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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No LVIII.



Mr. Frederic Isenhart Scard, F.I.C.

The West India Committee Rooms.

15 SERRING LANE, LONDON.

Jan. 4th, 1906

Telegram: "CARRIE, LONDON." Telephone: 6649 CENTRAL.

THOUGH the year which has just closed has witnessed a decided renewal of confidence in West Indian commercial circles, it can hardly be said in other respects to have been one of materially enhanced prosperity to those Colonies. Its beginning saw the price of sugar raised to an abnormally high figure as the result of short crops and heavy speculation. Consumption diminished, beet sowings were increased, and the inevitable collapse followed. The price of sugar steadily declined, and it is now a long way below the cost of production. In spite of the poor beet crop of 1904-5 and the diminished consumption, the stocks on the 1st of September were practically the same as at the corresponding date of the preceding year, with the prospect—which has since been realised—of a beet crop in excess of any previous record. The result has been an almost unprecedented paralysis of the market. Unfortunately, the poor crops in the Islands prevented the planters reaping the benefit of the high prices of

the earlier months of the year, and British Guiana, whose harvest season is mainly from October to

December, has again had to meet the conjunction of a short crop and low prices. Considerable advance has been made in Antigua during the year in the direction of centralisation in manufacture and improvement in appliances, two central factories having been inaugurated and worked with the greatest success, and schemes for no less than three central factories for Jamaica are assuming definite shape. Experiments with new varieties of cane have gone on throughout the West Indies with promising results, and the acreage of these in practical cultivation has been largely increased. Mention too, must be made of the Naudet process of sugar extraction, a combination of mill and diffusion work, which was successfully inaugurated in Trinidad. The cocoa market during the past year, although showing considerable fluctuations in some qualities, has not done so to any unusual extent. The continuation of the increase of supplies from Africa, and very fair crops from other foreign sources, caused almost all grades of West Indian to decline in the earlier part of the year, and during the usually quiet time in the warmest months of the year this became accentuated; and Trinidad varieties were especially affected, the stocks of this growth in Europe being ample. The fair qualities of Grenada also showed the full decline then experienced. Subsequently a general improvement in demand took place, and prices partially recovered. The cocoa crop of Trinidad and Grenada early in the year were rather below the average, but reapings for the concluding months were in excess of any for the corresponding periods of the previous four years, especially in Grenada. Cultivation of cotton has been extended during the year, and in Barbados, and the Leeward and Windward Islands has assumed important dimensions. Both as to yield and price the crops have been satisfactory, and this recently revived and historic cultivation is already forming an important factor in the agriculture of the above Islands. Considerable stimulus has been given during the year to the fruit and tobacco industries, the inclusion of the West Indies among the Courts of the Colonial Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace during the summer months having done much to popularise West Indian products in the Mother Country; and it is pleasing to have to record a marked increase of interest and energy shown in the minor industries of the West Indies, not only abroad but also at home. As regards the general internal condition of the West Indies the year was on the whole uneventful, if one may except the serious outbreak among the negro labourers in British Guiana which marked its close. It was a satisfactory feature that the Coolie Immigrants took no part whatsoever in these disturbances. In January, an Agricultural Conference on a more extended scale than heretofore, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, was held in Trinidad; valuable papers were read and discussed, and visits to places of industrial interest made. It is to be regretted that there is no hope of another of these useful meetings being held this year owing to existing mail arrangements. On June with the contract for the conveyance of mails between the West Indies and the Mother Country expired and the Colonial Office refused to renew it on terms acceptable to the Colonies. There can be no greater impediment to progress than the absence of certainty regarding postal communication in the case of Colonies situated as the West Indian possessions. These have been served so satisfactorily in this respect of recent years that the present condition cannot be regarded in any other light but as one of retrogression. We are sorry to say that the unsatisfactory state of the mail service has been supplemented by the inefficiency of the cable communication with and between the Islands and British Guiana. This is no new story, and it is absolutely necessary, especially in point of view of the withdrawal of the troops, that some steps be taken to put this on a proper footing. No change has taken place in the *personnel* of the respective Governments during the year, although we may congratulate Sir Alexander Swettenham on having entered into the admirable state of matrimony; but the death of Sir Courtenay Knollys will necessitate an early appointment to the Leeward Islands, while the promotion of the Hon. Hesketh Bell to Uganda has left the administration of Dominica vacant.

THE present position of affairs in the Republic of San Domingo is worthy of the serious attention of British West Indian planters. The opposing forces of Morales, the President, and Caceres, the Vice-President, according to the latest advices, are upon the verge of a crucial struggle, and no matter which side comes out uppermost, there is every reason to believe that the American Government, who for some time past have taken considerable interest in the affairs of the Republic, will step in and convert the present tutelage into an actual protectorate, for the purpose of regulating its internal economy. Should this be the case, and everything points to it in the near future, the development of the enormous natural advantages of the Island will proceed apace, and another source of cane sugar be supplied to the United States. Some time ago we called the serious attention of the West Indian planters to what would be the ultimate effect of the abolition of the Continental bounties, viz., the transference of the competition between cane sugar and beet to that between cane and cane. The increased supplies of cane sugar available already bear out our statement, and although at the present moment the enormous beet crop has temporarily brought about a return to the old condition, the latter state of affairs, due to special causes, is not likely to recur. We are more than ever confronted with the probability in the near future of the United States supplying its own sugar, and possibly competing therein in British markets. We at the time urgently impressed upon proprietors the necessity for utilising the then fair price of sugar for improving and cheapening production. Although the financial means of doing so are at the moment less, the need is greater than ever. It is true that advance has been made in Antigua in this direction, and in Jamaica schemes for centralisation promise to take a concrete form, but in Barbados central factories are still on paper. No matter what may be the natural advantages, no industry can hold together in the long run unless its appliances are up to date, and every season passing without advance spells retrogression. The attitude of the United States to San Domingo brings into prominence the increasing importance the American Government attach to strengthening their foothold in the West Indies, a matter to which we have constantly adverted, and their eagerness in this respect stands in striking contrast to the indifference shown by the British Government towards our own possessions. Every day almost adduces further evidence to accentuate the contrast, showing the spread of American influence in the West Indies, which promises to become something more than influence as regards San Domingo. We wish to bring home to our readers the important bearing of the trend of events upon West Indian prosperity. Porto Rico and Cuba are the "Pearls of the Antilles," and with controlling American influence over their industries the loss to the British West Indies of the markets in the United States for their produce is assured.

Mr. Frederic Zsenbart Scard, F.F.C.

The subject of the portrait on the first page of this issue is well known throughout the West Indies, where the intimation that he is recovering from his recent illness will be hailed with satisfaction. Mr. Scard received his earlier education at Blackheath, and from his earliest years displayed a keen taste for scientific study. He gratified his whim at University College and the Royal College of Chemistry, and his aptitude was such that he was speedily appointed assistant to Dr. Pavy, F.R.S., the well-known physiologist. Early in 1881 Mr. Scard went to British Guiana to carry out an extensive series of manurial experiments, the first of the kind ever undertaken on a large scale in the West Indies, and to enquire and report upon the methods of cultivation and manufacture, on behalf of the Colonial Company. He remained in the employ of that Company and its successor, the New Colonial Company. During all this period he devoted himself to the developing of the sugar industry on scientific lines, and he has earned the gratitude of West Indians for various improvements which have been effected in the working of the sugar factories in British Guiana. For example, he adapted phosphoric acid to the manufacture of yellow sugar, sulphate of ammonia for fermenting purpose in distilleries, and he

further systematised the control of manufacture, which in early days was conducted on anything but scientific lines. Mr. Seard was President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana in 1903, and as Chairman of the Agricultural Committee in the preceding year he was unremitting in his efforts on behalf of the cane-farming industry, which he did much to stimulate amongst peasant proprietors. He is a keen Mason and is Past Master of the Union Lodge, has served as head of the Rose Croix and the Royal Arch Chapters attached thereto, and has been a District Grand Officer. He represented British Guiana at several Agricultural Conferences, and was a member of the Board of Agriculture. Sacred music is one of his weaknesses. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry, and is also generally voted a good fellow by all who have had the privilege of knowing him.

Cane Rakes at the Usine Ste. Madeleine.

Our full page illustration this week represents the mechanical cane feeder at the large Usine St. Madeleine, Trinidad, the property of the New Colonial Company. The rakes form a substitute for the old method of hand discharge of the cane trucks on to the cane carrier leading to the mill, and lead to great saving of labour and gain in efficiency.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive, held yesterday afternoon, the following new Members were elected to the West India Committee:

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
WILLIAM D. NEISH (Jamaica).	Ed. B. Lynch.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
C. AUBREY GOODMAN (Barbados).	Henry Hart.	Saml. Brown.
R. H. KORTRIGHT DYETT (Antigua).	Chas. Griffin.	Hon. J. Freeland Foote.
THOMAS S. McNEEL (Jamaica).	Capt. J. E. Mackenzie.	Wm. Gillespie.
SALIS WOLFFSOHN (B. Honduras).	E. A. de Pass.	Hon. A. R. Usher.
CAPTAIN COOLEY (Trinidad)	H. F. Pievité.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

Full particulars regarding Membership of the West India Committee, and candidates' forms can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane. The List of Members now amounts to considerably over one thousand, and we would impress upon our readers that, although this number has been reached no steps should be left untaken to secure further suitable additions to the body, and thus strengthen its influence and utility.

Marines for the West Indies.

It was recently announced that 134 Marines were to sail immediately for Barbados. We understand that these men are to form the complement of H.M.S. "Indefatigable," which is to replace the "Diamond," and is to be permanently stationed in the West Indies. It appears that the Admiralty have decided, in view of the nature of her duties as a detached vessel, to give her more than the usual quantity of marines. They will form a part of the ordinary complement of the vessel and will go about with her.

Cable Communication.

We have again to record a break in West Indian cable communication, the St. Thomas and St. Kitts cable being interrupted, as we were informed on December 28th, thus cutting off the British Islands of St. Kitts, Antigua and Dominica, the French Islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, and also Dutch and French Guiana. During the interruption, vessels are being chartered to convey



Photo by Alexander W. (spelled)

(Supplied)

CANE RAKES AT THE USINE STE. MADELEINE,
TRINIDAD.

traffic from St. Lucia to Martinique, and steam opportunities are available to other places. In this connection we are glad to be able to state that the report of the Cable Sub-Committee of the West India Committee has now been forwarded to the Secretary of State, and to the leading agricultural and commercial bodies in the West Indies. We have already recorded in the *Circular* the experiments which have been made with wireless telegraphy in the West Indies, and on Tuesday last we received a letter from the Earl of Elgin to the effect that the Governor of Trinidad had informed him that communication had been established with Tobago by means of wireless telegraphy. Further particulars by mail will be anxiously awaited, and if the result of the experiment is successful, we may reasonably hope that steps may be taken to unite up St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua and Montserrat by electric waves.

An Important Shipping "Deal."

An important move has been made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, which has acquired from January 1st, the whole of the interest of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company in the Orient-Pacific Line to Australia. The service in future will be known as the Orient-Royal Mail Line. Hitherto the Orient-Pacific Line has been jointly worked by the Orient Steamship Company with six vessels and the Pacific Steam Navigation Company with four vessels. It is the steamers Ortona, Orotava, Cruha and Croya, of the latter Company, together with all the interests and goodwill, which the Royal Mail have acquired. The Company will thus secure a trade footing in the East, the importance of which, in view of the probable completion of the Panama Canal, will be recognised by all. Mr. Owen Philipps is certainly to be congratulated upon the forward policy which has been adopted since he became Chairman of the Company. We understand that this deal does not indicate any alteration of the immediate policy of the Company in the West Indies, though for the reasons above indicated we shall not be surprised if it ultimately leads to an extension of their West Indian interests.

Sugar Cane Experiments.

The report of the agricultural work carried on in Barbados for the season between 1902-4, by Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque and Mr. J. R. Bovell, under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, comprises the results of manure experiments and the further cultivation of seedling canes carried on at the Botanic Station at Dodds and various estates in the Island. So far as the manure experiments are concerned, the results practically confirm those of previous years, and indicate lines of manuring which have been for some time generally recognised as being the most suitable for sugar cane. At Dodds, chemical manures were shown to give much the same return as farmyard manure. In the other observations, where the chemical manures were used in addition on the farmyard, as might be expected, no material crop increase was obtained, except in the case where a small further profit accrued from the use of sulphate of ammonia. As regards the chemical manures, it was found that with soils fairly representing the land conditions of Barbados, sulphate of ammonia and potash were clearly shown as being the most successful application, while little or nothing was gained from the addition of phosphates, especially superphosphates.

The experiments with seedling and variety canes were carried out at the two central stations and on sixteen estates in the Islands. Of those canes which may be said to have passed the experimental stage, B 208 still appears to be giving satisfactory results in both black and red soils, while our old friend B 147 has done well as a plant cane, but does not ratoon satisfactorily on the black soils. The juice of the latter also is still apt to give trouble in muscovado factories. B 376 gave favourable results on red soils. Of later canes, B 1529 promises well. The White Transparent is still spoken of as maintaining its high position as a cane suited for the all round conditions of

Barbados cultivation. During the year, 2,843 varieties were raised from seed and planted out, giving a total of 20,000 varieties raised since December, 1898.

De-Natured Sugar for Stock.

From the *Journal des Fabricants du Sucre* we learn that at a meeting of the Agricultural Society of Saint Quentin on December 24th last, Mr. A. Vivien asked the Society to make generally known in their Bulletin that the use of de-natured sugar for stock purposes had been permitted by the authorities, the de-naturing to be effected by the addition of 2% of sea salt and 20% of various cattle foods, such as oilcake, beans, etc. It was stated that the process of de-naturing was easy, and the sugar thus treated could be at once despatched to the farmers. The effect of this food on stock was seen almost immediately. It was stated in the case of the horse that a litre (220 gall.) of oats replaced by 250 grms. (.56 lbs.) of sugar thus treated was not only productive of economy in nourishment, but of a great development of muscular force. For stock fattening purposes it had been found that animals weighing 700 kilos (1,075 lbs.) receiving 300 grms. (.67 lbs.) of sugar per day increased rapidly in weight, the 300 grms. taking the place, with profit and economy, of 500 grms. (1.12 lb.) of oil cake. The use of the sugar also admitted of other foods of inferior quality being readily taken. It would appear that in Austria, where similar regulations came into force in 1903, free sugar had not yet been introduced for stock purposes, doubtless owing to the recent great fluctuations in the price of that commodity.

Immigration to Reunion.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* publishes further and concluding correspondence between M. Clementel, the Minister for the Colonies, and M. de Mahy, the Deputy for the Island of Reunion. The latter protests against the British Government being approached for a revival of the East Indian Immigration to that Island, on the ground that there is plenty of labour available for the sugar estates at low figures, that the introduction of an alien population would form a menace to the peace of the Colony, and that the right which the British Government would claim of suspending the immigration at any time, would tend at any moment to upset labour conditions. We gather that the matter is now practically dropped.

Cane-farming in Trinidad.

We have had occasion before this to call attention to the kindly interest taken by Sir Henry Jackson, the Governor of Trinidad, in agricultural matters relating to that Colony, and the latest evidence of this is shown by a letter which he has addressed to several prominent members of the West India Committee with regard to the present system of cane-farming. Briefly, Sir Henry's argument is that greater inducements should be given to time-expired coolies to remain on the estates, and he suggests that the present system might be much improved by the formation of cane companies, as is done in Fiji, Hawaii and Mauritius. In these Islands agricultural work is done on the sugar estates by gangs of coolies who share in the proceeds of the cane growing, the companies being frequently formed by indentured as well as free coolies, and under the superintendence of the staff of the estate. Sir Henry quotes the General Manager of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Queensland, who had stated to him that in Fiji, where the system had only been partially under trial for two or three years, it had induced them to reduce their indentured labour by some 10%, while "the free coolies were doing nearly double the task per day that any indentured even attempted to perform." This system is so at variance with cane-farming at present in force in the West Indies that at first sight many difficulties present themselves, but, as Sir Henry remarks, the Mauritius planters were at first just as much averse to it as our West Indian would probably be. Any system which offers an inducement

ment to the time expired coolie to remain in the neighbourhood of the estates providing him with remunerative labour, in which he has an interest, should be tried in a fair and unprejudiced manner.

Packing and Transport of Oranges.

The oranges which enter mostly into competition with the West Indian are the Spanish, which begin to arrive in large quantities in the month of September. The consumption of these is enormous, during the last three or four weeks amounting to as much as 100,000 cases per week. Mr. Thomas Nash, the fruit Broker, of Plymouth, has issued a circular letter on the subject of the inferior packing of West Indian oranges, in which he states:—"They (the Spanish oranges) are beautifully graded and packed in attractive papers with various designs printed in colours, gold and silver, according to the design of the packet. These cases are well made and clean. I find that when these arrive the West Indian oranges are cast aside by the buyers, and do not find a ready sale, but have to be worked and pushed on our customers. This need not be. The West Indian oranges, even in the face of the large Spanish imports, would sell readily if the packers would take a leaf from the experience of the Californian orange growers. If these oranges were carefully graded, packed in papers printed with an attractive design, and in nice clean boxes turned out by machinery with a coloured design on them, and on the boxes, they would take much better." Mr. Nash also draws attention to the high sea freight—averaging from 2s. to 2s. 3d. per box—which should be reduced. As to the carrying, he states that a large percentage arrive here with the appearance of being "cooked," which he attributed to steam in the hold. Oranges should not be packed in the same hold with bananas, and he considers the superiority in colour of those coming from Jamaica, by the specially fitted up boats of the Elder, Dempster Line to those from Trinidad is thus explained. May not, however, the differences in climate have something to do with this, due to the more equatorial conditions of Trinidad?

A Show of Jamaica Fruit.

A fine selection of Jamaica fruit, which unfortunately arrived too late for inclusion in the recent Horticultural Show, was exhibited at the West India Committee Rooms on December 28th. The consigners of the fruit were amongst the most prominent growers on the island, and included Mr. George W. Webb, of Christiana, who sent lemons and grape fruit; Mr. H. G. Sturridge, of Mandeville, oranges; Messrs. E. and W. Muirhead, also of Mandeville, who sent Seville, Navel (a



Tercentenary Memorial, Indian River, Barbados.

Reference was made in our last issue to the unveiling on November 30th, 1905, of the monument, of which the above is an illustration, at Indian River, Barbados, where the men of the "Olive Blossom" first landed in 1605. The column is formed of native stone surmounted with a cross of fustic wood.

seedless variety), and "Red Star" oranges, and grape fruit, and Messrs. R. and W. Young, Brown's Town, oranges. The fruit arrived in splendid condition despite its long journey. Commenting upon the Exhibition, the *Grocers' Journal*, of December 23rd, said: "The growers should give every assistance to the West India Committee, as this energetic body is endeavouring to increase the demands from the British public for all island produce, and in the case of the less-known fruits, such as limes and grape fruit, there is much "missionary" work to be done in this direction.

Hevea Rubber in the Malay States.

At first, the planter in the Federated Malay States, attracted by the wonderful fertility of the country and by the regularity of the rainfall, devoted himself to the cultivation of coffee; but, says *L'Europe Coloniale*, as soon as the excellent results were shown by plantations of Hevea rubber, he gave up coffee and devoted his attention to the cultivation of this product, and now, levelled forests and coffee estates transformed into rubber plantations are seen by the traveller on every side. Hevea rubber in the Malay States grows vigorously and with great rapidity. After four years a tree yields as much as 125 grms. or a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of the dried product, a yield perhaps never seen elsewhere. The writer adds that this, however, is only given where the soil is damp. On dry or mountainous ground the yield is not so great, the tree growing less rapidly, but after five years a crop is a certainty. The Government has done all it can to help the planters. The roads, which are constructed of ferruginous clay mixed with broken stones, forming a very hard macadam, in which no ruts are formed, are good, and many of the planters, engineers and merchants use motor-cars.

West Indian Commercial Information.

The Board of Trade has issued a list of agents who have been designated to undertake the duties of receiving and answering commercial inquiries which may be addressed to them, either by the Commercial Branch Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, or by British merchants and Traders who may seek advice. Those appointed for the West Indies are as follows:

Antigua	The Treasurer, Antigua.
Bahamas	The Colonial Secretary, Nassau.
Barbados	The Colonial Secretary, Bridgetown.
Bermuda	The Colonial Secretary, Bermuda.
British Guiana	The Controller of Customs, Georgetown.
British Honduras	The Colonial Secretary, Belize.
Dominica	The Treasurer, Dominica.
Grenada	The Collector of Customs, Grenada.
Jamaica	The Colonial Secretary, Kingston.
St. Kitts-Nevis	The Assistant Treasurer, St. Kitts.
St. Lucia	The Administrator, St. Lucia.
St. Vincent	The Supervisor of Customs, St. Vincent.
Trinidad	The Collector of Customs, Trinidad.

Prosperous Coolies.

The "Rhine," one of Messrs. J. Nurse & Co.'s fine fleet, arrived at Garden Reach, Calcutta, with 536 $\frac{1}{2}$ returned coolie emigrants from British Guiana. Their savings amounted to 100,560 rupees in bills, and jewellery valued at 15,600 rupees. Two other vessels were due, the emigrants in which had remitted 148,170 rupees by bills, and jewellery valued at 37,000 rupees. In all, 248,700 by bill, and jewellery valued at 37,500 rupees have been advised as remitted this season. The

repatriated Indian peasant can scarcely complain of the hard times and depression caused by the foreign sugar bounties, which so seriously affected the fortunes of his employers in the West Indies of late years. The sum total of savings of repatriated Indian emigrants from British Guiana, including the above, now amount to 12,083,000 rupees. It should be borne in mind that with the exception of families re-emigrating from Calcutta, who in many instances were inclinable from age or infirmity as contract servants and who pay their passages to the Colony, the majority did not even pay for their outfits, which were provided gratis at the expense of the planters in British Guiana.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Under this heading we give extracts from the old records of the West India Committee which date back to the middle of the 18th century. In 1806 Mr. Beeston Long, whose portrait we gave in our last issue, was Chairman of the Committee, and the meetings were held at New City Chambers, Bishopsgate Street. The arrangements for convoys was an important part of the duties of the Committee, as shown by the following resolution passed at a meeting early in the year, and in the busy seasons there appear to have been constant communications with the Board of Admiralty on the subject. These merchant fleets were large, in one instance amounting to ninety vessels, and had to collect at various ports in the United Kingdom before assembling to be handed over to His Majesty's conveying ships of war. To keep these masses of heterogeneous units together and protect them from privateers and foreign warships must have been a trying duty, and we are glad to see that the services of the naval captains were invariably recognised by the West India merchants, who were not slow in conveying their thanks to those who showed special zeal and care. The other resolution relating to fish bounties should be of particular interest at the present time, dealing as it does with the question of closer trade between our Colonies and the Mother Country:—

Convoy.

Resolved:—“That the Chairman be directed to make application to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, requesting that a convoy may be appointed and ready to sail from Spithead on the 8th day of June next, or the first fair wind subsequent thereto, waiting twenty-four hours for the ships from the Downs, and to touch at Madeira on their way out.”

A Bounty-fed Protection for Colonial Industries.

Resolved:—“That the recent instances of protecting concern, manifested to the interests of the West India Colonies, by His Majesty's Ministers, demand the grateful acknowledgments of this Committee: and it is with satisfaction this Committee reflects, that what has been done for the protection of the Colonies, will in these instances signally prove, that their interests and prosperity are intimately interwoven with those of the Mother Country.

“Mr. Lyon reported, that it has been communicated to him by the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations, that they have recommended to the Lords of the Treasury to authorise the payment, in the West Indies, by bills drawn on the Treasury, of the following bounties on fish, imported into the West India Colonies from Newfoundland and the British North American Colonies, from the 1st June, 1806, to the 1st June, 1807: namely, a bounty of 2/- sterling p Quintal on Newfoundland fish, and a bounty p Barrel of 2/6 sterling on Herrings, of 3/- sterling on Mackerel, and of 4/- sterling on Salmon, from the British North American Colonies; and that an account of the amount of the Bounties paid shall be kept in the British Colonies, in reliance that the same shall be repaid, as soon as the Colonial Legislatures shall have made provision accordingly, and for the continuance of the said Bounties for the said period of time.

“That it is also expected, that the Colonial Legislatures will pass laws for allowing Bounties on those descriptions of fish, at the rate of one-half of each respective sum above

mentioned; and will lay a duty on all fish imported from the United States of America, to countervail any duty which may be payable within those States, on the importation of British fish, such Bounty and duty to take effect from and after the 1st June, 1807.

The Colonial Conference.

Dealing with the postponement of the Colonial Conference, which should meet in London next year, the British Empire League considers this a lamentable setting back of the Imperial dial. At the meeting of Premiers in 1897, the desirability of periodic instead of intermittent Conferences was affirmed, and at that in 1902 the general opinion was placed on record that it was desirable to take a step in advance of that position. Accordingly, a resolution in favour of Conferences being held, as far as practicable, at intervals not exceeding four years, was unanimously carried, and the Secretary of State was requested to arrange for such Conferences, after communicating with the Prime Ministers of the respective Colonies. And now on the eve of the date for the assembling of the first Conference comes the suggestion of its postponement for a year. The difficulty of Australian statesmen attending in London during the summer is not peculiar to one year alone. The 1887 Conference was held earlier in the year, and there is no reason why this precedent should not have been followed.

Letter to the Editor.

A Distinguished West Indian House.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR—In your last issue, in making reference to the recent interesting discovery of documents belonging to the West India Committee at the Bank of England, you ask for the present titles of such of the firms as are still in existence whose names appeared as contributing to the general fund to the West India Body in 1799. Amongst these I observe the names of Messrs Elliott, Walley & Adams, and I think that the following particulars of it may prove interesting to your readers.

About the year 1680, Mr Daniel Lascelles, of Northallerton, Yorkshire had a son, Henry Lascelles, by his first marriage. Henry Lascelles came to London from Barbados in 1743. He was a very wealthy man, bought the Harewood Estate, Yorkshire, and carried on business with George Maxwell as Lascelles & Maxwell, West India Merchants. He died about 1760, leaving all his property to his son Edwin. Of George Maxwell I know nothing, but there is a plantation called "Maxwells" in Barbados, with which no doubt he had some connection.

Lascelles & Maxwell appear to have carried on the business from	...	...	1743-1760
Lascelles, Clarke & Daling	"	"	1760-1777
Lascelles & Daling	"	"	1777-1790
Eliot, Whalley & Adam (spekt thus in our records)	...	...	1790-1800
Adam, Whalley & Nelson appear to have carried on the business from	...	...	1800-1808
Nelson & Adam	"	"	1808-1827
Nelson, Adam & Nelson	"	"	1827-1841
Nelson & Adam	"	"	1841-1851
William Adam & Company	"	"	1851-1854
William Wilkinson	"	"	1854-1860
Wilkinson & Gaviller	"	"	1860 to the present time

Edwin Lascelles, son of Henry Lascelles, built Harewood House and was created Baron Harewood in 1790. He died in 1796, leaving the bulk of his property in England and the West Indies to his half-cousin, Edward Lascelles, the grandson of Daniel Lascelles by his second marriage. Edward Lascelles was re-created Baron Harewood in 1796, and made Earl of Harewood in 1812. He died in 1820.

Gedney Clarke, of the firm of Lascelles, Clarke & Daling, married the daughter of Edward Lascelles. (This lady was the aunt of the before mentioned Edward Lascelles, being the daughter of Daniel Lascelles by his second marriage.) Gedney Clarke had out large plantations in Tobago, and owned Clarke's Court in Grenada.

Edward Lascelles had a son Henry, the third Baron and second Earl, 1820.

I have not been able to trace anything of the history of Richard Daling and Mr. Elliott, except that the latter in writing to Barksdale in 1790 mentions that Mr. Edwin Lascelles of the new firm of Elliott, Whalley & Adam, had been made Lord Harewood and in other letters of his he makes some curious suggestions for breeding and caring for negro slaves on the plantations.

Of Josiah Whalley it is stated he used to say he should retire when he could draw £10,000 which he probably did about 1808. He was of a gruff and grumpy disposition, and it is related of him that one wet afternoon he came to the Hackney and Clapton stage coach which started from the "Flower Pot," Bishopsgate Street, and finding his favourite seat occupied by his wife, said, "Coom out of that, woman, coom out, I say, that's my seat." Other passengers looked surprised, but all the good lady said, was "Dear Whalley, he's so droll." Mrs. Whalley was the last lady in her neighbourhood to wear pattens in muddy weather.

John William Adam was a cousin of R. Daling. He was ambitious and extravagant, frightened his partners, Adam, Whalley & Nelson (1800-1808) and was turned out. He retired to the country and died in 1855, aged far over 90.

Nelson was some connection of the Lascelles, and was the devoted friend and adviser of Henry Lascelles, the third Baron and second Earl Harewood, and much against his own interest in 1825, foreseeing evil days in store for the West Indies, he advised Earl Harewood to accept a very handsome offer for large Tobago estates and an estate in Jamaica. Earl Harewood dying in 1840 bequeathed £500 a year as a token of respect and esteem to Mr. Nelson, with remainder to his wife if she survived him. He died in 1843, and Mrs. Nelson in 1857. Mr. Nelson had as a partner Mr. Benjamin Adam, who died in 1841. In 1827 Mr. Nelson's son was taken into partnership and continued to be connected with the business until 1851, when he retired, dying in 1875.

William Adam was a son of Benjamin. He died in 1874. Mr. William Wilkinson was a relation of the Nelsons; he carried on the business from 1854 to 1860, having been connected with it since 1812. Mr. Augustine Gaviller (nephew by marriage to William Adam) who had been with the firm since 1852, became a partner in 1860. Mr. William Wilkinson died in 1861, and his son, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, together with Mr. Gaviller carried on the business until 1886, having in 1882 taken into partnership Mr. Robert Rutherford, who together with Mr. T. J. Wilkinson and his sons now carry on the old concern. The places of business of the old firm have been as follows:—1743-1808 (about), Hylarets Court, Cratched Friars, which has long since disappeared. 1808-1840, 28, Savage Gardens, Cratched Friars, the whole house being occupied, and Mr. William Wilkinson lived there. These premises were pulled down for the Blackwall Railway. 1840-1848, 14, Savage Gardens. Absorbed in 1848 by the Trinity House. 1848 to the present time, 34, Great Tower Street.

Trusting I have not trespassed too much on your space,

I remain, Yours faithfully,

R. RUTHERFORD.

January 2nd, 1906.

(We are much indebted to Mr. Rutherford for the above interesting account of his Firm, of which he may well be proud. We invite other Members of the West India Committee to contribute similar communications, for which we shall be glad to find space in our columns.—Ed.).

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Dissolution of Parliament.

No definite date has as yet been fixed for the Dissolution. A meeting of the Privy Council is to be held on Monday next, and it is generally believed that Parliament will dissolve on January 8th, and that the new Parliament will meet early in the week beginning February 12th.



Josiah Whalley, Esq.

Mr. Whalley was a member of the firm of Eliot Whalley and Adam now Wilkinson and Gaviller. He was a prominent Member of the West India Committee in 1799. An amusing anecdote is told of him in Mr. Rutherford's interesting letter.

Two "West Indian" Candidates

Among those directly interested in the West Indies who are standing as Parliamentary candidates in the Liberal interest are Mr. Owen Philipps, J.P., Chairman of the R.M.S.P. Co., who will contest Pembroke Boroughs, and Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., who will again stand for Bute.

Election Literature

Though sugar is below the cost of production, we regret to note that a number of leaflets about the alleged evil effects of the Sugar Convention are being distributed among the constituencies for Party purposes. Many are so malicious and absolutely devoid of truth, that it is impossible to avoid coming to the conclusion that they are deliberately calculated to mislead, and it is hoped that the statements of the West India Committee regarding the true causes of the temporary rise in price last year endorsed as they are by the leading brokers of Mincing Lane, which have been reprinted, will help to counteract any effect to which the leaflets referred to may give rise. So far no pronouncement has been made by the Government regarding their attitude towards the Convention.

Consular Report.**Tropical Produce for German Colonies.**

Mr. Whitehead, of the British Embassy at Berlin, in his report on the German Colonies, gives some interesting particulars regarding their agriculture. In German East Africa progress is being made with India-rubber, of which 6,684 cwts., valued at £97,599, were exported in 1903, being 1,658 cwts., valued at £38,368, more than in the preceding year. The output of the only European plantation of rubber trees in the Colonies had nearly quadrupled. Production of copra is steadily on the increase, having risen from 839 tons, valued at £9,284, in 1900, to 3,796 tons, valued at £49,386 in 1903. The first cocoa crop, amounting to 2,756 lbs., was exported from a plantation at Bipindi, in the Cameroons, during 1903. With regard to Samoa, copra and cocoa continue to be the principal products of export. The cocoa plantations extended over 2,593 acres, of which 185 were already in a condition to yield crops.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we propose to record the principal events of general interest which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted with current events.

- 1905
- Thursday, Dec. 21st.—Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister, addressed a large meeting at the Albert Hall and declared the policy of the Government.
- Saturday, Dec. 23rd.—The Earl of Elgin's letter to the British Cotton Growing Association approving of their work and assenting to the continuance of the Cotton Conference at the Colonial Office, published in the *Times*.
- Wednesday, Dec. 27th.—Mr. John Burns at Battersea declared himself opposed to "Organised Imperialism"
- Thursday, Dec. 28th.—Mr. Balfour opened the Unionist Electoral Campaign by a speech at the Queen's Hall.
- Friday, Dec. 29th.—Underground Telegraph between London and Glasgow completed. List of political honours issued.
- 1906
- Monday, Jan. 1st.—Mr. Chamberlain issued his address to the electors of West Birmingham (see *The Times*, January 2nd).
- Tuesday, Jan. 2nd.—The death was announced of the 1ton. A. H. Alexander, Immigration Agent-General of British Guiana, December 30th.
- Thursday, Jan. 4th.—Announcement made that the R.M.S.P. Co. had purchased the interest of the P.S.N. Co. in the Orient Pacific Line to Australia.

Notes of Interest.

**A PAPER ON
WEST INDIES.**

Sir Neville Lubbock will read a paper entitled "Imperial Questions in the West Indies," before the Society of Arts, on Tuesday, March 6th next.

COTTON IMPORTS.

During the fortnight ended December 28th, 18 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.75d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

**THE WEST
INDIAN CLUB.**

The next fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club will be held on Wednesday January 10th, the dinner Committee being, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. L. de Mercado and Mr. H. D. Swan. The half-yearly General Meeting of the Club has been called for Tuesday January 16th, at 2.30 p.m.

BANANA IMPORTS.

Messrs. Elders and Eyffes, Limited, state that during 1905, 4,722,796 bunches of bananas were imported into the United Kingdom, which is an increase of 1,749,688 bunches as compared with the previous year. 3,263,934 bunches were received from Jamaica and Costa Rica, and 1,458,862 bunches from the Canary Islands.

MECHANICAL CANE**CUTTERS.**

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* states that in the Hawaiian Islands experiments have been started on a plantation at Honolulu with a new machine to reap the cane on foot. This machine, driven by an electric motor, which receives the current by a cable laid to one of the pumping stations of the estate, cuts the cane and collects it. It only remains to top the stalks by hand.

BANANA IMPORTERS

Messrs. William Pink & Sons have disposed of their West Indian fruit importing business to the British West Indian Fruit Co., Ltd., which is now carrying it on at Empress Chambers, Southampton Docks. Readers who have had dealings with him will be glad to know that Mr. Frank Pink, who did so much towards helping to inaugurate the banana industry of Barbados, is continuing to manage the sales department for a time.

THE SUGAR WORLD

It is now stated, says the *Louisiana Planter*, that the great plains of Manchuria are similar in soil and climate to those of central Europe, and that the development of the beet sugar industry there under Japanese control is very probable. As the Japanese now own Formosa and are already developing the cane sugar industry there, it hardly seems likely that they will invest much capital in beet sugar manufacture in Manchuria, where they acknowledge the prior rights of the Chinese and cannot have any industry so closely under their control as they can in Formosa, now a part of their own empire.

ARRANGEMENTS**FOR BINDING.**

The present issue is the first of Volume XXI. of *The West India Committee Circular*, and Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3s. on sending them to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C. A few complete bound volumes of the preceding years are obtainable for £1 1s. each, and also spring back *filing cases* for holding one year's issues for 3s. post free. These latter will be found a great convenience, keeping as they do the *Circular* trim and clean pending binding at the end of the year.

POSTAL**DELAYS.**

We continue to receive a large number of complaints of delay in the despatch and delivery of *The West India Committee Circular*. As we have already pointed out, we are not responsible for this state of affairs, which we believe to arise from absence of a regular contract mail service. We have already called the attention of the authorities at the Post Office to the matter, but the Postmaster-General fears that in the absence of the covers showing when the *Circulars* and letters were posted, no further useful inquiry on the subject is practicable. We hope, therefore, that in future, when our Members have cause to complain regarding the delay in delivery of newspapers and letters, they will be good enough to forward to us the wrappers, and we shall then be able to trace the source of the trouble.

THE FUTURE**FOR SUGAR.**

Commenting upon a leading article in a recent issue of *The West India Committee Circular* on the effect of the abolition of bounties in connection with the attitude of the confectioners, Mr. G. Dureau makes the following remarks: "Yes, the Convention was necessary to put an end to the artificial competition of German and Austrian cartels, become ruinous to the generality of producers. It is, moreover, evident that the suppression of the bounties will not injure the British confectionery industry, for the sources of sugar which supply this industry will tend to become more generous and more abundant than they have ever been. But endeavour must be obtained without delay, by persuasion or by the strict application of the penal clause, the adhesion of all sugar exporting countries to the Convention. It is only in this way that the States which took the initiative in this agreement will reap all the fruits of it and will be interested in securing the renewal

of it. But it is clear that all will depend upon the manner in which England—that enormous market for consumption, which so many countries hanker after—will read the application of the penal clause."

OBITUARY. We have with regret to announce the death of the Hon. Arthur Harvey Alexander, Immigration Agent General of British Guiana, which took place at Canfield House, Hatfield, the residence of Mr. P. McConnell, on Saturday, December 30th. Mr. Alexander had been in failing health for some time, but the end came suddenly. He was born in 1843 in Grenada, where his father, Mr. Charles Alexander, of Montreuil, resided, and educated at Aberdeen University. In 1867 he joined the Jamaica Constabulary as sub-inspector, and four years later was appointed Immigration Agent General of the Colony. He served subsequently in the British Guiana Militia and retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1895, receiving the thanks of the Government "for the valuable services rendered to the Militia." He was appointed Immigration Agent General for British Guiana in 1883, and occupied that position until his death. We have also learnt with much regret of the death of one of our members, Mr. E. Knox MacBride, C.M.G., late Director of Public Works for Ceylon, which occurred on Sunday at his residence, 2, Inverness Terrace, W., aged 61 years. He was appointed a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1890, and was a director of the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library. We have to acknowledge the receipt of the following publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture:

The Grenada Handbook, 1906. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane. We have received this useful unofficial compilation, from the pen of the Colonial Secretary, dealing with the Island of Grenada. It is full of valuable information in the way of directories, schedules of fees, customs charges, particulars of the Fauna and Flora and meteorology of the Island, &c., and should be in the possession of all interested in the Colony, or who contemplated visiting that Island.

The West Indian Hurricane of August 10th, 1903. Maxwell Hall gives a complete and interesting description of the Jamaica hurricane of 1903, and is a valuable contributor to the literature of this subject.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" Capt. W. J. Dignall, January 6th:—**Barbades**—Mr. L. Smith, Miss B. Ashworth, Miss M. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Miss B. Lysons. **Demerara**—Dr. Wise, Mr. C. Widdup, Mr. R. A. Barclay, Mr. W. M. Jones, Mr. M. Schopp. **Jamaica**—Mr. H. E. Putnam, Major and Mrs. Norman, Mr. H. Lange, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Thompson, Mr. F. King. **Trinidad**—Mr. J. Blackie, Mr. C. Woodhall, the Earl and Countess of Lindsey, the Hon. Muriel Bertie, the Hon. Mrs. Sydney French, Mr. W. A. Foster, Mr. Lomas, jun., Mr. G. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Starrock, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Whitton, Mr. and Mrs. Cambridge, Major-General and Mrs. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Bush, Mrs. Turner, Mr. H. Lambecke, Mr. J. H. Barry.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. C. Farmer) January 20th:—**Barbades**—The Earl and Countess of Harewood, Viscount Lascelles, Mr. Montagu L. Horne, Rev. and Mrs. Basil Patten. **Demerara**—Mr. H. Miles, Mr. and Mrs. Bourke, Mr. G. Carnett. **Jamaica**—Mr. C. H. York Sladen, Mr. H. W. Mortlock, Mr. and Mrs. B. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest. **Trinidad**—Miss Penn, Miss Beynon, Mr. John Indermaun, Mr. Thomas Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Hope Finlay, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Venner, Mr. and Mrs. Parrish, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Major the Hon. W. Cavendish, Mrs. Love, Mr. S. Grieve, Mr. W. Grieve, Mr. and Mrs. Kenworthy, Rev. P. Playfair, Rev. Farshawe, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter, Mr. Wm. Roberts, Mr. C. Guillemard, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Robertson. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Peters, Mr., Mrs. and Miss M. Holbourn, Mr. and Mrs. Delos J. Martin. **Grenada**—Miss Orford, Mr. C. Horne.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" Capt. J. G. Parsons, January 1st:—**Jamaica**—Mr. R. Aylmer, Mr. W. Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Cary, Mrs. C. Tenwick, Lieut. G. B. Groom, Mr. and Mrs. Gurney, Lieut. Douglas, Mrs. Jamieson, Mr. H. J. Kerr, Miss Melbourne, Miss O'Brien, Capt. and Mrs. Pereira, Miss Patterson, Col. Jos. S. P. Mrs. and three Misses Rauch, Mr. Mason, Miss A. M. Sewell, Mr. J. B. Steven, Mr. Trotter, Sergt. Anderson, Miss T. Ferguson, Mr. H. P. Smith, Mr. Cyril Wood, Miss E. Page.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), December 30th:—**Jamaica**—Mrs. Braithwaite, Hatty, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Croxall, Mr. R. G. Ellis, Lieut. G. T. B. Goldney, Dr. E. G. Hardy, Mr. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. G. Thursby, Miss Lillian Trench, Mr. G. Whittington, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar R. Ward, Mr. A. Knowles, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Lindsay, Mr. E. J. Raby, Miss Tinker, Mrs. G. S. S. and Misses Hirst, Mr. C. Dack.

West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

The Hon. F. COCKREY, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, Grenada, returned to the Colony on November 26th.

The King's Esquire, empowering **Mr. D. VICKRINI** to act as Cuban Consul at Port of Spain, Trinidad, has received His Majesty's signature.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The features surrounding the Market remain unchanged, Refiners and the Trade continuing a hard to mouth policy, all elasticity being crippled by the large over-production of Continental beet, the figures of which were given in the last and previous "Summaries." Messrs. Willett & Gray, of New York, Statisticians, whose opinions cannot be lightly ignored, give the cane and beet production of this season at 12 050 000 tons, against 9 530 000 and 10 300 000 tons the two previous years. This gives us an increase of 2,520,000 tons for the present season, being at least 1 500 000 tons more than we can possibly consume. Small wonder, therefore, that prices are forced below cost of production. The only remedy for this congestion is a reduction in sowings, which will produce at least 1,500,000 tons less sugar in 1907, but whilst 88% can be sold in the neighbourhood of 9s. for that season's delivery the prospects of reduced sowings are flimsy. Distributors of sugar are as nervous as can be in the face of these large figures and no one will take an enlarged view of the market, the disappointment too of last year's fall increasing their reserve. With these conditions we may have to struggle till at least next season's sowings of beet are ascertained. If they are seriously reduced, prices may revive, if not the outlook undoubtedly leaves much to be desired. Of course, sugar is cheap, but confidence being absent, this goes for little.

