. I am also a very old member of the West Indian Club.

It is a mistake to allow suggestions of the sort made by Dr. Stafford to go unchallenged. "Outside the sphere of practical politics" they are a red herring drawn across the scent when attention should be centred on some feasible scheme for the development of Britain's valuable possessions in the West Indies.

I am, Sir, etc.,

WILLIAM F. O. B. HEWETT.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOHN LEE LUM.

It is with regret that we have to announce that Mr. John Lee Lum died at Hong Kong last month.

Mr. Lee Lum, who was born in Hong Kong, migrated to Trinidad in 1880 where, five years later, he established the firm of Lee Lum & Co. The admitted head of the Chinese community in Trinidad for many years, he was generally recognised as one of the most patriotic and public-spirited men in the island which he for so long made his home. He was closely interested in the exploitation of the oilfields of Trinidad, being concerned with the opening up of the Guayaguayare area which attracted the Canadian Oil Exploration Company. He also, as we are reminded by the *Trinidad Guardian*, took a leading part in the movement which effected the liquidation of the heavy liabilities of the Royal Victoria Institute a few years ago and he was one of its most ardent supporters. He played a prominent rôle in educational activities, and was the donor of an annual prize to the Pamphylian School for competition among the students.

Mr. Lee Lum leaves a widow, three sons and four daughters to mourn his loss. He was for many years a member of The West India Committee. A most honourable, large-hearted and generous man, he will be greatly missed.

MR. ARTHUR WAKEFIELD.

We regret to state that Mr. Arthur Wakefield died at Richmond on December 5th.

Mr. Wakefield, who was in his 78th year, was for forty-three years manager of the Colonial Bank at Kingstown, St. Vincent. He retired on pension in 1912, since which year he had been living at Richmond. It appears that a few weeks ago, while watching a football match, he caught a chill from the effects of which he never recovered. He leaves a widow, who is the daughter of the late Mr. Stuart McDonald, of St. Vincent, and one son and five daughters. Mr. Wakefield was for many years a member of The West India Committee.

WEST INDIAN PASSENGER LIST.

Elders & Fyffes Ltd.

Sailings to Jamaica, from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Changinola*, December 12th :-

Mr. I. E. Ashenheim Captain R. G. C. Harvey	Captain A. T. W. Henshaw Miss A. O. Hewitson Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Jones	Miss H. I. R. Jones Mr. E. Lumb Mr. & Mrs. W. Rowe Miss A. Rowe
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Sailings to Jamaica from Avonmouth, in s.s. *Bayamo*, December 19th :-

Lord & Lady Arblinney Admiral Sir Lewis Bayly, K.C.B. K.C.M.G. Mr. G. I. Bennett Miss S. H. Bennett Miss P. M. S. Cordeaux Mr. V. Craig	Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Fender Mr. & Mrs. T. Griffin Miss C. R. Harvey Mr. W. H. Hesketh Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Keeling The Misses Keeling (2) Rev. A. Kirby Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Peet	The Misses Peet (2) Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Pollard Mrs. & Miss Rudolf Mr. & Mrs. R. Scott Fry Mr. F. G. Vanderluss Miss V. M. A. Voysey Captain & Mrs. J. A. Weston Miss Weston
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Advance bookings to West Indies per s.s. *Coronado*, December 31st :-

Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Burn Murdoch Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Gooding	Mr. J. H. Marsh Mr. J. C. Lynch	Miss Miller Mrs. H. C. Smart Miss D. Wyllarde, F.R.G.S.
Mr. H. Copland	Mr. & Mrs. F. Sims-Williams	Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Stevenson

The Misses Ainsworth (2) M. C. Atkins The Misses Atkins (2) Mr. & Mrs. Beaumont Miss C. B. Bealand Mr. C. J. Campbell Miss C. B. Crum-Ewing Mr. H. E. Crum-Ewing Sir Edward Davson Mr. W. F. F. Couda Mr. & Mrs. D. M. Hahn	Miss Hahn Mr. Hawley Mrs. J. J. Higgin Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Howell Miss P. M. M. Howell Mr. R. Jamieson Miss L. F. Johnston Mrs. C. A. Maxwell Mr. C. A. Millar Mr. & Mrs. G. Mouldy-Stuart	Miss E. Moody-Stuart Lady H. Ounsby-Gore Miss D. Pitt Mr. T. J. Redhead, M.C. Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Lord Salisbury Mr. & Mrs. R. Stirling Mr. J. Ward Colonel Sir S. H. Wilson & party Lady D. Wood
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ROUND TRIP.