The moment's quotations of 88% are as follows:—January 8s. 2d., March, 8s. 4d., May, 8s. 5½d., Aug., 8s. 7½d. and October/December, 8s. 9½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	3,080,000	2,710,000	3,290,000	3,060,000	2,870,000	Tons
United States	170,000	90,000	80,000	140,000	110,000	..
Cuba	30,000	10,000	120,000	40,000	20,000	..
Cargoes afloat	10,000	30,000	60,000	50,000	10,000	..
Total	3,290,000	2,840,000	3,550,000	3,290,000	3,010,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 2d.	14s. 8½d.	9s. 4½d.	8s. 0½d.	6s. 5½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Yellow crystallised remains in fair demand and prices are steady, average qualities being worth 15s., with a general range of 14s. to 17s. White Foreign granulated costs 15s. duty and carriage paid throughout England. Although Peruvian 96% has been sold to Refiners at 9s. in considerable, for British West India sugar 9s. 3d. on floating terms should be obtainable in bond.

Melasses Sugar.—In excellent demand from 11s. to 16s. For 30 test the value to Refiners is 7s. 6d., floating terms in bond, for West India syrups, but Peruvian have recently been sold at 7s. 6d. on these conditions.

Muscovado.—There is no grocery sugar here and quotations are uncertain. From Refiners, 8s. 3d. in bond is obtainable on floating conditions.

West India Figures for 12 months:	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	41,000	45,000	24,000	60,000	Tons.
Deliveries	41,000	47,000	41,000	43,000	..
Stocks	8800	9500	12,000	29,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 0d.	22s. 6d.	16s. 9d.	15s. 6d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Jamaica	6900	8400	9100	...	10,900
Demerara	4900	5500	7600	...	7900
Total of all kinds	11,800	13,900	16,700	Deficiency	2133

At a decline of 1d., more business is doing in Demerara, and free sales have been made from 1s. to 1s. 1½d. Jamaica is so far unchanged at 2s. 1d., and Leewards with other proof kinds, 10d. to 1s. 6d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:	1906	1905	1904	1903	
	80 000	88 000	51 000	81 000	Bags

No public sales have been held since the last issue of this "Summary." Privately, the tone of the Market is quietly steady at the following quotations, which are those of last mail:—Trinidad fair collected, 52s., Estate Marks, 52s., 56s. and 60s. Grenada fair, 40s., fermented, 50s. to 52s. From other Islands, the value of Native Cocoa is about 45s., and fermented 49s. to 52s.

Coffee.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 40s.

Rutmegs, Mace, Ginger, Plantain. Owing to the Xmas recess, public sales of these articles have been suspended, and the quotations given in the last "Summary" may be considered as representing the present values.

Arrowroot.—London figures for 12 months.

	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Imports	12,685	15,204	15,064	19,075	20,410
Deliveries	16,433	18,460	14,682	14,570	20,803
Stocks 31st Dec.	5722	9470	12,633	12,224	7747

Apple Juice.—Unchanged, at 9d. to 1s. Concentrated, steady, at £16. Hand Pressed, quoted 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, value about 1s. 5d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXI.

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As the homeward mails left West Indian ports so shortly before Christmas, they were consequently less heavy than usual, though we have received a full complement of letters from our Hon. Correspondents. Coming events cast their shadows before, and the numerous complaints regarding the inconvenience of the existing mail arrangements give some indication of the outcry which may be expected if any further retrograde change is made in the present itinerary of the R.M.S.P. Co., a contingency which is quite likely to arise, for we are constantly reminded that it will not be possible to continue even the present service to all the Islands without a subsidy for long. Happily, the riots in British Guiana had quieted down, though there was still some evidence of unrest, which the well deserved punishments meted out to the rioters should do much to allay. The reports to hand give ample confirmation regarding the excellent behaviour of the police, and the proposed formation of a white volunteer force will furnish an element of safety. The usual monthly exports of gold, diamond and forest products from British Guiana were forwarded by the Institute of Mines and Forests, and are given below. The weather conditions were favourable, though Antigua, as usual, was suffering from lack of moisture, while in British Guiana there was an excess; in the latter Colony however, the crops were expected to turn out better than had been anticipated. In Trinidad, the weather was ideal for all agriculturists. For further information we would refer our readers to the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, which we give below.

Antigua—Mail Delays

The weather for the fortnight preceding December 18th, the date of the Hon. J. FREELAND FOOTE's letter, was dry, and heavy rains were greatly wanted.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamer arrived at the Island at midnight on December 15th, letters being delivered on the morning of the 16th, twenty-two days after they were dated, which was longer than the time taken by the Direct Line steamers.

The St. Kitts team had won the "Strickland Cup" at the shooting competition in Montserrat, but one of the Antigua team had won the Governor's cup, for the highest individual score.

Barbados—Vegetation Mail Delays.

Writing on December 21st, the Hon. FORSTER M. ALLEYNE stated that the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamer arrived at that Island on the 20th, which gave them an extra day for writing. The greatest dissatisfaction and inconvenience was experienced at the late sailing of the previous mail, the "La Plata." At first she was advertised to sail on Sunday, then it was said that she could not be at the Island until Tuesday, and finally she arrived on Thursday. All this time intending passengers had to wait at Bridgetown, and bananas which are always sent down on the Friday were lying there for about a week. Further, it was understood that part of the cooling apparatus had been removed to make room for the troops from St. Lucia, so that there was little chance of any of these bananas arriving in England in proper condition. These delays were so vexatious, and recent shipments had shown so little profit that Mr. Alleyne expected the next few months would see a serious diminution in the export, and thus a most promising trade would be checked.

The annual Agricultural Show took place on December 20th at Harrison College, and was one of the best that had ever been held. The vegetables and the fruit, especially bananas, were exceptionally fine, and the twenty-four exhibits of Sea Island cotton were as good as any the writer had ever seen.

Since last mail they had been for three days without cable communication, and were cut off from everywhere. During that time, of course, anything might have happened, and they would have been powerless to make their needs known.

The sale of War Department land and buildings was being rapidly proceeded with, and on the 21st and 22nd a large amount of stores and material were put up for sale. H.M.S. "Royal Arthur," with Admiral Bouanquet on board,

was anchored in Carlisle Bay at the time of writing. The news that the Rev. Herbert A. Dalton, headmaster of Felsted College, Essex, had been appointed headmaster of Harrison College, had been received with the greatest satisfaction.

It was with great regret that they had heard of the untimely death of Sir Courtenay Knollys. From his long residence in the Island as Colonial Secretary, he was well-known in Barbados, where he had many friends, and he was a frequent visitor at the Bridgetown Club on his way through to Trinidad or Antigua. There were now several official vacancies in the Leeward Islands to be filled.

President Roosevelt's message and his remarks on the Monroe doctrine, and the agreement with San Domingo, coupled with the annexation of the Island of Pines, were matters which should give our new legislators food for reflection.

Some nice showers had fallen and the Island looked very green and healthy. On the leeward side the crops were very good; in the windward part the first crop canes for the most part were all that could be desired, but the ratoons required a heavy rain to bring them up. On the whole, 50,000 bds. might probably be looked for.

British Guiana—The Gold Exports for November.

When Mr. A. SUMMERSON wrote on December 20th, everything in the Colony was quiet, and he added it would be a hard matter for anyone to imagine that the scene of December 1st had been enacted.

The Government was taking steps to form a volunteer corps of whites and Portuguese in the city and about seventy applications for enrolment had already been received. Those of the militia who had proved themselves disloyal were to be disbanded.

The weather continued rather too heavy for some districts during the earlier part of the fortnight. It was now showery and more favourable generally.

Over 2,000 tons crystals had been sold during the fortnight. The price that day was quoted at 1 87.

We have received from Mr. T. S. HARGREAVES, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, the return of gold, diamond and forest products from British Guiana, for the month of November, 1905, which for the purpose of comparison we reproduce together with those for October:—

	November, 1905.	October, 1905.
	QUANTITY.	QUANTITY.
Gold, raw	8,863	8,676 ozs.
Diamonds	1,251	120 carats.
Timber: greenheart, mora, &c.	31,698	36,268 cub. ft.
Lumber	552	210 ft.
Shingles, Wallaba	39,500	348,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts	560	576
Woods, Firewoods, &c.	433	306 tons.
Charcoal	5,233	5,001 bags
Gums, Locust, &c.	500	1,133 lbs.
.. Balata	43,226	91,737 "
.. Rubber	352	824 "
Railway sleepers (Mora)	1,000	

Dominica—The Hurricane Insurance Scheme.

Mr. E. A. AGAR, who wrote on December 18th, stated that the hurricane insurance scheme had reached fruition and came as a surprise: it was generally thought that it had fallen through. The proposals were laid before the Agricultural Society on the 15th, but it was, of course, too early to say how it would be received when the details were carefully considered.

The Agricultural Society was started with Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief Elect of the Uganda Protectorate, as its first President, and its success was certainly due in large measure to his efforts. On several occasions, too, Mr. Bell invited discussions at its meetings on Government proposals, which plan had gone far to promote confidence in the Government. This being the last meeting under Mr. Bell's presidency, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him.

Jamaica—Quarantine.

The adjourned discussion in the Legislative Council on December 14th on the vote for the sum necessary to carry out the provisions of the new Quarantine Ordinance had taken place, and the expenditure disallowed by the vote of the elective members, which thus practically rendered the Ordinance inoperative.

The Kingston Choral Society, which is visiting the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition, had sailed for England.

Montserrat—The Local Defence Forces.

In his letter of December 18th, Mr. CONRAD WATSON reported that the shooting competition for the Strickland

Trophy, which was won by the Montserrat Defence Reserve in 1904, was held in the Island on December 9th, and the trophy won by the team of the St. Kitts Defence Force. Five teams competed, selected from the Defence Forces of St. Kitts and Antigua, and the Defence Reserves of Montserrat, Antigua and Dominica. A silver cup presented by the late Sir Courtenay Knollys for the best individual shot, was won by Private Edwards, Antigua Defence Force.

Revis—Complaints about the Mails and Cable Communication.

In the Hon. C. A. SHAND's letter of December 17th, attention was again drawn to the fact that the uncertainty attached to the arrival of the mails was likely to be a cause of grave inconvenience when crop operations commenced, and that the gravity of the situation would then be realised. Confusion at the moment was aggravated by the general break-down of the cable communication system, which put the finishing touch to the situation.

Sir Robert Bromley, the Administrator, was expected by the Royal Mail Steamer on the 18th to spend a few days at the Island, but Lady Bromley would not accompany him on this occasion. There was some talk of Sir Robert administering the Government for a month, as Mr. Hesleth Bell was leaving almost immediately. The latter's new appointment would give ample scope for his administrative abilities, which had developed so extensively the resources of Dominica, and placed that once tottering dependency on the road to permanent prosperity. His success in getting the underwriters to support his insurance scheme was another feather in his cap, and opened up quite a new era of possibilities throughout the length and breadth of those Islands situated within the hurricane belt.

Since last mail the weather had been favourable for the crops, good showers having fallen, and prospects had consequently improved.

St. Kitts—An Agricultural Society Formed.

The mail which left Southampton on November 25th only reached St. Kitts on December 16th, the day previous to that on which Mr. Chas. A. Smith's letter was written, after some nine days cruising about the Caribbean Sea, and they were thus allowed thirty-six hours in which to reply to letters. As these extended from 6 p.m. on Saturday to 6 a.m. on Monday, they may be said to be "all Sunday" which means for business men thirteen days incessant work.

On the initiative of Sir Robert Bromley, an Agricultural and Commercial Society had been formed, and in a week or two would be on a working basis. This was a most satisfactory step of progress in the history of St. Kitts, which as long ago as 1831 boasted of a similar society. They were able to congratulate themselves, as a community, on having an Administrator who identified himself with the interests of the Islands over which he presided.

The working of the Sandy Point Ginney was to be discontinued under the present management, and it was not known if any other person would take it over.

H.M.S. "Edgar" was, at the time of writing, in the roadstead.

The weather conditions had not been so favourable during the past two weeks as could be wished, the showers which in some districts had been frequent, had also been light, and on the leeward side of the Island had not been nearly sufficient for the growing crops. Planting for 1907 was going on, and the young plants were coming away nicely. Cotton picking was being carried on, and good yields per acre were reported.

St. Lucia—Removal of Troops.

The R.M.S.P. Co.'s "La Plata" called at the Island on December 13th, and removed No. 67 Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery. Twenty-five men were left to assist in shipping a 9.2 in. gun, which had not yet been mounted. The forts would not be dismantled or the other guns removed, though the breech blocks would be taken away. The forts and buildings also would be left intact.

St. Vincent—Federation.

According to a letter from Messrs. D. K. PORTER & Co., dated December 20th, H.M.S. "St. George" had been in port for the past two days, and as they heard of cruisers being at several other of the Islands, it was presumed that the Admiralty and not the War Office were now looking after their welfare.

It was satisfactory to hear that the opinion of Grenada coincided with that of St. Vincent, and that the two Islands should carry some weight on the question of federation.

Cotton picking and arrowroot making were now going on steadily, and the weather was everything that could be desired for both crops.

Trinidad—The Cocoa Industry.

When the Hon. G. T. FENWICK, C.M.G., closed his letter on December 23rd, it was understood that the report of the Labour Committee would be ready about the middle of January, and should be laid before the Legislative Council at the first meeting in February.

With reference to the Agricultural Society, the Governor had appointed a Committee consisting of Professor Carmody, Hon. S. Henderson, Hon. Carl de Verteuil, Mr. J. G. de Gannes and the writer, to inquire into and report as to the best means of amending the constitution of the Society, so as to make it more useful and influential.

Mr. John Hoadley had died from the effects of a collision between himself on a motor bicycle and policeman on an ordinary bicycle.

Alternate sunshine and shower had been experienced throughout the fortnight, ideal weather for agriculturist of all sorts. The sugar crop promised to be a good one. The showers had interfered in certain districts with cocoa drying, but to no serious extent. In spite of heavy deliveries during the past fortnight, the market had exhibited a very fine tone. Prices had in no way fluctuated, and ready purchasers had been found for all supplies coming to hand. A firmer tone had also been noticed in the consuming markets, presumably in response to the higher prices now being asked for African descriptions. There was no new business of importance to record, but several small sales had been made, mostly to the U.S.A. Fine Estates were quoted a shade easier at 52s. 6d. C. & F. Havre, mixed Estates at 51s. 6d. and ordinary at 50s.

The small arrivals from Venezuela had been readily snapped up, and prices had again advanced. 700 bags of superior quality including a large lot of clayed, realised the fancy price of \$13. It was expected that arrivals from this centre would be more plentiful, when lower prices were to be looked for.

		Cocoa Shipments.			
Total at last report	...	...	208,837 Bags	Trinidad.	38,464 Venezuelan.
Dec. 1	S.S. "Maracas."	...	4,047 "	---	374 New York
" 11	S.S. "Schaumburg."	...	3,000 "	---	--- Europe
" 11	S.S. "Prins Maurits"	...	3,327 "	---	724 New York.
" 11	S.S. "La Plata"	...	611 "	---	--- Europe.
" 13	S.S. "Prins Fred. Hendrik"	...	1,889 "	---	--- Europe.
" 13	S.S. "Urah"	...	2,677 "	---	207 New York
" 18	S.S. "Venezuela"	...	50 "	---	--- Europe
" 20	S.S. "Caroni"	...	1,940 "	---	--- Europe.
" 20	S.S. "Maraval"	...	5,389 "	---	976 New York,
Totals to date	...	...	231,767		35,745 Venezuelan

West Indian Newspapers.

The following West Indian newspapers, in addition to the usual official gazettes, reports and blue books are, through the courtesy of their Editors, filed at the West India Committee Rooms, where they can be inspected:

The Antigua Standard.
The Advocate (Barbados).
The Agricultural Reporter (Barbados).
The Barbados Bulletin.
The Barbados Globe.
The Weekly Newlander (Barbados)

The Argosy (Demerara).
The Dominica.
The Dominica Guardian.
The St. Christopher Advertiser.
The St. Christopher Gazette.

The Voice (St. Lucia).
The Sentry (St. Vincent).
The Times (St. Vincent)
The Port of Spain Gazette (Trinidad)
The Trinidad Mail.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 10th. "Very dry, rain wanted."
British Guiana (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), January 6th. "Fine and favourable for growing crop."
Jamaica (Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), Week ended December 28th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "21st to 27th, rainy." **KINGSTON**: "21st to 27th, rainy."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 1905	1904	April 1 to Dec. 31 1905	1904	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 1905	1904	Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 1905	1904
Sugar	41,494	37,575 Tons.	294,836	200,805 Tons.	7,401	6,655 Tons.	280,335	304,575 Hrs. & Brls.	---	---
Molasses	18,744	25,039 Pals.	3,194	2,634 Pals.	---	---	2,826	2,971 Pals.	---	---
Rum	---	---	16,691	19,077 "	780,785	928,360 Galls.	---	---	---	---
Molascult	---	---	9830	7,668 Tons.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cocoa	---	---	53,797	105,606 lbs.	20,794	15,518 Cwts.	30,627,065	30,324,720 lbs.	12,915	11,486 Hrs.
Coffee	---	---	---	---	29,090	24,063 "	---	---	---	---
Coconuts	---	---	226,071	399,514	4,000,059	7,803,780	11,182,667	8,771,432	---	---
Copra	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Cotton	---	---	---	---	---	---	10,388	15,506 bags.	---	---
Cotton Seed	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Asphalt	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Oranges	---	---	---	---	---	---	104,533	152,323 Tons.	---	---
Bananas	---	---	---	---	27,150,838	64,326,701	---	---	---	---
Pimento	---	---	---	---	11,621,681	6,033,773 Hols	---	---	---	---
Spice	---	---	---	---	---	64,706	109,023 Cwts.	---	---	---
Gold	---	---	88,492	84,740 Oms.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Diamonds	---	---	5287	10,753 carats.	---	---	---	---	---	---

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—**HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Trent"** (Capt. A. C. Farmer) Jan. 6th:—**Barbados**—Mr. and Mrs. E. F. S. Bowen, Miss Hodgkinson, Mr. H. T. Edwell, Sergt. and Mrs. Lishmund, **Demerara**—Dr. Tindall King, **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Kennedy, Mr. A. Brenes, Capt. Russell, Q. M. Sergt. and Mrs. Whitehead, **Trinidad**—Mrs. Irvine, Mrs. Saxcombe, Mr. H. Ligeron, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mene, Mr. A. Ducand, Mr. W. Cane, **Dominica**—Mr. Baden, **St. Lucia**—Miss A. Howe, Lieut. and Mrs. J. W. Westlake, C. Sorg.-Maj. and Mrs. Sandford.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No LIX



Mr. Joseph Weedon Previt.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SRETHING LANE, LONDON,

Jan. 18th, 1906

Telegram: "CABLE LONDON." Telephone: 6462 CENTRAL.

Now that the long term of office of the Unionist Government has drawn to a close, it may not be amiss to review what has been done for the West Indies since it was returned to power in 1895. In doing this we wish to impress upon our readers the absolute non-party attitude of the West India Committee. In politics we are Imperial, and our special object is to further the general welfare of the West Indian portion of our Empire irrespective of race, religion, or conflicting local interests, and any Government with a true Imperial policy, be it Liberal or Conservative, Radical or Unionist, will receive our loyal support. Now sugar has been, is, and always will be so long as it gets fair play, the dominant industry of these Colonies, and although it can no longer be said, as was stated on one occasion in 1731, that "the least sugar island we have is of ten times more consequence than all Rhode Island and New England put together," still this industry, from its suitability to the fully tropical conditions

of the West Indies, forms an important item in the nutrition of the Mother Country. It will, therefore,

be generally admitted that by far the most important service which the late Government rendered to the West Indies was the pressure brought to bear at the Brussels Conference which re-assembled in 1901, the meetings of 1898 having proved abortive. Prior to the abolition of the bounties, in response to urgent representations from the West Indies as to their distressed condition in consequence of the position of their staple industry, the Government appointed a Royal Commission of Inquiry at the close of 1896. As the direct result of their recommendations the Imperial Department of Agriculture was formed and supported by Imperial funds, improved steamer accommodation was provided between Canada and the West Indies, and an Imperial subsidy of £20,000 per annum was voted towards the establishment of a new line of direct fruit carrying steamers between Jamaica and the Mother Country. With regard to the latter it is a subject for regret that the results have not proved generally satisfactory to Jamaica, who themselves contribute £20,000 a year to the subsidy, and who complain that the terms of the contract are not being faithfully carried out. In 1898 a severe hurricane swept over the West Indies, and public subscriptions for a Relief Fund were augmented by a Government vote of £40,000 to Barbados and £25,000 to St. Vincent, the Islands principally affected, coupled with a loan of £50,000 to each. In the case of the Island of St. Vincent, there is no doubt that this timely relief saved the Island from industrial extinction. In 1900 a grant-in-aid of £17,000 was voted for the relief of distress caused by a second hurricane which devastated the Leeward Islands in the preceding year. But this was not the end of a series of disasters, for in 1901 the appalling eruption of the Soufriere in St. Vincent called for prompt action on the part of the Government, who were relieved from voting a grant-in-aid by the fact that the various relief funds opened resulted in upwards of £77,474 being subscribed. Unfortunately, the administration of this relief fund gave rise to much adverse, and we fear we must add, justifiable criticism, for now, though nearly four years have elapsed since the visitation, no less than £30,000 collected for this specific occasion remain unspent. We have from time to time called attention to this hanging-up of a fund which if judiciously spent on opening up those districts of the Island which were devastated, might prove of considerable industrial benefit to St. Vincent. In 1902, in consequence of the representations of the West India Committee, a sum of £250,000 was voted by Parliament to enable the sugar industry to tide over the period until the Sugar Convention, then ratified, became effective. Again we did not quite see eye-to-eye with the Government as to the distribution of this fund, which was in some cases, admittedly, used for purposes which could not possibly be interpreted as being within its scope, and which, instead of being immediate, extended over a period of years. It was quite understood that the £250,000 was to be a free grant, and its diversion to other channels in Barbados was the subject of much correspondence, though its use for the Plantations-in-Aid Act has proved beneficial, and the fund has now been ear-marked for the Sugar Industry. In legislative matters, perhaps Jamaica is the only Island where there has been any serious difference of opinion with the Home Government, the political situation in that Island having been from time to time a source of some controversy; but there has also been a genuine endeavour on the part of the Government to produce uniformity and cohesion among these Islands, which the Imperial Department of Agriculture and such an enactment as the Quarantine Ordinance have gone far towards bringing about. We have now dealt briefly with the attitude of the late Government towards our West Indian possessions. On the whole the list of what they have done denotes a practical Government interest for the benefit of the internal affairs of the Colonies. They have encouraged immigration, for the inauguration of which no particular political Party can, however, be said to be responsible, as the matter of coolie immigration has received the sanction of successive Governments. But there are sins of omission as well as commission, and as regards the former we must remind our readers that in spite of the constant representations from the West India Committee, as representing the West Indian distiller, the rum surtax, based on calculations which are so manifestly unjust, and so evidently a protection to the home distiller, as not to admit even of

argument, remains as heretofore. On the whole, however, so far as local industries are concerned, the late Government contributed to the good of the West Indies to an extent which probably few at home realise. It is not too much to say that, but for their timely action as regards the sugar bounties, these Colonies, or those of them which for special reasons depend upon sugar, would by this time have been dragging out a lingering existence of hopeless bankruptcy. From the point of view, however, of Imperial diplomacy, it must be admitted that their West Indian policy has not been satisfactory. The *Morning Post* of January 16th contains an article on this point, in which much which we have often said in the *Circular* is endorsed. The writer ably portrays the manner in which British interests of late in that part of the world have been gradually allowed to slide, politically and commercially, and draws a graphic picture of the contrast between the growth of American interests and the decline of British. Troops are being withdrawn and the naval strength reduced to a minimum, while British rights under past treaties with United States have been given up without an equivalent being obtained. The commercial policy which Mr. Chamberlain did his best to inaugurate towards these possessions ceased with his departure from the Cabinet. Since then a *laissez aller* policy has been adopted, which if accepted by the new Government can only result, one way or another, in these Colonies, once "the main source of England's maritime and commercial power," being lost to the Empire. It is impossible to overstate the gravity of the situation. Indifference is fatal to loyalty, and it is not surprising to find loyal Colonists regarding the situation with apprehension.

THE prominent position which the Chinese labour question in South Africa has taken in electoral strategy has brought the system of British Guiana East Indian Immigration into the controversy in a manner which is most unfair to the latter. The Radicals are loud in their denunciation of the alleged injustice done to the working man by cheap Chinese labour; the Liberals condemn the system as slavery, while the Conservatives twit the partisans of the present Government with the fact that the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance, to which the South African, they say, is allied, is the work of a Liberal Government. One daily paper even went so far as to draw a comparison between the conditions of the two systems, in order to show that the British coolie in Demerara is far worse off than the alien Chinaman on the Rand! As we have already said, it is not the *business* of this Committee to deal with questions of Party politics. With the South African question we have nothing to do. Whether that system of immigration is good or bad in itself, beneficial or baneful to the country, is a matter to which we, as a body, may be indifferent; but we cannot, in the interests of the West Indies, allow unjustifiable, even if unintentional, discredit to be thrown on British Guiana immigration, a system which has stood the test of over half a century, without putting forward the facts of the case as regards these Ordinances. The Chinese immigration into the Rand is designed for the immediate benefit of the mines. It is not a permanent measure for the ultimate development of the country, as the immigrant has to be sent back to his country at the end of his term of indenture, or when he has done his share in exhausting the mineral wealth of the Colony. The East Indian coolies, on the other hand, are brought to British Guiana for the purpose, mainly, of agriculture. A large proportion remain in the Colony, and utilise their experience and savings in cultivating rice and other agricultural produce, and in raising cattle, or else they remain as free labourers on the sugar estates. Whatever shape the subsequent career of the East Indian coolie immigrants take, they form a valuable portion of the population. The Chinaman on the Rand is not allowed to learn skilled trades or acquire any position in which he would compete with the Colonists. As he is not allowed to remain in the Colony this does not matter, but he is in a totally different position to the East Indian in the West Indies, who frequently acquires technical skill in the sugar factory during his indentureship. Only those who have

seen the East Indian coolie in India and in Demerara, Jamaica, or Trinidad can appreciate what a blessing immigration has been to him, and what an enormous change for the good has resulted from his indentureship. The West India Committee has, in a circular letter to the London and Provincial papers, brought the above facts, as to the relation of the two ordinances, prominently before the public, and from the change of opinion on the matter, which is already noticeable, there can be no doubt that the eyes of the public are now more open to the true facts of the case.

THE first of a series of prosecutions at the instance of the Jamaica Government to suppress the illicit sale of rum, purporting to be Jamaica rum, took place at the Guildhall on the 11th inst., and resulted in the defendant being fined a nominal penalty of 5s. with £18 8s. costs. The vexed question of what is rum has been discussed so fully in *The West India Committee Circular* that it is hardly necessary again to go into it at length. Suffice it to say that rum is the tropically fermented and distilled product from sugar-cane juice or the bye-product—molasses—of cane juice after more or less sugar has been extracted. Its basis is alcohol, and it owes its essential qualities to the presence of flavouring ethers, which latter are produced mainly under the conditions of a tropical climate. The proportion of these ethers varies according to the quality, in itself dependent on soil and climate, of the cane-juice product used, it may be pure cane-juice, or it may be the molasses after a third sugar has been extracted,—and to the manner of fermentation, whether purposely retarded or quickened. The proportion of ethers, also, depend upon the kind of Still used, whether “pot” and “patent,” the former yielding to the rum a larger quantity of flavouring ethers than the latter, although the degree to which the flavouring ethers are taken out of the spirit can be regulated to a large extent by its construction and method of use. Naturally, the price of rum is based upon quality, and as Jamaica rum is celebrated for its flavour, its market price is far above that from the other West Indies. Its reputation is historic, its manufacture is an important part of the sugar industry, and the maintenance of its good name and the preservation of its market, are matters of great interest to its producers. But, however, while the Jamaica planter is perfectly justified in using measures to protect his special industry, he should be careful in so doing not to injure his brother planters elsewhere. Demerara rum, for example, though it does not contain the proportion of flavouring ethers that Jamaica does, is quite as much entitled to the name of rum. In the particular case reported, we do not know what was the particular class of rum sold, but judging from the statements of the prosecuting counsel, the experts who examined the rum were of opinion that it was “silent” spirit and not Jamaica rum. “Silent” spirit has been aptly defined as “spirit which says nothing as to its character.” It is prepared from bodies, the fermented and distilled product of which is objectionable in flavour unless the latter is eliminated by means of a patent still, it being possible in this way to purify, *i.e.*, deprive of flavour, alcohols to the desired extent. If, then, analysts take Jamaica rum as the standard as to ether contents, rums from Demerara, the Leeward Islands and Trinidad, which contain a much lower proportion of these, but which are quite as much genuine rum, would be certified as a mixture of silent spirit and rum, and condemned accordingly, and in the Stockport case of eighteen months ago, this was what actually took place. The prosecuting counsel on the present occasion is credited with having made the extraordinary statement that a false rum is made here from Demerara sugar! In the first place, anyone conversant with the relative values of sugar and rum would appreciate at once the economic absurdity of this, and in the second, rum cannot be made from sugar alone, but requires the constituents of cane juice, or of such of these which remain in the molasses, for the production of the characteristic flavour, and the tropical conditions for fermentation. As a matter of fact, an imitation rum is made here, but this is done by flavouring silent spirit, from beet sources or elsewhere, with an abnormally highly flavoured spirit. But what we wish especially to emphasize is that

we fear that the sale of Demerara, Trinidad, and Leeward Islands rum cannot but be prejudiced by these prosecutions, so long as the only standard recognised is that of Jamaica rum. It seems also to us that the effect of these prosecutions on the lines on which they are now being run, will be harmful to the West Indian rum trade generally, and that the proper course to have pursued would have been, by united West Indian action, to endeavour to put a stop to the sale of *imitation* rums. The provisions of the Merchandise Marks' Act are quite sufficient for the purpose, and for the reasons given above, analytical figures are only calculated to lead to erroneous and contradictory evidence. Anything that tends to hinder trade by hampering it with conditions and apprehensions must be prejudicial to it in the long run, and the worst of it is that not only is the Jamaica rum market likely to be affected, but the trade generally, by the present action of the Jamaica authorities, and this is at a time when the future of rum is more promising than it has been for some time.

As we have already announced, the Legislative Council of Jamaica has negatived the vote for the expenditure necessary to put into operation the new Quarantine Ordinance of that Island. This Ordinance was the result of the recommendations of the Commission appointed to inquire into the vexed question of quarantine regulations among the West Indian Islands and British Guiana. In the past, each possession has had its own quarantine laws, the main object of which was to shut off any offending Colony from any communication with it. To say that the regulations as a rule were irritating, and as a rule effectual as impediments to trade, is not sufficient. In many instances the effects were so absurd as to bring quarantine into ridicule. These regulations were, as a general rule, based on the rough and ready methods of pre sanitation days, when the health conditions of the West Indian towns and surroundings were such as to reasonably cause a dread of the introduction of infectious disease, when commerce went slowly and competition was practically unknown, before science had shown what could be done in the direction of prevention of disease. Things are otherwise now. The sanitary condition of the West Indies has so much improved that they, at least the Islands, have become health resorts, and the old quarantine regulations are quite out of keeping with the changed conditions. It was to meet the inconvenience to intercourse and damage to trade from the want of uniformity and obsolete nature of the existing rules that the Commission sat, and in formulating the common set of quarantine regulations to meet the spirit of the times, the Commission was acting in the best interests of the individual Islands and in the spirit of modern medical science. Possibly it may be found that a *modus vivendi* may yet be arrived at by reduced expenditure or otherwise.

Mr. Joseph Weedon Previté.

Mr. Joseph Weedon Previté has been connected with the West Indies since the year 1864, when his then firm of Previté & Greig began to be interested in the export of asphalt from the Pitch Lake in Trinidad. In association with the late Hon. T. A. Finlayson and the American Paving Companies he has been largely instrumental in developing the asphalt industry, which has of late years added materially to the resources of Trinidad. As one of the concessionaires of the Lake from the Crown in 1888, he was successively a Director of the American and English Companies which took over the concession. His firm, Messrs. Previté & Co., is engaged in the import of Trinidad Lake asphalt to the continent of Europe and Great Britain. Mr. Previté is a member of Lloyds, and has been in the City for over fifty years. He is an old Member of the West India Committee.

A Typical Roadside in Barbados.

The soil of Barbados is remarkable not only for its fertility, but also on account of its extremely shallow depth, for its average thickness does not exceed two or three feet. Barbados is almost

entirely of coral formation, and it is on top of the coral limestone that the thin veneer of soil, which has borne sugar canes for over two hundred years, lies. Thanks to nature, the process known at home as metalling the roads is in many places obviated in Barbados, for when a road in the natural course of events becomes at all uneven, all that is necessary to do is to scrape it away until it is flat again, and the result of this is that the roads become lower and lower, thus affording unique opportunities of inspecting the soil in the manner shown in our full page illustration. The figure in the picture will be recognised as Mr. E. T. Racker, the popular editor of *The Agricultural Reporter*.

A Hundred Years Ago.

When St. Vincent was ceded to us by the French in 1763, our new settlers immediately began to encroach upon the lands of the Caribs, the aboriginal inhabitants of the Island. The settlers, we read in Cohe, "in conjunction with their correspondents, the West India merchants, in London, aimed at nothing less than the possession of the whole territory of the Island: on which prospect, likewise, considerable sums of money had been borrowed in our wealthy metropolis, at a high interest, on speculation, under the idea of immense profits from its future cultivation," and in 1771 made a forcible attempt to obtain their land. The Caribs resisted, and this being construed as rebellion, in 1772 Major General Dalrymple was sent out to effect their humiliation, which was accomplished in February, 1773. However, as a result of an enquiry in Parliament, it was decided that the expedition was founded on injustice, and overtures of peace resulted in the treaty referred to in the extract from the minutes of the West India Committee given below. The Caribs were granted what was practically the whole of the north of the Island, from the River Anallihou (Wallihou) on the leeward side, to the River Hyera on the windward side, and the territory ceded by them in their turn, now known as the Carib country, was, until the disastrous hurricane of 1902, the most fertile in the Island: but at present its cultivation is rendered impossible owing to the absence of fresh water. The second extract from our old records is a table of exports from 1769 to 1780, which will, we think, be of interest. From Grenada, for instance, it will be noted that in that year 12,234 casks of sugar, and from Dominica 1,418 casks, were exported, though that commodity has now ceased to appear among the exports of these Islands. On the other hand, the quantity of sugar shipped from Barbados has increased very materially.

"At a meeting on April 6th, 1773, Mr. Maitland laid before the meeting a note from Mr. Pownall acquainting him that the Caribs at St. Vincent had surrendered and with their entire submission by solemn treaty to His Majesty's Government, ceding to His Majesty a tract of most valuable land."

The Annual Importation of Sugar and Rum from March 25th, 1769 to March 25th, 1770, was read, and it is as follows:—

				Ships		Casks—Sugar.		Rum—Puns.
Jamaica	...	...	...	132	...	43,091	...	9,762
Antigua	...	...	...	30	...	11,567	...	17
St. Kitts	...	...	...	36	...	12,584	...	69
Barbadoes	...	...	...	23	...	9,479	...	25
Grenadoes	...	...	...	51	...	12,234	...	427
M'serrat	...	...	...	9	...	4,032	...	22
Nevis	...	...	...	7	...	2,149	...	12
Dominica	...	...	...	9	...	1,419	...	8
St. Vincents	...	...	...	8	...	1,863	...	29
Tortola	...	...	...	3	...	1,205	...	2
				308	...	99,623	...	10,353

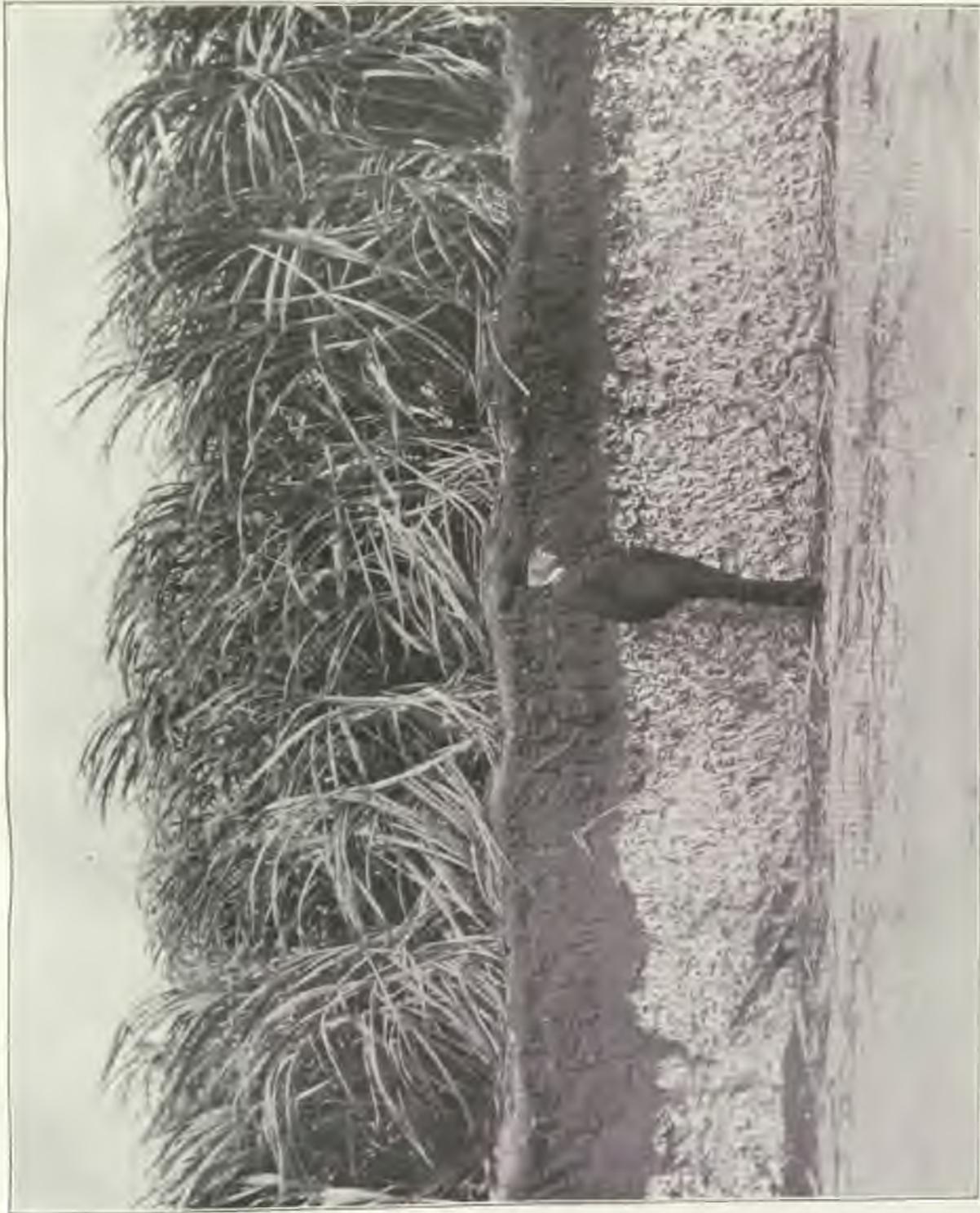


Photo by Alvarado E. Spatholli.

Overright.

A TYPICAL ROADSIDE IN BARBADOS.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will take place on Thursday, February 1st. The new list being now in course of preparation, it is hoped that Members will kindly notify the Secretary of any change in their address. We would again ask Members to assist to strengthen the West India Committee by introducing new candidates for election. Forms of application and full particulars regarding membership can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

The Canadian Preference.

It is with satisfaction that we are able to announce that the sugar refiners of Canada have now agreed to renew the arrangements under which sugar producers in the West Indies will once more reap financial benefit from the 33½% preference. They have agreed to purchase West Indian sugars on their arrival at rates equivalent to those ruling in New York, plus 10 cents per 100 lbs. for muscovado and 12 cents per 100 lbs. for crystals. The period for which they will do so is limited to July 1st, as was the case last year, leaving the question as to continuing the arrangement for the latter part of the year, the subject of negotiations, later. Messrs. A. G. Jones & Co., of Halifax, in their sugar circular, state, however, that they look forward to being able to have this arrangement continued throughout the year, as they do not expect such adverse conditions as those which prevailed during the latter part of 1905. In the same circular they state that the total quantity of sugar landed in Halifax during 1905 amounted to about 47,000 tons, showing a substantial increase over the figures for the previous year. All of this was from the British West Indies only, none of foreign growth having been used at Halifax. Arrivals of muscovados took place principally during the first six months of the year, the arrangement with the refiners under which these were taken not extending beyond July 1st. But for abnormal conditions of heavy stocks and poor demand for the refined article they would have been able to continue the same terms for sugars arriving during the last six months, but fortunately the quantity of West Indian crop remaining to be shipped then was not large, and sellers were unable to obtain for later arrivals anything over the bare parity of American prices.

Seedling Canes in Jamaica.

The November Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society gives an account by Mr. P. M. Murray of some reappings of seedling canes in Jamaica. At Hope Gardens, the experimental station, two varieties, J 30 and J 3 yielded on an experimental scale the equivalent to 74.4 and 74.1 tons per acre, with juice containing 9 and 7 tons respectively of crystallisable sugar, while Demerara and Barbados seedlings gave from 67.8 to 43.6 tons per acre, as against Bourbon 39.5 and White Transparent 33.8 tons.

At Albion Estate in the St. Thomas district the following results were obtained:—

B 379	...	65 tons per acre, with	14,768 lbs.	available sugar in juice.		
D 212	...	56	"	13,324	"	"
B 147	...	40.4	"	9,899	"	"
B 354	...	46	"	9,704	"	"
B 208	...	47.5	"	9,383	"	"
D 80	...	45.3	"	81,653	"	"

as against 24.8 tons and 6,241 lbs. of sugar for the Mt. Blanc, the estates cane. Mr. Shore, at Cinnamon Hill, reported that with B 208, 72.8 tons of canes per acre with 18,392 lbs. of available sugar were obtained, while the same cane at Caymanas Estate in a two acre field gave 49.43 tons and a sugar content in juice of 14,310 lbs. per acre.

These figures promise a future for these canes in Jamaica. It must not, however, be forgotten that the whole history of seedling canes is marked by exceptional vigour in early life or when planted out in new conditions, a vigour which is liable to become very largely modified in subsequent crops. It is worthy of remark that the Otaheiti cane, which is closely allied to the Bourbon, gives in the Allion experiment 44.6 tons of cane per acre, or juice content of 12,404 lbs. sugar per acre, an extremely creditable return for an old established cane.

Jam and Justice.

The General Election has given the opponents of the Brussels Sugar Convention an opportunity for ventilating the alleged grievances of the confectioners as to the effects of that agreement upon their industry. Facts, however, speak stronger than words, and the following extracts from the *Chamber of Commerce Journal*, dealing with Trade and Commerce in 1905, is a crushing commentary on their complaints. "For the eleven months ended November, 1903, 1904, and 1905, the quantity and value of the exports of confectionery, jams, and preserved fruits was higher last year than in any of its predecessors:-

1903.		1904.		1905.	
Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
294,886	713,778	289,841	750,870	315,478	824,221

Moreover, what is more satisfactory still, there is no doubt that there was *even greater improvement in the home trade.*" (The italics are our own). "During the first five months, it is true, confectioners were not free from anxiety, owing to the high price of sugar, but happily the collapse of those high prices, which were mainly caused by the excessive speculation, came sooner and more completely than many people had anticipated, and during the greater part of the year sugar was obtainable at reasonable prices, which helped to stimulate the trade all round."

According to the above figures it would appear that the average price of confectionery exported during the eleven months was £2 10s. 3d., £2 11s. 9d., and £2 12s. 3d. in 1903, 1904, and 1905 respectively, and as the average price of 88 % beet during those same years was 8 3/4, 10/0, and 11/4, we fail to see what the confectioners have to complain of. Sugar forms a proportion of about 60 % to 80 % of jams and confectionery, and although the whole increase in cost of sugar has not apparently been added, the relation of price of the finished article to the raw material is so great as to point to enormous profits, which a small difference in the value of sugar is not likely to effect materially.

An Up-to-Date Beet Factory.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* for January 10th contains a long account of the Central Sugar Factory of Cambrai, at Escaudouvres, which has recently been enlarged and remodelled. Hitherto, the juice from sixteen "raperies" has been dealt with, pumped, after liming, to the factory through pipes, the total length of which is over eighty miles, but recently an additional diffusion plant has been erected at the factory itself. 3,000 tons of beet are worked up per diem, 500 of which are dealt with at the factory station. For 100 days of crop, this would mean an output of over 40,000 tons of sugar.

The chief point about the factory is the extensive use of electricity as a motive agent. The total number of motors in use throughout the factory is 120, the primary power being given by two Corliss engines and one Brequet turbine, working up to 2,000 horse-power. The juice is treated by double carbonatation, and the old charcoal process is replaced by sulphuring and mechanical filtration. A second filtration through Danck filters of the clear juice from each carbonatation stage is carried out under atmospheric pressure, the cloths of these filters being charged with kieselguhr (diatomaceous earth). A great feature of the factory is the heating and evaporation, a quintuple effect being used for

concentrating the syrup, and all the heating being done by multiple effect. On account of the extensive use of electricity, the amount of exhaust steam available is small, and the first vessel of the evaporator is entirely served with direct steam. Steam for the various juice heatings is supplied from the second and third bodies. The exhaust of the factory goes into the second body, while the vacuum pans receive their steam from the first vessel. The syrup is filtered through kieselghur in filter presses. There are five vacuum pans for first sugars, four of 2,600 cubic feet capacity and one of 1,750 cubic feet. The massecuite is dealt with by twelve centrifugals of fifty inches diameter driven electrically, and twenty-four boilers with a collective heating surface area of 17,000 square feet furnish the necessary steam power. This factory ranks among the biggest in the world, and in point of view of any development that may be made in the West Indies in the direction of central factories, the attention of West Indian planters is especially drawn to the extensive use of electricity in its installation. For further details we would refer our readers to the paper in question.

Cocoa Diseases.

The attention of the cocoa planters is invited by the Hon. William Fawcett, in his "Bulletin of the Department of Agriculture," to a disease of the pod which has lately been noticed in Jamaica. "It may," he says, "be more prevalent than planters are themselves aware of, and there is the certainty of its spreading unless measures are taken to prevent it. The disease is due to a fungus, and is recognised by a darkening of the pod which spreads from one end, and by a delicate white mould which appears on the outside. The mould produces immense numbers of very minute particles, lighter than dust, which are blown off by every breath of air and scattered on the pods all round, even at great distances if the wind is high. These particles infect the pods they fall upon; the disease grows all through the shell, killing young pods, and even in almost mature pods affecting the cocoa beans, causing inferior grade and light weight. These particles falling on a dry pod will do no harm, and therefore wet weather, moist situations, and overhead shade encourage infection. The spread of the disease is due also to other particles, which lie dormant for some time in the substance of the shells of the pods. Like seeds, under favourable conditions and after a resting stage, when the shell decays, they germinate, producing more particles that are carried about by the wind. To prevent the spread of the disease, all diseased pods should be picked and either burnt, or buried so deep that they will not be brought to the surface again. All shells from which the beans have been removed should always be buried to ensure that the disease is not propagated by the germination on them of the wind-borne particles, or in them of any of the resting particles. If these measures are rigidly carried out, the disease will probably not give any trouble, but if on any estate the disease is found to be wide spread, all the pods which are not picked off, should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture, and a constant watch kept against the breaking out of the disease."

Slave-Grown Cocoa.

Harper's Magazine for November and December gives a thrilling account of the horrors of the slave trade as carried on in West Central Africa. It is not in our province to deal with the merits or demerits of the slave trade, but seeing that destinations of the slave gangs whose condition is described include the Portuguese Islands of St. Thomé and Príncipe, and that these Islands are large growers of cocoa, a considerable portion of which finds its way to British ports, we think it our duty to call attention to this fact. Slave-grown cocoa is a protected cocoa, and against this our West Indian growers have to compete. It is a form of protection which it is impossible to estimate the extent of and is a good illustration of the burdens our tropical agriculture has to bear from unfair competition. Some years ago there was a great outcry against the slave-grown sugar of Cuba.

Surely from motives of humanity also, buyers of cocoa should refuse to purchase any likely to have been grown under similar conditions.

The Exhibition Committee's Report.

The general Exhibition Committee of the West India Committee in their report on the Colonial Exhibition of 1905, now published as a "Souvenir," of which a review appears elsewhere in this issue, deals very fully with the circumstances which gave rise to the Exhibition and the steps taken which resulted in the representation at it of Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada, and numerous private exhibitors connected with the West Indies. An important feature of the report are various suggestions in the later paragraphs of it which should go far towards facilitating arrangements on future occasions of a similar nature, of which we hope there will be very many. Among these is the proposal, already adopted in Grenada, for the formation of permanent Exhibition Committees, which has already met with the approval of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and which we once more have no hesitation in commending to the leading Agricultural and Commercial Bodies of the West Indies for their serious consideration. Turning now to finance, it appears from the general balance sheet which accompanies the report, that, after payment of all expenses, there remained a balance of £ 19s. 5d. in hand, a result which having regard to the experience of former exhibitions the Committee are justified in considering extremely satisfactory. With an Exhibition of this kind the object to be aimed at is to lay out the money available to the best possible advantage and not to show a large balance or, much less, a loss. But as the report has now been posted to all Members of the West India Committee, we need not deal with it here at greater length.

A Jamaica Rum Prosecution.

The first of a series of prosecutions, at the instance of the Jamaica Government, to suppress the illicit sale of rum, purporting to be Jamaica rum, and to enforce the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, was heard at the Guildhall yesterday (Thursday, January 11th), when Mr. Donald Nicol Abbot, of the Bishopsgate Distillery and Wine Company, appeared to answer to a charge of selling as Jamaica rum a spirit that was not of that nature. The Jamaica Government was represented by Mr. J. C. Nolan, who has come to this country as a special commissioner, and the Board of Trade was also represented. Mr. Romain, counsel for the defendant, advised him to plead guilty. In opening the case for the prosecution, Mr. Bramall said the Jamaican Government were determined to put a stop to the illicit sale of false rum. The manufacture of rum was one of the principal trades in Jamaica, and it was distilled from the product of the sugar cane, and in such a way as to contain the secondary products. It was owing to the special method of distillation that this rum had a medicinal value. It was a more expensive article. Owing to the reputation that it had attained, it had become the practice of certain traders in this country to produce a false rum, made in patent stills, and using sugar from Demerara and South America, and to take silent spirit manufactured from all kinds of things. This had been carried on to such an extent that during the past five years the number of distilleries in Jamaica had decreased from 150 to 108. Forty-two had closed in five years. It was in consequence of this that the Government of Jamaica appointed a special commissioner to come to England for the purpose of enforcing the law. On November 24th the agent procured a gallon of rum from the defendant's premises, especially asking for "Jamaica rum." Thirteen shillings and fourpence was charged for the gallon, and an invoice for "Jamaica rum" given. It was submitted to the City Analyst, and tested by several experts in the spirit trade, and they were of the opinion that it was "silent spirit" and not "Jamaica rum." Mr. Romain had assured him that Mr. Abbot, who carried on a very large business, was totally ignorant of the transaction, and that this rum must have

been sold through gross carelessness on the part of an employee. He was willing to accept that assurance, and that Mr. Abbott carried on his business in a legitimate and honest way. He concluded by giving notice to the trade that the cases in future would be rigorously dealt with, for it was most unfair to the Colony and the public. In this case he would be satisfied with a nominal penalty. Mr. Romain having addressed the Bench, Sir Joseph Savory imposed a nominal penalty of 5s. and £18 8s. costs.—*The Standard*, January 12th.

Our Policy in the West Indies.

An important article dealing with our American policy and the attitude of the Government towards our West Indian Colonies appeared in the *Morning Post* of January 16th. It will be noticed that the writer endorses in a striking manner what we have so frequently said in our columns regarding the apparent apathy and indifference with which the Government has viewed the rapid increase of American influence in the West Indies, and though, owing to pressure on our space, we are unable to give the article, which is a long one, *in extenso*, we think that the following extracts will be of interest to our readers:—

"We are apparently acting on the assumption that as things are so they will be. But in this world nations never remain stationary. Either they move forward or they move backward. So with us in the West Indies Free Trade ruined their prosperity, and we calmly looked on. We declined to take any responsibility, meeting every demand for justice with a phrase. This was all very well so long as we were supreme in the Caribbean. Now that the place of Spain has been taken by one of our keenest commercial rivals the political consequences of undiluted Manchesterism are beginning to ripen. The West Indies, which are nothing to us but an orange that we have sucked dry, are beggars on the bounty of America. The privileges denied by us to our own Colonists are granted to them by her. Nor is this all. She has slammed the "open door" in our faces both in Cuba and Puerto Rico. With the control of the shortest routes to Panama, Honduras, and Jamaica in her hands how long will it take her to close the Gulf of Mexico to British trade. In his memorable speech on Defence in the summer Mr. Balfour said that owing to the progress of modern invention the conditions of defence have changed. He referred particularly to steam and the telegraph wire. Since that was the view of his Government it might be thought that before removing the outward and visible signs of British power in the Caribbean they would have seen that the modern conditions on which they laid such stress are present. This is far indeed from being the case. Rapid communication, which is one of the means of tightening the bonds of Empire, is actually discouraged. Only the other day the subsidy for the mail contract was withdrawn. The result is that the intervals between the delivery of letters both at home and in the West Indies grow longer instead of shorter, as they do elsewhere in the King's dominions. Moreover, it now takes eight days to go from Trinidad to Jamaica instead of three and a half days as formerly, and nine days from Barbados instead of four and a half. No greater barrier to federation can be imagined. Cable communication is even worse. In truth it is inferior to that between France and her West Indian Islands, and between the United States and here. British Honduras is entirely cut off from everywhere except by steam; Jamaica has cable communication with distant Halifax and Bermuda, but none with any of the island fortresses of which she is the foremost facing any canal of the future. St. Kitts and Antigua are connected, and so are St. Lucia and Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and British Guiana, but they are isolated from the outside world and Jamaica. As for the all-British cable scheme, we refused to lend it our assistance. Hence our policy is justified neither in the present nor the past. It is being carried out as though modern conditions exist where, as a matter of fact, they do so only to a limited extent. That the redistribution of the Navy called for the withdrawal of the West Indies squadron may be

admitted. But why leave one cruiser, which in case of emergency may be a thousand miles distant? Either it is too much or too little, one of those foolish compromises of which we are so fond. The withdrawal of the garrison is another matter, as we should perceive fast enough if we were not being led into a one-sided view of defence by the "blue water" school. *Until all the Islands are linked up with one another and with this country no change should be made in the military situation.*" The stakes are our own.

The West India Club.

The half-yearly General Meeting of the West Indian Club was held in the Club Room, Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, on January 16th, when there was a large attendance, including: E. Alberga, J. Arnold, A. E. Aspinall, F. Berger, H. Berger, C. T. Berthon, C. Inniss Bowen, H. E. G. Boyle, Capt. Calder, H. O. Carter, E. R. Davson, A. Ecker, E. B. Ellis, Martin Elliott, C. Cary Elwes, W. A. M. Gonde, E. H. Grant, A. Hirsch, L. F. Hudson, George Hughes, A. N. Lubbock, A. E. Messer, L. de Mercado, J. E. Mitchell, J. E. Munro, Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., W. J. Pearson, H. D. Perry, G. H. H. Pile, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, H. Powell Rees, J. Rippon, F. O. Roach, R. Rutherford, F. W. Scott, W. P. B. Shephard, H. C. Swan, H. D. Swan, E. T. Whitaker, J. H. Wilkinson and Chas. Wilson.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, who in the absence of the Chairman was voted to the Chair, moved the adoption of the Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, which was agreed to unanimously. From the Report it appears that the total Membership of the Club is now 591, and the Club funds are larger than ever before. The thanks of the Committee are once more due to the Members of the Club for their energetic support. Without both enthusiasm and practical assistance on the part of individual Members the West Indian Club could not have reached that stability and degree of success which, in an existence of only seven years, has been its good fortune to attain. That there be no retrograde movement depends almost entirely upon the continuation of that enthusiasm and assistance; and for this the Committee desires hearty co-operation. To many Clubs success too quickly won has proved an eventual cause of failure. To avoid this pit-fall, and to forestall the possibility of "lean years," the policy of the Committee has been actuated by a degree of cautiousness that may be open to criticism. The Committee thinks, however, that such criticism would be disarmed after a careful investigation of the condition of some other clubs supposed to be far more prosperous than our own. Although the scope of the Club has not been broadened during the past year, the Committee is more than ever anxious to receive from Members suggestions towards this end, and all recommendations will receive the most careful attention.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The General Election.

It is unnecessary for us to give the state of the Parties, as our friends in the West Indies will receive the latest news by cable, and those at home through the medium of the daily papers, which are using every sort of device to make known the latest results. The fact that Mr. W. F. Lawrence, who has for so many years voiced the cause of the West Indies in the House of Commons, has not again been returned for the Abercromby division of Liverpool, will be a cause for regret to those interested in the West Indies, whatever their political leanings may be. On the other hand, they will be pleased to learn that Sir Edward Clarke, whose views on the sugar question are so well known, has been elected for the City of London, and Mr. D. McIver for Liverpool (Kirkdale).

Letters to the Editor.

An Old Time Election.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—The following particulars regarding an old time Election, in which the head of a family prominently associated with the West Indies, took an active part, may, I think, be of interest to your readers at the present juncture.

Just on a hundred years ago, in 1807, there was a famous fight for the representation of Yorkshire, perhaps the most costly election that has ever taken place in this country. There were three candidates, and it is said that the election altogether could not have cost less than half a million of money.

Parliament had been suddenly and unexpectedly dissolved, and Mr. William Wilberforce, the foremost champion for the abolition of the slave trade, whose seat for Yorkshire had not been contested since 1754, was challenged by the representatives of the two great houses of Fitzwilliam and Harewood, Lord Milton (Whig) and Mr. Fawcotes (Tory).

Great preparations had been made on both sides for a strenuous conflict; no cost, it was evident, was to be spared. Lord Milton, owing much to the excellent state of preparation for the campaign in which he found his father's armoury, notwithstanding a ten per cent. tax upon all incomes, as well as a recent General Election, which had drained the purse of almost every other political man and had most essentially diminished the spirit of subscribing to elections, found the times of war by no means relaxed, and he began his political life by having by a vast £200,000 for the benefit of the party.

His first act was to send one of his circulars to all the professional gentlemen of the county. Think what the activity of two or three hundred Agents, of every city, town and village in Yorkshire, men receiving five guineas each per day for about twenty or thirty successive days, must have done for their noble candidate. Think of the horses, chaises, coaches, which they would instantly hire, and of the number of their clerks who would be employed as sub-agents. Think of the speechifying, talking scribbling, printing, squibbing, fibbing, advertising, riding, driving, which would take place. Every Yorkshire paper was full of praise of Lord Milton and of bitter invective of the other candidates. Go where you would, you ran up against one of his Lordship's agents. Not only had he an agent or two to every village, but one to every coach. His Lordship, too, seems to have had the alliance of another class of men, who though not quite so efficacious were somewhat formidable at the hustings, men of strong fists and stentorian throats, who took care that neither Mr Wilberforce nor Mr Lascelles should have a hearing. Lord Harewood declared he was "ready to spend his whole Barbados property" to secure the seat, in bringing up supporters from all parts of the Kingdom, as well as from abroad, and the expenses incurred by Lord Milton and Mr Lascelles were estimated at £100,000 apiece. Well might the many friends of Wilberforce feel dismayed at the prospect, but he undauntedly resolved to persevere. A subscription to promote his return was started, and in ten days the sum of £64,455 was contributed. Not half the sum, it proved, was needed. From all parts of the country voters came, refusing their expenses. It must be remembered that York was then the only polling place. The polling continued fifteen days, and in the whole county of Yorkshire, it is said, that there was not a vehicle to be had for love or money. Voters came to the poll in boats, on donkeys, and hundreds of them tramped from all parts of the country on foot. Notwithstanding the wealth to which he was opposed, Wilberforce headed the poll during the whole fifteen days, which no doubt caused his opponents to make such extravagant efforts.

The final result was:

Wilberforce	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,806
Milton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,477
Lascelles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,989

Yorkshiremen still recall "the great election" as an excitement unequalled in the history of their county.

Yours obediently,

NORTH COUNTRYMAN

The Late Lord Ritchie.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR—My debt of gratitude to the late Lord Ritchie is very great, and so is that of all sugar estate proprietors making "Molasscut" or other cattle foods containing molasses and exporting same to the United Kingdom. It was due to this gentleman, as it is unnecessary for me to remind the Committee that the Bill was introduced and passed as a Government measure, providing that molasses for cattle feeding should be imported free of duty. The advantage was not only for the producer but time will show also for the British farmer, and to a greater extent than is yet grasped in the early days of the new industry.

Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE HUGHES

(Our readers will, we feel sure, endorse, as we do, Mr. Hughes' expressions of gratitude to the deceased statesman.—Ed.)

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we propose to record the principal events of general interest which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted with current events.

Saturday, January	6th	Homeward Mails arrived per R. M. S. P. Co. s. S. Trent.
Sunday, January	7th	—Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's election address issued.
Monday, January	8th	—Parliament dissolved. Death announced of the Rev. Sir Richard Fitzherbert, Bart., a Jamaica estates' proprietor, which took place on January 4th.
Tuesday, January	9th	—Lord Ritchie died suddenly at Biarritz. Parliamentary paper on Chinese labour in the Transvaal published, from which it appears that Mr. Lyttelton had himself advised mine owners to cease employing Chinese immigrants.
Wednesday, Jan.	10th	—The Premier at Liverpool stated that the Government had been advised that they could not legally stop the introduction of Chinese into South Africa for whom licenses had been signed before they came into power.
Thursday, January	11th	—Bank rate unchanged (4%).
Friday, January	12th	—The first contest of the General Election. Ipswich returned two Liberals to Parliament, a gain of one seat to the Government. Sir Mountstuart Grant Duff (Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1880-81) died in London. Sir Edward Grey at Liverpool said there was no analogy between the Immigration Ordinance of British Guiana and the Transvaal. (The Times, page 11).
Saturday, January	14th	—Mr. Arthur J. Balfour defeated by a majority of 1980 in East Manchester. The Liberals gained twenty seats.—The Southern Cotton Growers' Association (New Orleans) adopted a report favouring a reduction of 25% of the acreage planted and holding spot cotton for 15 cents.
Monday, January	15th	—The French Minister reported to have left Caracas.
Tuesday, January	16th	—Important article on "Our Policy in the West Indies" appeared in the Morning Post. The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton lost his seat at Warwick.—The half-yearly general meeting of the West India Club.

Wednesday, Jan. 17th.—M. Armand Fallières elected President of the French Republic.—The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain returned for Birmingham West by an increased majority (5079).
 Thursday, January 18th.—The Imperial Direct West Indian Steamer "Port Antonio," from Kingston, arrived at Avonmouth.—Diplomatic relations between France and Venezuela formally broken off.
 Friday, January 19th.—State of Election: Liberals, &c., 307. Unionists, 87.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at 4 per cent. (changed from 3 per cent. on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 89½.

DEMERARA. The S.S. "Cheniston," of the Demerara and Berbice Steamship Company left Demerara with mails for London on the 11th inst. She is due on January 31st.

W. S. ROBERTSON & CO. We are informed that Messrs. W. S. Robertson & Co., of San Fernando, Trinidad, have opened an office at 12, Great Helens, London, with Mr. J. T. Riccalton as manager.

LOST BOOKS! We shall be obliged if any of our readers can assist us in finding two volumes, "Groans of the Planters of Barbados, 1689," and "Barbados Packet, circa 1720, A.D.," which are missing from the West India Committee Rooms.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended January 11th, 90 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.65d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

BEET IN MEXICO. In Mexico, in the northern districts of the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila attempts have been made to grow sugar beets, and it is proposed to establish experimental stations in the principal sugar centres of the country. The country has devoted ten million piastres to irrigation works, principally in the north of the Republic.

PRACTICAL RELIGION. A Reuter's telegram from Lahore, dated January 3rd, states that the agitation against the use of imported sugar has now spread to the famous Hindu pilgrimage city of Hardwar, where the Brahmins, who help the pilgrims to wash away their sins in the Ganges, have resolved not to accept at the temple offerings of sweets containing imported sugar.

WEST INDIA CLUB DINNER. At the fortnightly dinner of the West India Club, on Wednesday, January 10th, at 7.30 p.m., Mr. H. Powell Rees presided, and amongst those present were:—Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. W. J. Pearson, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Dr. E. Seton-Pattison, Mr. R. Schult and Mr. F. Berger.

BINDING CASES. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each or post free 3/-.

THE LATE MR. A. HUNTER. The death has been reported of Mr. Andrew Hunter for many years a prominent planter and member of the Court of Policy of British Guiana, and for a short time a Member of the Executive of the West India Committee. Mr. Hunter's state of health compelled him to relinquish some years ago the various positions and duties he formerly filled and discharged, and he has since lived in retirement at Southsea, where he expired on the 8th inst. after a paralytic seizure.

APPOINTMENTS REGISTER. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up.

A HEALTHY RUM TRADE. Figures given in the *Wine Trades Review* show that while the consumption of rum remains steady at previous figures those of brandy and whisky have shown considerable diminution. "There is no doubt," says the organ in question, "that the rum trade is in a healthy condition." Referring to the Jamaica prosecutions, this journal adds, "No doubt they (the planters) will temper zeal with discretion, for they must be aware that any attempt to raise the price of rum artificially would tend to check consumption."

RUBBER PRIZES. The Government of Brazil has decreed a prize of 830,000 (£2,125) for anyone who exhibits 100,000 Maniçoba rubber trees within eighteen months from December, the date of the

announcement, and three other prizes of \$15,000 (£1,062), \$10,000 (£708), and \$5,000 (£354) respectively, for the three next largest plantations, the smallest of which, in order to gain a prize, must not be of less than 10,000 trees. It appears that, not to speak of the value of the rubber, the coffee trees benefit greatly by the shade afforded by the rubber trees.

THE FRENCH ANTILLES. The French Colonial Minister, M. Clementel, has decided, says *L'Europe Coloniale*, to put before the Chambers, a scheme to unite under one government the Colonies of Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana. A Secretary-General would reside in each Colony. There would be only one Court of Appeal, one College, and one Head of Public Works. The Commissary General would reside in one of these Colonies and have the status of a Governor of the first class. Each Colony would control its own budget. The economy to be effected by this simplification is calculated at 150,000 francs.

ACTIVITY IN CUBA. A new railroad is to be built in the province of Santiago de Cuba by the Cula Eastern R. R. Co. for the purpose of opening up cane-growing lands. This Company is capitalised at \$3,000,000 and is now operating a standard gauge road fifty miles north from Guantanamo Bay. Willett and Gray in their "Weekly Statistical Trade Journal" state that: "It is proposed to erect three central sugar factories along the new line, each having a capacity for grinding 1,000 tons of cane daily. New York capitalists are largely interested in this project. It is expected that the railroad and two of the sugar factories will be built this year. This should stimulate our friends in Barbados to take similar action.

JAMAICA RUBBER. At a meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society a short time ago the Governor introduced the subject of rubber, and commended it to the attention of planters. Members present declared themselves willing to undertake the cultivation, and the Hon. William Fawcett, the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, was instructed to procure seed. About 6,500 Para rubber plants (out of 10,000 seeds of Para from Singapore) and 4,500 Castilloa plants have now been raised. They have all been bespoken, but applications are still being hooked by the Director, and a further supply of seed, both of Para and Castilloa, will be obtained next year. Applications should be sent in at once, as the demand for seed is very great, and soon there will be none available, even at a year's notice.

THE W. I. PICTURE POSTCARDS. (Obtainable from G. P. Osmond, 15, Scething Lane, E.C.). Since we last noticed these cards several new series have been issued, including one of Grenada and another of Antigua, the subjects chosen being, in the case of Grenada: "The Carenage," "Tropical Foliage," "The Promontory of St. George's," "A Part of St. George's," "A Quaint Cactus," "A View of St. George's from the Fort,"; while in the Antigua series there are: "A Windmill on a Sugar Estate," "Admiral Camelford's Anchor at English Harbour," "A Street in St. John's, English Harbour," and "The Governor's Residence." One of the principal objects of publishing these cards is to help to popularise our West Indian Colonies, and the fact that over 60,000 of them have now been circulated should be accepted as satisfactory evidence of the popularity of the cards themselves.

MAILS VIA "DIRECT" LINE. The West Indian mails by the "Direct" Line *via* Dartmouth are now despatched from Paddington by a later train, and in consequence letters can be posted in London on the Friday in the week on which the steamer sails as under:—

At the Branch Post Offices in—	
Gracechurch Street	Letters, until 1.0 p.m.
Mark Lane	Papers, .. 12.30 ..
Leadenhall Street	
Lombard Street	Letters, until 1.45 p.m.
	" .. 2.15 .. with 1d. late fee
At the—	Papers, .. 1.15 ..
General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, E.C.	" .. 1.30 .. with 1d. fee.
	" .. 1.45 1d. ..

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library.

Agricultural News, No. 96, Vol. IV. This publication of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, contains various notes of interest in connection with tropical agriculture. In giving some facts about B 208 seedling, a Queensland report is quoted showing a yield equivalent to a possible return of fourteen tons per acre. Attention is also drawn to a United States Consular Report, which speaks of the prospects of Sea Island cotton in Barbados not being prominent.

La Canne à Sucre aux Iles Hawaii et à la Réunion. by Leon Colson, deals in a most comprehensive manner with the sugar industries of the Hawaiian Islands and Réunion. The work is full of valuable, up to date information as to the scientific and practical agriculture and manufacture. It may be safely said that it is a work which no modern sugar planter

should be without. It is interesting to notice that the substitution of the sugar cane in Jamaica for the existing industries was brought about by General Keating, who commanded the British troops during the occupation in 1810, and who planted the cane on the estate which he acquired there.

The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, Vol. IX, No. 12, December. This publication is worthy of being printed on better paper. At present it reaches us in a very dishevelled condition after its journey across the Atlantic. But the matter which it contains is none the less interesting and does credit to the Editor, Mr. John Barclay. The number under review contains the full text of the contract between the Imperial Government, Jamaica and Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. for the Direct, Banana and Mail Service, which is useful for purpose of reference. Cocoa, coffee and bananas all receive attention and there is an article on "Lemons," which have been successfully grown in Jamaica.

In **The International Sugar Journal** for January an article appears from the able pen of Mr. George Martineau on "The Sugar Convention as a Party Cry," in which he exposes the mis-statements of the Anti-Convention political literature, and puts the causes of the inflated price of sugar of a year ago in its true light. The number also contains papers on the technique of sugar analysis and factory control from the pens of Messrs. Heriot, Galays, and Dr. Horne and a full account of Mr. Sigmund Stein's lecture at the Society of Arts on the English beet industry. The latter gentleman, the present apostle of a British beet industry, and he considers that bigger crops of richer roots can be grown than on the Continent with cheaper manufacture from more modern methods. He calculates that if the farmer receives 18s. per ton from the factory for his roots, he will clear £7 an acre. This opens up such visions of wealth to the British agriculturalist as to deter, we should think effectually, capitalists from taking the matter up as a commercial bonanza.

Trade Circulars. We have to acknowledge with thanks the following West Indian trade Circulars, which are filed at the West India Committee Rooms:—

Barbados Market Review ...	W. L. Jamison & Co., Ltd.	Demerara Market Report ...	Wieting & Richter.
Prices Current ...	J. R. Bancroft & Co.	Trinidad Semi-Monthly Market Report ...	Edgar Tripp & Co.
Mercantile Intelligence ...	James A. Lynch & Co.	Market Report ...	W. J. S. Tucker
Prices Current ...	Gardiner, Austin & Co.	Market Review ...	Geo. R. Alston & Co.
Market Report ...	Leacock & Co.	Prices Current ...	Russ, Trowbridge & Co.
Market Report ...	Jones & Swan	Jamaica: The <i>Gleaner</i> Mercantile Intelligence ...	Gordon, Grant & Co.
Demerara Fortnightly Market Report ...	Chamber of Commerce	Grenada ...	The <i>Gleaner</i> Co.
Mail Report and Prices Current ...	Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd.		P. J. Dean

The Colonial Exhibition, 1905. Report of the Exhibition Committee, Awards of the Judges and full descriptive account of the West Indian Court. London: The West India Committee Rooms, 6d net. This long promised "Souvenir" of last summer's Exhibition, at which Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, and Grenada made such a brave show, has now been published. In a cover of Imperial scarlet it extends to no less than fifty-one pages, on the first of which is a preface by the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, who expresses his appreciation of the great care and trouble which have been taken in this instance to bring under the eyes of the public in the United Kingdom West Indian products and industries, and thereby to further the interests of the British West Indies. Five pages devoted to the report of the Exhibition Committee, and an account in brief form of all that took place with regard to it, contains also very useful hints and suggestions which should prove handy for guidance on future occasions. Stress is laid on the importance of "putting up" and labelling exhibits in an attractive style, and a paragraph is devoted to the desirability of the formation in the Colonies of permanent Exhibition Committees to act in conjunction with a similar Committee in London with a view to securing their representation at a minimum cost upon every possible occasion. This is a matter to which we have constantly adverted in *The West India Committee Circular*, and which we hope will receive attention in the Colonies. A general description of the West Indian Court is followed by a series of "Notes on the Exhibits," from the capable pen of Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.I.S., the Superintendent of the Colonial Collections at the Imperial Institute, which are profusely illustrated and classified under each separate Colony with sub-headings for the various products. The list of Exhibition awards is given in full, and the whole forms an attractive record of the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition, 1905, which was not only financially, as the balance sheet on page 12 shows, but also from a spectacular and educational point of view an unqualified success.

West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

- Mr. E. A. H. HARRARY has resumed his duties as Consul for the Netherlands and for Brazil.
 Mr. A. E. MORLAN has returned to British Honduras, and resumed his duties as Consul for Belgium.
 Mr. H. B. G. ALSTON, Consul for Norway and Sweden, in Barbados, has resumed the duties of his Consulate.
 The Rev. HERBERT A. DICKSON, headmaster of Felsted College, Essex, has been appointed headmaster of Harrison College, Barbados.
 Mr. V. HANSHILL, Consul in Barbados, for Germany, Denmark, Holland, Mexico and Peru, and Vice-Consul for Russia, has resumed the duties of his respective Consulates.
 The Hon. F. M. MAXWELL, K.C., Attorney-General, British Honduras, has been granted an extension of his leave of absence, with half salary, for two months, from December end.
 Sir FRANCIS M. HODGSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Guiana, comes to Anabani on leave in April, when the Hon. Charles T. Cox, C.M.G., Government Secretary, will act as Governor of the Colony.
 The offices of Dr. E. H. DARRINGTON and Dr. J. W. HAWKINS as Health Officers for the Port of Bridgetown, Barbados, have been abolished on the coming into operation of the new Quarantine Ordinance. Both officers receive gratuities.
 Sir HENRY M. JACKSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad, will arrive in England on leave in April, when the Hon. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., will take over the duties of Acting Governor and Mr. W. M. Gordon Ross of Colonial Secretary.

Sir Henry Jackson has served in Newfoundland, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, the Bahamas, and Gibraltar, and has been Governor of the Leeward Islands, Fiji, and Trinidad.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. G. Farmer) January 20th —
Barbados—Mr. Montagu L. Horne, Rev. and Mrs. Basil Patten. **Demerara**—Mr. and Mrs. Boucke, Mr. G. Garnett, Mr. H. Miles, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Carroll. **Jamaica**—Mr. C. H. York Sladen, Mr. H. W. Morduck, Mr. and Mrs. P. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Palmer, Mr. H. B. Smith. **Trinidad**—Miss Penn, Miss Heynon, Mr. John Indermaur, Mr. Thomas Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Hope Finlay, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Venner, Mr. and Mrs. Parrish, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Lowe, Mr. S. Grieve, Mr. W. Grieve, Mr. and Mrs. Kenworthy, Rev. P. Playfair, Rev. Fanshawe, Mr. Wm. Roberts, Mr. C. Guillemaud, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Hunter, Hon. W. S. and Mrs. Robertson, Major the Hon. Wm. Cavendish, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smithett, Mr. C. F. Vlies, Mr. W. T. Brierley, Mr. and Mrs. A. Faulkner, Mr. E. J. Arnold, Mr. J. G. Young, Miss V. C. Grant, Mr. J. A. Brown, Mr. Wm. Noworthy. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. T. Peters, Mr., Mrs., and Miss M. Holborn, Mr. and Mrs. Delos J. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Hornsby. **St. Kitts**—Mr. A. M. Lee. **Montserrat**—Mr. F. Driver.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. O. E. Down), February 3rd: Barbados Mrs. and Miss Yearwood, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Swan, Mr. J. Inniss, the Earl and Countess of Harewood, Hon. E. Lascelles. **Demerara**—Dr. and Mrs. Earle, Mrs. and two Misses McKinnon. **Jamaica**—Mr. Charles Dow. **Trinidad**—Sir Walter and Lady Bartlett, Miss Bannerman, Mr. C. Tennant, Miss Brand, Mr. W. D. P. Skelding, Mr. Jameson, Mr. W. E. Allen, Mr. S. C. Allen, Mr. Rogers, two Messrs. Roberts, Mrs. Levaux, Miss Wright, Mr. G. R. Tindall, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Dixon, Mr. and Miss Bruges, Mr. T. R. Black, Mr. G. Wench, Mr. E. Wench, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Burdon, Mr. Phillip Fisher. **Dominica**—Mr. and Mrs. Agar.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), January 18th —
Jamaica—Mr. H. Abrahams, Miss M. Abrahams, Mrs. E. Abrahams, Rev. Canon Armour, Mr. John Atkins, Major and Mrs. E. E. Decker, Mrs. M. O'Brien, Miss Benson, Mr. D. Bulman, Mr. Bresh, Mr. L. Carvalho, Mrs. Cooper, Capt. and Mrs. E. F. and Miss Corbett, Mrs. and Miss Calder, Miss M. B. Croft, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kilson-Cooke, Mr. Gilbert Danamore, Mr. R. M. Davy, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, R. N. V. R., Mrs. and two Misses Hood Daniel, the Hon. E. H. Ellis, Mr. Hugh Elliot, Miss N. Elliot, two Misses Fial, Mrs. E. A. Foster, Fraulein von Gmsldrop, Mr. W. Huntington, Mr. P. O. Hutchinson, Mrs. R. Hill Jackson, two Misses Jackson, Lieut. R. D. Johnston, Mr. N. Kelp, Miss Kirkwood, Mr. John Lee, C.C., J.P., Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lambert, Mr. C. O. Lambert, Col. E. D. Malcolm, Miss Morgan, Rev. J. C. McKinney, and Lieut. G. W. Nugent, Miss Nordlinger, Mr. H. Nicholls, Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Miss J. N. Pawsay, and Lieut. S. G. Pensonby, Capt. and Mrs. J. W. Rodgers, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Mr. Henry Stokes, Miss Stokes, Miss Salvosen, Miss Spence, Mrs. A. G. Silcock, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Simon, Mr. R. Schmit, Mr. P. W. Evelyn Scott, Mr. A. C. Stephens, Mr. M. C., Mrs. and Miss Solomon, Mr. Rene Sornatuel, Mr. William Taylor, Miss F. B. Taylor, Mr. A. Turner, Mrs. and Miss Wynne, Col. E. D. Way, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Wright, Mr. C. H. Ward, Mr. B. Clarkson, Miss A. Marks, Sergt. and Mrs. S. H. Price, The G. Browell, Mrs. Game, Gunner Sheard, Col. Sergt. Maj. Worsdall. **Bermuda**—Vice-Admiral Sir Wm. and Lady Acland, Mr. H. G. Acland, and Lieut. A. Cornes, and Lieut. W. Teon Garbell, Miss C. Shaw, Mr. J. E. Sinclair, Lieut. and Mrs. C. H. Stainer, Lieut. F. C. Spring, Lt. Master Sergt. and Mrs. Butt, Miss N. Harman, Mr. H. Melville, Mr. A. T. Wright, Sergt. and Mrs. Hammond, Sergts. Heal, Dorris, and J. Wallis.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.) Jan. 17th. "Weather dry, some rain would be acceptable." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Jan. 11th. "There is every prospect of good weather." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Jan. 3rd. **Port Antonio**: "Dec. 20th to Jan. 3rd, Fine." **Kingston**: "Fine, occasional showers."

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.		Closing for Letters in Ldn.			
Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Jan. 26	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Salybia"	Jan. 26, noon.
" 27	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Antonio"	" 26, 6 p.m.
Feb. 1	Demerara	Liverpool	The Liverpool Line	"Bryssel"	" 27, 6 p.m.
" 4	Barbados (for Demerara and W. I. Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Dictator"	" 31, 6 p.m.
" 5	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Orinoco"	Feb. 2, midn.

Homeward Mails.		Closing for Letters in Ldn.			
Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Jan. 29	Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Cheriton"	Jan. 29, noon.
" 31	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Royal"	" 31, 6 p.m.
Feb. 3	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Tango"	" 3, 6 p.m.
" 6	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Sarstoon"	" 6, 6 p.m.

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwt.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwt.	Coconuts	Pimento cwt.	Benjams hanches	Oranges
April 1 to Dec. 9, 05	7,434	20,798	780,233	31,388	4,235,000	65,405	11,798,204	65,039,438
" 10, 04	6,111	16,218	929,731	25,729	2,224,050	122,092	6,279,003	72,957,591

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—It is not possible to reproduce in this issue Mr. Licht's figures of consumption for December last which will make four months of the season's year starting from September 1st, but from all that appears from time to time the increase under this head is disappointing and we must make rapid strides if 1,000,000 tons is to be attained this year in excess of last. At present the indications do not point to this, but one never knows what the future will bring forth. It is also not possible to give the visible supply at even dates on January 1st, but from the figures of production which are put forth, the total will be a large one and far from pleasant to contemplate. It seems now that the total European production is likely to be larger than hitherto estimated and stands as a barrier to any improvement in prices. For the present at least. What is wanted is a 25% reduction in beet sowings this spring, but with new crops selling from 8s. 3d. to 9s. the chances of this seem remote. Up to the present Continental holders have only put forward an amount of sugar sufficient for the world's consumption and have thus arrested any further serious break in prices. The sugar, however, is still there and some day will have to be disposed of, as one scarcely contemplates its being carried over into another season. In the meantime prices show but little variation from week to week and in the almost total absence of any speculative buying this may be considered a favourable feature. Cuba, although delayed by rains seems inclined to give us the largest crop on record, which, of course, will be absorbed by the United States. Being cane sugar it is appreciated there. Beet and any other rubbish is good enough for us.

As we go to press Herr F. U. Licht's figures have arrived. He raises his estimates of Convention Europe's crop for this season to 5,520,000 tons against 3,422,000 tons last year, and the total of Europe to 5,930,000 tons against 4,712,000 tons. The visible supply on the 1st Jan., 1906, he makes 4,126,000 tons against 2,876,000 tons last year. The four months' consumption to 31st Dec., 1905, he places at 2,078,000 tons, against these months in 1904, 2,044,000 tons, and in 1905, 2,038,000 tons. From this it appears consumption so far is stationary, which, taken in conjunction with the large increase in supplies, is the reverse of satisfactory and emphasises the need of at least 25% reduction in beet sowings for next season if prices are to be restored to paying basis. Full particulars of these figures will be printed in the next issue of this Summary.

The closing quotations of 88% Beet are:—January, 8s. 2½d.; May, 8s. 6½d.; Aug. 8s. 8½d. and Oct. Dec., 8s. 10d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	3,300,000	2,760,000	3,340,000	3,170,000	3,030,000	Tons
United States	160,000	70,000	100,000	120,000	120,000	
Cuba	20,000	40,000	100,000	70,000	50,000	
Cargoes afloat	—	30,000	50,000	40,000	10,000	
Total	3,480,000	2,900,000	3,570,000	3,380,000	3,210,000	
Quotations of 88% Beet:	8s. 2½d.	16s. 1½d.	8s. 0½d.	8s. 1d.	6s. 6½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There is practically no change to prices this Month. A fair business has been done in refined crystallised within the range of 14s. to 17s., average qualities remaining 15s. In refining sugars, Java on basis of 20 has been recently selling at 9s. 1½d. on floating terms. West India sugar being worth about 10s. 3d. It will be interesting to see if, with the shelving of preferential trade with the Colonies by the new Labour and Irish directed Government, Canada continues to give West India sugar a preference over other Countries.

Molasses Sugar is steady from 11s. to 12s. For 24 test to Refiners about 11s. 3d. remains the value on floating terms. Peruvians are offering at 7s. 6d.

Muscovado.—Practically nothing here and quotations on the spot uncertain. For 24 test to Refiners, 8s. 3d. has recently been paid on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	3000	1400	1400	400	Tons
Deliveries	16,000	1700	1400	1500	
Stocks	10,000	8000	12,000	29,000	
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 0d.	25s. 3d.	15s. 3d.	14s. 8d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 12 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Home Consumption	3,972,000	4,052,000	3,782,000	4,286,000	Galls
Stocks 31st Dec.	7,193,000	8,505,000	9,510,000	9,461,000	
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	1900	8000	1904	1903	
Demerara	5500	—	9100	10,500	Tons
Demerara is steady, with further sales from 1s. to 1s. 1½d. Jamaica unchanged at 2s. 3d. for fair Standard Marks, with Leewards and other proof kinds 10d. to 1s. 2d. The year's deliveries, according to the Board of Trade Returns printed above, show a steady consumption, but no expansion. Stocks are fairly well reduced.	5700	5500	8600	7700	
Total of all kinds	19,306	20,947	19,392	15,457	Deficiency 1545 ..

Demerara is steady, with further sales from 1s. to 1s. 1½d. Jamaica unchanged at 2s. 3d. for fair Standard Marks, with Leewards and other proof kinds 10d. to 1s. 2d. The year's deliveries, according to the Board of Trade Returns printed above, show a steady consumption, but no expansion. Stocks are fairly well reduced.

Cocoa. Board of Trade Returns for 12 months:

	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	24,360	27,191	28,422	25,054	Tons
Home Consumption	20,757	20,229	18,387	20,377	
Stocks 31st Dec.	3651	5930	3334	4814	
Stocks in London:					
1906	5930	1905	1904	1903	
	68,000	85,000	50,000	69,000	Tons

There is no change in the market, prices remaining steady but with an inactive tone. Trinidad is dull of sale, but Grenada and other West India meet a fairly ready outlet, the demand being chiefly for Cocoa for press. The closing quotations are: Trinidad fair collected, 52s.; Estate Marks, 51s., 50s. and 60s.; Grenada fair, 41s.; fermented, 50s. Board of Trade Returns printed above the year's consumption ending December 31st, 1905, has slightly exceeded that of 1904, which is satisfactory.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 36s. to 40s.