The Hon & Mrs. Daniel & party
Mr. T. H. Davis- Colley
Mr. E. Haonok
Mr. J. F. Lynch
Miss C. Whitehead

Home arrivals from Jamaica, in s.s. *Coronado*, Avonmouth, December 11th :-

Col. John Barlow Mr. H. Carman Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Davis Mr. C. M. Da Costa Mrs. J. E. Duval Mr. A. Fleming	Mrs. M. V. Gauding Mr. W. H. Grindon Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Hewett Major F. P. Heath Mrs. M. Lund Mr. & Mrs. D. S. McGrath	Mr. & Mrs. R. Noble & family Capt. C. H. D. Pulham Major W. W. Rhodes Capt. P. C. Sharn Mr. A. A. Straker
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Royal Netherlands West Indian Mail.

Sailings to West Indies, from Dover, in s.s. *Van Rensselaer*, December 10th :-

Mr. H. S. Adams Mr. & Mrs. H. G. B. Austin Miss M. P. Austin Miss E. Austin Mr. C. Boxill Mrs. Barrrell The Rev. & Mrs. Calvert & Jani. The Rev. A. Curran Miss Edwards Mrs. Fenwick Mr. Ford Mr. W. Garcia Major C. A. Garden Mr. T. Gibbs	Major G. Gonzalves Mr. P. Gunning Mr. Clarence Haynes Mr. W. Haynes Mr. G. Hewett Mr. E. W. Hulbat Mr. Joy Miss Knaggs Mr. Lawrence Mr. E. Lockhart Mr. Lullier Mr. & Mrs. R. Poyntz Mr. Atackenzie Mr. & Mrs. U. Manning Mr. J. Mason Miss J. Matthews Mr. D. Miller	Mr. S. Miller Lord Eustace Percy The Hon & Mrs. G. Laurie Pile Mr. A. Plunkett Mrs. W. F. Quincey Miss E. Robinson Miss E. Sandy Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Sealy Miss O. M. Smith Mr. Stewart Miss S. Walker Mr. P. C. A. Watson Miss B. Wrench Mr. & Mrs. G. Yearwood
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Advance bookings to West Indies, per s.s. *Cryssen*, December 21th

Miss V. Le N. Arnold Mr. & Mrs. M. Doyle Miss E. Doyle Mr. & Mrs. S. R. Drayton	Mr. A. Gokool Mr. A. E. W. Higgs Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Murray	Miss E. Raies Miss S. Talaine Mr. & Mrs. A. Williams & Family
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Home arrivals from West Indies, in s.s. *Orange Nassau*, December 12th :-

Mr. A. Robinson Mr. R. V. Butt Mr. E. de Miss Mr. A. Duckham	Mr. J. B. M. Donald Miss M. L. Fernandes Mr. S. B. Hammond Miss J. L. Harvey	Mr. & Mrs. R. Honper Mr. G. T. Planchat Mr. G. Plummer Mr. H. J. Vincent
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EXPORTS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The figures published below, showing the exports of produce from the British West Indies to various dates, have been kindly supplied to The West India Committee by the respective Governments.