Nutmegs.—Recent sales of West India include 34s. at 20s., 65s. at 14s. 3d., 74s. at 14d., 84s. at 14d., 95s. at 14d., 102s. at 14d., 120s. at 14d.

Pepper.—Sales of good bold pale, 10s. 6d. to 12s. 7d.; pale and reddish, 10s. 4d. to 12s. 3d.; red, 10s. 3d. to 12s. 1d.; pickings, 10s. 1d. **Singer.**—Cocoa. Unchanged. Average qualities of Jamaica, 22s. to 24s.

Arrowroot.—Steady, with moderate sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2d.

Lime Juice.—Steady. Good quality sold at 10d. Concentrated, business done at £16 Hand Pressed, unchanged, value, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, no alteration, quotation, 1s. 3d.

Pimento.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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TO OUR READERS.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR having now been registered at the General Post Office as a newspaper, we hope shortly to be in a position to develop it in many respects, but we must again remind our readers that to enable us to do so, it will be necessary to extend our circulation, which is now more than five times as large as it was when the new series of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR was first issued in 1898. We, therefore, ask our readers to help us to accomplish this purpose by introducing new subscribers. We may add that we shall be pleased at any time to forward specimen copies of the CIRCULAR and particulars of membership of the West India Committee to any addresses which may be sent to us by our readers.—ED.

THE holiday season was in full swing when the homeward mail by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamship "Orinoco" left the West Indies, and business was consequently almost at a standstill. Rain was wanted in most of the Islands, where the sugar canes were showing a tendency to ripen prematurely, owing to the dry weather. In British Guiana, however, good rains had fallen, which were in some places too heavy. In that Colony an important resolution had been passed by the Chamber of Commerce with regard to the rum Surtax, a matter which still continues materially to affect the welfare of all the rum exporting Colonies. The full text of this resolution will be found below, as well as the monthly figures of exports of mineral and forest products. We are also able to give a statement of cocoa shipped from Trinidad during the past year. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:

Antigua—Cotton Prospects

Mr. Hesketh Bell was leaving the Colony by the mail, on his way to take up the Governorship of Uganda, and Sir Robert Bromley was expected to arrive from St. Kitts on January 1st, the day on which the Hon. FREDERICK POORE wrote, to administer the Government.

The weather had been dry, only light showers having fallen, and the canes, although green, were in need of heavy rains. They were now reaping cotton, and the crop promised to be larger than last year's. An official service in memory of the late Governor, Sir C. Courtenay Knollys, was held in the Cathedral, on Thursday, December 21st.

The *Antigua Standard* of December 23rd gave an interesting account of a visit to the Experimental Stations and Stock Farm at Skeeretts.

Barbados—The Mail Difficulty.

In his letter of January 4th, the Hon. FREDERICK M. ALLEYNE complained that every week accentuated the inconvenience of the present mail system. There was uncertainty and delay in the departure, and the arrivals were no longer punctual. Banana growers were in despair, and Mr. Alleyne, personally, had ceased to ship. Mr. Ravell stated that the average prices of bananas shipped per S.S. "Orinoco" on October 25th was less than 1s. per bunch, and only 1,485 crates out of the 1,000 shipped by that vessel were carried in the cold storage hold. Of those in the S.S. "Atrato" nearly 50% were rotten. Constant representations had been made to the Colonial Office. All the Islands appeared to be willing to contribute a subsidy, and the writer was confident that if a joint petition were sent from the West Indian Colonies, the Government must give way. The "Orinoco," which was publicly announced to have been detained at New York, and would, therefore, not arrive till Wednesday, was after all advertised to sail on Sunday. All their letters would now have to be hurried on, and the pressure it put on their correspondences could be imagined.

Everybody regretted extremely in Liverpool would be especially felt. Everybody regretted extremely in Liverpool would be especially felt.

The cable had broken down some days ago, for the third time since the writer's return to the Colony, and it would doubtless be noticed that the proposed withdrawal of the French troops from Guadeloupe was made the signal for a dangerous "emancipation." It was like to say, even after the events of the last two years, that the danger with regard to withdrawing the white troops from the West Indies, was illusory.

The Old Year had gone out leaving them very dry. For the past three weeks no rain of any importance had fallen, and on many estates the canes were ripening rapidly and prematurely. The young plants put in in November and the

early part of December made a good start, but unless rain came quickly, they must receive a bad check. The cotton crop had been doing well hitherto, but recently the "red maggot" had made its appearance, and was very difficult to combat.

There had again been several fires during the fortnight; the tardiness of issuing the notice of rewards, in case of conviction, greatly impaired the usefulness of the latter.

A tercentenary postage stamp was to be issued.

British Guiana—The Rum Surtax.

When Mr. A. SUMMERSON closed his letter on January 3rd, crystals were quoted at \$1.87. The exports of sugar for the year amounted to 113,000 tons, and there were still some 12,000 tons stored in town awaiting shipment.

Good rains had fallen during the fortnight, and in some places they had been a bit too heavy.

The following resolutions had been passed at a meeting of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce with regard to the rum Surtax:—

Whereas the Surtax of 4d. per gallon imposed by the British Government on rum manufactured in the British West Indian Islands and British Guiana, and imported into Great Britain, is felt to be a distinct injustice to this Colony, and bears harshly on the distillers, who carry out their trade under strict Government supervision, for which they have to pay taxation locally; and

Whereas such Surtax was characterised by the Royal Commissioners who visited the West Indies so long back as 1897 as unsound in principle, and entailing hardship on the Colonies, and that the answer of the Home Government to previous remonstrances could not be considered satisfactory; and

Whereas all appeals to the Government have failed to get the relief which is justly due to the distillers of this Colony,

Be it resolved: "That this Chamber of Commerce of British Guiana desires to place on record its request that at the sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire to be held in July, 1906, the subject of this Surtax of 4d. per gallon on rum exported from British Guiana and imported into Great Britain be considered, and that the Congress do take such steps as it may deem desirable to bring about the abolition of such Surtax."

It was further resolved that a copy of the above resolution be sent to the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce to be placed before the Congress.

The Combined Court met on Friday, Dec. 22nd, to vote a sum of money to meet the expenses in connection with the addition to the strength of the police force and the re-activation of the volunteer force, the official cost of the purchase of horses, saddlery, &c., being estimated at \$16,419 and the annual cost \$21,276. Mr. Dargan moved an amendment, which was, however, defeated. With reference to telegraphy, the West India and Panama Telegraph Company had informed the Government that even though the subsidy were raised to its former figure, it would be impossible for them to put down a duplicate cable, and a Wireless Telegraphy Corporation had made the Government an offer, which had been withdrawn. The International Telegraph Construction Company offered to establish a wireless system for \$12,000 and a royalty. The Government considered the Post Office authorities could do it for \$6,480 plus \$960 for building. The Government scheme was objected to on account of the messages having to be transmitted beyond Trinidad by the W. I. P. T. Co., and probably penalised by them, and the vote was ultimately withdrawn. A vote of \$1,000 was passed for the hire of steamers, &c., and expenses in connection with the visit of the "Sappho" and the "Diamond" at the recent riots.

We have to thank Mr. T. Sydney Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests for the figures of mineral and forest products exported from British Guiana during December. For the purpose of comparison we reproduce those of the two preceding months also.

	December, 1905.	November, 1905.	October, 1905.
	QUANTITY.	QUANTITY.	QUANTITY.
Gold, raw	7,235	8,863	8,676 ozs.
Diamonds	—	1,251	120 carats.
Timber: greenheart, mora, &c. ...	16,559	31,698	36,268 cub. ft.
Lumber	—	562	270 ft.
Shingles, Wallaba	270,500	39,500	348,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts ...	—	560	576
Woods, Firewoods, &c.	330½	433	306 tons.
Charcoal	4,447	5,233	5,001 bags.
Gums, Locust, &c.	364	500	1,133 lbs.
.. Balata	28,992	43,226	91,737 "
.. Rubber	—	352	824 "
Railway sleepers (Mora)... ..	—	7,000	—

Dominica—Mr. Herbert Bell's Departure.

In his letter of January 1st, Mr. E. A. Agar stated that a dance had been given by the Acting Administrator Mr. Bell on Dec. 28th, and on the 29th several addresses were presented to him. He had also been given a souvenir in the form of a piece of plate, subscribed for by the public.

The coasting steamer "Yare" returned on December 23rd, and had resumed her work. Cheering crowds went down to the sea front to welcome her arrival.

The year which had just closed had been a satisfactory one: coconuts, which looked as if it would have been very short, had exceeded expectations, and the lime crop had been decidedly good. As usual, there was progress to record. A jetty and the "Carnegie" library (nearly completed) were amongst the buildings. Considerable areas of Crown Lands had been taken up, and the Imperial Road had been extended. But there was still ample cause of complaint with regard to the condition of existing roads, especially those classed as second and third. Of course, the number of these roads was very great, and the funds available inadequate, but something more might be done by re-arranging the financial scheme.

Cable communication had been interrupted since Dec. 28th.

Arrangements were practically complete now for the "Yare" to run to Barbados and catch the home-going boat there, whereby a week in time would be saved, and transhipment greatly facilitated.

The weather lately had been rather wetter than, perhaps, was necessary, but not wet enough really to spoil the prospects of the estates' cocoa crops, for which flowering had begun rather early.

Cocoa Shipments from Trinidad, January 1st to December 31st, 1905.

We have received from Mr. Fenwick the following statement of cocoa shipped from Trinidad by the different lines of steamers:—

Month.	Royal Mail.	Royal Mail.	French Mail.	Guinean Line.	Bostonian Line.	Dutch Mail.	Dutch Mail.	La Veloce Line.	Trinidad Line.	Italian Line.	Haitian Line.	Canadian Line.	Elder Dempster Line.	Baranilla.	Total.
Jan.	Europe.	N.Y.	Europe.	Europe.	Europe.	Europe.	N.Y.	Europe.	N. York.	N. York.	N. York.	Canada.	New York.	Baranilla.	
January...	4,490	—	2,425	1,750	304	3,465	559	—	10,584	—	—	—	—	—	23,406
February...	7,630	—	—	4,493	1,670	4,932	4,514	—	6,077	1,746	1,981	—	—	200	34,003
March...	4,081	—	4,747	1,450	582	2,401	4,438	50	10,359	528	—	200	—	25	32,993
April...	1,034	—	—	701	1,583	1,583	6,122	3,078	50	3,720	830	—	—	—	20,660
May...	1,034	—	—	2,650	2,000	2,000	2,885	—	30	2,972	—	300	—	—	24,667
June...	3,793	—	5,676	1,150	2,904	7,532	5,737	100	2,501	—	—	—	—	—	30,263
July...	1,972	—	4,040	1,250	1,974	8,251	6,126	100	1,678	—	—	—	—	—	26,101
August...	2,052	—	2,272	1,516	360	4,039	7,522	175	5,822	—	—	—	—	—	19,114
September...	408	—	430	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,751
October...	567	75	—	350	30	1,244	722	100	3,718	—	—	—	—	—	10,000
Nov. ...	2,801	50	4,314	2,500	300	2,544	2,664	650	11,077	—	—	125	—	—	26,219
December...	1,034	467	2,070	—	1,388	3,598	8,061	—	14,475	—	—	—	2,224	—	44,295
	52,119	623	32,603	24,632	17,547	55,456	40,950	1,075	87,420	3,204	2,556	584	2,224	1,307	237,272

Totals: Europe, 148,781; New York, 136,339; Canada, 785; Savanilla, 1,367=287,272

These figures, which are made up from books of the Harbour Master, differ somewhat from the earlier statement of shipments kindly furnished by Mr. L. L. Bernstein, owing to an error in addition, but may be taken as correct.

Our Library.

The *Agricultural News*, Vol. 5, No. 97 (obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, post free, 1s. 6d.) The leading article in this issue of the fortnightly review of the Imperial Department of Agriculture deals with our proposals for the formation of permanent exhibition Committees in our West India Colonies. The desirability of the adoption of this course has been frequently urged in *The West India Committee Circular*, and it is satisfactory to find that it is receiving the continued support of Sir Daniel Morris.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), January 23rd. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), January 17th. "Weather dry, some rain would be acceptable." **Trinidad** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), Jan. 22nd. "Weather continues favourable."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.	British Guiana.	Jamaica.	Trinidad.	Grenada.
	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1905	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1904	April 1 to Dec. 24, 1904	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1905	Oct. 1 to Jan. 1, 1906
Sugar	41,790 57,389 Tons.	213,247 106,680 Tons.	7647 6279 Tons.	280,315 307,804 Bgs. & Hbls.	—
Molasses	37,766 45,039 Pns.	3500 2834 Pns.	—	3088 2067 Pns.	—
Rum	—	—	790,543 632,599 Gallns.	178 50 Hbls.	—
Molasscut	—	—	—	165 130 Hbls.	—
Cocoa	—	57,797 105,646 lbs.	20,137 16,585 Cwts.	500 1021 Pns.	—
Coffee	—	—	44,520,525 40,760,420 lbs.	—	22,915 17,326 Hbls.
Coconuts	—	465,071 417,314	35,039 28,854 "	12,510 64,995 "	—
Copra	—	—	4,590,794 2,364,618	71,202,207 2,350,012	—
Cotton	—	—	—	41,100 16,036 bags	—
Cotton Seed	—	—	43,307 10,542 lb. B.	—	—
Asphalt	—	—	—	107,470 735,387 Tons.	—
Oranges	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas	—	—	68,130,928 74,083,641	—	—
Pimento	—	—	12,124,020 6,528,647 Hbls.	—	—
Spice	—	—	66,932 124,574 Cwts.	—	—
Gold	—	—	—	—	—
Diamonds	—	91,736 90,102 cts.	—	—	—
		5887 11,043 cwt. lbs.			

PRICE: 1286 7987 Hbls.
201 459 1/2 Hbls.
140 200 Cases
42 17 Bags

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down) Jan. 20th:—
Barbados—Mr. A. T. Walsley, Col. Granville Egerton, C.B., Rev. F. C. Head
Jamaica—Mr. Chas. Downall, Mr. J. C. Hamilton, Miss Craigie
Trinidad—Mr. J. Wain, Mr. Ingram, Mr. W. H. R. Rivers, Mr. H. H. Brindley, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold
Dominica—Mr. and Mrs. Oursly, His Excellency H. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., Lt.-Col. W. C. Anderson, D.S.O.
St. Lucia—

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LX.



Sir Thomas Pittar, K.C.B.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Feb. 1st, 1906

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

THE Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition, an account of the opening of which will be found on a later page, brings once more prominently to the front the general subject of the value of industrial exhibitions as a means of spreading information as to the general condition and commercial capabilities of far off Colonies among the mass of the people here. It was the custom in the past for our West Indian Colonies, or at least the larger of them, whose interests had been concentrated, more or less, in one or two industries which were so well established as to need perhaps no special advertisement, to look upon these exhibitions as calculated to be of little use to them. They saw no immediate advantage resulting, and were apt to grudge the expense incurred. This was a short-sighted policy and we are glad to say that a different position is now being taken up, and it is being recognised that anything which makes a Colony better known in the Mother Country, which brings its natural resources before the public, and anything whereby a recognition of the value of its industries is brought to likely

consumers, must be of good in the long run. This principle constitutes the sum and substance of advertising, and there is no form of advertisement so cheap and forcible as that of well conducted industrial exhibitions in busy centres. This has been well illustrated by the results of the Colonial Exhibition of last year at Sydenham, which was not only a source of pleasure and profit to many thousands of the British public, but also of benefit to Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Grenada, the Islands participating. Some time ago we advocated the formation of Permanent Exhibition Committees in the West Indian Colonies, so that the machinery might always be at hand for giving effect to any exhibition scheme, and in *The Agricultural News*, of January 6th, the suggestion is, we are glad to see, again cordially approved by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. A small vote, for exhibition purposes, to facilitate the working of these Committees, should, as a result, be a regular item in the Colonial budgets. The West Indies have now, as regards general produce, got their footing on the commercial ladder. Apart from sugar and cocoa, commodities less known to the British public, such as honey, limes, grape fruit, cigars, preserves, &c., are becoming recognised, while the attention which is becoming drawn to the attractions of the West India Islands is enticing tourists of all descriptions. The proposed Committees, we suggest, should work in conjunction with the West India Committee at all suitable exhibitions in Great Britain, and with adequate organisation and practice of this kind, West Indian participation in them would become more effective, and consequently of greater benefit to the Colonies concerned. The consuming public now realise that sugar and rum are not the only products of the West Indies, and they are beginning to take a practical interest in their other resources and commodities, the development of which is so desirable, and it is of the highest importance that this interest should be fostered and encouraged in every way.

We are now informed on the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that a white force of artillery and engineers will after all be retained in Jamaica. Though its numbers cannot at present be absolutely stated, we consider the fact, that this concession has been made, decidedly good news, as the fast cruiser which is to be stationed permanently in the West Indies will now be freer to patrol the waters of the less distant Islands and British Guiana, than she would have been if Jamaica were entirely dependent upon a share of her services. The Government are now "satisfied that this provision, coupled with the annual visit of a cruiser squadron, will be sufficient to ensure the security of life and property provided that the West Indian Colonies do their part in contributing to their own safety by taking steps to ensure that their police forces are kept up to a proper strength and standard of efficiency." This last sentence, which we quote from a letter from the Earl of Elgin to the West India Committee, merits the careful consideration and attention of our West Indian Colonies. Already active steps have been taken in the Leeward Islands to put the local forces on a sounder footing, and in British Guiana, where the excellence of the police force was strikingly demonstrated during the recent regrettable disturbances, and the trouble and money spent upon it fully justified, a volunteer force is being raised to assist the local militia, which has been subjected to judicious pruning with the view of rendering it a more healthy and efficient unit. Barbados offers a more difficult problem, owing to its teeming and one race population, but there, too, the local legislature is alive to the sense of its responsibilities, and a volunteer force is at last to be raised. On the whole, then, the position may be said to have taken a turn for the better. The publicity given to this question of the withdrawal of the troops has resulted in the retention of a small force in Jamaica, and although we do not consider that the claims of the Colonies have been fully met, we may well, for Imperial reasons apart from merely local considerations be grateful for the concession as showing an increased sense of watchfulness on the part of the Government over our West Indian possessions. While we are, however, thankful for small mercies, it is impossible to help

contrasting the opinion held by the late Government as to the strategical value of the West Indies with that displayed when the construction of the Nicaraguan Canal by the United States was contemplated. It was about that time decided to make St. Lucia a military centre and naval coaling station, the importance of its position on the future sea route to the East, we presume, being fully recognised, and large sums of money have been spent with that object in view on fortifications, barracks, dredging, &c. In no way has the situation changed since then, save that a trans-Isthmian Canal is becoming an actuality, and that the United States are increasing every day their political and commercial grip on the line of route. We cannot but feel that Imperial interests in this part of the world are being made subsidiary to the carrying out of one of the numerous schemes of defence which have produced so much military and naval unrest in the last few years. We quite endorse the principle of the Colonies doing their own police work and safeguarding their internal affairs, but the Imperial West Indian question goes outside this. When these Islands were first discovered, it was thought that they formed the eastern limits of the Indies, and received their name therefrom. The advantage of a western route to the East was recognized even in those days, and although the golden vision of the early explorer was not realised then, we are now within a measurable distance of something very like it—of a western road to the East, where our interests have grown to an extent never dreamt of in those days. How are our enormous interests, interests not only of the West Indies but of British commerce generally, at present safeguarded in this connection? By leaving a strongly fortified and armed harbour, with its stores of coal, at the mercy of any hostile man-of-war—who would find St. Lucia swept and garnished, and ready for immediate occupation? We fear, although we sincerely trust that matters will not be allowed to go as far as to lead to it, that the abandonment of the naval and military positions of the West Indies may prove to be another of those mistakes which have cost the Empire so much.

We publish elsewhere a letter from MR. J. C. NOLAN, the Jamaica Commissioner for the protection of Jamaica rum, referring to our comments in *The West India Committee Circular* of the 19th ult., regarding the recent Jamaica rum prosecution at the Guildhall, to which, by the way, we should have been pleased to have sent a reporter had we been aware that it was taking place. MR. NOLAN is unable to see how the "rights" of Jamaica can be the "wrongs" of any other Colony. Surely when in the course of upholding the cause of Jamaica rum, all rums not made in a pot still are held not to be rum at all, the wrongs of other West Indian rums not so distilled come out very prominently. MR. NOLAN, when he speaks of the patent still—and we presume that by "patent" he means stills of the Coffey type—only producing alcohol of very high strength, is evidently not aware that rum of different strengths can be made in these stills, and that when these are used in the British West Indies, it is generally customary to run the still so that the mean strength is only two or three degrees of proof above the pot still product. As a matter of fact, there is much less difference in the proportion of ethers between our pot still and patent still rum, made otherwise under the same conditions, than there is between different brands of Jamaica rum, and in this connection it may be mentioned that one of the best Demerara marks has been made for the last forty years with a Coffey still, and that on one occasion the proprietor objected to any change being made in the still, lest the reputation of the mark should be injured! We are afraid that much misconception has arisen as to patent still working from the object for which many of them have been constructed, viz., to make strong silent spirit from grain, &c. This does not mean, however, that a spirit of lower strength and containing the essential flavour cannot be made by patent stills. MR. NOLAN is quite correct in saying that rum made in Hamburg from molasses is not rum, but the patent still has not necessarily anything to do with this. As we mentioned in the article to which the Jamaica Commissioner has taken exception, fermentation under tropical conditions is necessary for the true production of rum; the West Indian distiller being

indebted to the atmosphere for the "wild" yeast used, to which, given the necessary sugar products, the characteristic flavour of rum is due. But when MR. NOLAN states that the lines of his prosecutions are being based on such statements that no rum is rum, even though made on a sugar estate from sugar cane products and containing the essential flavouring matter of rum, unless it is made with a pot still, we think we are quite justified in concluding that harm is likely to be done to the rum trade by them. The real fact of the matter is that the question is one of degree and not of kind. Surely MR. NOLAN would not say that because crystallized sugar from cane is made in a vacuum pan and thus does not possess the luscious sweetness of muscovado, it is not less entitled to the term cane sugar! Indeed, it appears to us that the analogy can be carried further, and silent spirit compared in this connection to beet sugar which has to be purified from its objectionable characteristic features, in other words made silent, before it becomes fit for consumption, and which is coloured to imitate West Indian yellow sugar in the same way as "silent" spirit is made to imitate, by flavouring, West Indian rum. We thoroughly sympathise with the efforts of the Jamaica planters to prevent their valuable product being fraudulently imitated, and recognise the seriousness to them of the loss which MR. NOLAN mentions they have suffered of recent years from this cause, but we still hold that in the interests of the West Indies as a whole—and it is these interests we have to consider rather than those of any particular Colony—the proper course would have been, by united action, to endeavour to stop the sale of *imitation* rum, and thus not give rise to the questions which cannot assist MR. NOLAN'S cause, and the ventilation of which in Courts of Law cannot fail to leave an unjustified unpleasant impression on the minds of consumers, who will form the idea that there is only one kind of genuine rum—to wit—Jamaica, and look with suspicion on any other brand, no matter how genuine it is.

Sir Thomas John Pittar, K.C.B.

Though he has never visited the West Indies, Sir Thomas John Pittar, whose portrait we give on the first page of this issue, is well known to West Indians as the principal official expert at the Brussels Conference, 1901-2. He now occupies the important position of Chairman of the Board of Customs, and was, until quite lately, an assistant British delegate to the Brussels Permanent Commission. But though the duties of his present post have necessitated his resignation of his seat on the Commission, he still watches over the interests of our West Indian Colonies. Sir Thomas was head of the Statistical Office of the Board of Customs from 1889 to 1900, in which years he was appointed a Commissioner, and acceded to his present position in 1903. He is the author of "The Law and Practice regulating the Registration of Merchant Shipping, 1881," and for ten years edited the Board of Trade Returns relating to the trade of the United Kingdom, a task of considerable magnitude. Sir Thomas is a fellow and late member of the Council of the Royal Statistical Society.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will be held on Thursday, February 8th. At a meeting of the Executive, on Thursday, January 25th, the following were elected:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconded.
JOHN SALVO DE LA MOTHE (Grenada).	John T. Haynes.	E. L. Marshall.
THE LONDON & INDIA DOCKS Co.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
G. M. BETHUNE (Demerara).	Messrs. Jas. Ewing & Co.	E. L. Marshall.
JOHN CAMERON (Jamaica).	Messrs. Jas. Ewing & Co.	E. L. Marshall.

It is hoped that our readers will do their best to help to strengthen the Committee and increase the circulation of *The West India Committee Circular*, by introducing fresh candidates for election.



PHOTO BY ALBERTUS B. JAGRETT.

Photograph.

MARKET DAY, CAYMANAS ESTATE.

JAMAICA.

Market Day on a Sugar Estate.

Market day, which synchronises with pay day on a West Indian sugar estate, presents a busy scene. The women folk, clothed in spotless white dresses, chatter and haggle over their bargains to an extent which renders a visit amusing and interesting to the onlooker. The photograph, from which our full page illustration is reproduced, was taken on Caymanas Estate, Jamaica.

A Hundred Years Ago.

The fiscal vagaries of the Irish Parliament during the last half of the eighteenth century were a source of considerable trouble and apprehension to the West India merchants. In 1773 rum had been placed at a disadvantage in relation to brandy, in spite of promises to the contrary, evidently in deference to the tastes of the Irish gentry of those days. In 1778 a bill came before Parliament to permit of the direct importation of sugar into Ireland, which had previously only been allowed through the United Kingdom, and representations were made to Lord North that were this to become law great danger would arise of foreign sugar being shipped into Ireland as British, unless special provisions were made to guard against it. It was consequently arranged that Sir Lucius O'Brien, the Speaker of the Irish Parliament, should meet a Committee of the West India merchants, and on April 29th, 1778, the interview took place. From our old minute books we extract the following :

" Sir Lucius O'Brien met the Committee, and after a conversation it was agreed to offer a bill to Parliament to amend the several clauses of the 4th of the present King, relative to the preventing of foreign sugars being shipt from the British Sugar Islands, as British, having not hitherto answered the intended purposes, it being the general opinion of the planters that if the bills now in Parliament for opening a direct trade to Ireland from the West India Islands, pass into law, great quantities of foreign sugar may be introduced into Ireland, unless some effectual measures be taken to prevent it.

" And Sir Lucius O'Brien assured the Committee that the Legislature of Ireland will heartily concur in every measure that may confine the consumption of sugar in Ireland to that of the British Islands.

" He likewise assured the Committee that he was confident nothing would be done in the Irish Parliament to encourage the Irish refiner of sugar to rival the British refiner in a foreign market."

Sugar Machinery for the West Indies.

In spite of the present depressed condition of the sugar market the removal of the bounties has unquestionably increased the confidence of plantation owners in the future of cane sugar, and we have previously pointed out to our readers that an unmistakeable proof of the existence of this confidence lies in the fact that more machinery is being sent out to the West Indies than has been the case for some years. The latest instance is that of an exceptionally powerful grinding plant which Messrs. Booker Brothers, McConnell & Company, Limited, have just shipped for their plantation " Port Mourant," in Berbice. This plant consists of a three-roller mill with Krajewski crusher, with provision for a second mill to be added at some time in the near future to complete an eight-roller mill driven by one engine. The mill rollers are 34 ins. in diameter by 72 ins. long, all interchangeable, and the engine has steam cylinder, 32 ins. diameter by 60 ins., stroke fitted with piston slide valve, and suitable for a steam pressure of 120 lbs. per square inch. The mill is fitted with pusher feed gear and mechanical juice strainer with "cush-cush," elevator combined. A trolley is provided which permits of the easy and rapid removal of the cane roller if necessary at any time. Altogether the plant appears to be of the most up-to-date form, and the fact that the order has been given to an English firm, Messrs. G. Fletcher & Co., of Derby, instead of going to the United States as, we believe, was originally contemplated, is all the more gratifying as showing a renewal of confidence in British mill makers.

The Indian Sugar Market.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of the 17th inst., in its leading article over the signature of our friend, M. George Dureau, refers to the statement recently made by the London Correspondent of the *Temps* to the effect that, as Russian was the only sugar imported into India, the relations between Russia and Great Britain were likely to become strained should the tariff reformers come into power at the election. He quotes Dr. Paasche's figures to show that the Russian sugar imports are practically nil, the bulk coming from Austria-Hungary, Mauritius and Java, the cane sugar from the latter two sources largely predominating, owing to the diversion from the United States due to the reciprocity treaty between that country and Cuba. M. Dureau considers that the competition in the Indian markets will be confined to the Austro-German beet and Mauritius and Java cane sugar. Cost price and quality will decide the matter, and it is doubtful whether any endeavours in the direction of rejecting the use of granulated beet under the pretext, void of foundation, that this sugar is made with animal charcoal and therefore tabooed to the Hindoo, will prevail against its superiority of manufacture.

Selection of Cotton Seed.

The importance of careful selection of cotton seed in the West Indies is a matter to which the Imperial Department of Agriculture is drawing attention. It is well recognised by the planters in America that it is only by careful selection that the staple can be kept up to its present quality; selection is inseparable from the success of the Sea Island cotton industry. It may, therefore, be realised that the methods adopted by the leading planters in the Sea Islands are of a careful and painstaking nature, so much so that they might be regarded as models for plant breeders throughout the world. Seeds of the Sea Island plant were taken from the Bahamas in 1785 and planted in Georgia. The first step was to secure by planting only the earliest produced seeds, an earlier maturing plant. Having attained this, the planters started a very careful system of selection with the view of increasing the length, strength, and fineness of the staple. In this way the production of the finest quality cotton in the world has been attained. The grower generally selects several plants each year from which to breed, and the seed from these is sown in a special plot from which in the following year one or two plants are again selected to supply seed for a similar plot, and so on year after year. At the same time each small plot supplies seed to plant a larger area, say, five acres, from which the general crop of the following year is planted.

At a conference of the Commissioner and officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, held recently for the purpose of discussing the question of the selection of cotton seed for the next planting season at Barbados, it was decided to adopt a system based generally on the above lines. The several officers of the Department will be responsible for the selection of the best plants for seed on certain estates allotted to them. The plants, after being selected in the field, are to be marked with strips of red cloth and have numbers attached to them. All the seed-cotton produced by these plants is to be specially picked by one picker and placed in separate bags, numbered to correspond with the plants. The several bags, duly numbered and secured, are to be forwarded to the Department in order that the weight of seed-cotton, the length of staple, proportion of weak fibres, and other characteristics may be fully worked out. The seed from the plants which are proved to have produced the largest quantity of the finest and strongest lint will be used next season for planting selection plots.

The Liverpool Colonial Exhibition.

The now annual exhibition of Colonial products in Liverpool was opened by the Earl of Derby in St. George's Hall on Tuesday, January 30th. The West Indies are represented at it by the Colony

of Grenada, whose newly-formed Permanent Exhibition Committee thus takes the opportunity of making their first important display, though, indeed, they have already won their spurs at the recent Royal Horticultural Show; and also by several private exhibitors. These latter included Mr. Thomas Dowd, the fruit merchant of Moorfields, Liverpool, whose splendid display of West Indian fruit occupied the whole of the Crown Court. Upwards of fifty tons of fruit, among which bananas, oranges, shaddocks, and grape fruit predominated, were carried for him by the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, of which he is agent, for the purposes of this Exhibition, and this energetic individual is naturally the recipient of many congratulations upon his enterprise, from which Jamaica will, undoubtedly, reap much benefit. Then there are the Jamaica tobacco and cigars of the Golofina Tobacco Company, and Messrs. B. and J. B. Machado, which are rapidly becoming better known and as much appreciated in this country as they have been for many years past in the West Indies; Messrs. William Alfred Jones & Co., with their banana specialities, "Bananine," "Bananine Cocoa" and "Bananina," the Jamaica Preserves and Honey Co., Ltd., who show preserves, pickles, bottled fruits, and honey from Jamaica, and the Pure Cane Sugar Company, together with Messrs. James Philip & Co., the heroes of many such exhibitions, as their numerous awards for pure cane sugars, "Philernum," the exquisite liqueur, Blue Mountain coffee, rums, and West Indian produce generally, testify. It is interesting to be able to state that this old established firm is about to be considerably extended and developed, a matter to which we shall hope to revert at an early date.



A Deep of the Grand Stang, Grenada.

The appearance of the Grenada Court at once makes it apparent that the Permanent Exhibition Committee of the Colony has profited by the experience of the past summer. The Grenada Section was satisfactory at Sydenham; at Liverpool it is, we venture to think, excellent. The exhibits have been strengthened by the addition of fine specimens of cocoa from Mount Home (artificially dried), Mount Rich, Tuileries and Gouyave estates. The cocoa is shown under glass in an octagonal pyramidal show case, sufficient being left outside for experts to handle. Specimens of different kinds of cocoa in the pod are shown in tall glass jars. The glass ware used is, as before, of excellent quality, and there has not been a single exhibit held back as being in an unfit condition to show, if we may, perhaps, except one jar the contents of which suffered from the voyage. To this satisfactory result the Hon. F. Gurney largely contributed, it being he who originated the system adopted of putting up the fruits in Grenada. Papaws, tamarinds, star apples, Chili plums, ramsie, castor oil plants, cardamums and cotton bolls, to mention a few of the bottled specimens only, were all in apple-pie order. On this occasion each exhibit is labelled with a small label, the arrangements for printing which were made on this side to "copy" provided by the Colony, and this system of labelling, which was recommended in the recent Exhibition Souvenir of the West India Committee, is greatly appreciated.

A small eight-page handbook, descriptive of Grenada, is distributed in considerable numbers. Mr. C. Falconer Anton, the Secretary of the Grenada Agricultural Society and the Permanent Exhibition Committee, is the compiler, and its pages are embellished by four half tone illustrations, of



Curing Cocoa in Grenada.

which two are reproduced in this issue of *The West India Committee Circular*. In conclusion we give the names of the Permanent Exhibition Committee, to whom so much credit is due. Mr. P. J. Dean is Chairman, and he is supported by Hon. F. Gurney, Hon. E. M. de Freitas, Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. L. R. Mitchell, with Mr. C. Falconer Anton, as Secretary. The Secretary of the West India Committee was present on the opening day to receive visitors, and until the Exhibition closes on February 8th, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hankinson, whose efforts in connection with the Exhibition of last summer were recognised in our Souvenir of it, will be daily in attendance to explain the various exhibits. Pressure on our space precludes us from dealing as we should like to do with the exhibit of British grown cotton, kindly lent by the Imperial Institute, and which was arranged by Mr. W. G. Freeman, and sundry other exhibits, but we hope to again refer to them at an early date. We propose also to give some illustrations of this Exhibition, which promises to be most successful.

The Royal Horticultural Shows.

We are informed by the Rev. W. Wilks, Secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, that there will be in all three shows of Colonial fruit, under the auspices of that organisation, at the Royal Horticultural Hall this year, the dates being: March 22nd and 23rd, June 6th and 7th, and December 4th and 6th, and we would again remind our friends in the West Indies that we shall be very glad to receive and exhibit free of all charge any available fruit, vegetables, preserves, &c., which may be sent over. We are afraid that time will not permit of co-operation in the first of these, except where arrangements have already been made in the Colonies, but it is desirable that an early intimation of intention to exhibit in the second should be sent to the Secretary of the West India Committee. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have again kindly consented to carry exhibits freight free. The Council of the Horticultural Society having decided that the shows of this year will be taken to indicate whether they shall be continued or withdrawn from their programmes in the future, it behoves the West Indies to make a special effort on this occasion.

Immigration Prospects.

We understand that the prospects of emigration from Calcutta to the West Indies are likely to improve, owing to threatened food scarcity in the district whence the coolies are mainly recruited. The statistics recently published with regard to the enormous sums brought back from British Guiana

by repatriated emigrants, have, we learn, attracted the attention of the Indian Governments, as well they might. It is reported that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company of Sydney, who represent some 70% of the trade of Fiji, is endeavouring to obtain the consent of the Indian Government to the shipment annually of some 8,000 Punjabis, for a few months only, on similar lines to those adopted when the Uganda railway was under consideration. Karachi would be the port of despatch, as Bombay is closed on account of plague. Legislation, however, would be required, as there are only three ports from which emigration is at present permissible by law, that is to say, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The emigrants would receive a daily wage of one rupee. There appears, however, to be little likelihood of such a concession being made.

Liberals and the Brussels Convention.

Referring to the utterances of the present Prime Minister as to the Brussels Convention, the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, for January says: "The possession of power, it is true, often modifies the politician's 'point of view.' But putting every question of principle aside, England and her Colonies have certainly an interest in persevering on the road inaugurated by the Brussels Convention. The non-continuance of this agreement would in effect be the signal for the re-establishment of the cartel in Germany and Austria, and armed afresh with this redoubtable instrument, these two powerful exporters would not delay in breaking down all opposition, and in controlling the sugar market to the detriment of sugar producers and consumers in general, and those of England in particular. What do the Liberals want? So far from discontinuing the Brussels Convention, the proper course seems to us, on the contrary, to be to strengthen it, to enlarge its base and increase its efficacy by securing the prompt adhesion of new States to it. This will be the best way of realising the policy of cheap sugar lauded by the Liberal Party, to assure the normal development of competition, and to make possible the suppression or reduction of the tax and of the charges which are too often still imposed on the consumer for the profit of the producer. Such should be henceforth the object of Governments really liberal and friends of progress."

Agricultural Prospects in Jamaica.

Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Jamaica, and one of our Hon. Correspondents in that Island, has sent us some interesting notes regarding the future prospects of the agricultural industries of the Colony, from which it appears that the new year in Jamaica has opened with a brighter outlook than for many years. After a short but sharp spell of drought at the end of June and in July, which injured the coffee crop, then giving promise of heavy bearing, a good deal in the drier districts, but which was actually favourable for it in wet localities, the Island experienced magnificent growing weather right on. Even in the very dry districts the rain has been steady, and the crops of sugar cane are very heavy so far as tonnage of cane is concerned.

As regards the outlook for bananas, this is most cheerful. The seasons have been favourable, never more so, and the larger estates have never been seen in better trim. If no unfortunate breezes come, the banana year promises to be most successful, if not the *most* successful. By the end of the financial year, March 31st, 1906, it looks as if Jamaica will have exported as large a quantity as in the best previous years, which was that ending March 31st, 1903, just before the hurricane of August 1903. At any rate at the end of December, when the returns come out, the export should reach nearly twelve million bunches, and with three months to run should show a total of nearly fourteen million bunches at March 31st next. In the year following, barring weather misfortunes, Jamaica should export from eighteen to twenty million bunches, judging by the extension of planting and the better cultivation being given.

The orange trade, unfortunately, has not been so successful as could be wished. This is largely due to the duty against Jamaica in the United States, for while exports to that country have fallen greatly, they have increased substantially to the United Kingdom. This, however, is an industry which does not satisfy anyone locally, and the views as to how it can be improved are most divergent and contradictory.

The new cotton and cassava industries just lately started on a large scale have unfortunately met with the worst of luck, as this has been a year of insect pests which have turned their attention largely to these plants. However, the caterpillars, which always are more or less present on tobacco plants, here as everywhere, but which suddenly appeared in millions on the cassava, were vigorously attacked with Paris green, and at last got under; and as forewarned is forearmed, it is unlikely they will ever cause such serious trouble again. The large cassava factory at May Pen is starting to make starch with the beginning of the year. Jamaica has done less in the cotton industry than the other and smaller Islands of the West Indies, probably because there were so many irons in the fire here, and so

many other crops to grow. The unusual constant rains in otherwise very dry districts, while good for other crops, did not suit cotton, but in ordinary years there should be much better results.

The returns for cocoa-nuts exported are becoming more and more satisfactory. There was a sudden drop the year after the hurricane, but Jamaica already exported a million more than she did in the same time last year, while every year the crops will be getting heavier, as the trees that were damaged never fully recover, and in a few years more the young trees promptly set out after the hurricane will come into bearing.

Jamaica is looking forward in the next four months to the largest tourist season she has yet had. There has been a large increase in hotel and lodging-house accommodation. The fine steamers of the R.M.S.P.C., are also now running between New York and Kingston; the Hamburg American Line, not to be outdone, have added five steamers to their usual service also, while the United Fruit Company have their usual fleet of fruit steamers carrying passengers, and all run in keen competition. There is no industry more helped by this influx of tourists here than the tobacco industry through the large quantities of Jamaica cigars bought by tourists both for present consumption and for taking away with them.

The making of the Panama Canal is naturally causing much stir, as Jamaica is so close, no doubt the steamers both ways are always well filled with passengers, for the Island supplies, and will continue to supply, the bulk of the labour required.

The statement of revenue and expenditure from April 1st to Sept. 30th, issued by the Government, is very satisfactory; and shows that the Island is fast recovering financially from the effects of the hurricane of 1903. There has been a large increase of income and a substantial decrease in expenditure, and with the cheering crop prospects related above, there should be a satisfactory budget when the whole financial year's accounts are made up.

The West Indian Fruit Industry.

Mr. A. F. Clark, the fruit expert of the British West Indian Fruit Co., Ltd., was a passenger to Trinidad in the "Magdalena," which left Plymouth on January 26th. Mr. Clark has gained considerable experience in the cultivation and handling of fruit in Jamaica, and is enthusiastic regarding the prospects of the fruit industry of Trinidad. The British West Indian Fruit Co., with the formation of which the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. is closely associated, is taking over the work inaugurated by the late Mr. W. W. Symington in the direction of the establishment of a fruit industry on a scale befitting the importance of the Colony. With regard to Barbados, we understand that there is a prospect of satisfactory arrangements being made between this new company and the planters for the purchase of fruit in the Island. As matters stand now the planters of Barbados are seriously beginning to consider the advisability of abandoning the cultivation of this fruit in view of the difficulties by which they are faced.

Consular Reports.

German Sugar in India.

Consul-General Sir William Ward, in his report on German trade with India, says that the value of the exports of sugar from Hamburg alone to India amounted in 1904 to £100,256, as against £15,391 in the previous year. "Inasmuch as nearly all the German sugar exported to India is shipped from Hamburg, these figures doubtless represent very nearly the total exports from Germany in each of the years mentioned. The considerable increase which took place in the sugar exportations in 1904 was, of course, due to the fact that the countervailing Indian import duties were abolished in December, 1903, and the exportations in 1905 will doubtless exceed those of the year 1904. It should be observed that a considerable amount of Austro-Hungarian sugar is likewise shipped from Hamburg to India, but as it is now obliged to be accompanied by a certificate of origin, it is of course duly entered as Austro-Hungarian sugar on importation to India."

The Dutch Indies' Sugar Tax.

A new sugar tax was levied in the Netherland Indies in 1905. Owing to the low prices from 1887 to 1895 the tax had been abandoned: "And it was the excellent results," says Mr. G. A. Mounsey in his Finance Report, "of the past two years which suggested this as a useful means of raising revenue. The present scheme is not for raising any import duty on the article, but to levy a progressive tax on the profits derived from its sale, such profit to be calculated by deducting the average cost price from the average sale price, in this manner an average gain of 25 c. per picul (of 133 lbs.) will be taxed at $\frac{1}{2}$ c. until a profit of 4 gulden is charged at 24 c., after which sum every clear profit of 25 c. will be calculated at 12 c."

Hurricane Insurance.

We understand that arrangements for insurance against hurricanes which are being made by Messrs. Henry Head & Co., of Lloyds, on the lines suggested by Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, have now been made to extend to the other Islands in the hurricane zone. The scope of the insurance has also been somewhat enlarged, as underwriters have agreed to include damage by gales as well as hurricanes, provided such damage exceeds 5% of the total value insured. The underwriters will also be prepared, in the case of sugar factories, to do a special insurance on the buildings alone at a somewhat lower premium. We hope in our next issue to be able to give full particulars of this insurance, which we trust will prove popular with planters.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The State opening of Parliament by the King has been fixed for February 19th, but the election of The Speaker will take place on February 14th. Since we last went to press, the tide of Liberal successes has continued to flow with unabated vigour. One of our Members, Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., was re-elected for Bute on January 23rd, by a majority of 120, and the state of Parties as we go to press is: Liberals, 379; Unionists, 153; Nationalists, 81; Labour, 51. Only 3 results remain to be known.

In an article in the February number of *The National Review*, Mr. Keir Hardie forecasts what the Parliamentary attitude of the Labour Party will be in the near future. "Questions," he says, "such as Protection will be discussed (by the Labour members) on their merits, and not as to how they affect the interest of this or that Party. We ask nothing better from the Labour members than that they should approach Tariff Reform with open minds and without political bias." With regard to Colonial Preference, "here, also," he says, "the Labour Party has its own policy, and already arrangements are in an advanced stage for sending out an influential deputation of Labour M.P.s to visit our Colonies to confer with the Labour parties there, and to arrange for a common course of action, so that the relations of the Mother Country and her Colonies may be strengthened and the question of Free Trade *versus* Protection may be taken out of the hands of the Party politicians and some understanding come to, which will be mutually advantageous and acceptable to the Labour movements in the Colonies and at home."

Letters to the Editor.

The "Jamaica Rum" Prosecutions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—I have carefully read your article on the prosecution at the Guildhall for selling a silent spirit as genuine Jamaica rum.

I am surprised to see that you had no intimation in your *Circular* of the still more important prosecution under this head, which took place at Clerkenwell on the 13th inst., in which Sargent, the owner of the "White Lion" public house, was fined the maximum penalty of £20 and twenty guineas costs.

It is regrettable that the *West India Committee Circular* had not a reporter at the Guildhall, as then it would be in a position to give a correct report of the proceedings, instead of copying a condensed version of the evidence from the *Standard*, which is not thoroughly accurate.

I fail to see why the *West India Committee Circular* should object to the lines on which the prosecution has been run, as I am here only for the specific purpose of protecting "Jamaica rum" from imitations and frauds.

In this matter I am unable to see how the rights of Jamaica should be the wrongs of any other Colony.

It is a well-known fact that patent-still spirits have been put on this market and reached the public as "Jamaica rum."

So far as brandy, whiskey, or rum, are concerned, there is but one way of distillation and that is well known to be the old pot-still method, which maintains the characteristics of the respective spirits.

Now, as a matter of fact, the patent or Coffee still, not only produce an alcohol of a very high strength, which eliminates all the characteristics of the above drinks.

In your definition of silent spirit, you are to a certain extent correct—but the proper definition of "silent spirit" is one that tells nothing of its origin.

Maise, rice, molasses, potatoes, or any other substance, will give equal results, and each of the spirits will be silent as to their parentage.

Therefore, I hold, and so do many who are enlightened on the subject, that whether the spirit is produced in a patent still in Demerara, or Hamburg, from molasses, after first, second and third sugars have been extracted, such spirit is not entitled to the name of "rum." But, so long as traders refrain from designating them as "Jamaica Rum" they are, at present, outside my purview. However, I greatly fear that the medical and health authorities will, in a short time, have something to say on this very important subject.

Those interested in Jamaican distillation for years, allowed the product of this most valuable industry to be almost driven out of the markets of the United Kingdom by frauds. As a result, the price of their rum has declined by almost 50 per cent., and the public of this country have been unable, for love or money, to obtain a genuine bottle of Jamaica rum.

The planters of Jamaica, or their representatives, have no cause for "apprehensions," as the trade papers of late issues after the prosecutions) have testified. I quite agree with you, that the Jamaica rum market will be "affected," but

it will only be affected in one way, and that is the right direction, by assigning genuine "Jamaica rum" and "silent spirits" to their respective positions.

Yours truly,
J. C. NOLAN

The "Demerara Daily Chronicle" on the Sugar Convention.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

SIR—I wish in a very friendly way, not with the view of entering into controversy with the *Demerara Chronicle*, but merely in order to point out the facts and correct erroneous impressions, to put before your readers a brief antidote to the article in that journal of December 5th.

The writer regrets that the Convention has hitherto done so little to steady prices and stiffen the market, and wishes that the recent disastrous reaction had happened before instead of after the Convention, when it would have furnished a further argument for the abolition of the bounties. The reply is obvious. Thirty years of bounties have built up such a vast sugar industry on the Continent that the whole world depends on the beetroot crop for its supply of sugar. Whenever there is a partial failure of that crop we have a rise in price and reduced supplies. With a bumper crop there is glut, collapse and ruin. The events of 1904-5, were merely one more repetition of what has so frequently happened since 1854, and they come from the same cause, the dependence of the world's sugar markets on the beetroot crop, brought about by the bounty system. The new regime of free trade in sugar has not yet had time to apply the remedy. Free competition cannot be fully carried out until the virtual monopoly of beetroot sugar has been broken down by the operation of natural causes, namely, increased consumption and the survival of the fittest. The great drought of 1904 came at an unfortunate moment and gave us one more illustration of our dependence on beetroot sugar for our supplies. Prices were forced up, fabricants sowed an enormously increased acreage for 1905, and now we have to live one more period of glut and ruinous prices, purely an after effect of the bounty regime.

The writer then passes to another subject, "the fiscal status of Brazil," and severely criticises the position taken up by the British Government. The facts are as follows: Our Government have definitely declined to accept the assumption that every country having a surtax in excess of 6 francs per 100 kilos becomes immediately subject to the penal clause. The limitation of the surtax to that figure applies, of course, only to the Parties to the Convention. As to other countries, we are bound by the Convention to countervail any bounty which may be shown to exist, or to exclude the sugar receiving it; but there is nothing to be found in the terms of the Convention which would make a country subject to that penalty merely because it has an excessive surtax. These are facts so manifest that the British Government have taken up an unassailable position in protesting against the attempt to penalise all countries which have a surtax in excess of 6 francs. According to the terms of the Convention it is necessary to show that such surtax operates as a bounty on export. In the case of Germany, Austria and Russia the proof was easy and conclusive. There is, therefore, no parallel between the case of Russia and that of Brazil. In the latter case measures are being taken with great care to ascertain whether the surtax does create a bounty. If it does, Brazil sugar will be penalised; but if not, it is to be presumed that our Government will adhere to the strong position already taken up. To penalise a country unjustly would be to bring a sound free trade measure into disrepute.

As to the supposition that the exclusion of sugar coming from any country convicted of giving a bounty would "raise prices" here, the idea is absurd. Those who entertain any such notion forget that prices in the London and Hamburg markets are always identical: they also fail to consider that any sugars so penalised can find markets elsewhere and thus displace other sugar which comes here instead. The world consumes about 10,000,000 tons, and produces about that quantity. The price of the sugar so produced and consumed is not affected by the method of its distribution, but depends entirely on whether the production is too much or too little for the consumption.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
GEORGE MARTINEAU.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted with current events. It will be noted that we now add the daily closing prices of 88 % beet, the bell-wether of the sugar market.

- Sat., Jan. 20th.—The R.M.S.P. Co.'s S.S. "Trent" left for the West Indies—88 % Beet 8s. 2½d. dull
 Sun., Jan. 21st.—"Trent" after leaving Cherbourg put into Plymouth with steering gear out of order. The passengers entertained at the local hotels while waiting for the Magdalena
 Mon., Jan. 22nd.—Mr. Chamberlain spoke at Halesowen on Tariff Reform, which he declared was not dead. Beet 8s. 2½d., quiet
 Tues., Jan. 23rd.—Sir Ernest Bickham Sweet-Escott, K.C.M.G., appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands. Mr. Austin Chamberlain returned to Parliament for Worcestershire, East, by a majority of 4,366. Beet 8s. 2½d., steady
 Wed., Jan. 24th.—The French Foreign Office announced that France had decided to take action against Venezuela and to hold President Castro responsible.—Beet 8s. 2½d. steady
 Thur., Jan. 25th.—Mr. Arthur J. Balfour accepted Mr. Alban Gibb's offer of his seat for the City of London.—An important article on "Colonial Cotton" published in the *Standard*.—Beet 8s. 2½d. dull
 Fri., Jan. 26th.—The R.M.S.P. Co.'s S.S. "Magdalena" left Plymouth for the West Indies at 10 a.m.—Beet 8s. 2½d., quiet
 Sat., Jan. 27th.—Beet 8s. 1½d., easier.
 Sun., Jan. 28th.—The *New York Herald* issued a special supplement dealing with the West Indies as a tourist resort.
 Mon., Jan. 29th.—The King of Denmark died suddenly.—Beet 8s. 1½d. dull
 Tues., Jan. 30th.—Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition opened.—Beet 8s. 0½d. flat.
 Wed., Jan. 31st.—Beet 8s., steady
 Thur., Feb. 1st.—Bank rate unchanged (4 %).—The Imperial Direct Mail Service "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica.—Beet 8½d.

Our Library.

We have to thank Messrs. L. Rose & Co., Ltd., for two very interesting old maps of Jamaica and Barbados, dated about 1660.

In the West Indies by W. B. F. London: Arnold, Fairbairns, 1s. A perusal of this charming little volume of

sixty-four pages makes the reader immediately inclined to emulate the performance of Oliver Twist and to express a hope that W. B. F. will give us more of his delightful descriptive articles on the West Indies. The book which is pleasantly readable is devoted to a series of short essays: "Across Jamaica,"

"A New Cotton Land," "Puerto Rico," "Industrial Puerto Rico," "A Picnic in Puerto Rico," "The Key to the West Indies," "The Boiling Lake of Dominica," "Making a Cacao Estate," "Martinique," and "Homeward Bound." We liked best, perhaps, the articles on Martinique and Puerto Rico, but one and all are fascinating. Regarding Puerto Rico he says:—

"It is not too much to say, that from a place of economic insignificance, the American will raise Puerto Rico to an island of the first importance in the West Indies, and this result may be looked for in a very little time."

Here is a lesson for the British Government! There are six illustrations from original photographs, of which we give a typical specimen on this page.



Antrim Valley, Dominica.

Notes of Interest.

TRINIDAD ASPHALT. Two streets in the Borough of Bethnal Green are in process of being paved with compressed Trinidad Lake Asphalt.

THE CABLES. The St. Thomas-St. Kitts cable was repaired on January 27th. The Jamaica-Puerto Rico cable was, however, interrupted yesterday, cutting off all stations south.

JAMAICA CHOIR. A feature of the Colonial Products Exhibition at Liverpool is the visit of the Native Choir of ten creole singers from Jamaica, who are proving a great attraction.

THE "JONES TROPHY." Sir Alfred Jones will preside at the West Indian Club Dinner on February 7th, when the final heat of the billiard handicap will be played, and the "Alfred Jones" trophy presented to the winner of the tournament.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER. We are pleased to be able to inform Members that the *West India Committee Circular* has now been registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper, and that it can be posted in the United Kingdom for 4d. For the Colonies and abroad the postage is by weight as heretofore.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended January 25th, 69 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.70d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

BOOMING THE W INDIES. The *New York Herald* (European Edition) of Sunday, January 28th, devoted an eight-page supplement to the West Indies. On the front page is a coloured birds-eye map of the Caribbean, interspersed with many excellent reproductions of photographs, which with the letterpress should contribute towards making the present a record tourist season for the West Indies.

BRAVO CARMODY! The Trinidad *Royal Gazette* of December 21st announces that Prof. P. Carmody has patented an invention for the destruction of parasol ants and other pests. The destruction of the parasol ant has been the subject of much thought in Trinidad for years, as these able and persistent wrong-doers cause much damage. A cheap and efficient method of dealing with this particular pest will be hailed as a general boon.

BRITISH GUIANA. The Earl of Elgin, in a reply to a letter from a correspondent, has informed him that he does not doubt that the Governor of British Guiana is taking every precaution to prevent the renewal of disorder in the Colony, and he adds that H.M.S. "Diamond" is for the present being retained at Barbados in readiness to return to Georgetown, should any emergency arise. We understand that the "Diamond" has since returned to George, but this must not be taken to indicate

that there has been any renewal of the disturbances, though time must necessarily be required for the Colony to settle down again.

THE "COLONISER" ON RUBBER. Rubber cultivation is the subject of two important articles in the February *Coloniser*. The first of these is an illustrated contribution by a Ceylon correspondent, dealing both with the general and technical side of the new industry at the present moment. The other takes the form of an interview with Mr. H. A. C. Bergne, a partner in the principal shipping firm in the Seychelles Islands. The latter gentleman states that, with the active goodwill of the local Government, his firm is prepared to co-operate with either small or large planters in replacing the deserted indigo plantations of these beautiful and healthy islands by rubber cultivation. Though proved equal for this purpose in all respects to the high-priced lands of Ceylon, these estates are at present to be purchased extremely cheaply. The same issue also contains a lengthy interview with Sir Alfred Jones on the development of our tropical Colonies, and an illustrated article on fruit growing in British Columbia.

West Indian Civil Service.

Mr. J. C. KING, Immigration Agent, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony and resumed his duties. Mr. F. J. KING, of the Department of Lands and Mines, British Guiana, has resigned his appointment in the Public Service.

Mr. S. WALKER, Commissary of Taxation, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from February 1st.

Dr. P. M. EARLE, Medical Superintendent of the Public Lunatic Asylum, British Guiana, leaves England on February 3rd, to resume the duties of his office.

Major H. W. Peebles has resigned the Command of the British Honduras Volunteer Force consequent on his selection for employment under the Government of Northern Nigeria.

Mr. E. F. S. BOWER, Superintendent of Public Works, Barbados, having left the Colony on six months leave of absence, the duties of his office have been taken over by Mr. J. C. G. Taggart.

The resignation of Mr. FRANCIS B. D. SHAW as an Official Member of the Legislative Council of the Presidency of Dominica, has been accepted, and the Hon. Sholto Rawlins Pemberton has been appointed an Official Member.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir ERNEST BUCKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT, K.C.M.G., Governor of British Honduras, to be Governor of the Leeward Islands, in succession to Sir Courtenay Knollys, deceased.

CAPT. W. JAMESON CALDER left in the Direct Line steamer "Salybia" on Friday, January 26th, to assume his duties as Inspector of the British Guiana Police. Capt. Calder has a good record of service in Jamaica and St. Vincent, to which he is likely to add in British Guiana.

MR. L. E. HAWTAYNE has been selected to succeed the late Mr. C. L. Payne, as a Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana. His permanent appointment will be that of Assistant Stipendiary Magistrate of the Berbice Judicial District, Mr. J. K. D. Hill being transferred to the West Coast, Demerara. Mr. A. D. Cameron will act at present as Assistant Stipendiary Magistrate of the Berbice Judicial District in place of Mr. Hawtayne, who will continue to act as Magistrate of the North Essequibo District until the return from leave of Mr. S. G. T. Bourke.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Part of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Feb. 9	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	...	Direct Line	"Savon"	Feb. 9, noon.
" 10	Barbados and Trinidad	...	Leyland Line	"Jamaican"	" 9. 6 p m
" 10	Jamaica	...	L.I.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 9. 6 p m
" 17	W. I. Islands and Demerara	...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	" 16, mid'n

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Part of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Feb. 3	W. I. Islands and Demerara	...	Southampton	"Tagus"
" 12	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	...	London	"Sanstoon"
" 14	Jamaica	...	Avonmouth	"Port Kingston"

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoas cwt.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwt.	Coconuts	Pimento cwt.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to Dec. 30, '05	7,069	22,536	791,283	35,917	4,768,444	67,817	32,237,472	68,039,288
" " " 31, '04	6,297	16,863	934,661	32,866	2,391,693	127,092	6,673,357	74,158,991

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. - SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down), February 2nd.
Barbados—Mr. H. W. Lawrence, Mrs. and Miss Yearwood, Mr. Walter Bailey, Miss Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. O. Swan, the Earl and Countess of Harewood, Lady M. Lascelles, Hon. E. Lascelles, Mr. J. Inniss, Dr. Greaves.
Demerara—Sir Henry K. Davson, Mr. Ivan Davson, Dr. and Mrs. Earle, Mrs. J. W. A. McKinnon, Miss E. Anlyn, Miss L. McKinnon.
Jamaica—Mr. C. Dow, Mr. H. Tietz.
Trinidad—Miss Hanserman, Miss Brand, Mr. W. S. P. Skellick, Mr. Jameson, Mr. W. E. Allen, Mr. S. C. Allen, Mr. Rogers, Mr. C. Tennant, Mrs. Carroll, two Messrs. Roberts, Mrs. Levaux, Miss Wright, Mr. C. R. Tindall, Mr. and Mrs. G. Dixon, Mr. and Miss Bruges, Mr. T. R. Black, Mr. G. Wench, Mr. E. Wench, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Purdon, Mr. Phillip Fisher, Mr. A. F. Sobocinsky, Miss Ballard, Mr. C. N. Ridley, Mr. Alfred Symington, Mr. Basil W. Valentin, Mr. and Mrs. Riley, Mr. James Alston, Mr. Patrick Alston, Mr. and Mrs. Inswell, Mr. J. I. Smithson, Mr. S. C. Woodroffe, Mr. C. E. Davies, the Earl of Cork and Orrey, Capt. and Mrs.

The Produce Markets' Summary.—continued.

SUGAR. F. O. Licht's Consumption Sept./Dec., 4 months.

	1905	1904	1903.	Tons
Germany	411,059	364,061	435,616	..
Austria	176,468	147,861	183,083	..
France	230,151	248,294	357,120	..
Holland and Belgium	63,337	64,370	86,147	..
England	595,824	569,730	408,438	..
	1,476,000	1,354,000	1,470,000	..
America	602,000	650,000	568,000	..
Total	2,078,000	2,044,000	2,038,000	

Increase over last year 34,000 tons

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st January, even dates.

	1905.	1905.	1904.	Tons.
Convention Europe	3,433,000	2,719,000	3,168,000	..
United States, Cuba, and afloat	193,000	157,000	241,000	..
Total	4,126,000	2,876,000	3,909,000	

Excess over last year 1,250,000 tons

F. O. Licht's Latest Estimates of Beet Crops.

	1905 0	1904-5.	1903 4-	1902-3	Tons
Germany	3,400,000	1,598,164	1,927,681	1,762,461	..
Austria	1,510,000	889,373	1,167,959	1,057,692	..
France	1,075,000	622,422	804,308	833,210	..
Holland and Belgium	535,000	313,017	333,362	326,501	..
Total	5,520,000	3,422,000	4,233,000	3,979,000	
Other Countries	1,410,000	1,290,000	1,648,000	1,589,000	..
Total	6,930,000	4,712,000	5,881,000	5,568,000	

Increase in Convention Europe over last year 2,098,000 tons Increase in all Europe over last year 2,218,000 tons
These figures are far from pleasant and it is a source of satisfaction that prices have not broken below 8s basis H.P., which figure was first reached on November 10th last year.

The closing quotations of 88% Beet are —February, 8s 0½d ; May, 8s 3½d. Aug., 8s 4½d ; and Oct./Dec., 8s 8d all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1905	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	3,860,000	2,730,000	1,610,000	3,360,000	3,530,000	..
United States	130,000	80,000	70,000	120,000	100,000	..
Cuba	30,000	70,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	..
Cargoes afloat	—	20,000	50,000	50,000	10,000	..
Total	4,020,000	2,900,000	3,830,000	3,630,000	3,730,000	

Quotations of 88% Beet:— 8s. 0½d. 15s. 9½d. 7s. 8½d. 8s. 10d. 6s. 8½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar—In sympathy with the general decline in the market, prices of Crystallised have given way to the extent of about 3d. per cwt. average qualities not exceeding 14s. 9d. in value with a general range of 13s. 9d. for inferior grades up to 16s. 9d. for small quantities of choice sugars. The Trade act cautiously being disheartened by the weakness of the Beet Markets. To Refiners 90 test on floating conditions is only nominally worth 9s. 3d.

Molasses Sugar Prices are easier and the demand has slackened. Low brown to good grocery cannot be placed over 10s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. duty paid. For 89 test to Refiners 7s. 6d. is now about the value in bond on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Quotations on the spot for grocery kinds are entirely nominal. To Refiners, somewhere about 8s. 3d. in bond remains the value of 89 test on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Mar :	1905	1905.	1904	1903.	Tons
Imports	6600	4200	4900	1200	..
Deliveries	2800	3800	5400	3300	..
Stocks	12,000	10,000	14,000	27,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	14s. 9d	25s. 9d.	14s. 6d.	14s. 3d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London :

	1905	1905.	1904	1903	Punks
Jamaica	6300	7500	8400	10,000	..
Demerara	7800	5900	11,200	8400	..
Total of all kinds	21,2000	20,000	28,400	28,400	..

The market for the time being is dull, and buyers seem disinclined to take off the large quantities of Demerara recently landed. An occasional sale is made on the basis of 1s. for plain rum, but there is no general business. Jamaica and other proof kinds are nominally worth 10d. to 12 d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT
IN 1850

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No. 177.

The Homeward Mail.

IN a leading article in our last issue we dealt with the suggestion for the formation of Permanent Exhibition Committees which, as our readers will remember, was first made in the *West India Committee Circular* last year. We expressed satisfaction that the matter had met with the approval of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and we are glad now to learn by the homeward mail that the Commissioner of Agriculture has addressed a circular letter to the various local governments, suggesting that a sum of money should be included in the Estimates for the year for the purpose of defraying the expenses of such Committees. The success which is attending the representation of Grenada at the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition—which closed yesterday—will, we hope, prompt the Colonies to take steps in the direction indicated.

From the point of view of sport the principal event of the fortnight in the West Indies was the unexpected defeat of Trinidad by Barbados in the Intercolonial Cricket Tournament. In the first match Barbados beat Demerara by 65 runs. The second match between Barbados and Trinidad proved very exciting; the Barbadians were dismissed in the first innings for 54—the Trinidadians concluded their innings for 183. The Barbados team then compiled 258 runs and dismissed the Trinidadians for 113, thus winning the Intercolonial trophy by 16 runs.

The *Port of Spain Gazette* gives the following sample of the ecstasy of the Barbadian spectator: "One middle-aged gentleman, evidently from Barbados, who when Barrow took the third wicket for no runs, rushed on to the field of play, laid his ancient hat on the sward, laid himself flat down, and beating his hands in an ecstasy of excitement and joy on the ground, almost sobbed out, 'Let me die, somebody kill me!' At the fall of the tenth wicket that same gentleman rushed to the front of the pavilion, and in a tone impossible to describe, but which was almost pathetic in its ludicrousness, sobbed out 'Seven wickets for 99, eight wickets for 99, nine wickets for 99, ten wickets for 99, oh! let me die!' Another spectacle was that of a young gentleman, clad as to his nether extremities in a one time pair of butcher blue pants, and armed with an open umbrella, who contorted his body into postures only assumed by a belated corbeau, who had been over indulging in a barmecide feast of alcoholic putridness."

At a meeting at the Queen's Park Cricket Club, Trinidad, on January 17th, the following team was selected to represent the West Indies in England this year: A. E. Harragin, G. C. Learmond, Sydney Smith, L. Constantine and Cumberbatch (Trinidad); H. B. G. Austin, P. A. Goodman, G. Chaffoner, C. K. Bancroft and Layne (Barbados); C. S. Morrison (Jamaica); J. E. Parker and Burton (British Guiana), with reserves, W. Hoad (Trinidad); H. C. Hailey (Demerara), and H. Ollivierre (St. Vincent).

Turning to more serious matters; the weather, generally speaking, was more propitious when the mail left, and the condition of the various crops will be found to be indicated in the extracts from the letters of our hon. correspondents given overleaf. The political situation in British Guiana

appeared still to be giving rise to some anxiety, and Georgetown and the East and West Bank were still "proclaimed" districts, and the agrarian outrages reported by Mr. H. E. Murray in the *Argosy*, referred to below, indicate anything but a healthy condition of affairs. The increasing prosperity of Trinidad is shown by the striking improvement in the traffic receipts of the Trinidad Government Railways, which must be a source of satisfaction, as it is a subject for congratulation to Mr. W. E. Smith, the able manager. In the Leeward Islands severe apprehension was being caused by the rumour that the British Cotton Growing Association was likely to stop advances to the smaller proprietors. It is satisfactory to learn that in Barbados the question of the erection of Central Sugar Factories was being seriously discussed.

We extract the following notes of interest from letters of our hon. correspondents:—

Antigua. The Cotton Crop's prospects.

The weather for the fortnight preceding January 13th, the date of the Hon. J. Freeland Foote's letter, had been rather dry, although some good planting showers had fallen; even now heavy rains would add to the crop. Last year's rainfall was very peculiar, some portions of the Island getting forty inches and others only twenty-four. The cotton crop was turning out better than was expected, considering the small rainfall.

Sir Robert Brouley arrived in Antigua on Monday, January 1st, to administer the Government of the Leeward Islands, and the oath was administered to him on the same day.

Barbados. Increase of Incendiarism.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, in his letter dated January 17th, reported that cane fires had been extremely frequent, consuming a very large acreage in the aggregate. The newspapers now hardly ever seemed to mention them, and the rewards were placarded so late that they did not seem to have any effect. In no case had any offender been caught. A most determined attempt had been made in the previous week on the house of a rent collector, Mr. Carrington, of Welches, near Government House. A pile of trash, saturated with kerosene, was placed against his office in his house and a train of trash, also saturated with kerosene, led to a heap against another building. Fortunately the smell of fire roused a gentleman near by, who with difficulty awoke the sleeping inmates, or they must infallibly have been burnt to death. On the arrival of the fire brigade the fire was easily extinguished; but a more determined attempt could not be imagined. The object evidently was to destroy the collection books, at all hazards. No arrest had been made.

The West India Regiment had sailed for West Africa, and the only officers now left were the C.R.E. and his family, and some of the Army Service Corps. Sales of the War Department stores and property were continuing.

There was immense enthusiasm in the streets of Bridgetown on the night of January 15th, on the receipt of the news that Barbados had regained the Intercolonial Cricket Challenge Cup by an unexpected victory over the Trinidad team. The telegraph station was crowded for several hours, and the whole population gave vent to their joy by repeated cheering. After collapsing in the first innings, for fifty-four runs, it seemed hardly likely Barbados could win, but a good second innings of 258 turned the game, and they eventually won by sixteen runs.

They were still in hopes that the headquarters of the Royal Mail might yet be restored to Barbados and a better service given.

Various committees were in operation in respect to central factories, and the question was being gone into with great earnestness. The outlook of sugar, especially Muscovado, as detailed in the *West India Committee Circular*, was most serious, and would undoubtedly have the effect of quickening the advance of the Islands towards central factories. The crop was estimated at 47,000 bagsheads of sugar and 34,000 puncheons of molasses. The opening price of molasses was 13 cents per gallon, puncheons included.

An Act for prohibiting the sale of cotton without a certificate and for more effectually preventing the purchase and exportation of stolen cotton, had just become law, and the vestries were proceeding to the election of an Inspector of cotton in each parish.

The telegrams, which had considerably improved after the visit of Mr. Kingsford, of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, seemed to have again deteriorated. The Election news in particular was very meagre, and it was difficult to see what was the use of cabling that Election addresses occupied so many hundred columns of *The Times*!

The weather continued very dry, hardly any rain having fallen since Mr. Alleyne's return to the Island on December 7th. The December rainfall was very short, and that of January had been confined as yet to a few light showers. The consequence was that the canes were ripening up, and sugar and syrup were being made on several

estates; many more would begin grinding during the following week. The young canes which were planted in November were very forward and promising but those planted later, which did not profit by the last nice rain which fell on December 1st, were much backward, though healthy. In a note added on the evening of January 18th, Mr. Abeyne stated that the wind was very high, which tended to ripen the canes, and the showers were very slight.

British Guiana. The Colony still unsettled.

When Mr. Summerson closed his letter on January 18th, crystals were quoted at \$1.85, but practically everything had been sold. The weather was dry, and good showers were wanted for cultivation.

Applications for 2185 immigrants had been sent in for next season. The "Clyde," the fourth ship of the current season, had arrived on January 10th with 488 adults. The question of the conveyance of immigrants from Calcutta to British Guiana by steam, instead of sailing ships, had been again under consideration, but it was agreed that the present arrangements were satisfactory, and that in view of the increased difficulties of recruiting in India, and of the fact that the difference in passage rates by steamer and sailing ship would be liable to be increased according to the number embarked, precluded the suggested change being considered favourably, it being felt that the cost per adult immigrant was already so high that any increase would bear hardly upon the sugar industry of the Colony.

From the newspapers to hand by the mail it would appear that the state of the Colony was still unsettled. In the *Treasury* of January 8th there was a letter from Mr. H. E. Murray, of Port Mourant, calling attention to "Black-guardism on the Corentyne Coast." A Madras man, owner of land on Letter Kenny and Whim, had had 868 planting trees, fifty-seven young cocoa trees, sixty-one coffee trees, two mango trees, one cashew tree and one jameon tree cut down by unknown persons, and lately, on plantation Port Mourant, over half a dozen donkeys had been brutally chopped at night, a couple to death, without the malefactor having been caught.

The *Demerara Daily Chronicle* reports that the general opinion is that crop results have been much interfered with by fungus, and adds that some action will have to be adopted to check the spread of this disease which has been in some districts the severest outbreak of many years.

Dominica. Mail and Telegraph Troubles.

Writing on January 15th, Mr. E. A. Agar stated that the Eighth Annual Agricultural Show was to be held this year on February 23rd and 24th at Melville Hall (the property of Messrs. F. E. Everington and Company) on the east coast of the Island. On two occasions Messrs. Everington had held shows on their own account, and with such success as to warrant the official show being held there this year. The "Yare" would make an excursion trip to Melville Hall on February 23rd, so as to give people from Roseau an opportunity of visiting it.

The cable was expected to be repaired on the following day, January 16th. With the Royal Mail boats not running in scheduled time, the interruption to cable communication caused the greatest inconvenience.

According to the *Leeward Islands Free Press* the Dominica cocoa crop seemed to be pretty nearly all in. The crop had been moderately fair on the whole. It began early, came in with a rush in November and petered out by December. The prospects for March were only moderate.

The weather at present was more like September than January, heavy rains and a good deal of wind.

Jamaica. "Seville" Oranges from Jamaica.

So far as Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, who wrote on January 18th, could ascertain, they had reaped a very good coffee crop, and the next export return would show a large advance on the quantity exported. It was regrettable to have to record that the anthrax disease had broken out among cattle in different parts of Jamaica. The question was discussed at the meeting of the Board of Agriculture on January 16th, and at the half yearly meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society held on the following day, and a Committee was then appointed consisting of members from both Boards, with instructions to prepare a Bill dealing with the contagious diseases of animals, so as to render such Bill acceptable to the Government.

Matters were very quiet in the Colony, and things had just put off their holiday attire.

At a meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society a letter was read from Messrs. Gillespie, Broa. and Company forwarding letters from Messrs. James Keiler and Sons and Chas. Southwell and Son, reporting on Seville bitter oranges grown in Jamaica, which were tested to ascertain their suitability for making marmalade. From these and other jam makers to whom the fruit was submitted, it would appear that the chief trouble was the lack of "colour" and the characteristic bitter flavour of the Seville orange, in the Jamaica fruit. Moreover, the packing was complained of, the orange wrappers being in many cases too thick, and the fruit not being despatched at the proper stage of maturity. However, on the whole, looked upon in the light of a first experiment, the result was not considered bad.

Nevis. The Cotton Industry.

Writing on January 16th, the Hon. C. A. Shand said that sugar, excepting where it could be manufactured under the most favourable conditions, must at present prices prove unprofitable and therefore every encouragement should be given to other industries which, conducted on scientific lines, might gradually assume prominence and provide a satisfactory substitute for the old staple. In Nevis, cotton was exciting universal attention and there was no doubt that it had come to stay. Despite disadvantageous weather the crop this year ought to go somewhere near 1000 bales of 200 lbs. net, i.e., 200,000 lbs. of lint cotton, which even at 1s. per lb. would represent an output of £10,000. Had the acreage planted had favourable weather in the first instance, the crop would have been nearer 2000 than 1000 bales, but a serious drought over the cotton belt caused a failure in the first planting which was never actually recovered.

The writer was very busy over the details of the Agricultural Show to be held in the Colony on January 18th. It was feared that it would be a comparative failure, and by no means come up to its predecessor of 1905, but the cotton exhibits ought to be good, as the quality of that already reaped had been above the average.

It was rumoured that there was some likelihood of the Cotton Growing Association stopping advances to planters of not less than ten acres and others in the coming campaign. This would be a great misfortune to the cotton industry, as it would deter many from embarking in the enterprise who were anxious to do so. Instead of cutting off supplies now that the industry had shown its stability, further encouragement, if possible, should be given. At present the advance obtained was limited to £2 per acre, which was totally inadequate for all purposes, the average expenditure coming out at something like £5 per acre, so that anyone now obtaining an advance had to supplement the £2 obtained by a further £3 out of his own pocket. What would really be a God-send would be for the Association to advance £5 per acre on assured security, as it would prevent the grower from borrowing further money at an exaggerated rate of interest. Nevis could supply 10,000 bales of cotton if all the lands available were utilised.

St. Kitts. The New Agricultural Society.

Mr. Charles A. Smith reported in his letter of January 13th that the Administrator, on being sworn in as Acting-Governor, returned from Antigua by H.M.S. "Royal Arthur," which remained a couple of days in their roadstead to receive the mails from the Island.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society had its first meeting on January 4th, and over sixty members were enrolled.

Contrary to its usual custom, the New Year had opened with good showers, which would add to the length of their canes and be of considerable benefit to the young sprouts for 1907 crop, which were growing well and regularly. Cotton picking was making good progress, and the yield was likely to be large.

St. Lucia. The Inconvenient Mail Arrangements.

In his letter of January 16th, the Hon. E. Du Boulay emphasised the fact that the irregular running of the mail steamers is causing much inconvenience, and the renewal of some more reliable means of communication was much to be hoped for.

Crops were about commencing, the weather being favourable.

St. Vincent. Improved prospects for Cotton.

It is satisfactory to learn from Messrs. D. N. Porter and Company's letter of January 17th that the prospects for cotton were even now better than when they last wrote, and the factory had ready for shipment over 1000 bales. St. Vincent also commanded the top price for "Sea Islands" over all comers.

The weather had been very boisterous on the coast, preventing the droghering of produce to Kingston for shipment.

Trinidad. Arrival of Immigrants.

In his letter of January 20th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., reports that the s.s. "Indus" and the sailing vessel "Lena," arrived on the same day from Madras, the former with 610 adults, 77 children, and the latter with 592 adults and 86 children. The writer saw a batch of 60 on their way to some of the Company's estates. They were mostly undersized, with nothing like the physique of the Bengalis or the more Northern men. Still the average work labourers were called upon to perform on estates was well within their capacity.

An effort was still being made to arrive at an agreement regarding the price to be paid for former's canes during the present season.

The sugar crop had begun on some estates, and the outlook for a good yield was as far promising.

Lord Dunsodahl, who is a member of the West India Committee, was building a residence in Trinidad on the Long Circular Road.

Mr. W. E. Smith was able to report that December was a record month, both for goods and passenger traffic, on the Trinidad Government Railways. Cocoa contributed 23,587 bags railed into Port of Spain, against 10,331 bags for December, 1904. The total number of passengers carried was 127,757 against 108,111 in 1904 and 87,668 in 1903.

President Castro had agreed to abolish the 30 per cent. transshipment tax, but the 30 per cent. surtax still remained.

The weather continued as reported by last mail, occasional light showers and high drying winds, very favourable for cane reaping, which was now in full swing, but too dry for cocoa, and the prospects up to June are not considered very bright. Deliveries during the fortnight had been on a small scale, and the major portion of the crop might now be considered as having been reaped. The market was excessively quiet and new business had only been possible at a reduction in prices, which was not warranted by the crop prospects. Fine Estates were quoted at 52s. 6d. C. and F. Havre; Mixed Estates at 50s. 6d., and Ordinary at 49s. 6d. Small sales in the neighbourhood of these figures had been made, and large contracts for the U.S.A. had been taken at a shade less for Mixed Estates qualities. Arrivals from Venezuela continued on a fairly liberal scale, but owing to the strong demand, prices had not declined.

		SHIPMENTS.		
Total at last return—	.. ..	248,746	Trinidad	36,702 Venezuelan
Jan. 7th, s.s. "Orinoco"	.. ..	1301	"	— Europe
" 8th, s.s. "P. Willem IV."	.. ..	4208	"	1010 " New York
" 13th, s.s. "Westphalia"	.. ..	2300	"	110 " Europe
" 13th, s.s. "P. Willem I."	.. ..	3465	"	241 " "
" 13th, s.s. "Maracas"	.. ..	4755	"	1661 " New York
" 18th, s.s. "Centro America"	.. ..	75	"	— Europe
Totals to date—		265,350	Bags	39,724 Venezuelan.

West Indian Cable Communication.

The question of cable communication was again engaging the attention of the West Indian Colonies when the homeward mail left, and the Report of the Cable Communication Sub-Committee, which was adopted by the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, January 4th, 1906, was about to be considered by the various agricultural and commercial bodies. For the convenience of our members we now give the full text of this document, which is signed by Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. E. Luxmore Marshall, Mr. Robert Rutherford, and the Secretary.

The Cable Communication Committee's Report.

1. The Sub-Committee appointed on April 13th, 1905, to consider the question of cable communication with and between the West Indian Colonies, in consequence of the statement of the Secretary of State that they would have to meet from their own resources the cost of any improved telegraphic facilities they might require (April 10th, 1905), begs to present its Report.

2. Every effort has been made to obtain all possible information regarding this subject, and it is hoped that the conclusions of the Sub-Committee will lead to a revision of the present West Indian cable system, and will thus tend to increase trade between the British West Indies and the Mother Country, as well as with Canada, and provide an all British cable which will prove of strategic value in time of war.

3. Having ascertained that a Departmental Committee had been sitting at the Colonial Office to consider the desirability of the establishment of an all British cable to link up the West Indies, Canada and Great Britain, the Sub-Committee asked to be permitted to peruse in confidence its report (June 9th, 1905). The Secretary of State regretted his inability to accede to this request (June 17th, 1905).

4. The Sub-Committee then invited representatives of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies to furnish proposals for improving the means of cable communication, and to attend meetings (July 16th, 1905).

5. One of the first points elucidated was with regard to an agreement (January 31st, 1870) between the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, from which it appears that the former Company are perpetually restrained from sending any telegraphic competing message received by them at Jamaica for transmission to the south or east of Jamaica under any agreement or traffic arrangement

without the assent of the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, that is to say, the West India and Panama Telegraph Company has no freedom in routing telegrams, and must hand all messages for places beyond the Islands in perpetuity to the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, which they are compelled to indemnify for any message diverted from their lines, whether routed or not. The effect of this is demonstrated by the following figures, which show the amounts per word credited to the respective companies for messages routed by Bermuda or *via* Cuba:—

	Per H. & B. and D.W.L.C. Cos. <i>via</i> Bermuda		Per W. I. & P.T. Co. <i>via</i> Cuba	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
St. Kitts Message				
West India and Panama Telegraph Co.	3	4	3	11
Cuba Submarine Telegraph Co.	—	—	3	0
Halifax and Bermudas and Direct West India Cable Companies	3	4	—	—
Atlantic Co.	1	0	1	0
Barbados Message.				
West India and Panama Telegraph Co.	3	4	4	0
Cuba Submarine Telegraph Co.	—	—	3	0
Halifax and Bermudas and Direct West India Cable Companies	1	0	—	—
Atlantic Co.	1	0	1	0

In the case of messages from London to Jamaica, *via* Key West, the arrangements between the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and the Cuba Submarine Telegraphic Company work out per word as follows:—

Per the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies.		s.	d.
Atlantic Company, London to Halifax		1	6
H. and B. and D.W.L.C. Companies, Halifax to Jamaica		2	0
Per West India and Panama Telegraph Co.			
Atlantic Co.	London to New York	1	11
Western Union Co. and the International Ocean Telegraphic Co.	New York to Havana	6	7½
Cuba Submarine Telegraph Co. (Batalana to Santiago-de-Cuba) and the W.I.P.T. Co. (Santiago-de-Cuba to Jamaica)	Havana to Jamaica	1	41*

The Sub-Committee is most strongly of opinion that this arrangement acts greatly to the detriment of the West Indian Colonies. It effectually chokes competition and cheap rates, and it also renders it undesirable to encourage the existing West India and Panama Telegraph Company, for were it not for this agreement, rates for telegrams to other Islands than Jamaica should have been lower than they are. The rates at present are as follows:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Barbados	4	9	St. Vincent	4	7
British Guiana	7	0	St. Lucia	4	6
Jamaica	3	0	Antigua	4	4
Turk's Island	3	0	St. Kitts	4	8
Trinidad	5	1	Dominica	4	2
Grenada	4	8			

In this connection it may be stated for purpose of comparison that the message rate between this country and Cuba is only 1s. 8d. per word to Havana, and 1s. 10d. to the rest of Cuba, and since the Direct West India Cable Company was inaugurated in 1868, the rate to Jamaica and Turk's Island has been reduced from 3s. 10d. to 3s. per word.

6. After considering various alternative suggestions, the Sub-Committee is of opinion that an improvement of the existing state of affairs can best be attained:

- (a) By laying a new cable from Bermuda to Barbados.
- (b) By laying new cables (1) from Barbados to Trinidad, and (2) from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara.
- (c) Establishment on an efficient basis of a connecting cable between the Windward and Leeward Islands and Barbados.

A cable connecting the Windward and Leeward Islands with Barbados already exists, and it would have to be a *de novo* one if any future arrangement that might be entered into that the Company contracting for it should take

* The Cuba Submarine Telegraph Co. (Batalana - Santiago-de-Cuba, 377 miles) and the W.I.P.T. Co. (Santiago-de-Cuba - Jamaica, 160 miles) pool receipts and share on a length basis. Therefore the former would get 160 and the latter 317 pence.

over these cables, or lay new ones and it is assumed that the subsidies paid in the past by Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica, Antigua, and St. Kitts-Nevis would be forthcoming, and sufficient to pay for it.

7. The cost to the Colonies of the services (a) and (b) should, for a contract of twenty years, be about £12,500 per annum. The Colonies which would be asked to subscribe for (a) and (b) would be Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara. The existing subsidies paid by these Colonies are as follows:—

Barbados	£1,500
Demerara	3,000
Trinidad	3,000
Total	£7,500

It must, however, be borne in mind that before the Colonies were so dissatisfied with the service, the subsidies paid were:—

Barbados	£2,500
Demerara	4,500
Trinidad	6,000
Total	£13,000

and it will be seen that such subsidies would be sufficient to cover the cost of a new cable. The subsidy for the services (a), (b) and (c) should not be more than £17,500, and as £13,000 would be subscribed by Barbados, Demerara and Trinidad, a further sum of £4,500 would be required, which would be approximately forthcoming if the other Colonies paid the same subsidies as in 1887, viz.:—

	Subsidies now paid.	Subsidies paid in 1887.*
St. Kitts	£500	£800
Antigua	600	800
Dominica	400	200
St. Lucia	500	400
St. Vincent	400	800
Grenada	1000	1000
Total	£3300	£4000

8. The Sub-Committee has no hesitation in recommending the adoption of such a scheme to the above-mentioned Colonies, as not only will it give a new service of cables, but an all British connection with Canada, the British West Indies and Great Britain, and inasmuch as it should be possible to reduce message rates to a uniform 4s. 2d. per word between each Colony and the Mother Country, France and Germany, the suggestion should commend itself to the Colonies concerned. Moreover, if the suggestion is adopted, it is believed that a substantial improvement will be effected in the quality of the Press news supplied to the Colonies. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of a full and reliable service of Press messages, which has certainly not been enjoyed hitherto.