	Anti-gua To Aug. 31	Bar-bados To Oct. 31	British Guiana To Oct. 27	British Honduras To Oct. 31	Domi-nica To Oct. 31	Grenada To Sept. 30	Jamaica To Oct. 22	Mont-serrat To Oct. 31	St. Lucia To Oct. 31	St. Kitts To Sept. 30	St. Vincent To Sept. 30	Trinidad To Oct. 31
Arrowroot											1,467,918	
Asphalt												82,580
Balata			589,299	390,363	2,191		8,379,225		1,716			1,041
Bananas			12,384									30,324
Bauxite												69,735,170
Bitters												16,792,706
Cacao					688,812	9,325,120	7,711,312	125,355	1,317,617		122,869	428
Cassava Starch											134,314	4,163,103
Coco-nuts			2,224,519	5,041,041	272,934	9,884	17,762,440		155,710			
Coffee			181,751		483	212	6,739,836					
Copra			73,281	199,137		14,840	1,510,606			22,458		
Cotton, M. Galante						328,720						
Cotton, Sea Island	3,294	92,081				711,312		392,035	4,899	446,090	436,712	
Cotton Seed								645,120	12,607	764,480	146,443	
Diamonds			72,686									
Dye-woods					2,150		3,539			170		
Ginger							1,272,320					
Gold			7,888			290					188,353	
Ground Nuts					3,281		827,368		16,574			16,130
Money					90,250	1,900		55,753	170			80
Orange Juice (raw)	760				185,965	9,245			23,463			4,888
(conctd.)	320				57,087	917			917			259
Oil					7729,008	150		49,773				
Lime (citrate of)			35,995						70			
Logwood				4611					17,328			10,877
Lumber			149,325	6,417,826		14,928	2,089					
Mahogany												
Maajak		102										
Mulacca	80,300	749,672				189,546			82,004	78,880	77,121	60,728
Oranges	5,525			50,903	246,520	52,444	15,172,512	864	121,978			1,054,415
Essential Oils									2,418			35,775,918
Petroleum							6,487,600					
Plmealo			3,743,893	1,680		851						11,731
Rice												161,563
Rubber							848,980	500				
Rum		21,766	1,938,142	529					9,625			
Shingles			1,625,600		82,174				3,211	6,067	125	48,482
Sugar	8,751	26,179	87,849				26,740	22	2,991			
Timber			116,589		155,946							

PRODUCE MARKETS SUMMARY.

Telephone -
Central 6647
Telegrams -
"Carib. London."



15, SEETHING LANE,
LONDON, E.C. 3.
December 20th, 1921.

BANK RATE. Five per cent. as from November 3rd.
EXCHANGE. Value of the £ Sterling.

	Dec 8th	Dec 20th		Dec 8th	Dec 20th
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
In U.S.A.	16 8	17 2	In Spain	1 2 11	1 0 2
France	2 3 3	2 1 4	Germany	45 3 5	37 13 5
Belgium	2 4 11	2 3 3	Austria	589 10 0	458 10 0
Italy	3 6 8	3 13 3	Holland	18 9	16 1

The intrinsic value of the gold sovereign is £

SUGAR. Shortly after the publication of last Summary, the price of spot Cubans in the New York market was reduced to 3.86 c., equivalent to 2.25 c. c.i.f., at which figure they now stand. Sales of New Crop Cubans for January delivery have been made at 2.00 c.i.f. Futures market values are practically the same as at the date of last Summary, being:—January-March, 2 1/4; May, 2 1/2.

The Cuban sugar control ceases on December 31st.

In the home market prices have declined during the fortnight. Home granulated is now quoted at 47/3, American granulated at 46/9, West Indian crystallised 39/- to 40/-, Muscovado 28/- to 32/-, white Mauritius 41/6 to 42/-, white Java 45/-, imitation yellows 41/9.

The Board of Trade returns for November show that 50,066 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom during the month, of which 41,561 tons were entered as "refined" and 8,506 tons as "unrefined." Of the former, 33,988 tons came from Europe, including 16,328 tons from Belgium and 7,173 tons from Holland. Countries outside of Europe supplied 7,578 tons, of which 4,707 tons emanated from the United States. During the eleven months of the year the quantity of sugar imported has been 1,170,256 tons, comparing with 1,238,546 tons and 1,750,858 tons in the corresponding periods of 1920 and 1913 respectively. Coincident with the increasing consumption there has been a notable increase in the importation of refined sugar during the present year, the eleven months' figures being 441,982 tons as against 119,721 tons in 1920, but these are still below the 911,196 tons of the eleven months of 1913. The imports of "unrefined" sugar for the eleven months were 725,275 tons, as against 1,118,825 tons and 939,658 tons for the first eleven months of 1920 and 1913 respectively. During the present year, Holland has supplied in all 86,981 tons, Belgium 39,518 tons, the United States 173,511 tons, Cuba 214,096 tons, Peru 92,876 tons, Mauritius 183,920 tons, and the British West Indies 103,548 tons. The output of the home refineries for the month was 67,152 tons, rather less than in October. This has brought the supply from the refineries for the eleven months to 724,927 tons, as against 727,952 tons and 665,526 tons for the corresponding periods of 1920 and 1913.