9. The Sub-Committee considers that the use which is made of the cables by the Colonial Office and the Colonial Governments, and the utility of an all British cable in the time of war, constitute two important factors in the claim on the Home Government for financial assistance for the establishment of a reliable and efficient means of cable communication. If, however, the Home Government does not see its way to assist in this manner, the Sub-Committee feels that it would not be unreasonable to expect an Imperial guarantee of the Colonial Government subsidies, which would facilitate a new company raising capital at a lower rate of interest, and thus enable it to get to work with a still smaller subsidy.

10. The attention of the Sub-Committee has been drawn to the fact that there is another method of payment available besides subsidies, which might be acceptable to a cable company, namely, Traffic Guarantee. If the whole of the sum required for new cables could not be obtained by way of subsidy, it might be advisable to see how far the balance required could be made good in this way.

11. The Sub-Committee therefore recommends that the Colonies should be communicated with in order that it may be fully ascertained if they approve of the above suggestions, and in the event of their approving, how far they are prepared to contribute by way of subsidy, and as the whole question vitally affects the business community, the agricultural and commercial bodies should be asked to express their views regarding it.

12. The Sub-Committee has no hesitation in recommending that the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies should be approached with a view to laying the new cables. These Companies already provide Jamaica with a reliable and cheap service, which has been continued without a break since the cable from Bermuda to Jamaica was laid in 1898. Moreover, this Company is not hampered, as the West India and Panama

* See Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Cable Communication—Cd. 1058, § 45, page 27.

Telegraph Company is, with an arrangement with another company, which can only cease by consent of both Companies, or by one of them ceasing to exist.

12. In conclusion, the Sub-Committee desires to express its thanks to the representatives of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies for their courtesy in attending several meetings and imparting much valuable information. While unable to recommend the adoption of the proposals of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, the Sub-Committee desires to emphasise that its decision in this connection has been largely influenced by their knowledge of the nature of the arrangement between that Company and the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, which would appear to preclude the possibility of the establishment of new cables without a largely increased subsidy, which would have to be increased still further if lower rates were insisted upon.

Our Library.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS, January 20th. Price 1d.—The raising of pedigree sugar-canes forms the subject of the Editorial Notes in this issue, and it is gratifying to read that canes are now being grown by the Imperial Department of Agriculture on the result of specific and scientific cross fertilisation. Hitherto all the new varieties of canes cultivated have been obtained by tedious selection of seedlings from chance fertilisation. The subject is one of great difficulty, and the fact that at last a means of cross fertilisation of selected parents has been arrived at should simplify the work enormously. The tendency of seedlings to hark back to previous types of course remains the same, but trouble from this cause will be reduced to a minimum should the "pedigree" system be successfully carried out. Useful directions for inoculation for anthrax are given by Mr. J. Duncan Millar, the Government veterinary surgeon of Trinidad, and the number contains the usual amount of valuable and interesting information as to Agricultural matters in the West Indies.

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Taurus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty), February 3rd:—**Barbados**—Miss E. Ashworth, Mr. A. C. Gonda, Mr. W. R. Buttenshaw, Mr. H. Williams and Miss Williams, Col.-Sergt. and Mrs. Thompson, Sergt. and Mrs. Rowntree. **Demerara**—Dr. Hasard, Mr. E. Keener, Mr. W. A. Jolly, Hon. and Mrs. P. H. de Jonge, Dr. and Mrs. Smartt. **Jamaica**—His Lordship the Bishop of Jamaica, Brother O'Brien, Mr. Horne, Mr. Rigg, Mr. E. Carrut, Mr. C. Nelson, Mrs. Millar, Mr. Elser, Rev. W. A. L. Taylor, Lieut. A. Gray. **Trinidad**—Mr. S. Chapman, Mr. Riley, Dr. Welsh, Dr. Ireland, Mr. A. Levis, Mr. and Mrs. H. Booth, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Wilkinson, jun., Mr. and Miss Kerby. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. J. W. A. Maginley. **St. Kitts**—Mr. D. Hope Ross.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "PORT ROYAL" (Capt. Owen Jones), February 1st:—**Jamaica**—Mrs. Buckley, Dr. E. G. Hardy, Mr. A. C. Hardy, Mr. Horne, Mr. A. Leader, Lieut. E. Miller, Mr. J. P. McPhail, Lieut. Rolph, Mr. R. J. Thompson, Mr. G. Whittington, Mr. I. Diggins, Mr. J. Dutton, Mr. W. Olive.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1st to Jan. 15th.		April 1st to Jan. 7th.		Jan. 1st to Jan. 20th.		Oct. 1st to Jan. 15th.	
	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.
Sugar ..	6519	6328 tons	7917	6327 tons	—	1027 bags & b'ls.	—	—
Molasses ..	—	600 puns	—	—	—	591 puns 42 tres. 54 b'ls.	—	—
Rum ..	1274	904 ..	295,585	936,733 galls.	—	—	—	—
Molasecut ..	334	1054 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa ..	3300	— lbs.	24,229	17,754 cwts.	1,878,780	1,031,730 lbs.	19,974	20,876 bags
Coffee ..	—	—	37,747	33,747 ..	—	160 ..	—	—
Cocoanuts ..	—	22,400	833,179	2,621,543	173,500	27,600	—	—
Copra ..	—	—	—	—	—	273 bags	—	—
Cotton ..	—	—	43,307	10,542 lbs.	—	—	—	—
Cotton Seed ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphalt ..	—	—	—	—	6728	5036 tons	—	—
Oranges ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas ..	—	—	68,671,313	74,638,291	—	—	—	—
Pimento ..	—	—	12,399,291	6,793,845 bunches	—	—	—	—
Spice ..	—	—	71,002	128,173 cwts.	—	—	—	—
Gold ..	606	3391 ozs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diamonds ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Spice.

1606 2134 b'ls.
and 268 1/2-b'ls.
153 224 cases
43 119 bags

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXI.



Mr. George Christall.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Feb. 16th, 1906

Telegram: "CASSI, LONDON." Telephone: 5542 CENTRAL.

THE increasing interest shown since the abolition of the Continental bounties in the cultivation of sugar beet in England, is now assuming a definite form, and there appears to be some probability of beet sugar factories being erected in Essex and Kent in the near future. As our readers are aware, this is by no means a new departure. Some years ago an experiment was tried at Lavenham, in Suffolk, but it had to be discontinued owing, mainly, to difficulties with the farmers and increased bounty-fed competition. Since then experiments have been steadily conducted with beet cultivation, and it has been shown that roots can be grown in this country up to the best Continental form as to quality and quantity. Methods of manufacture have also improved enormously since the days of the Lavenham experiment, and there is no reason why sugar should not now be produced as cheaply in Great Britain as on the Continent. But, and this should be written large, the success of any sugar venture in this country depends entirely upon the continuance of the Brussels Convention. It would be impossible for any beet industry

entirely upon the continuance of the Brussels Convention. It would be impossible for any beet industry

to exist in this country if Continental sugar growers were in a position to flood England with cheap sugar below the cost of production. For this is what the cartel and bounty systems—as figures we give elsewhere show—did. In fact, the first object of the Continental sugar producer would be, in the event of going back to the old conditions, to wipe out any beet industry in this country, in the same manner as the German fabricants openly boasted of doing, and were doing, as regards the West Indian sugar industry before the ratification of the Brussels Convention put a stop to the iniquitous bounty system. At first sight it might be supposed that West Indians would look askance at the establishment of a beet sugar industry in this country, as being calculated to prejudice their interests, but it must, of course, be taken for granted, and the Colonies will insist, that producers of cane sugar and producers of beet sugar in this country shall be put on the same footing as regards duties. We say this because many of the estimates of the prospects of the beet industry in this country appear to be based on a hoped-for difference between the Customs duty and the Excise duty on sugar. In these circumstances, therefore, it does not appear that the West Indies need suffer. Competition, indeed, if fair and above board, is often more of a blessing than otherwise, as it undoubtedly has a stimulating effect. To begin with, we may take it that England can never produce sufficient sugar to meet the requirements of her teeming population, and again we have it on good authority that where the most improved and up-to-date methods are used in the West Indies, the cost of landing cane sugar here is materially below what it is for beet. Beet growers in this country might indeed prove a useful ally to cane-producers in the West Indies, as many of their interests must necessarily be identical. Both, for instance, would welcome the abolition of the existing sugar duty, unless it were made differential, and both would stand shoulder to shoulder against the frontal attacks of bounty-giving States in the event of the non-continuance of the Brussels Sugar Bounty Convention, a contingency which, however, we sincerely trust, will not arise.

WE have from time to time called attention to the grievance to which West Indian planters have for many years been subject through the preference given to home-made spirit over Colonial rum imported into the Mother Country, by the incidence of the surtax or extra duty imposed upon Colonial spirits. As we have pointed out before, the regulations of the Government in relation to the distillers of the United Kingdom are at the bottom of this surtax. It has been and is claimed by the home distiller that, owing to interference in distillery work by reason of the regulations, and also to those regarding payment of duty in connection with rectification, &c., actual pecuniary loss in working occurs, a loss from which the Colonial distiller is exempt, and that the surtax only puts him in a fair position in relation to the latter. The West Indian distiller on the other hand claims that he is also subject to regulations which affect him adversely, and that if they are not of the character of those at home, the fault is not his. This is a subject which, however, it is hardly necessary to discuss at the present time. The items which make up the amount for which it is claimed that the surtax compensates the home distiller, must be verified before any steps be taken to introduce matters of detail of Government control, and we shall be greatly surprised if impartial investigation does not show them to be extremely misleading. Mr. STEELE, who visited the West Indies in 1902, and reported to the Treasury as to the nature of the Excise control in the West Indies, stated definitely the items of which the sum of 4d. representing the surtax is made up. The first of them, an allowance of $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per proof gallon as a rebate to the distiller *of the duty he has to pay on his grain*, a duty which has been abolished since 1870, and only temporarily reimposed in 1902, is in itself amply sufficient to cause suspicion as to the validity of the rest; and we feel confident that a scrutiny will at once afford evidence of the fallacy of the data on which a very great part of the balance of the surtax is based. It is quite time that some definite action were taken in the matter. The existence of a preferential duty, no matter what form it takes, in a country which

has recently pledged itself to Free Trade, is an anomaly which no Free Trade Government should allow to continue; and when that preferential duty operates so adversely to British Colonies, we are only exercising what is our right in pressing on behalf of the West Indian distiller for an impartial inquiry into the matter, which, we can truly say, has never yet been given.

WHEN it was first decided to enlarge *The West India Committee Circular* two years ago, and to accept a limited number of advertisements for its pages, fears were expressed that the adoption of such a step might tend to lessen the importance of this publication, which has now been issued without intermission for a period of twenty years. Without incurring the charge of a total lack of modesty, we may, perhaps, venture to express the opinion that the reverse has been the case, and no one surely can compare *The West India Committee Circular* in its present form with the single page leaflet from which it had its origin, to the detriment of the former! That our *Circular* performs a useful part in bringing about a greater sense of co-operation in our West Indian Colonies, and in making that part of our Empire better known at home is our belief, and the number of congratulatory messages which we continue to receive from the Colonies would make it seem that it is genuinely appreciated. If this is so we are well satisfied. But it is to our advertisements that we wish now to refer more particularly. An advertisement may be offensive to a degree, but when it deals with subjects with which the reader is brought into daily and constant touch, it may, on the other hand, be extremely attractive, and at the same time serve a useful purpose. Advertisements convey new ideas, and in the present century of "hustle," when it behoves merchants, planters, and estates proprietors to be—to use an objectionable, though descriptive phrase—"up-to-date," there are no better means at hand for keeping them in close touch with the latest improvements in production and manufacture, than those afforded by a study of the illustrated advertisements of the leading manufacturers of sugar, cotton and ploughing machinery, which appear in our pages. To this same class the advertisements of steel, iron and wood buildings, tools for factories, bags for produce, and also of manures and fertilisers will appeal. Then there are the advertisements of the principal shipping companies, such as the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, and the Direct Line of Steamers which are rendered especially useful by the inclusion of the dates of departure and arrival of the steamers. A cable company gives directions for sending West Indian telegrams, and a page which merits particular attention tells the reader on this side where he can obtain West Indian produce, the articles advertised including such diverse commodities as arrowroot, banana specialities, cane sugar, cigars, Trinidad curios, Jamaica fruit, and, indeed, all kinds of West Indian produce, so that those interested in the West Indies will no longer be able to make the excuse that they do not know where West Indian produce can be obtained. Then, again, notices of estates for sale, and applications for appointments, a form of advertisement to which it may be found convenient to devote a special column if space can be found in the near future, are included from time to time. Advertisements are now an essential part of a newspaper, and we may, therefore, suitably conclude by inviting our readers to patronise our advertisers. By doing so they will indirectly be assisting in the development of *The West India Committee Circular*, of which the circulation is already expanding in such a satisfactory manner.

Mr. George Christall.

The subject of our portrait in this issue was born at Burghead, Morayshire, in 1850. His father, the late Peter Christall, was agent of the North of Scotland Bank, in Elgin. Mr. George Christall was educated at the Elgin Academy and at the High School, Edinburgh. His first connection with the West Indies was his joining Messrs. Gregor, Turnbull & Co.'s offices in Glasgow in 1872. Six years later he was sent by this firm to Trinidad, where he remained for six or seven years. From there he went to New York as agent of the company and started the firm of Messrs. George

Christall & Co. In 1895 he founded the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Co., Ltd., and in 1903 the Trinidad Estates Co., Ltd., which owns extensive properties in the Island. Mr. George Christall may certainly be classed among the most enterprising and enthusiastic of our West Indian merchants, and is a thorough believer in the future of the West Indian sugar industry, which he is doing his best to develop by the introduction of the most modern machinery and methods of manufacture. He became a member of the Executive of the West India Committee in 1905, and although his office is in Glasgow, whenever a matter affecting the interests of Trinidad is under discussion, he invariably takes a journey south to give the Committee the value of his advice. Mr. Christall visits the West Indies every year, and he is at the present moment in Trinidad, having made good recovery from a rather severe indisposition.

Sir Henry K. Davson.

Sir Henry K. Davson, the respected Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, leaves for British Guiana in the "Tagus" to-morrow. He will be accompanied by his son, Mr. Ivan B. Davson. This will be Sir Henry's forty-sixth voyage across the Atlantic, the first having been made by him many years ago in a sailing ship, the "John Horrocks." He will be sure of a hearty welcome in the Colony which he now visits for the first time since his knighthood. We wish him a prosperous voyage, a happy sojourn in British Guiana, and a safe return, a sentiment which one and all of our readers will cordially endorse.

The Effects of a Hurricane.

Our full page illustration in the present issue will be of interest in connection with the arrangements which have now been completed for insuring plantations in the West Indies against the effects of hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It represents a scene in Plymouth, Montserrat, some months after the hurricane, which wrought so much damage in the Leeward Islands in 1899. The hurricane season in the West Indies extends from July to October, and during this period the barometer is anxiously watched and any sharp fluctuations are viewed with apprehension by the planters. The United States Weather Bureau, which is maintained by the United States Government, has established stations in the principal Islands subject to hurricanes, and from these, when there are indications of a storm approaching, warnings are issued by the display of flags and bulletins. Happily, as the statistics show, the Islands are not often visited by a hurricane as severe as that of 1899, when Montserrat suffered so severely, and even well-built structures were wrecked. Now that it is possible to insure against such disasters, residents in the West Indies will no longer dread such visitations to the same degree as heretofore.

New Members of the West India Committee.

The following were elected Members of the West India Committee at the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, February 8th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconded.
W. T. JAMES (Barbuda)	H. Langridge & Co.	Scrutton Sons & Co.
REGINALD SKEETE (Barbados).	E. B. Skeete.	W. A. Bovell.
EDWARD S. MASON (Barbados).	Hon. G. Laurie Pile.	T. W. Wilkinson.
JAMES SWORD & SON.	C. A. Philip.	F. F. Scard, F.I.C.

Particulars regarding Membership of the West India Committee and forms of application for candidates can be obtained from the Secretary, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Towards the end of 1770, the "Mary Harriot," from Jamaica, was wrecked at St. Columba, on the coast of Cornwall, and a perusal of the old Minutes of the West India Committee do not convey a pleasant impression as to the law-abiding habits of the inhabitants of that ancient duchy at that time, when they appear to have regarded wrecks as a special dispensation of providence and human life as nothing if coming between them and their spoil. The local gentry also, it would appear, were not above aiding and abetting the wreckers, as the following extract from the Minutes of a meeting of January 1st, 1771, shows:—

The Chairman laid before the meeting several letters received from W. Rawlings, Esq., of St. Columba, in Cornwall, by which it appears that Mr. Rawlings, Mr. Martyn and Dr.



Photo by Algernon E. Sproat.

Reproduced

THE EFFECTS OF A HURRICANE.
PLYMOUTH, MONTSERRAT.

Bateman, have been very instrumental in preserving the lives and property of the passengers, seamen and others interested in the ship "Mary Harriot" from Jamaica, lately wrecked on that coast, and that the gentlemen have at great hazard and expense exerted themselves in endeavouring towards bringing to justice all such persons that have been guilty of outrage or embezzlement, and have protected and relieved the passengers and ships company."

Resolved unanimously: "That the thanks of the West India Merchants be given to Mr. Rawlings, Mr. Martyn and Dr. Bateman for their active and humane conduct in the several matters mentioned in the above minute, and that they be desired to continue their good offices for the general benefit of commerce, in hopes if possible of suppressing the barbarous custom of making a prey of the unfortunate."

Ordered: "That the Treasurer do pay from time to time such sums of money as have been or shall be expended by Mr. Rawlings or by his order for the above general purposes."

At a subsequent meeting, Mr. Rawlings thanked the Committee for the approbation of his conduct in the matter and requested instructions as to the "Prosecution of a Justice of the Peace who had discharged some Jews, after their commitment by Mr. Rawlings and others." It was later on in the year reported that further proceedings against the "Jews," who evidently acted as receivers of the goods, fell through on account of the "absence of the principals, who could not be found," and as no further allusion to the matter appears in the Minutes, the matter appears to have been dropped.

The Effect of Cartels on Sugar Prices.

The influence of the cartel in raising the price of sugar to the consumer in Germany is shown in a striking manner in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*. Started on June the 1st, 1900, the cartel raised little by little the selling price of refined sugar on the German market, while after its abolition in 1903 the cost of sugar to the consumer at once fell. We have ventured to expand the table in the *Journal*, indicating how the cartel affected the price of refined sugar for home consumption, by adding the figures for 1903-4 and 1904-5, in order to show that when the cartel expired, the margin between the price of raw and refined sugar reverted to its normal state. This table is a most striking illustration and confirmation of the fact that as a rule—though there may be exceptions—an excessive surtax does not become a bounty until enabled to do so by the assistance of a cartel. The prices are without duty.

Crop.	Raw 88% Mks.	Refined. Mks.	Diff Mks.	
1896-97	19.60	27.10	7.50	per 100 kilos.
1897-98	19.90	26.70	6.80	"
1898-99	21.56	28.18	6.62	"
1899-00	21.10	28.36	7.26	"
1900-01 (cartel) ...	20.68	37.06	16.38	"
1901-02	15.76	37.46	21.70	"
1902-03	17.54	38.38	20.84	"
1903-04 (cartel abolished)	16.72	24.32	7.60	"
1904-05	25.60	31.66	6.06	"

Prior to 1900-01, the difference between refined and raw sugars had varied between 6 mk. 62 and 7 mk. 50. While the cartel was in force, this difference increased; in 1900-01 it rose to 16 mk. 38, 1901-02 to 21 mk. 70, and in 1902-03 to 20 mk. 84. The price of refined was thus raised by 12 mk. 57 per 100 kilos of sugar. The enormous profits realised in this way at the expense of the consumer enabled manufacturers to sell the surplus of production abroad at prices defying all competition.

The effect of the Brussels Convention on internal consumption is shown in the following table:—

Campaigns.	Production	Import	Export.	Consumption.
1898-99	1,722,429	1,200	1,010,297	757,098
1899-00	1,795,478	1,239	976,164	850,303
1900-01	1,979,418	1,347	1,144,250	775,315
1901-02	2,302,246	1,919	1,216,486	745,439
1902-03	1,789,070	2,141	1,179,119	811,952
1903-04	1,921,136	6,862	873,623	1,137,188
1904-05	1,605,437	6,406	766,520	966,014

In 1903-04, the consumer having been relieved of a notable part of his burdens, thanks to the reduction of the duty from 20 to 14 marks per 100 kilos, and, on the other hand, to the lowering of the import surtax, which brought about the dissolution of the cartel, the quantity delivered to the

retailer reached 1,137,188 tons, against 811,952 tons in 1902-03, representing an increase of 325,236 tons, or nearly 40 per cent. The consumption in this way absorbed 54 per cent. of the production. The high price of sugar, however, during the year 1905 has had in Germany, as elsewhere, its effect on consumption, and it thus happens that in 1904-05 consumption has apparently gone back to 966,014 tons, making it to appear that a deficit has taken place to the extent of 15 per cent. on the figure for the previous year. It may, however, be safely concluded that this deficit is more apparent than real: any extreme of price, high or low, invariably tending to disturb the market and cause a reduction in the invisible stocks, *i.e.*, stocks in the hands of buyers, with the effect of making it appear that consumption has lessened. There is no reason therefore, to look upon the consumption of last year as having been materially reduced, in spite of the abnormally high price of sugar, and the probability is that the figures for the current year will show a very large increase on these as soon as the price of sugar settles down to a normal figure.

The Cocoa Crops of the World.

A recent issue of the Hamburg *Gordian* gave important statistics regarding the Cocoa crops of 1904, which in many countries proved to be the largest on record. The following table shows the crops of all countries during the four years, 1901 to 1904:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Inc. or Dec. bet 1904 and 1903
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Per cent.
Ecuador	22,896	24,965	23,238	28,433	+ 22½
Brazil... ..	18,323	20,370	20,738	23,160	+ 11½
St. Thomas	16,982	17,969	21,450	20,526	+ 4½
Trinidad	11,942	15,955	14,885	18,574	+ 25
San Domingo	6,850	8,975	7,825	13,557	+ 74
Venezuela	7,860	9,925	12,550	13,048	+ 4
Grenada	4,865	5,975	6,150	6,226	+ 1½
Gold Coast	996	2,436	2,297	5,687	+ 148
Cuba and Porto Rico	1,750	1,875	2,625	3,266	+ 15½
Ceylon	2,697	2,673	3,075	3,254	+ 6
Haiti	1,950	1,994	2,175	2,531	+ 16½
Jamaica	1,352	1,525	1,650	1,650	0
Martinique and Guadeloupe	825	925	1,150	1,215	+ 5½
Dutch East Indies	1,276	880	1,458	1,140	- 21½
Cameroons, Samoa and Togo	528	648	805	1,109	+ 40
Surinam	3,163	2,355	2,224	854	- 61½
St. Lucia	765	785	800	800	0
Dominica	—	—	—	485	—
Congo Free State	—	—	—	231	—
Other countries	700	700	800	806	—
	105,720	120,939	125,895	146,552	—
Increase over the previous year	+ 3½%	+ 14½%	+ 4%	+ 16%	—

The most noticeable increase, *viz.*, 148 per cent., occurred on the Gold Coast, where every year more and more plantations are reaching the producing stage, which requires five to six years. The district of Accra alone produced 515 tons, and Lagos and Nigeria together 53 tons, most of which was shipped to Hamburg, and consumed in Germany. The Accra cocoa in particular, during the few years it has been obtainable in any quantity, has established for itself a ready market in Germany, and there are times when the supply is not sufficient to cope with the demand.

In San Domingo, where the next largest increase is shown, the plantations are mostly in the hands of small farmers, with the exception of a few large estates, the most important of which belongs to the Swiss chocolate firm Suchard, and is fitted out with extensive agricultural machinery and narrow gauge railways. Whereas on the Gold Coast, the cultivation is almost entirely in the hands of the natives, in San Domingo, in spite of the smallness of many of the plantations, they are often worked on scientific lines, and as suitable land is obtainable at a very low price, the crop may be expected to increase from year to year.

The third largest increase occurred in the German Colonies, but in spite of the fact that some German Colonial enthusiasts have laid stress on this point, the amount of the crop was not really of great importance, though at the same time larger amounts are to be expected from this

quarter. The Togo and Samoa cocoas are shipped exclusively to Germany, but a portion of the Cameroon crop is shipped to England. Togoland, in spite of its being situated so near the Gold Coast, is not so well adapted for the cultivation of cocoa as the latter Colony, owing to the small area of its forest land, which is the most suitable land for this class of agriculture. Trinidad, which comes next so far as increase is concerned, used formerly to ship the entire crop to London, but now sends large quantities direct to Hamburg, Havre, and New York, by German and other steamers. In Ecuador, the largest cocoa producing country, also a very satisfactory increase occurred, namely 22½ per cent. Martinique and Guadeloupe shipped, as usual, practically their entire crops to France, whereas Great Britain received all the Grenada cocoa, which is always in demand on the London market, even when other sorts are unsaleable. The following table shows the consumption of cocoa in the various countries of the world during the years 1901 to 1904:—

	1901. Tons.	1902. Tons.	1903. Tons.	1904. Tons.	Inc. or Dec. bet. 1904 and 1903 Per cent.
United States	20,665	23,120	28,508	33,159	+ 16½
Germany	18,410	20,601	21,491	27,101	+ 26
France	17,916	19,343	20,638	21,799	+ 5½
United Kingdom	18,908	20,386	17,485	20,552	+ 17½
Holland	14,373	14,666	16,741	21,124	+ 26
Switzerland	4,363	3,707	5,856	6,839	+ 17
Spain	5,931	9,259	6,006	3,611	- 6½
Belgium	1,865	2,277	2,767	2,792	+ 2
Austria-Hungary	1,685	1,820	2,034	2,510	+ 24½
Russia	1,757	1,818	1,900	2,055	+ 8½
Denmark	762	802	1,150	996	- 13½
Sweden	455	591	774	870	+ 12½
Canada	459	312	585	650	+ 11
Australia	568	354	443	550	+ 24
Italy	563	466	468	479	+ 2½
Norway	368	410	439	472	+ 7½
Portugal	100	112	136	180	-
Finland	25	47	61	63	+ 3½
Including Holland's exports	109,173	122,491	127,482	147,802	—
Increase over the previous year	+ 8 %	+ 12½ %	+ 4½ %	+ 16 %	—
Without Holland's exports ...	?	116,998	121,471	138,864	—
Increase over the previous year	+ 8 %	+ 7 %	+ 4 %	+ 14½ %	—

It would at first appear from these figures that the consumption of cocoa exceeds the production, but it is pointed out that in the case of Holland the total amount of cocoa imported is also given as having been consumed, whereas in reality a large portion was re-exported.

Cocoa remains longest unsold in London, and this is probably one of the reasons why Trinidad and Ceylon firms are shipping less to that port than formerly. The reason why such a large amount always remains on hand in Havre is that the consumers instead of taking the cocoa direct from the ship to their factories, prefer to keep it several months in bond, as in this way they are protected against sudden price fluctuations, and the cocoa besides becoming milder, also dries up to a certain extent, which, of course, causes a saving in the amount of duty to be paid. In Germany this plan is also adopted by some firms, but it is not nearly so general as in France.

Every year manufacturers are getting more into direct communication with the producers abroad, and now a considerable portion of the cocoa, which passes through Hamburg, Havre, and New York, goes straight to the manufacturer without passing through the hands of any middleman. This condition of things is much less prevalent in London, where cocoa is largely sold at public auctions, a method which is rarely adopted at other centres with the exception of Amsterdam, where about eight auctions of Java cocoa are held annually.

The Liverpool Exhibition.

The Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition was brought to a close on Thursday night, February 8th. The attendance amounted to 35,000, a figure considerably larger than that of the preceding year, and it was agreed on all sides that this Exhibition was the most successful of the

series. The opening ceremony on the second day was performed by Lord Brassey, and on succeeding days by Sir Alfred Jones, the Hon. W. P. Reeves, High Commissioner of New Zealand, and the Bishop of Liverpool. The Grenada Section, of which we give an illustration, continued to attract a large share of attention, and the West Indian Fruit Court, arranged by Mr. F. Dowd, which is also depicted in our columns, was continually thronged with visitors. Upwards of 2,000 copies of the pamphlet "Notes on Grenada," by Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society, which has been favourably



The Grenada Section at Liverpool.

In this picture the cone-shaped stand for displaying cocoa is clearly shown. The curious basket underneath is one of the local "fish pots."

but also of stimulating the Colonies themselves, and causing them to realise how desirable it is to participate in such Exhibitions.

Hurricane Insurance.

We are now able to give further details regarding the arrangements made by Messrs. Henry Head & Co., with underwriters at Lloyd's to insure planters in the Islands in the hurricane zone against the risk of damage by storms and hurricanes. They will be found to follow closely the lines indicated in his memorandum by the Hon. Hesketh Bell, C.M.G., late Administrator of the Island of Dominica.

Insurances may be effected at the following rates, viz.: 30s. per cent. inclusive on (a) buildings, (b) on cultivation (excluding bananas), and (c) on crops; and, in the case of sugar estates, 20s. per cent. on the buildings alone, if of approved design. For these premiums underwriters would pay the excess of five per cent. of a claim on the total amount insured on any estate, so that supposing, for example, the damage on an estate valued at £3,000 amounted to £450, they would pay £300, the assured bearing the remainder of the loss himself.

This provision may appear at first sight to be a little onerous, but the object is to protect the proprietor against a disaster, not against small losses, and, by preserving his interest, to encourage

and much other literature, descriptive of the various exhibits of the Molascuit Co., Ltd., The Golofina Tobacco Company, B. & J. B. Machado, D. K. Porter & Co., and the Pure Cane Sugar Co. (James Philip & Co.), was circulated. Already the usual crop of applications is beginning to be reaped as a result of the Exhibition, notable among which are enquiries regarding the Grenada beeswax, which was reported upon most favourably by two of the largest importers of this commodity, and for cotton seed for oilcake purposes, from both of which it is hoped, to use a commercial expression, business will result. Many sample orders were also booked for arrow-root, cigars, preserves, &c. When dealing with the Exhibition, special mention must be made of the admirably arranged display of British grown cotton, arranged by Mr. W. G. Freeman, Superintendent of Economic Collections at the Imperial Institute, conveniently placed at the entrance of the Exhibition, so that every visitor could not fail to be impressed by the work which is being done by the British Cotton Growing Association, of which this exhibit gave a good indication. Cotton in every state of growth was shown, the whole exhibit being so arranged that the life history of the plant from the seed to the factory could be traced. In conclusion, we must not omit to say a word of congratulation to Mr. Harry Jones and Mr. Albert Douglas, the organisers of the Exhibition, to whom the greatest credit is due for the successful manner in which the arrangements were made and carried out, resulting as they did in this Exhibition being one which will have the result not only of making the West Indies better known by those at home.

him to take proper precautions. In consideration of the assured taking this portion of the risk himself, underwriters have consented to somewhat extend the basis of the insurance from the original scheme proposed by Mr. Bell, which was only to protect the planters against damage done by a hurricane. Under the present scheme the assured would be covered against damage done by a severe gale and its immediate consequences, even although the storm might not be of a cyclonic nature. The damage must be done during one period of not exceeding twenty-four hours, and underwriters will not be responsible for damage by rain or floods except such as may accompany a gale or hurricane during the same period.

The insurance would also be subject to average, that is to say, in the event of the property not being insured at its full value the assured would only be able to recover in the proportion that the sum insured bore to the total value of the property covered by the insurance. Messrs. Henry Head & Co. point out that the reasonableness of this provision will be acknowledged when it is borne in mind that in the event of an estate not being insured at its full value, it would obviously be inequitable that the underwriters should be called upon to assume a total and inclusive risk which did not bear a proper proportion to the premium paid. These rates are based on the assumption that the whole property is insured. Should a selection of risks be made differential rates may have to be charged.

Underwriters are prepared to insure approved buildings of all kinds; also cultivation of canes, cocoa, cotton, tobacco, rubber, arrow-root, coffee, oranges, coconuts, vanilla, limes, and spices—in fact practically every kind of cultivation, except bananas.

The premiums will be payable in cash before the inception of the insurance. It is hoped, however, at the commencement of next year to arrange that facilities should be given for the premiums to be paid by instalments, the first portion to be paid in cash at the commencement of the year and the second, with interest at 5 per cent. per annum, at some time not later than the beginning of September. Should this meet with the wishes of the planters the policies taken out this year could be cancelled on December 31st, and a *pro rata* portion of the premium credited to the assured when fresh policies are issued for the coming year.

Messrs. Henry Head & Co. express the hope that this insurance will be widely taken up by planters, and should the business be large and remunerative they may, perhaps, obtain some reduction in the premium in the future. By means of the insurance now proposed the planters and those interested in estates will in future be freed from the great anxiety and uncertainty which has heretofore handicapped their industry, and that their enterprise may thus be placed on a sounder basis and one more calculated to attract capital to the West Indies.

The Recent Rum Prosecutions.

The Wine Trade Review published yesterday contains an important article dealing with the recent Jamaica rum prosecutions. After congratulating Mr. Nolan upon the tact he has shown so far, and the propriety of his action, the article goes on to say:—

With Mr. Nolan's efforts to protect the reputation of Jamaica practically everybody in the trade will sympathise,



The West Indian Fruit Court at the Liverpool Exhibition.

One of the most successful sections at the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition was the West Indian Fruit Court arranged by Mr. Thomas Dowd, of Moorfields, Liverpool, a description of which was given in our last issue. The stalls were decked in drapery of pale green and white muslin, and the general effect was most pleasing. The Court was thronged with visitors.

but we are threatened with the opening of a much larger question—the question, in fact, of ‘What is rum?’ The Jamaica representative says ‘I hold, and so do many more who are enlightened on the subject, that, whether the spirit is produced in a patent still in Demerara or Hamburg, from molasses, after first, second, and third sugars have been extracted, such spirit is not entitled to the name of rum. But so long as traders refrain from designating it as “Jamaica rum” they are at present outside my purview. However, I greatly fear that the medical and health authorities will, in a short time, have something to say on this very important subject. In the circumstances, there is a touch of humour in Mr. Nolan’s ‘I greatly fear.’ If to be enlightened on the subject it is essential that one should refuse the name of rum to the produce of Demerara, for instance, virtually all the trade in this country will be found to be in darkness. Demerara and other rums produced outside Jamaica have always been recognised under that name, and a most vigorous opposition will be offered to any attempt to relegate them to an inferior position. By all means let the Jamaica planters protect the good name of their industry, but if they go to extremes, with the view of establishing a kind of monopoly, they will find themselves in opposition to the whole trade in this country, while they will arouse a resentful feeling among their fellow Colonists in the West Indies.”

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Second Parliament of Edward VII.

Parliament assembled on February 13th, when the Right Hon. James William Lowther was unanimously elected Speaker.

West Indian Gains and Losses.

The West Indies have lost many stalwarts in the recent Election, and prominent among these must be included Mr. W. P. Lawrence, who sat in the House of Commons for over twenty years, and was always ready to take up any matter affecting the welfare of the West Indies, Sir James Ferguson, Mr. Joseph Hault, Mr. Charles McArthur, Mr. P. Platt Higgins, Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Mr. James Reid, Mr. Louis Sinclair, and Sir W. E. M. Tomlinson, all of whom were defeated, and Colonel Denny, who did not stand for re-election. On the other hand, several prominent supporters of West Indian interests have been successfully returned, among them being Mr. Norman Lamont, Mr. D. McIver, Mr. Owen C. Philipps, Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Mr. R. J. Price, who has so often spoken in our support of views regarding the rum surtax, Sir C. E. Howard Vincent, Mr. H. de R. Walker, whose views on West Indian matters were enunciated in his book, “The West Indies and the Empire,” and Mr. W. Mitchell Thomson, who scored one of the few Unionist victories, and who was a director of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Co. and the Trinidad Estates Co., until the close of last year when he resigned in order to devote himself to politics.

Letters to the Editor.

Jamaica Rum.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—We have read with great interest a letter appearing in your number of the 2nd inst., signed by Mr. J. C. Nolan, the Jamaica Commissioner for the protection of Jamaica rum, as well as your article thereon.

As one of the oldest firms engaged in the Jamaica rum trade, we cordially wish Mr. Nolan success in his efforts to suppress the sale of a falsely described article under the time-honoured name of Jamaica rum; but we must join issue with him on one statement in his letter, namely, that “The public of this country have been unable for love or money to obtain a genuine bottle of Jamaica rum.”

We ourselves have for many years past placed on the home and export markets an absolutely pure Jamaica rum under the brand of “Red Heart,” and we feel confident from our knowledge of the trade, that genuine Jamaica rum can be obtained from any distributing house of repute.

14, Mincing Lane, E.C.

February 13th, 1906.

We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

HENRY WHITE & Co.

The “West Indies.”

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Can you tell me when the name “West Indian” came to be applied exclusively to the islands of the Antilles? The letters of Horace Walpole, written during the years 1754-5, contain numerous references to West Indian affairs, meaning thereby the series of events which culminated in the defeat of General Braddock. He speaks of Braddock’s campaign in the “West Indian War,” apologises for not mentioning the progress of the “West Indian War” by saying that the Parliamentary campaign has quite put the Ohio upon an obsolete list: in March, 1755, speaking of the ministry and their intentions as to the war in North America, he says, “Their partisans damn the plantations, and ask if we are to involve ourselves in a war for them?” Will that question weigh with planters and West Indians? Again he writes in August, 1755, “At present my chief study is West Indian history. . . this very morning I found that part of the purchase of Maryland from the savage proprietors (for we do not massacre, we are such good Christians as only to cheat) was a

quantity of vermilion and a parcel of Jews' harp." And still later, in 1756, he speaks of a proposed "West Indian" regiment to be partly composed of Swiss and German settled in Pennsylvania. Do you know when the North American Colonies ceased to be known commonly as the "West Indies?"

February 9th, 1906.

Yours truly,

H. F. PERVIZÉ

J. Morse, in the *American Gazetteer*, which was published in London in 1798, states that the Continent was also sometimes called the West Indies, "till its natural division being more attended to, it obtained a distinctive appellation." It is, therefore, to be assumed that the name "West Indies" as applied to the Continent, was dropped soon after 1776, and at any rate between the years 1756 and 1798. It is, of course, well-known that the West Indies were at first so named in the belief that they extended so far as to form a connection with the East Indies. The fallacy of this supposition was, however, soon discovered, though the name was retained. ED.

The Strategic Importance of the West Indies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—I have taken the liberty of enclosing to you a few extracts from a book, by the Rev. G. Croly, "The Life and Times of George IV." It was published in 1830, and the extracts are of the year 1820; they bear out what all interested in the West Indies must feel, but England seems blind to, the enormous strategical importance of these islands. I read your *Circular* regularly, it is sent to me by my brother, Mr. Garth, whose estate in Barbados was a gift to our ancestors from Charles II.

February 8th, 1906.

Yours faithfully,

L. A. SHIFFNER.

(EXTRACT REFERRED TO.)

"Passing round the southern cape of America to the western Atlantic, we again find the British Empire, the chain of the West Indian Islands, covering the whole shore of Mexico: the noblest breakwater in the world, stretching through nearly twenty degrees of latitude, and sixteen of longitude. The fertility, peculiar productions, and commercial value, of these Islands, are matters of common knowledge. The prospects of England in this quarter are not yet exhausted. A still more superb vision awaits her commercial grandeur. In a few years the Isthmus of Darien will be an isthmus no more, but the gate of the highway of all nations. By the opening of the isthmus the whole voyage will be made almost on a parallel, and with almost a single wind. But England, sharing with other nations in the advantages of the new and incalculable increase in the riches of the world: or, rather, taking the lead in this great path of opulent discovery, as she has done in all others, must derive from the West Indian Islands, an influence altogether independent of her commercial enterprise. They intercept the whole Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. The gate may be in the hands of Mexico, but the road to it is in the hands of England. She could shut it up in a moment. Not a sail from Europe could pass if she prohibited it from her West Indian throne. Contingencies like those are deeply to be deprecated. No man friendly to human nature, or to the supremacy of England, which is identified with the freedom, happiness and security of human nature, can desire to see the world again thrown into a state of hostility. But if this reluctant necessity should arise, here stands the citadel from which the mistress of the seas can shake both hemispheres."

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Fri., Feb. 2nd.—88% Beet, 7s. 11½d., easier.
 Sat., Feb. 3rd.—R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" left for the West Indies.—Articles in *The Broad Arrow* on "Policing the Empire" and "The Garrison in the West Indies."—R.M.S.P. "Tagus" arrived at Southampton. Mails delivered.—Beet, 7s. 11½d., steady.
 Sun., Feb. 4th.—Lady Grey, wife of the Foreign Secretary, died from injuries sustained in a carriage accident.
 Mon., Feb. 5th.—Letter from Mr. H. Hesketh Bell and leading article on "Hurricane Insurance" in the *Times*.—Beet, 7s. 11d., dull.
 Tues., Feb. 6th.—Heated discussion in the Press regarding the leadership of the Unionist Party.—Beet, 7s. 11d., quiet.
 Wed., Feb. 7th.—Article in the *Morning Post* on the "Defence of Naval Bases"—Beet, 7s. 11½d., quiet.
 Thur., Feb. 8th.—Letter from Right Hon. J. Chamberlain to Lord Ridley, saying that he was not a candidate for the leadership of the Unionist Party, and indicating that if the majority of the Unionist Party were opposed to Tariff Reform, the Tariff Reformers would form themselves into a group which would not separate itself from the Unionist Party.—Beet, 7s. 11½d., steady.
 Fri., Feb. 9th.—Article in the *Times* on the "Canadian Manufacturers' Association and Preference"—Beet, 7s. 11½d., steady.
 Sat., Feb. 10th.—H.M.S. "Dreadnought" launched by the King at Portsmouth.—Beet, 8s. 0½d., quiet.
 Sun., Feb. 11th.—Unrest in Natal. Martial law proclaimed.
 Mon., Feb. 12th.—Mr. Balfour at a dinner to the City Members of Parliament, defended Tariff Reform.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica.—Beet, 8s. 0½d., steady.
 Tues., Feb. 13th.—Parliament assembled.—General Election concluded with Orkney election, state of parties: Liberals, 379; Labour, 51; Nationalists, 83; Conservatives, 157.—Article in the *Daily Graphic* on the *Parasol Act*.—Beet, 8s. 0½d., quiet.
 Wed., Feb. 14th.—Mr. A. J. Balfour adopted as Conservative Candidate for the City of London.—Election Address published.—The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., registered.—Beet, 7s. 11½d., dull.

Thur., Feb. 15th. Mr. Balfour in a letter to Mr. Chamberlain stated that Fiscal Reform is and must remain the great constructive work of the Unionist Party. The objects of such reform being more equal terms of competition for British trade and closer commercial union with the Colonies.—Meeting of the Unionist Party at Lansdowne House.—Bank rate unchanged. Sheet 75 17d., quiet.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library.

In the *International Sugar Journal* for February, Messrs. Heriot, Prinsen Geerlign, and Dr. Horne, continue their respective articles on "Simple Methods of Chemical Control," "The Constitution of Java Molasses," and "Chemical Control of Sugar Factories." Mr. Sigmund Stein also contributes an article on "Sugar Growing Experiments in Great Britain and Ireland," from which we conclude that beets of greater weight and saccharine contents can be grown in Great Britain than on the Continent.

Rubber Producing Companies of the Malay Peninsula and Ceylon. London: A. Southey & Co., 146, Fenchurch Street, 5s. A perusal of this handbook, issued by Gow, Wilson & Stanton, Ltd., gives the reader a good idea of the rapid expansion of the rubber-growing industry in Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula—13 companies in the former Colony and 20 in the latter being in operation. The details of these are prefaced by a useful summary of the principal points of the rubber cultivation in that part of the world, and points out the advantage—commercially, of cultivation against "wild" rubber. An excellent map of the Malay Peninsula accompanies the text.

"Cuffy the Negro's Doggrel Description of the Progress of Sugar." Mr. A. E. Aspinall's series of West Indian Picture Postcards has been augmented by a series of coloured cards bearing the above title, reproduced from a quaint old book published in about the year 1820. There are 15 cards in all—6 in Series XVI., Part I (6d.), and 9 in Series XVI., Part II, and each represents some stage in the manufacture of sugar by the old-fashioned muscovado process, from the field to the factory, and thence to the confectioners of London. Under each of the amusing pictures, admirably reproduced by the three-colour process, is an amusing doggrel verse, of which the following is a typical specimen:

"Then you see the coppers, all to boil the liquor,
In we throw some lime, soon it grow much thicker,
When it thick and ropy, lade it out for cool-ee;
Then it hard like rock! ha, ha! Black no fool ee!"

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (changed from 3 per cent. on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) are quoted 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

THE CABLE. Cable communication with the West Indian Colonies, which was interrupted on February 1st, owing to the break in the Jamaica-Puerto Rico Cable, was restored on February 8th.

A RECORD VOYAGE. The R.M.S.P. "Tagus" has established a record passage from New York to Jamaica, having, on her last homeward voyage, covered the distance in three days, twenty-three hours and twenty minutes. The "Tagus" will be remembered as one of the favourite transports during the South African War.

ST. KITTS COTTON. A recent number of *The Agricultural News* contains a report of Mr. F. R. Shepherd, the Agricultural Superintendent at St. Kitts, on the cotton crop of that Island, which was promising well on the estates visited—West Farm, Stone Fort, Wingfield, Lamberts, and Con Phipps—both as to quantity and quality. The cotton is grown as a catch crop on these estates, and when the first picking is over, the trees are cleared off and the land got ready for cane.

A MEMORIAL. It is proposed to erect a memorial fountain at Kilmun to perpetuate the memory of Mr. James Duncan, of Benmore, Argyllshire, the well-known sugar refiner, whose generous and philanthropic deeds were the means of alleviating much distress, and who during a long life promoted the best interests of charitable and Christian work in London and the West of Scotland. Subscriptions towards the memorial may be sent to Mr. B. E. R. Newlands, 2, St. Dunstan Hill, E.C.

ANTIGUA GINNERY. Dr. Francis Watts in his report to the Local Government on the working of the experimental cotton ginnery started in Antigua in 1903, states that 155 bales of 200 lbs. each were ginned for crop 1903-4, and 304 bales of 180 lbs. in 1904-5. The full cost of ginning was 9.7d. per 100 lbs., including baling with hand-presses. It is proposed, after working the ginnery for another season, to hand it over to a local company, as has been done in Barbados. It is not stated whether the cost of supervision is included in the above.

"JAMAICAS AND TRINIDAD'S." Owing to the heavy and persistent rains which have, it is said, reduced the prospects of the 1906 tobacco crop to practically nil in Cuba. The price of Havana cigars rose sharply on February 1st, and as soon as the present stock becomes depleted a further material

increase is likely to take place. Here is an opportunity for tobacco growers and cigar and cheroot manufacturers in Jamaica and Trinidad. If they are wise they will surely re-double their efforts to stimulate the rapidly growing taste for *British* West Indian cigars.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended February 8th, 105 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.50d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. The demand for West Indian Sea Island cotton is still good, and all desirable lots are quickly bought up. Owing to careful preparation of Barbados Sea Island, this growth has commanded prices from 15d. to 17d. in spite of a falling market for Carolinas in Charlestown, and more pressure to sell.

RUBBER PRODUCTION The *Temps* of January 23rd quotes from the *Bulletin Economique de l'Indo-Chine* an estimate by MM. Brenier and Clavier of 57,000 tons as the world's production of rubber, for 1904. Of the total 33½ per cent. came from America and 21½ per cent. from Africa; French West Africa produced 7,000 tons, the Belgian Congo 6,000 tons, and the French Congo 3,000 tons. The world's consumption is estimated at 57,300 tons in 1904, of which the United States took 26,470 tons, Germany 12,800 tons, the United Kingdom 10,030 tons, and France 4,130. The *Brussels Mouvement Géographique* puts the production at 75,000 tons.

SHADE GROWN TOBACCO. The *Agricultural News* has been furnished with interesting information as to the growing of tobacco in the shade, by Mr. Shepherd, the Agricultural Superintendent of St. Kitts. The results were extremely promising as regards yield, the plants growing luxuriously, the untopped ones reaching a height of seven feet in two months. The shade grown, however, was far more difficult to cure than the sun grown tobacco. We take it that these experiments are very much on a par with the practice of growing tobacco under cheese cloths by the American in Porto Rico, which has proved so successful in securing a fine quality of leaf.

"JAMAICA BANANAS." Samples of Canary and Jamaica bananas were recently submitted to the Liverpool Institute of Tropical Research, for a comparative examination to be made of their nutritive properties. Dr. Eric Drabble, of the Department of Economic Botany, found on analysis that whereas the pulp of the Canary banana possesses a slightly higher percentage of carbohydrates and proteids (nutritive matter), the ratio of fruit to skin is less than in the Jamaica banana, so that, fruit for fruit, there is no appreciable difference between them. An analysis is now being made of both kinds of bananas, carefully selected so as to ensure, as far as possible, similar conditions as to ripeness, &c., and the result will be published shortly.

COTTON IN GAMBIA. The *British Trade Journal* is responsible for the statement that the cultivation of cotton in Gambia is impossible, the soil being too sandy, and that the endeavour on the part of the Government and the British Cotton Growing Association to foster the trade has resulted in a substantial loss. A great quantity of seed was distributed gratis during the planting season, but the crop is recorded as being a total failure. As Sea Island cotton requires a sandy soil, we are rather surprised at the failure of the experiment, and are inclined to attribute it more to the cultivators than to the cause assigned. The people appear to take no interest in the cultivation, and such cotton as they grow they prefer to keep to make native cloths.

THE ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE. The Annual Report of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, states that the number of Fellows now amounts to 4491. The loan of £35,020 raised in 1886 for the acquirement of the freehold of the Institute building was reduced on December 31st last to £2,448 15s. 8d., and this balance will be paid off on July 1st, 1906, instead of 1926, as was originally contemplated. Both Council and Fellows may well feel proud of this result, which must be especially gratifying to our old friend, Sir Frederick Young, Vice-President, and the former Hon. Secretary, of this successful Colonial organisation, and to Mr. J. S. O'Halloran, the Secretary, and his indefatigable coadjutor, Mr. James R. Boose, the Librarian.

BILLIARD HANDICAP. The final of the Annual Billiard Handicap was played after the West Indian Club Dinner on Feb. 7th, when after a very close and interesting game Mr. Leonard F. Hudson beat Mr. J. S. Westwood by ten points, the score being 250 and 240. The silver cup and a presentation goblet were presented by Sir Alfred Jones to the winner. Amongst those present were: Mr. Alcock, Major Barefoot, F. O. Benckendorff, F. Dergor, H. Berger, W. A. Black, W. Denton, A. Dexter, A. Elder, W. A. M. Goode, S. Haines, Dr. O. D. Honiball, L. F. Hudson, F. N. Martinez, L. de Mercado, Sir Ralph Moor, K.C.M.G., E. A. de Pass, Dr. Seton Pattison, H. S. D. Perry, C. A. Philip, J. Rippon, Sydney Shorter, J. Sturridge, H. D. Swan, Capt. Voules, J. S. Westwood, Charles Wilson, and J. H. Wilkinson.

LABOUR IN SAM THOME. In their Annual Report for 1905, the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, say, "Valuable confirmation of the facts which have been stated by the Society, as to the existence of an organised slave trade in the West Central Africa to supply labour for Angola and

the Portuguese islands of San Thomé and Príncipe, has been supplied by the striking articles on "The Slave Trade of To-day," which have been appearing in *Harper's Magazine*, from the pen of Mr. H. W. Nevins, who returned this year from a journey in the country, as well as from other sources. The system of contracts under which the unfortunate natives are obtained is shown to be a mere farce, the people being bought by dealers in the interior in exchange for firearms or rum and driven down as slaves in gangs to the coast, to be shipped to the islands, 'whence,' as Acting-Consul Brock states, 'they never return, and where there is a heavy mortality.'

JAMAICA TOMATOES. A contributor to the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for December last, gives the results of growing tomatoes in that Island. A quarter acre plot netted from £33 18s. after deducting £3 15s. for growing, and £2 17s. for other expenses. Another small plot of $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an acre gave a profit of £20; the expenses in this case being high, £5 9s. 11½d., due to constant watering. The above were sold in the Island, but a box sent to England arrived in excellent condition, and the tomatoes reported upon as being quite equal to those from the Canaries. Tomatoes should be shipped so as to arrive in the United Kingdom during the early spring months, when prices are good.

IMPORTANT TO READERS. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2 6 each or post free 3/.

CROSFIELDS LTD. Mr. C. F. Crosfield presiding at the meeting of Crosfields (Limited), on Friday, January 26th, said that the year under review had been a period almost unexampled in the history of the sugar trade, and had been one which had caused the Board great anxiety, and had resulted in a considerable loss. At the close of the previous year beetroot sugar was worth 11s. 2d. f.o.b. Hamburg, and by the middle of January it had advanced to 16s. 1½d. per cwt., on an anticipation of a very great deficiency in the European crops. The Company was in need of new working capital, and to get this the directors proposed a scheme which involved the reduction of the capital. The vendors had offered to cancel 10,000 of their shares, which would reduce the debit balance to £51,000, instead of £175,000. It would, however, be necessary to convert each of the present £5 shares into three shares of £1 each. The capital account would then amount to £125,000, and it would require only £8,750 to pay a dividend of seven per cent. The report was adopted. At an extraordinary general meeting the directors' scheme was adopted.

LIFE AND LABOUR. The lecture recently delivered by Sir Charles Bruce on "Life and Labour in the Tropics," in Kinross and Leslie, will shortly be repeated in Kirkcaldy. The lecture is illustrated by about 120 slides of the Colonies, including a large number of West Indian views. Sir Charles Bruce reminded his hearers that the British Empire occupies more than one-fifth of the surface of the globe, including every climate of the temperate and tropical zones, and capable of producing every article of food and material for manufacture that can contribute to the needs of the United Kingdom, and he dealt with the question of the development of the resources of each constituent part of the Empire, so that it might be auxiliary to the prosperity and progress of every other part. It was remarkable how many of the great staples of the world came, not from the temperate regions, but the tropics. The importance of sugar was shown by the eagerness of foreign Governments to control that industry, and as regards cotton, it was estimated that ten million of the population of the United Kingdom were directly or indirectly interested in this trade, and that if the cotton mills in this country were running three-quarter time instead of full time, the loss would not be less than £300,000 a week, or £15,000,000 per annum.

West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

The Hon. F. M. Maxwell, K.C., has resumed duty as Attorney-General of British Honduras. Mr. Lamin B. Helam, of the Treasury Department of British Honduras, has been promoted Chief Clerk in place of Mr. C. A. Meizgen.

Mr. WALTER THOMPSON has been appointed Harbour Master of Antigua in conjunction with his duties as First Outdoor Treasury Officer.

Mr. JOHN TAYLOR, Keeper of the Prison, Belize, British Honduras, acts as District Commissioner of Stann Creek in place of Mr. H. E. Phillips.

COLONEL STEPHEN LUSHINGTON, R.A., Inspector-General of Police and Commandant of the British Guiana Militia, to be Commandant of the British Guiana Volunteers.

A new department of Inland Revenue has been established in Grenada, with Mr. J. MCCONNELL ADAMS, an officer of the Inland Revenue Department of the United Kingdom, as Supervisor and Chief, and Mr. H. A. OTWAY, formerly Tax Officer, as Chief Inland Revenue Officer.

Mr. HAROLD E. PHILLIPS, First Class Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office and Acting District Commissioner of Stann Creek, British Honduras, is to succeed Mr. H. E. W. Grant (who has been appointed Colonial Secretary of the Falkland Islands) as Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office and Clerk of Councils in British Honduras.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Lon.
Feb. 23	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Saba"	Feb. 23, 7 p.m.
" 24	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Kingston"	" 23, 6 p.m.
Mar. 2	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	"Freelings"	Mar. 2, 6 p.m.
" 3	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Atrato"	" 2, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Feb. 23	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Naparima"
" 28	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Antonio"
Mar. 3	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"La Plata"

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—SAILINGS per R. M. S. "Tagua" (Capt. H. D. Doughty) February 17th: Barbados—Col. F. C. Trollope. Demerara—Mrs. Weber. Mr. G. E. S. Fryer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred May, Sir Henry W. Dawson, Mr. Ivan Dawson, Mr. P. C. Hazel. Jamaica—Mr. and Mrs. Vestey. Trinidad—Mr. and Mrs. G. Hyde, Sir J. G. Holder, Bart. Lady Holder, Mr. J. P. Pike, Mr. S. Wheatley, Col. and Mrs. Richardson Gardner, Admiral Sir and Lady N. Bowden Smith, Rev. F. H. B. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Burdon, Mr. J. Macfarlane, Mr. B. Allen, Mr. Bird, Messrs. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Mr. J. McEnery, Mr. H. J. Vandeleur, Mr. and Mrs. C. Miller, Mrs. Hope, Miss Hayward, Rt. Hon. and Mrs. J. P. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ruspess, Miss J. Duncan, Dr. and Mrs. Ramsey, Mr. C. Ramsey, Mr. P. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. C. Browne, Mr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr. C. E. Prior, Mr. W. M. Tilson, Mr. S. Berger, Mr. R. Findlay. Antigua—Mrs. Danavall, Mr. S. M. Stuart. St. Kitts—Rev. Unsworth. St. Lucia—Mrs. Mark Kerr, Rev. E. P. Harcourt, Mr. A. C. Henderson. St. Vincent—Mrs. and Miss Cameron.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R. M. S. "Port Kingston" (Captain J. G. Parsons), February 12th: Jamaica—Mr. H. Abrahams, two Misses Abrahams, Rev. C. C. Armour, D.D., Mr. Holman, Miss Brewin, Mr. C. W. Booth, Col. E. D. Way, Miss Deliaer, Miss George, Mr. A. Harvey, Mrs. C. R. Isaacs, Mr. John Lee, C.C., I.D., Miss Morgan, Rev. W. Marwick, Miss H. Pde, Mrs. T. R. Pinnock, Mr. C. M. Rawlinson, Mr. A. M. Rawlinson, Mr. J. C. Sharp, Mrs. and Miss Tothill, Mr. Ben Tillet, Mr. J. C. Woodbury, Dr. F. H. and Mrs. Weekes, Mr. A. J. Walker, Capt. O. Williams, Mr. W. Gaunt, Mr. E. J. Raby, Mr. Walton.

SAILINGS per R. M. S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), February 10th: Jamaica—Major and Mrs. H. M. Alone, Mr. P. H. Bather, Mr. F. L. Bather, Mr. E. W. Bellhouse, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Coulburn, Mr. W. Churchill, Mr. W. Conran, Mr. J. T. Dawson, Mr. T. R. Dowdeswell, Mr. J. Egerton, Mr. and Mrs. Field-Fisher, Col. Festing, Lord Frederic Hamilton, Sir C. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Kerr, Rev. A. G. Kirkham, the Rt. Hon. Earl and Countess of Lathom, Mr. R. Lenthall, Mrs. M. Langdon, Lieut. A. B. Priestley, Mrs. Sewell, the Hon. Major and Mrs. J. Thompson, Miss S. Walker, Major J. M. Wingfield, Mr. Cleugh, Mr. T. Dorrens, Mr. P. G. E. Dawson.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Feb. 13th. "Weather very dry, cultivation suffering." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) Feb. 13th. "Too dry." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.) Feb. 6th. "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Feb. 1st. **PORT ANTONIO:** "Jan. 25th to 27th, Fine; Jan. 28th to 31st, Heavy rains." **KINGSTON:** "Jan. 26th to 31st, Rainy."

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwts.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to Jan. 20, '06	3,928	26,728	824,948	50,242	5,087,179	72,944	22,681,230	69,719,518
" " " 21, '05	6,719	18,490	967,180	38,705	2,729,793	131,151	7,303,562	74,922,341

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar. The market remains fairly steady, Continental holders nursing their enormous stocks and only feeling buyers with what they require for immediate consumption. How long they can continue this policy is not clear, but whilst they do so there is no undue pressure of sugar, and prices do not further suffer. The over production of beet this season is a very serious matter, and unless a very large reduction in sowings for the next crop is undertaken, of which at present there are no signs, the selling of sugar below cost seems not impossible to last for a considerable period. Voluminous figures on the question of Stocks, Consumption, and Production are generally misleading, and a bird's-eye view of a situation is often more reliable. If we take Convention Europe only, as indicated by Herr F. O. Lant, we notice a Visible Supply on the 1st September, 1905, in these countries of 770,000 tons. We find also a production for this year of 2,100,000 tons in excess of that of 1904/5. If we add the 770,000 tons Visible and the 5,520,000 tons crop together and deduct a Consumption figure of 3,800,000 tons for this year, being at the same rate as that of 1904/5, we arrive at a Visible in Convention Europe on the 1st September, 1906, of some 2,500,000 tons. The point is, how much more are we going to consume this year, and how much less are we going to produce next season. On these two issues rests the future course of prices and as they are not definitely fixed, an accurate forecast is beyond the scope of the head amongst us.

The quotations of 88% Beet on the 15th February were:—February, 8s. 0d.; May, 8s. 2½d.; August, 8s. 3½d.; and October/December, 8s. 6½d., all f.o.b. Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	3,870,000	2,720,000	3,890,000	3,360,000	3,530,000	
United States	130,000	100,000	110,000	120,000	80,000	..
Cuba	50,000	110,000	110,000	140,000	170,000	..
Cargoes afloat		50,000	50,000	50,000	10,000	..
Total	4,050,000	2,980,000	3,860,000	3,670,000	3,790,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 0d.	14s. 10½d.	7s. 10d.	7s. 11½d.	6s. 8d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Large sales of yellow crystallised have recently been made from 13s. 6d. for inferior grades up to 15s. for good sugar, with some fine lots at 26s. to 17s. These prices, which mark a decline of about 3d. per cwt., are attractive to the Trade and should induce a continuance of free buying. The value of average qualities is now 14s. 6d. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners not much over 9s. could be obtained on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in moderate demand from 10s. 6d. to 14s. for low dark to good grocery. For 80 test to Refiners 7s. 6d. in bond remains about the value on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are nominal and quotations cannot be accurately given. For 80 test, about 8s. in bond is the approximate value to Refiners on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons
Imports	8800	5000	5400	22,000	
Deliveries	4600	5200	5100	5300	..
Stocks	13,000	9,000	13,000	26,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ...	14s. 6d.	22s. 6d.	14s. 6d.	14s. 3d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for January:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Home Consumption	376,000	427,000	407,000
Stocks 31st Jan.	2,671,000	8,560,000	9,999,000
Stocks in London:			
Jamaica	6000	7100	8000
Demerara	9000	5700	9500
Total of all kinds	21,983	20,056	28,987
			29,696

Business in this article is at a complete standstill and accurate quotations cannot be given. Our buyers are quite indisposed to make any offers, and the stock, especially of Demerara, is freely accumulating. In a short time, however, business may possibly be resumed when correct values will be established. In the meantime it is wiser not to quote.

COCON.—Board of Trade Returns for January:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Imports	3072	2632	3300
Home Consumption	2276	1829	2487
Stocks 31st Jan.	5118	6213	3706
Stocks in London:			
Trinidad	14,100	21,000	11,200
Grenada	8900	13,100	9200
Total of all kinds	73,400	84,900	56,600
			82,600

There is no change in this market, a steady tone prevailing on the basis of last mails quotations, viz.: Trinidad fair collected, 52s. Estate Marks, 52s., 50s., and 60s.; Grenada fair Native 47s., and fermented, 50s. to 51s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 45s., and fermented, 48s. to 51s. The January consumption compares favourably with last year, but is below that of 1904. See Board of Trade Returns printed above.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 40s.

Nutmegs.—Unchanged. Small sales of West India at last mails prices. **Sage.**—Steady at previous rates. **Singer.**—In small supply. Medium qualities of Jamaica 48s. upwards. **Pimento.**—Dull and easier. Fair 4½d. to 5½d.

Arrowroot.—Quiet. Retail sales of manufacturing at 2½

Lime Juice.—Quiet, value at 10d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, business doing at £10 10s. Hand Pressed, unaltered, value at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, steady at 7s. 5d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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FRIDAY, FEB. 23rd, 1906.

No. 179.

The Homeward Mail.

WITH sugar at the present time actually below the cost of production, it is not surprising to find that the letters of several of our Hon. Correspondents, received by the homeward mail steamer "Atrato," are of a less hopeful nature than usual, though we are glad to see that the planters are facing the position with the characteristic pluck and energy which enabled them to fight the unequal competition caused by the bounties for thirty years so strenuously. For example, in Antigua, where the new central factory has proved most successful, an elaborate system of steam ploughing was about to be inaugurated on Messrs. A. M. Lee and Co.'s estates. Climatic conditions were unfortunately less favourable for agriculture; Barbados was suffering from a somewhat serious drought, and in Antigua and British Guiana rain was badly wanted, though Jamaica and St. Kitts had been more favoured. The cotton crop was exceeding expectations, and promised to prove a blessing to the smaller Islands, in which Sea Island cotton is mainly cultivated. Some anxiety was being felt regarding the cocoa crop in Trinidad, owing to the continued drought, but the market remained firm, in spite of the fact that prices at consuming centres had fallen.

Dr. Francis Watts, Government chemist for the Leeward Islands, had returned to Antigua from St. Kitts and Nevis. In St. Kitts he found cotton looking very promising; there were some very fine fields, from which good results should be obtained. In Nevis the cotton crop was variable, in some districts being very good and in others poor, according to the rainfall. It was unfortunate that this Island had suffered from drought just as it was making a special effort. The Agricultural Show was quite a success, and of a character calculated to do decided good to the Island. The experiment in cocoa growing at Maddens was progressing very well and promised to be a success. Experiments with rubber were being cautiously but steadily pushed forward in the Islands, and Dr. Watts was more and more impressed with the belief that in nearly all the Islands rubber trees might be established to advantage, particularly where this could be done at little expense in connection with already established estates, such as those in sugar and cotton. Many had been working quietly at this for some time, and it was now felt that they could recommend a little expansion being made.

We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua. Improvements in Ploughing

Writing on January 29th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that the steam ploughs supplied by Messrs. John Fowler and Co. for Messrs. A. M. Lee and Co.'s estates, had arrived in the Island. The deeper cultivation rendered possible by these steam ploughs should enable the lands to retain the usually scanty rainfall much better than was now the case.

The area under cotton cultivation had been a considerable increase on last year, but owing to the deficient rainfall the yield was not very liberal. Leaf blister mite appeared to be the most dangerous pest they had to contend against; the cotton caterpillars could be kept under by vigilance and Paris Green, but a satisfactory way of treating the leaf blister mite has yet to be discovered.

The sugar crop was on the whole very poor, owing to deficient moisture. The rainfall last year was very irregular, varying from 26 to 40 inches in different parts of the Island, the causes

varying accordingly. This was a most unfortunate state of things, the present being the third year of short crops in succession, owing to deficient rain. The canes seemed to be best in the south-western part of the Island.

January had been a fairly showery month for *January*, and the weather had been calm and less windy than usual: the rainfall for the month so far had been about two inches. The dry season started under unfavourable conditions as to water supply, and ponds and creeks were all much lower than they should be at the commencement of a dry season.

Barbados Continued Drought

The severe drought was continuing when the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote on February 1st, and no rain had fallen since last advices. The change in the canes had been very marked, and everywhere they were ripening rapidly. Sugar-making was now pretty general, and the juice was reported to be sweet and pure. The nights were cool, but the sun in the day-time was very fierce. The young canes were feeling it very much and would have to be extensively replanted in many places. Some sugar and a good deal of syrup had already been made. The crop was estimated at 47,000 tons of sugar and 35,000 puns. of molasses.

The Governor had appointed a Permanent Exhibition Committee, of which the Hon. F. J. Clarke was Chairman, and the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne one of the members. The Committee would have about £80 at its disposal.

The building of the Free Library, designed by Mr. Bowen, and erected from funds provided by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, was opened by the Governor on January 26th. The attendance was very small.

They had heard with regret of the death of Lord Ritchie, who was one of the first Members of Parliament to take up the campaign against the sugar bounties, when he stood for the Lower Hamlets.

The cultivation of cotton was rapidly extending, but that of bananas had been sensibly checked, as no profit had been obtained on any shipped for a long time. Regular mails and proper cool storage on all the ships could alone restore the banana industry.

It was some comfort to know that some Artillery were to be left in Jamaica. In Barbados the sale of lands, barracks and stores was being rapidly proceeded with.

The report on cable communication was brought up at the meeting of the Agricultural Society, and it was referred to the Committee of Management. At the same time a long telegram from the West India and Panama Telegraph Company was handed in, asking that the consideration in the Report might be delayed pending the receipt of further proposals from that Company. Mr. Alleyne considered the telegrams of the English election news most unsatisfactory and badly put together. Much more valuable information might have been given in as many words.

The local correspondence Committee was re-elected on January 26th this year, the members being the Hon. F. M. Alleyne, Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Mr. R. Challoner, Dr. W. K. Chandler, and Mr. H. B. G. Austin.

At the sitting of the House of Assembly on January 23rd, the Hon. H. G. Yearwood moved for the appointment of a Committee to inquire and report on the Plantations in Aid Acts, 1902-05, the present Act expiring in 1907. Mr. Catford seconded, and the following Committee was appointed:—Hon. F. J. Clarke, Mr. Goodman, Mr. C. P. Clark, Hon. A. G. Yearwood, Mr. G. E. Sealy, Mr. E. B. Skeete and Dr. Phillips. The Legislative Council had been invited to appoint a similar Committee.

The successful cricket team was entertained at a dinner at the Ice House on January 27th.

British Guiana. A Request for a Royal Commission.

Mr. Summerson reported in his letter of January 31st that the weather up to that date had continued to be too dry, and young cultivation was in need of good continuous rains.

The newspapers to hand by the mail contain reports of a public meeting held at Georgetown on the 30th ult., to consider "the question of memorialising the Secretary of State as to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the condition of the Colony generally, and into the immediate circumstances connected with the recent disturbances."

Dr. Robiebt, an ex-Government Medical Officer, occupied the chair, and the meeting was largely attended by *seu Delectos*. The following resolution was carried unanimously, that:—

"Whereas the labour and industrial conditions of the Colony have grown worse since the visit of the West India Royal Commissioners in 1897: and whereas few or none of the recommendations of the said Commissioners for the amelioration of these conditions are being worked out by the Government of this Colony; and whereas the recent disturbances are due in a great measure to the failure of the Government, which, as at present constituted and advised, has shown itself unable to develop schemes in accordance with the suggestions of the said Commissioners, and whereas it is clear that the lives and interests of all the inhabitants are being more and more jeopardised in consequence:

Be it resolved: That the Secretary of State for the Colonies and if necessary Parliament, be approached and urged to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the methods of Government in this Colony, the circumstances which culminated in the recent outbreak and the methods adopted by the Government for the repression, and report upon necessary change of administration for the better government and development of the Colony."

A Committee was subsequently appointed to carry out the wishes of the meeting, and to receive subscriptions, £2 18s. 9d. being collected towards defraying the expenses.

We have received from Mr. T. Sidney Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, and Bureau of Labour, particulars regarding the latter organisation. In 1904 Sir J. A. Swettenham, then Governor of British Guiana, approached the Institute with a view to the establishment of a Labour Bureau or Employment Office which would be able to ameliorate the conditions alleged to exist with regard to the unemployed of the Colony. It was suggested that a small grant in aid from the Government would assist the Institute in commencing an employment office which should, while registering the names of those out of work, endeavour to secure employment for such as were eligible. This subvention was not thought at all adequate to support such a bureau, but it was considered that with the machinery, experience and knowledge of the labouring conditions of the Colony at its disposal, the Institute might be able to establish such a bureau on a firm foundation. At the commencement, it was found that a very large number of persons applied for registration, but, owing either to age, infirmity, or, in many cases, unfortunately, disinclination to actual labour, it was not possible to show good results at the outset. This, together with a miscomprehension of the original intentions of the Executive, led to a little discussion in the Combined Court of 1905 as to the utility of the Labour Bureau. Happily, the Director is able to report that during the time from April 1st, 1905, to the present date, the Bureau has been doing steady work. Out of 469 applications from distressed and unemployed persons employment has been found for 188; these include all classes of labour and a fair number of skilled occupations.

When it is considered that something like a sixth of the applications came from persons over forty years of age, and that, of the remainder, a great many were scarcely in a physical condition to undertake anything but the lightest work, the results are at least hopeful. The descriptions of those registered include black Creoles, black Barbadians, coolies, coloured Creoles, Portuguese, Europeans, together with representatives of most of the West Indian Islands.

Dominica. The Cost of the Cable Interruption

Mr. F. A. Agar, complaining of the breakdown in cable communication, pointed out in his letter of January 20th, that the interruption, coming as it did in the middle of the green lime season,

caused a loss greater than the subsidy they paid, owing to the impossibility of knowing when to expect the steamer.

The Revenue of the Colony for last year was entirely satisfactory, and there was talk of a revision of the tariff shortly, a reform which was much needed.

The weather for the fortnight had been beautifully fine; it was difficult to find a better climate than that of Dominica at this season of the year.

Grenada. The Proposed Federation Dropped

The *Grenada Chronicle* of December 23rd says: "There was a meeting of the Legislative Council on Friday the 15th inst., at which all the members were present. His Excellency the Governor informed the meeting that the resolution respecting the union of Grenada and St. Vincent would not be proceeded with. In reply to Mr. Macaulay Browne, His Excellency said the resolution was practically dead."

Jamaica. The Election Results.

The question of hurricane insurance was, we are informed by Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, who wrote on February 1st, under discussion by a special Committee of the Agricultural Society. Mr. R. S. Gamble had submitted a letter on the subject received from Messrs. Henry Head and Co. in which particulars were asked of the number of hurricanes which had visited the Island during the last fifty years, and the Committee was taking steps to obtain particulars from the different parishes of the damage sustained by storms and hurricanes to buildings, bananas and other crops.

The weather was perfect, not only for the growing crops, but also for the tourists.

The following figures show the exports of bananas, coconuts, and oranges to the United States and Canada from April 1st, 1905, to January 20th, 1906.

	Bananas. Stems.	Coconuts. No.	Oranges. No.
United States	11,654,039	3,286,507	42,810,613
Canada	53,328	1,352,177	6,110,000

The elections are nearly over and the voters were apparently very lukewarm. The results to date were as follows:—*Kingston*—Mr. Philip Stern*; *St. Mary*—Mr. R. P. Simmond*; *St. Ann*—Mr. J. H. Allwood; *Manchester*—Mr. Arthur Levy*; *St. Elizabeth*—Mr. C. E. Isaacs*; *Paradise*—Mr. A. A. Brown; *St. Andrew*—Dr. J. R. Love; *Clarendon*—Mr. H. T. Ronaldson*; *St. Thomas*—Mr. J. R. Watson; *Trelawny*—Rev. W. M. Webb*.

Montserrat. A Record Cotton Crop.

It is satisfactory to learn from Mr. C. Watson's letter of January 29th, that the cotton crop will be the best yet made in the Island. The weather during the early part of January was very damp and unfavourable for picking cotton, but the bright weather during the past week had allowed of every labourer being turned into the fields.

Nevis. Cotton at the Agricultural Show.

Writing on January 28th, the Hon. C. A. Shand stated that the Cable Sub-Committee's report was to be presented at the next meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society for its consideration. The conditions attached to the agreement between the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. and the Cuba Submarine Co. appeared to be the crux of the situation, and with the cable giving out, as it did at present, so frequently, it would be almost cheaper for a new company to lay a fresh cable throughout than to take over the interest, goodwill and material of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. The cost of maintenance must absorb a great part of the annual receipts, even at the present rate of charge per word.

*The asterisks denote members who ran before.)

Since last mail the Agricultural Show, held under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture by the Agricultural and Commercial Society, came off very successfully on January 18th, and although there was a notable falling off in the *number* of exhibits, it was the general impression that the quality was far superior as compared with its predecessor. The day was perfect as regarded weather, and Sir Robert Bromley, who was introduced to those present by Mr. Shand, as Chairman of the Society, gave an interesting and suitable address before declaring the Show open to the public. The Hon. Dr. Watts, C.M.G., who represented the Department of Agriculture, followed with some very good advice as to the improvement and development of various products and industries, especially with regard to cotton, of which there were no fewer than twenty-six entries. It was decided to send samples of these cotton exhibits, sealed and numbered, to be submitted to the decision of experts in cotton among the officers of the Department in Barbados. On the other hand, the class in which sugar canes were scheduled made but a feeble show. The run of live stock was capital, and the prizes awarded by the Acting Governor for the best cared for animals gave universal satisfaction, the prizewinners being a credit to the Island, the prize mule especially, which compared most favourably with imported animals, evoking commendation. The Show caused a lot of hard work, but the results were satisfactory, as it had led to a demand for certain exhibits, which would circulate money in the Island. A prize given by the Secretary of the West India Committee was to be awarded to the peasant proprietor winning the greatest number of prizes in different classes of exhibits, and it would probably be awarded to Miss Ellen Chapman, who won nine prizes in five different classes, a very meritorious performance.

St. Kitts. The Shipments of 1905.

Mr. Charles A. Smith, who wrote on January 27th, had been informed that in spite of the limited proportions of the Antigua sugar crop, the result of the working of the factory had exceeded all expectations, and he hoped that this result would cause capitalists to turn their attention to St. Kitts, whose more regular crops would practically ensure success.

The following are the figures of the amount of sugar, molasses, rum, and cotton shipped from the Presidency during the year 1905 — 12,345 tons of sugar; 3084 puns. of molasses; 282 puns. of rum; 118½ bales (264,778 lbs.) of cotton.

Since last mail the weather conditions had been favourable for their later canes, as frequent showers had fallen, and although in one or two instances reaping had been retarded, the rains had been most welcome. The thermometer had ranged lower than usual, and on Friday morning the writer's registered 64°, which was exceptional even for this time of the year.

St. Vincent. Cotton Exports.

Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. reported in their letter of January 31st, that by the "Sarstoon" on January 23rd there was shipped from the Island 13 bales of cotton of 360 lbs. net, and all this of best Sea Island variety.

Trinidad. Cocoa Shipments.

The Labour Committee's Report was in the hands of the Governor, and the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., who wrote on February 3rd, understood that it would be laid on the table at the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on February 5th.

The Committee to inquire, among other things, into the desirability of re-establishing a Municipal authority for the town, had finished this portion of its inquiry. The votes for a wholly nominated Board were equally divided, the chairman withholding his casting vote. For a wholly Elective Board there was a majority of one against, and for a partly nominated and partly elective body, a large majority against.

The weather continued dry with strong breezes and occasionally light showers, ideal weather for the sugar planters, and nearly all the factories were in full work. Farmers were sending in very

few canes yet, though 9s. had been paid. Prices of sugar having fallen during the fortnight, it was proposed to pay only 8s. 6d. the following week, but it was doubted whether this intention would be carried out. Mr. Lamont's arrangement was for 9s. as a minimum.

In cocoa a marked falling off had taken place in the deliveries for the fortnight, and with the present dry weather grave fears were entertained as to the future of the crop. The market under these circumstances remained firm, in spite of the fact that prices at the consuming centres had fallen. Fine estates were quoted at 52s. 6d. C. and F. Havre, Mixed Estates at 50s. 6d. and Ordinary, 49s. 6d. At these figures sales had been made, but comparatively small quantities. The fortnight had been marked by heavy arrivals from Venezuela, but contrary to all expectations these arrivals had not affected the market, and prices remained steady at 11½d. to 12½d. per fanega.

January 7th—S.S. "Orinoco"	1,301	Trinidad	Europe.
" 8th—S.S. "P. Willem IV."	4,708	" 1,010	Venezuela
" 13th—S.S. "Westphalia"	2,300	" 1,110	"
" 13th—S.S. "P. Willem I."	3,495	" 241	"
" 13th—S.S. "Maracas"	4,755	" 1,691	New York.
" 18th—S.S. "Centro America"	75	"	Europe.
" 18th—S.S. "Sarstoon"	1,440	"	"
" 19th—S.S. "La Plata"	200	500	New York
" 19th—S.S. "Carribee"	400	20	"
" 20th—S.S. "Tagus"	1,152	"	Europe.
" 22nd—S.S. "P. Willem II."	1,607	470	"
" 24th—S.S. "Maraval"	3,211	318	New York
" 25th—S.S. "Conway"	1,850	160	Europe.
" 29th—S.S. "Naparima"	1,150	43	"
Total shipment to 31st January	27,614 bags.	4,611	Venezuelan

NOTE.—Shipments for year ending December, 1905: Trinidad, 248,746; Venezuela, 2,700.

Permanent Exhibition Committees.

The homeward mail brought the satisfactory news that a Permanent Exhibition Committee has been appointed by Sir Gilbert Carter in Barbados. A sum of money has been voted which should enable that Colony to be represented at suitable exhibitions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere when opportunity arise. Now that Permanent Exhibition Committees are established in Barbados and Grenada, we may hope soon to be able to announce the formation of similar organisations in the other West Indian Colonies. In this connection the following correspondence, which has passed between the West India Committee and the Secretary of State for the Colonies will, we think, be of interest to our readers.

The West India Committee to the Secretary of State.

MY LORD,—

February 6th, 1906.

When forwarding on the 22nd ult. copies of the Souvenir of the West Indian Court at the Colonial Exhibition, 1905, containing the Report of the General Exhibition Committee, I indicated that my Committee proposed to address your Lordship on the subject of the proposed formation of Permanent Exhibition Committees in the West Indian Colonies.

I now have the honour to transmit, by the direction of my Committee, an extract from the *West India Committee Circular* of January 3rd, 1905,* in which the suggestion was originally made that each Island should appoint a Permanent Exhibition Committee consisting of, say, six members,

*See *West India Committee Circular*, No. 120, p. 2.

and comprising representatives of the local West India Committee, the Agricultural and Commercial bodies, and the Government, who might undertake arrangements for securing the representation of the West Indian Colonies at all suitable exhibitions, thus obviating the necessity of appointing a fresh committee to deal with each occasion as it arises. In paragraph No. 20 of the Report of the General Exhibition Committee of the West India Committee this recommendation is emphasised, and it is pointed out that it has now been endorsed by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and that such a Committee has already been appointed in the Colony of Grenada.

3. As a result of the establishment of a Permanent Exhibition Committee in Grenada, my Committee have been able already to secure the adequate representation of that Colony at the Show of Colonial fruits held under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society at Vincent Square, Westminster, on December 5th and 6th last, when a silver Knightian medal was awarded to it for a display of preserved fruits, and the Island has also sent a very representative exhibit to the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition, which, as the Press notices and numerous inquiries which have already been received indicate, is proving very successful. A pamphlet regarding Grenada, which is being distributed at this Exhibition, is enclosed herewith.

4. From the *Barbados Official Gazette* of January 11th, your Lordship will have noted that Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary of Barbados, in which he expresses approval of the suggested appointment of a Permanent Exhibition Committee in each Colony, and recommends that a moderate sum be provided on the estimates and placed at the disposal of such Committees to defray the necessary expenses, and further, he pledges his Department to assist the representation of the Colony of Barbados at the forthcoming exhibitions in Canada, and other exhibitions, adding that it would be to the advantage of these Colonies to keep their products and resources prominently in view of those in a position to utilise them abroad, and to afford full information as to their special merits, and the quantities and prices at which they could be supplied on a commercial scale.

5. In conclusion, I am to add that my Committee are now in correspondence with the principal West Indian Colonies on this subject, and am to express the hope that your Lordship will approve of the action which we are taking in the matter, and will support our proposals, which are put forward with the object of furthering the commercial and industrial prospects of our West Indian Colonies.

I have the honour, etc.,

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL

Secretary.

The Secretary of State to the West India Committee.

February 15th, 1906.

SIR—I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst., giving particulars of a scheme for the appointment of permanent local Exhibition Committees in the West Indian Colonies.

2. Lord Elgin is entirely in sympathy with the objects which the West India Committee desires to promote, and he hopes that this scheme will be attended with success and will produce useful results, although such support as the Colonial Governments can give must necessarily be largely dependent on financial considerations.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. P. LUCAS.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXII.



Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Mar. 1st, 1906

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

At the recent Conference of the Labour Representation Committee, it was decided to send delegates to the Colonies to enquire into the conditions of labour and trade, with the object of acquiring unbiassed information in the interest of the Labour Party in connection with the subject of closer association with Great Britain. It is difficult to over-estimate the importance of this step on the part of a section of the community which has risen to such a dominant position of recent years. Trades Unionism, which forms the organising power of labour in this country, has hitherto been looked upon as averse to anything of the nature of Imperialism, and this recognition of the desirability of forming Colonial ties indicates a distinct advance in this direction, the significance of which, in connection with the trade of the Empire, is obvious. Hitherto, the distrust of the manufacturer has led to a hostile—or, at least, suspicious—attitude of the working man towards Fiscal Reform. When, however, the delegates see for

themselves how bonds of mutual interest unite the Colonial industries with those at home, we shall be

very much surprised if one of the greatest objections which they hold towards it will not have been removed, and the cause of Imperialism, based on commerce rather than sentiment, advanced enormously. As regards the West Indian Colonies—and we sincerely trust that these will be included in the itinerary—at the present moment the bulk of the general public are still profoundly ignorant of the industrial conditions which prevail there. Life in the tropics is supposed to be one of uninterrupted ease, and the gay planter is supposed only to have to tickle the surface of the soil for it to yield wealth in abundance at a minimum cost with a maximum return—and few at home realise the trouble, cost and worry which is entailed in supplying the Mother Country with the many important necessaries of life which now come from the tropics. There are, however, two items in connection with the West Indian sugar industry which should especially appeal to the British working man, and these are the cost of machinery used in connection with the sugar industry, and value of the system of coolie immigration. In British Guiana and Trinidad the delegates would see large factories equipped with massive and costly machinery, fleets of punts or lines of trucks, as the case may be, stores various in kind, and necessary adjuncts to a manufacture of this nature, and would realise what all this means to the British mechanic, and at the same time the struggle of competition which it indicates. Were the smaller sugar producing Colonies as well equipped as the larger, the output of the West Indies and British Guiana would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,000,000 tons, and would represent £5,000,000 of capital expenditure. The yearly cost of maintenance of the machinery, apart from the question of stores, represented by this would be at least £250,000, practically the whole of which would go into the pockets of home manufacturers and their employes. But the manufacture *per se* is not the only source of wage to the British mechanic in connection with the sugar industry. The wages paid to the labourers, and there is probably no other industry in which these form such a high proportion of the cost of production, find their way home in a variety of small ways, such as for articles of clothing and every day use, which have to be, or should be, imported from the Mother Country, and help to swell the labour bill on this side. The other feature of West Indian life in which the working man of this country would take special interest is the labour question, especially as regards East Indian immigration in Trinidad and British Guiana, and to a lesser extent Jamaica. He would see in these Colonies a large proportion of the population consisting of British coolies, brought from an extreme portion of the British Empire, happy and prosperous, assisting the agricultural development of the Colonies, and stimulating the labour of the negro population. He would see a purely agricultural imported labourer, living under conditions of life which the home agricultural labourer might envy, saving money, becoming the possessor in very many instances, not of "three acres and a cow," but of many acres with kine in proportion, growing provisions and other farm commodities, and providing the bulk of the raw material for the main industry, and thereby aiding the support and maintenance of the skilled workman of the negro race, who form the major part of the cane cutters and factory employes. We have mentioned the sugar industry only as being the principal industry of the West Indies, and the one which would bring most home to the British working man the importance of closer commercial relations with Great Britain; but there are others, such as cocoa, which predominates in Trinidad, cotton, tobacco, &c., contributing towards an annual trade of £6,000,000, which might be almost entirely in the hands of the Mother Country were the commercial relations closer.