The consumption for the month was 125,998 tons, showing the gratifying increase on last month's consumption of 12,027 tons, and on that of November last year of no less than 68,845 tons. The total consumption for the eleven months has been 1,282,231 tons, as against 1,040,372 tons for the first eleven months of 1920. The consumption is thus substantially approaching the pre-war figure, which for the first eleven months of 1913 was 1,572,034 tons. The returns also show a considerable reduction in the amount of the stocks on hand. On November 30th these only amounted to 151,000 tons, comparing with 208,100 tons on October 31st last, and with 356,900 tons on November 30th last year. It is interesting to note that the bond value of the 1,170,256 tons of sugar imported during the present year up to November 30th was £33,529,223, of the 1,238,546 tons of the 1920 period £68,216,038, and of the 1,750,858 tons of the 1913 period £20,542,824.

The West Indian sugar statistics in London on December 10th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Imports	46,292	62,031	19,889 Tons
Deliveries	48,571	58,617	47,744 "
Stock	6,125	11,553	8,337 "

RUM is absolutely lifeless.

The imports of rum in November showed a very considerable increase on the October imports, being 268,069, as against 119,457 proof gallons, which is also largely in excess of the 140,190 gallons imported in November last year. There was, however, an advance in consumption as compared with that of the latter month of over 44,000 gallons. The imports for the eleven months have been 1,085,803 proof gallons, and the consumption 1,736,351 gallons, as against 2,702,634 gallons for the same period last year, which indicates a small, but distinct, revival of consumption. The month's exports were also in excess of those for November, 1920, having been 93,763 gallons, as against 62,580 gallons. The stocks on hand on November 30th were 12,221,000 proof gallons, 7,000 gallons less than on October 31st.

The stocks in London on December 10th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Jamaica	10,768	9,772	6,973 Puns
Demerara	17,464	15,166	15,114 "
Total of all kinds	38,262	35,290	28,872 "

CACAO, generally is dull. Fine Grenada is slow at 50/-, but a small business is passing in fine Trinidad at 53/- to 61/-, according to quality.

58,481 cwt. of cacao were imported during the month, of which 517 cwt. came from the British West Indies. The eleven months' supplies are thus brought up to 1,067,111 cwt., as against 2,007,791 cwt. for the corresponding period of last year, of which 149,614 cwt. came from the British West Indies. The month's consumption was 96,252 cwt., making 855,486 cwt. for the eleven months, as against the eleven months' consumption of 911,207 cwt. of 1920. The exports for November were only 74,790 cwt., 56,127 cwt. less than in November last year. The stocks on hand on November 30th were 618,000 cwt., as against 1,050,000 cwt. and 177,000 cwt. on the similar dates of 1920 and 1913 respectively.

The stocks in London on December 10th were:—

	1921	1920	1919
Trinidad	14,742	29,903	27,157 Baga
Grenada	14,583	21,656	15,157 "
Total of all kinds	105,601	210,282	123,803 "

BALATA. West Indian sheet is quiet, and valued nominally at 3/5 landed, 3/5 c.i.f.

BAY OIL. There is no fresh business to report.

COFFEE generally is firm and dearer following a rise in Brazil. Good to fine ordinary Jamaica is nominally dearer at about 65/- to 70/-, with only a retail business passing. Small sales of fine middling have been made at 135/- to 160/-.

COPRA is dull and business small. West Indian f.m.s. is valued nominally at £27 c.i.f. European ports.

COTTON generally is quiet. West Indian Sea Island is unchanged at medium 26s., fine 34s., and extra fine 42s.

HONEY. Scarcely any business has been doing during the past fortnight, and there is no quotable change in values. It is probable that to effect sales some decline from the extreme rates paid at last auction would have to be accepted, but it is likely that the finest pale qualities will remain relatively dear.

LIME PRODUCTS. Lime Oil. The position in Handpressed is unchanged, with sellers at 15s. per lb. Distilled is again quiet, with little interest shown by buyers.

Lime Juice. There is no change or business to report in Concentrated or Raw.