PROFESSOR E. C. VON LIPPMAN, at a meeting of the Sugar Association of Saxe-Thuringia, in speaking of the attitude of German sugar producers in the present crisis in sugar prices, has made the very definite statement that "It is of the most vital interest for the beet sugar industry that the price of sugar should remain at a low figure, for any notable advance in prices would especially favour

the cane sugar industry. The fight between the beet and cane industries is inevitable, but at the same time necessary. When it is considered that the German sugar industry has produced the better and cheaper article, and that the economic conditions of this industry are very strong and sound, the future need not be looked upon with fear or discouragement. The true attitude to observe, in view of the competition, is that which consists in freely stating that we accept an inevitable contest, that we are resolved to keep up the struggle to the end, and not to ask for mercy because events go badly with us." We draw attention to this statement as indicating unmistakably what may be expected as to the future. The German sugar growers are evidently not going to give up the English market without a struggle, and are prepared to go to the bitter end in their endeavour to wipe out the British Colonial sugar industry. This was their avowed object in the days of bounties, and backed up by these the result would have been inevitable had they continued. Fortunately the competition is now on more equal terms, but the struggle will be a serious one. It means, if indeed the Director of the Halle refinery, whose remarks are quoted, voices the views of the German sugar industry as a whole, that beet sugar is to be placed in the English market at a price below the cost of production, with the view of extinguishing the British Colonial sugar industry, to which the abolition of the bounties has given new life and energy, and that this will go on until the enormous resources of the Continental sugar interests are exhausted, or until the British people no longer allow a British market to be utilised for the destruction of British industry. We have already pointed out from time to time that the Brussels Convention meant, under the natural laws of production, the transference of competition from cane *v.* beet, to cane *v.* cane. It would now appear that the Continental beet industry is not inclined to accept the situation, but will make one more bid for supremacy in the English market. Should they succeed, and we do not consider for one moment that they will, it would be a disastrous day for the British consumer, and the confectioners' interest would then have a genuine grievance to ventilate, as the market would be entirely under the control of the Continental sugar producer, who would lose no time in exacting indemnity for his losses in the struggle. But, as we have said above, we look upon the British cane sugar industry as quite able to hold its own in this matter. It has been schooled in the bitter school of adversity, and has shown the stuff it is made of. At the same time the seriousness of such a contest must not be minimised. The enormous weight of the strong financial position of the Continental beet industry, on the other, the fact that a greater margin still exists for further economic improvements in production, although the British cane sugar industry is in a far stronger position in this respect than it was.

THE formation of a West Indian Produce Association, which was foreshadowed by SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, if our memory serves us, at a banquet of the West Indian Club, has now become an accomplished fact, a company bearing that title having been duly registered at Somerset House, with the object of developing the demand for all kinds of West Indian produce in this country. The newly-fledged West Indian Produce Association has taken over as going concerns the old-established businesses of James Philip & Co. and the Pure Cane Sugar Co., which for nearly a quarter of a century have been dealing successfully in all kinds of West Indian commodities, and the more recently formed Monocane Sugar Co., which for two years past has mainly devoted itself to advertising the pure cane sugars of the West Indies, which used to be so popular in our childhood's days. It will thus be seen that the organisers of this new movement have adopted the policy of developing and extending existing businesses, and we believe that they have been wise in doing so. The success which attended the efforts made during last summer at the Colonial Exhibition to popularise West Indian produce made it appear that the moment was opportune for developing the latent demand for

it, the existence of which has for a considerable time past been recognised. The West Indian Produce Association is to be carried on on a business footing, and no attempt will, we are glad to say, be made to go behind existing organisations dealing with West Indian produce, but rather to help them, the Directors believing that the possibilities of this movement are so great that by advertising West Indian produce and making it better known in this country generally, they will not only be helping the West Indian Colonies, but also acting in the interests of existing firms who handle it, and who should therefore, also reap the benefit. We have never ceased to urge our numerous readers to use pure cane sugars and other West Indian produce in their own households, and to recommend its use to their friends as much as possible, and the present moment is a suitable one for appealing to them once more on this subject. Much spade work has already been done, but the measure of success of the West Indian Produce Association must depend largely upon the support of those interested in the West Indies, and we have, therefore, no hesitation in again emphasising the old adage, "Charity begins at home." The West Indian Produce Association does not, of course, ask for charity, but it does ask for support on business lines. It has for some time past been a reproach that refined beet sugar is used in the West Indies, and in this connection it may be pointed out that the W.I.P.A., as it will soon get to be known, is an exporter as well as importer, and that if merchants and shippers have any difficulty in getting the genuine article for export to the Colonies, they will now know where to obtain it.

We reproduce elsewhere an article which appeared in the *Montreal Daily Herald*, of Saturday, February 10th, dealing with the effect of the abolition of the bounties on the profits of the Canadian refiner, in its bearing on the West Indian sugar industry. The strength of the position of the Canadian refiner lies in the supply of West Indian sugar being greater than the Canadian consumption, which enables him, by co-operation, to regulate how much (if any) of the preference he allows to the West Indian seller, and how much goes into his own pocket. The statements of Mr. Robert Anderson to the Tariff Commission, which has just concluded its sitting, appear to show that the Canadian refiners are realising enormous profits from the operation of the present tariff, actually making $64\frac{1}{2}$ cents. per 100 lbs. sugar, more profit out of the people of Canada than the American millionaire trust dare demand from the consumer in the United States. Mr. Anderson's indictment of the refiners, which occupies forty-two pages of typewriting, is very strong. He asserts that the refiners are receiving annually in the form of protection \$2,000,000 over and above the legitimate clear profit of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as the result of duty on raw and refined sugar. The preference to British sugars was given by the Canadian Government with the view of encouraging reciprocal trade relations with the West Indies, and to further these relations, a Canadian line of steamers was subsidised by the Imperial Government. West Indian planters, therefore, have every reason to complain of a position of things which means to them more give than take: although it is difficult to see how, even with Government intervention, the Canadian refiners can be compelled to vacate the position which the natural law of supply and demand has given them. Mr. Anderson, although he recommends the raising of the colour standard to 17 from 16 D.S., is against a higher entry limit for raw sugars, as being calculated to send into Canada West Indian yellows for direct consumption. This, however, might be an advantage. It might be possible to create a market, small perhaps, for this class of sugar in that country similar to what obtains here. It would not, of course, get over the difficulty of the sugar consumption of Canada not being big enough to absorb all West Indian sugars, but it would at any rate afford a temporary measure of true reciprocity until such a time as the consumption, which is rapidly increasing, became equal to the supply. But probably the best way to meet the difficulty would be for the West Indian sugar growers to refine their own sugar in Canada.



Photo by Alvarado E. Aguirre.

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YOUTHFUL CRICKETERS.

In this way the benefit of the preference would go to the quarter intended, and much would be done towards giving that actuality to reciprocity between these British possessions which has been the object of the Canadian Government. As it is at present, not only does the Canadian refiner reap a very substantial advantage from the difference in duty between raw and refined sugar, but also pockets the greater part of the 33½ preference to British sugars.

Sir Henry Bergne, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.

Sir Henry Bergne is the chief British Delegate to the Permanent International Commission at Brussels under the Sugar Bounties Convention. He retired from his position as head of the Commercial Department and Examiner of Treaties at the Foreign Office, in which department of State his father, John Brodribb Bergne, had served before him, after forty years work, in 1902. He was educated at Brighton, Enfield and London University, where it soon became clear that he was marked out for a distinguished career. From 1881 to 1893 he was Superintendent of the Treaty Department, and he was subsequently Her late Majesty's Plenipotentiary in 1886 and 1896 for the signature of the Copyright Convention at Bergne, and the Additional Act of Paris. He was Protocolist to the Fisheries Commission at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1877, and at Washington in 1887-88, and delegate of the Government to conferences at Rome, Madrid and Brussels on the Industrial Property Convention in 1886, 1890 and 1898. He was made a K.C.M.G. in 1888, C.B. in 1902 and K.C.B. in 1903. Sir Henry Bergne spends much of his spare time in Switzerland, being an ardent mountaineer and member of the Alpine Club. He is also fond of golf, and is an enthusiastic collector of blue and white Oriental porcelain. He is another of the small body of strong men to whom the West Indies have cause to be grateful.

The King and our West Indian Colonies.

Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the late Administrator of Dominica, had the honour of being received by the King, at Buckingham Palace, on February 17th, on his appointment to be His Majesty's Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda Protectorate. We believe that the King had considerable conversation with Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, and that His Majesty evinced much interest and solicitude for the welfare of his West Indian Colonies. We reproduce elsewhere a photograph of the very handsome testimonial plate which was presented to Mr. H. Hesketh Bell by the people of Dominica on his retirement from that Colony, as a mark of their appreciation of his services.

Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P.

By the election of Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., to the Executive of the West India Committee which, as briefly recorded in our last issue, took place at a meeting on Thursday, February 22nd last, the Trinidad interest in this body is materially strengthened. The new Member for Trinidad—if we may call him so—on the Executive Committee of this ancient organisation is the eldest son of Sir Mitchell Mitchell-Thomson, Bart., formerly Lord Provost of Edinburgh. He was born in 1877, educated at Winchester and Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A., and Edinburgh University, of which he is J.L.B. Until recently, when he resigned in order that he might devote more of his time to politics, he was a director of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, Limited, and the Trinidad Estates Company, Limited, in which he is still considerably interested.

The Volcanic Disturbances.

The earthquakes, which recently occurred in Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent, were evidently promissory symptoms of the eruption of Mont Pelé and the Soufrière in St. Vincent, which are reported to have taken place on February 24th. The inhabitants of Martinique were reported by the Barbados correspondent of a New York paper to be terror stricken, and at Fort de France many houses are said to have been demolished by earthquakes. The eruption of the Soufrière was the most violent since that of 1902. No confirmation of these reports has as yet reached us, and the Colonial Office is also without information, the West Indies being cut off from cable communication.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, February 22nd, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
GEORGE H. RISIEN (British Guiana).	A. Summerson.	W. H. Woodroffe.
WILLIAM M'LAREN (Barbados)	Harold Austin.	T. W. Wilkinson.
THE WEST INDIA PRODUCE ASSN. LTD.	Sir Nevile Lubbeck, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford.

Full particulars regarding membership and candidature forms can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

In 1775 the growing dissatisfaction of the North American Colonies with the control of the Mother Country, which led to the War of Secession in the following year, was evidenced in the commercial boycotting of the West Indies by those Colonies, and in the West India Committee Minutes of January 3rd, the following entry occurs:—

"The Chairman produced a letter which he received, signed by several gentlemen of the West India Islands, residing in London, of which the following is a copy:—

London, January 1st, 1775.

SIR,—The very alarming Situation in which the West India Islands are placed, by the late American proceedings, induces us to apply to you as Chairman of the Society of West India Merchants, to request that they will not come to any Resolution, as a separate Body, at their next Meeting, but that they will join with us in calling a General Meeting of the whole Body of Planters and West India Merchants, to deliberate on the Steps necessary to be taken by us jointly on the present important Crisis."

(Signed) "CHAS. FULLER, and others."

A general meeting of the whole body of West India merchants and planters was consequently called for and held at the London Tavern, in Bishopsgate Street, on January 18th, and at the meeting of the Committee on February 7th, it was reported that, as the result of that meeting, a Petition had been delivered to the House of Commons by Mr. Alderman Oliver, and seconded by Mr. Rose Fuller. The Petition set forth that—

"Your Petitioners are exceedingly alarmed at an Agreement and Association entered into by the Congress held at the City of Philadelphia, in North America, on the 5th day of September, 1774, whereby the Members thereof agreed and associated for themselves and the Inhabitants of the several Provinces (lying between Nova Scotia and Georgia), that from and after the first day of December, 1774, they would not import into British America any Melasses, Syrups, Pancles, Coffee or Pinento, from the British Plantations, and that after the 10th day of September, 1775, the Acts and parts of Acts of the British Parliament therein mentioned are not repealed, they would directly or indirectly export any Merchandise or Commodity whatsoever to the West Indies."

The War of Secession broke out early in the following year, and led to the permanent separation of the North American Colonies from Great Britain. How little could the West Indian planters then foresee that in later years, during the stress of the bounty competition, when the markets of the Mother Country were practically closed to them, their situation would be in the fair treatment accorded them by the United States, who imposed a countervailing duty on bounty-fed sugar.

Sugar Cane Experiments in the Leeward Islands.

The Report of the Sugar Cane Experiments conducted in the Leeward Islands during the season 1904-5, under the direction of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, is to hand. The observations under review form a continuation of experiments which have been carried on for several years in Antigua and St. Kitts, and comprise the variety cane portion of the investigations. The drought which had affected the crops of the Leeward Islands to such an extent had been much against the experiments, but so far as Antigua was concerned, six out of the seven best canes occupied a similar position in previous results. The seven were B. 156, Sealy Seedling, B. 306, B. 208, D. 74.

D. 95, D. 109. At St. Kitts the best results as plant canes were obtained with the Caledonian Queen or White Transparent. B. 208 and B. 147 were also grown with satisfactory results. B. 208 as a ratoon gave especially good results, yielding thirty tons of cane per acre with 8,508 lbs. of sugar in the available juice. A valuable feature of these experiments is that the canes are now being cultivated on a practical scale, and under normal conditions. A useful paper on the true and apparent quotient of purity of cane juice is added, and illustrations given of thirty-five instances of differences in the case of variety canes. The unexpected low extraction of sugar in some instances where the quotient of purity as ordinarily found is exceptionally high has long been a source of considerable perplexity to sugar manufacturers, and further research on this subject is much needed.

The Canadian Preference.

The *Montreal Daily Herald* of Saturday, February 10th, contains the following leading article which throws an interesting light upon the attitude of the Canadian refiners towards the West India planters in connection with the 33½ % rebate of duty on British sugar entering the Dominion:

Extraordinary results sometimes spring from causes that were intended to have effects altogether different from those they actually assumed in the clutch of circumstances, but it is doubtful if anything more curious is presented in the annals of commerce than the way the abolition of sugar bounties in European countries, which was procured for the advantage of the West Indies planter, is operating for the benefit of the Canadian refiner.

Of course, the position of the Canadian refiner in the matter was never taken into consideration when the British Government fought around the European conference board for the abolition of the bounty system. The intention was to help the West Indies planter in his unequal struggle against conditions that had long proved too strong for him.

The matter was brought with a lucidity altogether admirable before the Tariff Commission at the Ottawa sittings by Mr. Robert Anderson, of this city, whose excellent exposition of the sugar question generally was epitomised in Thursday's *Herald*. One effect of the preference in the Canadian market granted to British grown sugar has, since the abolition of the bounties, been that Canada is drawing 75 % of her sugar supply from the West

Indies. The Canadian preference to British grown sugar, whether 25 or 33½ %, was non-effective so far as the West Indies trade was concerned, while European countries were still paying bounties on exports, because then United States tariff legislation enabled the American refiners to pay a higher price to the British West Indies planter than he could obtain for his sugar in any other market. This was because the United States Government imposed a countervailing duty on European bounty fed sugar equal to the amount of the bounty paid on export.

It was the stoppage of the payment of European bounties, which was naturally followed by the abrogation of the countervailing duties in the States and the rise of the price of beet in Europe to the level of other sugars, that brought about the diversion of the purchases of the Canadian refiners to the West Indies. This drew the raw sugars of the West Indies away from the American refiners; but the West Indies planter has not been the person to gain.

Naturally our refiners buy as cheaply as they can, and pay no more for the sugar than the seller asks for it; but it is suggested that means should be taken by which the Canadian refiner should not receive the whole of the benefit of the preference since the consumer does not share in the advantage.

The Halifax and Montreal refiners are credited with an arrangement by which they could effect their purchases in the West Indies without competition, and the result of this diversion of trade was to give the West Indies shipper in the smaller islands, such as Jamaica (*sic*), Antigua and St. Kitts, about 10c. per 100 lbs. more than he would have got for the same sugar in bond at New York; but the Halifax and Montreal refiners, finding they were getting a greater quantity than they wanted owing to the market going against them in the first six months of last year, notified the West Indian shippers that they could not continue to pay them any of the preference over New York values. Thus the shippers from the smaller islands in the West Indies have to look to other markets for an outlet, while Canada does the bulk of its buying from the larger markets of Demerara and Trinidad through New York brokers, purchasing at the same price or within 1-32c. to 1-16c. per lb. of what the New York refiners have to pay and pocketing the saving in duty as an additional profit.



Silver plate presented to His Excellency B. Basketh Bell, C.M.G., by the people of Dominica. (See page 95.)

The lot of the West Indies planter is surely hard. For many long years he was crippled by the European bounties, and just when there was a chance of his getting a crutch from Canada that would help him to move about a little, he finds that in the course of business, others, who perhaps need it less, are enabled to take for themselves what he thought was surely to be his.

The Sugar Tax.

Mr. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, received a deputation of representatives of the manufacturing confectioners and allied trades at noon on February 23rd, with regard to the sugar tax. The deputation is understood to have stated that the industry employed 125,000 wage earners, and paid in wages five and a half millions a year, and that the Brussels Convention had aggravated the conditions of the trade by interfering with the sources of supply and encouraging speculation, which led to increased prices. With sugar below the cost of production and the rise of last year being now admitted on all sides to have been due to a shortage of the beet crop on the Continent, this seems strange. The deputation went on to complain of the sugar tax, which was, it was claimed, injurious to the confectionery industry. Mr. Asquith, in reply, is reported to have said that he had no doubt that like all taxes the sugar tax was injurious to the industry affected, but could not hold out any hope that this duty was likely to be relieved under existing conditions. He promised, however, that the arguments which the deputation had placed before him should receive his careful attention.

The International Sugar Commission.

The Report of the Proceedings of the Autumn Session (1905) of the Permanent Commission under the Sugar Bounties Convention has been published. It was decided that in the case of Nicaragua a bounty existed—and that the countervailing duty previously fixed should be maintained. The British representative, Sir Henry Bergue, voted against the ruling on the ground that no clear evidence had been brought before the Commission to show that the conditions did actually constitute a bounty. The most important matter before the Commission was the case of Brazil, decision being left over until the next session on the 12th of March, in order that still further information might be obtained.

Cocoa Disease in Ceylon.

Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Botanical Department of Trinidad, in a recent issue of his *Bulletin*, gives some interesting particulars regarding cocoa disease in Ceylon. Cocoa disease began to be discussed and remedial measures applied about the same time in that Colony as in Trinidad, where it is believed that cocoa planters are duly satisfied with the measures recommended to them for adoption, as there is definite evidence of their value on estates where they have been carried out. The cocoa trees in Ceylon are subject to a fungus parasite which belongs to the same group as that which practically swept out coffee and mitigated the cultivation of *chibama* in Ceylon. The disease spreads rapidly and is capable of reducing the yield within six or seven years from nearly 3 cwt. per acre to $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cwt. per acre. The fungus weakens the trees, and spores of it may be blown about by the wind and carried to the stems and fruit of other trees, thus infecting them. The only methods employed to keep the fungus in check, which have been found effective are—

- (1) Letting in sunlight.
- (2) Excision and burning of diseased tissues on the stem.
- (3) Frequent collecting and burning of diseased fruits or burying with lime.
- (4) Spraying with chemical compounds known to be poisonous to the spores of fungi.

When the disease attacks the fruit, the new and old pods are collected at frequent intervals and burnt or buried with lime on the spot. When spraying is resorted to, the pods are sprayed with a mixture of copper sulphate 6 lbs., lime 4 lbs. and water 45 gallons. In 1902 the cocoa was very badly diseased, as many as 96 per cent. of the trees and 14 to 62 per cent. of the pods collected being attacked by the fungus. The curative methods herein described were commenced in May, 1902, and within six months an improvement was obvious. In 1902 the percentage number of fungus pods was 35; in 1903 this was reduced to 7 per cent., and in 1904 to 4 per cent. by an expenditure which was more than covered by the value of the increased crop. In 1902 the crop was only 0.83 cwt. per acre; in 1903 it rose with a decrease in the disease to 1.18 cwt., and in 1904 to over 2 cwt. per acre.

What is Whiskey?

The decision in the "What is Whiskey?" case was given by Mr. Foulam at the North London Police Court on February 26th. He ruled that Scotch whiskey must consist entirely of

barley malt, and Irish whiskey of 75 % of barley malt with barley, oats, rye or wheat, and that both must be distilled in a "pot" and not a "patent" still. While most will agree with this ruling as regards the definition of the materials from which these whiskeys should be made, we must join issue with his statement that patent still spirit made from malt is not whiskey. To adopt a simile we have already used, the position seems to be on all fours with that of "muscovado" and "crystallised" cane sugar. Both must be the product of the sugar cane, but because muscovado is boiled in the old-fashioned open "kettle" and crystals in the more modern vacuum pan, no one would for a moment say that they were not both entitled to the term cane sugar. And the fact of the patent still not being known in the early days of whiskey surely does not deprive the product—so long as the same materials are used—of a right to the term. The decision is of the utmost moment to the whiskey trade, and is sure to be appealed against.

Mosquitos and Malaria.

The question as to whether the immunity enjoyed by Barbados from the *anopheles* mosquito, and consequently malarial fever, may be caused by the presence in the ponds of that Island of a small fish locally known as "millions," and since determined as *Girardinus Versicolor*, which was first raised in our columns by Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, has since given rise to much correspondence in the West Indian press, and experiments are, it is understood, being conducted to ascertain how far this theory may be correct. Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Botanical Department of Trinidad, reminds us in his *Bulletin*, that the Trinidad species named after Mr. R. J. Lechmere Guppy, many years ago, was determined for the Botanical Department of the Colony in 1888 by Dr. Gunther, of the British Museum. It is abundant in the St. Ann's River. The Trinidad fish is similar in its habits to the Barbados species and feeds on the larvæ of mosquitos. In malarial districts the presence of this fish would be an inestimable boon to suffering humanity. They can be easily kept in a small tank or fountain, and a fountain with this fish in plenty may be considered as largely tending to reduce the liability to contract malaria. Though small, the fish is very voracious, and will destroy all the ova of gold fish if kept in the same water. If gold fish are required to reproduce freely it should be seen that no *Girardinus* are present. It has been thought necessary to destroy fountains in many places owing to their being known to be breeding places of mosquitos, but it is now clear that if these fish are present, a fountain is not only quite harmless, but is actually a trap whereby the number of mosquitos carrying malaria may be lessened. In connection with this subject of malaria it may be mentioned that many of the breeding places of mosquitos have hitherto been overlooked. One of these which has come to notice is found in the gutters of large buildings, which, owing to defective construction, hold *in situ* little pools of water after every shower—and offer an explanation of the commonly heard expression, "I wonder where all these mosquitos come from!" Another favourite breeding place for mosquitos is the axils of the many Bromeliaceous plants which form the larger portion of the epiphytical vegetation of tropical countries. Mr. J. H. Hart has many a time when on botanical excursions, had to strain out the bodies of mosquitos in order to obtain a drop of water from the plants mentioned to quench his thirst. It is somewhat difficult to understand the practical application of kerosene in a wooded country with plenty of epiphytes; and he cannot see how any application of kerosene or petroleum to pools and water reservoirs can be effective, while so many breeding places



Grenada Gelles

This is one of the illustrations in Mr. C. Falconer Anton's "Notes on Grenada," 2,000 copies of which were distributed at the Colonial Products Exhibition at Liverpool.

exist, covered by a multitude of plants carrying water receptacles, which it would be absolutely impossible to eradicate. It would, in his opinion be more practical to trap mosquitos into laying their eggs in small reservoirs of water filled with fish and *Utricularias* than to depend solely on petroleum for their destruction. The Trinidad *Girardinus* can be readily carried long distances, and in suitable temperature they soon reproduce abundantly. A number was sent to Dr. Gunther some years ago in a small glass vessel some 6 inches high by 6 inches in diameter, and arrived safely in London, but the fish soon died owing to their not being able to stand cold weather.

The Cable Debacle.

Owing probably to the seismic and volcanic disturbances in the West Indies, to which reference is made elsewhere, the whole of the West Indies (Jamaica excepted) were cut off from cable communication with the outside world on February 24th. We are informed by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, that pending the restoration of communication, messages will be forwarded by chartered vessels, and that steam opportunities between Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, St. Lucia and Barbados, and Grenada and Trinidad will be availed of. The actual cables interrupted are as follows:

St. Vincent—Grenada.	Ponce—St. Croix.
St. Vincent—St. Lucia.	St. Lucia—Martinique.
Grenada—Trinidad.	Dominica—Martinique.
San Juan—St. Thomas.	Trinidad—Demerara (No. 1).
Jamaica—Colon.	Colon—Panama.

The West Indian Cricket Team.

We are now able to give the amended list of fixtures for the tour of the West Indian cricket team, which is due to arrive at Southampton on May 26th. It will be seen that they are very representative indeed, not the least interesting addition being the arrangement for a match on June 13th with Lord Brackley's cricket team which toured the West Indies last winter. We sincerely hope that all the countries will put their strongest teams in the field. If they do not, it will be a matter for great disappointment to the West Indian cricketers and also to the West Indies, who look upon the tour as likely to be of great educational value and calculated to improve the standard of West Indian cricket. It is not too much to say that they would rather suffer defeat at the hands of a first class team than score a hollow victory over a second class team.

June 11. Crystal Palace—v. London County	July 10. Lord's—v. M. C. C. and Ground
" 14. Leyton—v. Essex.	" 19. Derby—v. Derbyshire
" 18. Lord's—v. Lord Brackley's West Indian Team.	" 23. Edinburgh—v. All Scotland
" 21. Baling—v. Minor Counties Combined Eleven.	" 26. Blackpool—v. An England Eleven
" 25. Oval—v. Surrey.	" 30. Sunderland—v. Northumberland and Durham.
" 29. Swindon—v. Wiltshire (two days).	Aug. 2. Harrogate—v. Yorkshire
July 2. Southampton—v. Hampshire	" 9. Leicester—v. Leicestershire
" 9. Cardiff—v. South Wales.	" 10. Norwich—v. Norfolk (two days).
" 16. Catford—v. Kent.	" 13. Nottingham—v. Nottinghamshire
	" 16. Northampton—v. Northamptonshire

All that is now wanted is a fine summer and plenty of enthusiasm, such as is shown by the youthful cricketers, snapshotted in St. Kitts, in our full page illustration.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

What about Sugar?

Since we last went to press, West Indian affairs have been conspicuous by their absence from discussions at Westminster. Sugar, so far as the Government is concerned, appears to be dead, and no attempt has been made to substantiate the extravagant statements regarding the effects of the Brussels Convention which were so freely made last year. With sugar as it is now, below the cost of production, this is by no means surprising.

The Brussels Sugar Convention.

Since the above was written, and as we go to press, the important news has reached us that Sir Edward Grey, replying to Sir Charles Dilke, in the House of Commons, said the Government could not withdraw from the Sugar Convention before Dec. 1908, and notice to do so must be given by Dec. 1907. Large questions of policy were involved in the matter, and it had not yet been considered by the Government, but it would not be lost sight of. He agreed that if a decision to

withdraw were arrived at it would be desirable to give preliminary notice to the Powers, but he would say nothing at present regarding the intentions of the Government.

The Labour Question.

The debates regarding Chinese labour will doubtless be closely followed in the West Indies, where it will, we hope, be appreciated that the circular letter recently addressed to the Press by the West India Committee on the subject of the South African and West Indian immigration systems served a useful purpose. The two are no longer being compared with each other, and it is generally realised that they differ in many material and important respects. Replying to Mr. Walrond, who asked if a grant from the Exchequer would be proposed to enable indentured coolies employed in British Guiana to be repatriated if dissatisfied with their conditions. Mr. Asquith replied: No, sir; the considerations which influenced the Government in dealing with the question of repatriating the Chinese coolies do not apply to coolies in British Guiana. (Ministerial cheers.)

Letter to the Editor.

The Strategic Importance of the West Indies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I have read with very great interest the letter in your issue of the 16th inst., on the "strategic importance of the West Indies." It is indeed an unsatisfactory reflection that while the Rev. G. Croly should have foreseen in 1820 the possibilities and the importance of the West India Islands, it should be necessary in 1906 to urge upon the British Government this importance which is apparent to everyone, and none more so than to the Americans. The United States have secured to themselves Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Republic of Panama, they exercise practical control over Hayti and San Domingo, and say they will not permit Denmark, or any other nation, to dispose of their West Indian possessions except to themselves. This is progressive, to say the least of it. Great Britain's countermove is to take possession, according to the Press, of Sombrero Island.

The gates of Mexico are not controlled in the manner stated by Mr. Croly, as the Florida Straits and Yucanian Passage are now in other hands than British, and all our love ends at Gibraltar or runs eastwards of that rock. Islands in the West Indies are closed by those who are supposed to have been helped to secure them by our moral support and thus markets are closed, and the Windward Passage, our nearest approach to the great Canal across the Isthmus, will, if Mole St. Nicholas remains in its present hands, or unless it is made neutral, also apparently be jeopardised as well as the approach to Jamaica from Canada.

In these circumstances, the extracts taken from a book by the Rev. G. Croly, under the title of "The Life and Times of George IV.," published in 1820, would seem to appeal most strongly to the West Indian mind, and "L. A. Shiffner" is indeed to be congratulated, and has done good service in causing them, through *The West India Committee Circular*, to be brought into prominence at this moment.

The fertility and commercial value of our West Indian possessions are as real to-day as they were more than seventy years ago, but can we say that the value has been fully appreciated by this country or Canada? It is to be feared not. More serious than this is the great alteration in the preponderance of strength in the Caribbean of other Powers since 1830, and the loss to England of the advantages which might reasonably be expected in view of early discovery and conquest.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. KENPLAY.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Fri., Feb. 23rd.—Debate on the Address.—Opposition amendment, charging the Government with bringing the reputation of the country into contempt by describing Chinese labour in South Africa as slavery, rejected by 416 votes against 91.—88% Beet, 8s. 1½d., steady.
- Sat., Feb. 24th.—La Montagne Pele in Martinique and the Soufriere in St. Vincent reported to be active.—The West Indies (Jamaica excepted) cut off from telegraphic communication with the outside world by breakdown of the cables.—The R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Amazon," sister ship to the "Aragon," (10,000 tons), successfully launched at Belfast.—Beet, 8s. 2½d., quiet.
- Sun., Feb. 25th.—Death of the Rev. the Earl of Rossborough, one of the signatories of the appeal on behalf of Codrington College, Barbados (1899), announced.
- Mon., Feb. 26th.—Mr. Fordham gave his decision in the whiskey prosecutions at North London Police Court.—Lord Milner and the Earl of Elgin spoke on Chinese labour in the House of Lords, Lord Elgin denied that it amounted to slavery.—Beet, 8s. 2½d., steadier.
- Tues., Feb. 27th.—City of London Bye-Election, Mr. Arthur J. Balfour returned by a majority of 11,340: Balfour 13,474; Bowles 4,134.—South African debate continued in the House of Lords.—Beet, 8s. 3½d., steady.
- Wed., Feb. 28th.—I.D.W.I. Mail Service R.M.S. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth, from Jamaica. In the absence of Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain through illness, Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister being also absent, agreed to a postponement of the Fiscal Debate in the House of Commons.—Navy Estimates amounting to £31,669,500, a net reduction of £1,520,000, issued.—Beet, 8s. 3½d., quiet.
- Thur., Mar. 1st.—Bank rate 4% unchanged.—Beet, 8s. 3d., quiet.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library.

Premiere Reunion Internationale d'Agronomie Coloniale, 1905, Compte rendu des travaux. Paris: Félix Alcan. We have received from Mr. Heim, the "perpetual Secretary" of the Association Scientifique Internationale d'Agronomie Coloniale, a copy of the proceedings of the first meeting of the Society held in Paris on June 21st, 1905. This Society has been started by the French Society of Colonisation and Colonial Agriculture for the purpose of "establishing permanent relations between men of science of all Colonial and European countries, for the scientific study of the conditions of Colonial production." Great Britain and its Colonies were represented at the meetings by Mr. R. Webster on behalf of the Ceylon planters, and Mr. Hamel Smith, director of *Tropical Life*. The proceedings, which occupy nearly 600 pages, detail the work of the sections into which the Conference was divided. These include papers on Colonial forestry, economic botany and diseases of plants in hot climates, Colonial industries, zoology and entomology, hygiene and rural economy, by well-known authorities on the respective subjects. It is impossible, in the short space at our disposal, to deal with the many papers of varied interest read at the meeting by men of world-wide reputation in their respective subjects, or to particularise where the standard is so excellent. We should like to see our West Indian Colonies represented at these important Conferences, where subjects of special interest, sugar, cotton, cocoa, rubber, are discussed, and world obtained experiences interchanged.

Tropical Life for February devotes a leading article to rubber prospects in British North Borneo, in which valuable information and useful advice is given to intending investors in this growing industry. Mr. James Wilson supplies the month's portrait of *Tropical Life's* friends, and the issue contains much useful and interesting matter in connection with tropical industries.

Notes of Interest.

SEA ISLAND COTTON. *Cotton* states that there is every probability of the acreage of Sea Island cotton being somewhat reduced during the coming season.

CORN FOR CATTLE. Well cured native corn grown in Jamaica has been found to contain 12.4 % of albuminoid as against 9.4 % with imported American corn, and is thus much superior to the latter in flesh-producing material.

MR. E. T. WHITAKER. The King has been pleased to accede to the application of Mr. E. T. Whitaker, one of our Members and a member of the West Indian Club, for a nomination as a Poor Brother on the Foundation of the Charterhouse.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended February 22nd, 372 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.30d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb.

A BAS SACCHARIN. Nearly 5 cwts. of smuggled saccharin, valued at nearly £700, have been seized and destroyed by the Customs authorities at Dover. The saccharin was landed from an Ostend mail steamer and consigned to a London firm under a false declaration. It was taken out into the bay and poured into the sea.

INSURANCE. Among the passengers in the R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Atrato" which leaves to-morrow, will be Mr. Christopher Head, of the firm of Henry Head & Co., who is visiting the West Indies to complete the arrangements for insuring against hurricanes, earthquakes, &c., on the lines suggested by Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, late Administrator of Dominica.

AN OLD INHABITANT. The village of Aronca, in Trinidad, has just lost an old woman who was supposed to be the oldest inhabitant of the West Indies. Mary Magdalene Joseph was authoritatively stated to be 125 years old at the time of her death. A native of Africa, of royal blood, she belonged to the powerful Yoruba tribe, and was carried as a slave to Trinidad in 1813.

RUBBER. *The Home and Colonial Mail*, in speaking of the prospects of rubber, draws attention to the expansion of production going on in all directions, and to the fortunate fact that although in face of the number of projected rubber cultivation schemes the market might be considerably disturbed, it remains firm. The sources of supply should be equal to the demand, although at present there seems no limit to the latter.

CANADA & MOLASSES. In order to prevent molasses going into Canada duty free, which contain a sufficiently high sugar to permit of being worked up by the refiners, the Canadian Department of Customs have

ruled that all molasses imported polarising over 52 degrees shall pay the same duty as raw sugar testing 75 degrees. High grade muscovado molasses will consequently run considerable danger of being affected by this decision.

RUM AND TOBACCO. At the December meeting of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture a standard for Jamaica rum of 200 parts of ethers per 100,000, was approved of. The Director of Public Gardens also reported that the sailors' opinion, in the Navy, as to the tobacco issued to them on trial, was that the pipe variety was objected to, but that the cigarette tobacco met with favour. The British tar as a cigarette smoker is appearing in a new light.

AN IDEAL PRICE. *The Machay Mercury* states that the Colonial Sugar Refining Company for the year 1905 has paid, in addition to the rate paid at scale on the tram lines of 14s. per ton, a bonus of 2s. 3½d., bringing up the value to the growers to 16s. 1½d., a fraction higher than the record price of 1903. The Queensland planter gets a bounty of somewhere about £2 a ton, but even with this taken into consideration, the price is high. No mention is made as to the quality of the juice.

GUIANA'S FRUITS. Thanks to the enterprise of the Hon. B. Howell Jones, there at last seems to be a prospect of British Guiana making a fruit exhibit at one of the forthcoming Horticultural Shows. This gentleman raised the question at a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society in Georgetown, on January 18th, when a resolution was passed pledging the Society to show cultivators how the fruit should be packed and forwarded to London. In order to see exactly what is wanted, Mr. Jones has conceived the excellent idea of having specimen boxes of oranges sent out from London to the Colony.

AT LAST! A new sugar plant from South America has been reported to have been discovered, rejoicing in the elegant name of *Eupatorium Rebandium*. Although not acquiring greater stature than ten inches, compensation for this is found in its sugar contents, stated to be thirty times as high as that of the sugar cane, or say 350%. We have heard of the ideal cane which consisted entirely of sugar held together by the atmosphere, but this goes further. As we presume the new discovery will only grow in the tropics, the Continental beet industry is now doomed, and the markets of the world will be flooded with the product of this bountiful though not, we hope, bounty-fed—plant. The soul of confectioners should be comforted, and the hearts of jam makers made glad.

LADY NUGENT'S JOURNAL. Mr. Frank Cundall, the Secretary of the Institute of Jamaica, is preparing for publication a reprint, with notes and a historical introduction, of Lady Nugent's Journal, which was privately printed in 1839. It covers the period from 1801 to 1805, and describes a voyage to and residence in the Island of Jamaica. The book will be illustrated with portraits of Lady Nugent, her husband, Sir George Nugent, her distinguished father, who was a Royalist of New Jersey, who fought in the American War of Independence, Admiral Duckworth, and views of the then Government Pen and other places which she visited. The book, a copy of which is already in the West India Committee Library, is full of interest, and will doubtless be much appreciated.

TWO LECTURES ON THE WEST INDIES. The lecture to be delivered by Sir Nevile Lubbock before the Colonial Section of the Society of Arts on "Imperial Questions in the West Indies," at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6th, will be followed by a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on March 13th, before which Miss de Thierry will read a paper on "Our West Indian Policy." Miss de Thierry has made a close study of Imperial questions, and in particular the defences of the Empire, and having regard to the rapid extension of American interests in the West Indies, and the strategical value of these Colonies, on which we have so frequently laid stress in the *Circular*, the meeting promises to be one of exceptional interest. Through the courtesy of the Society of Arts and the Royal Colonial Institute, we have been able to make arrangements for those of our Members who wish to do so to attend these meetings, and a card has been circulated on the subject.

West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible. We are indebted to the *Morning Post* for several of the items of information given below.

Dr. A. C. L. LA FRENAYE, L.R.C.P., Edin., has been appointed a Government Medical Officer of British Guiana.

Lieut. E. C. WRIGHT, West India Regiment, has been appointed A.D.C. to the Governor of the Windward Islands.

Mr. W. H. A. BURROWES, Commissary of Taxation, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony and resumed the duties of his office.

Lieut. the Hon. F. M. MAXWELL, Commanding the B.M.I. Volunteers, British Honduras, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Mr. W. F. SMART, L.R.C.S., L.A.H., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted three months leave of absence from January 17th, with an extension of leave for nine months.

Mr. C. W. ANDERSON and Mr. E. L. MELVILLE, of the Department of Lands and Mines, British Guiana, have been selected as Commissioners to define the boundary between British Guiana and Brazil, in accordance with the award of the King of Italy.

Dr. K. S. WISE, M.R.C.S., has proceeded to British Guiana in the capacity of Government Bacteriologist; a new appointment connected with the Public Hospital, Georgetown. Dr. Wise has been for some time connected with the London School of Tropical Medicine.

During the absence from British Guiana of the Hon. Jacob H. DE JONGE, Consul for the Netherlands and Sweden, Mr. H. D. Seedorf will discharge the duties of the Consulate, and Mr. Alexander P. Mackey has been appointed provisionally a Member of the Executive Council.

Weather Telegrams

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) Feb. 26th. "Very dry, rain wanted." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) Feb. 21st. "Two inches rain have fallen on the east coast, one inch rain has fallen on the west coast, rain is wanted in Essequibo." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) Feb. 21st. "Some acceptable rains have fallen in Demerara County." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended Feb. 15th. **Port Antonio**: "8th to 14th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "14th, rain."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Strong) March 2nd. **Barbados**—Mrs. Reace, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. James, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Halls, Miss Braithwaite, Miss Moore. **Jamaica**—Mr. Geo. Bell. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. C. Atkins, Mrs. Constance, Mr. Thornton, Dr. Allen, Mr. and two Misses Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. H. Dawson, Rev. and Mrs. Beech, Mr. L. Santelli, Miss Ward, Mr. Franceschi. **Antigua**—Miss M. Simpson, His Excellency Sir E. B. and Lady Sweet-Escott, Mr. Becke, Miss Whyman. **Grenada**—Mr. W. J. Daler.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Captain J. G. Parsons), February 24th:—Jamaica—Miss F. Bull, Col. H. I. Blagrove, Mr. J. G. Baker, Major Darlow, Mr. C. H. Bennett, Mr. W. H. Burdakin, Mr. J. F. Bolt, Mr. K. Brown, General Sir F. and Lady Carrington, Mr. and Miss Coles, Mr. P. A. Craven, Mr. E. A. Cliff-McCulloch, Mrs. Clever, Miss B. Coke, Mr. H. Crum Ewing, Mrs. G. N. Cox, Mrs. Claret, Mr. T. Cooper, Mr. W. Dust, Miss Dodd, Mr. C. H. Delgado, Mr. G. H. Eaton, Mr. P. W. Fitzgerald, Mr. P. Fox, Mr. S. Gordon, Mr. J. Hornby, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. E. Hemans, Mrs. Jamieson, Mr. W. Jones, Lieut.-Col. F. R. Loveband, Lieut. R. R. Leader, Lieut. and Mrs. H. P. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Nixay, Mr. H. Porter, Mrs. Ruston, Mr. H. Roberts, Mr. G. A. Sutherland, Mr. C. Sellars, Mrs. and Miss Speers, Mr. F. W. Soames, Miss Soames, Mr. C. W. Scott, Mr. W. Wilson, Miss V. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Wyndham, Mr. H. H. Wake, Miss D. Wyllarde, Mr. S. G. Wilson, Mr. B. Wilson. **Hermuda**—Mr. G. S. Ball, Mrs. and two Misses Hunter, Miss Roberts, Major and Mrs. Van Stranbenzee, Mr. W. R. Scotland.

HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), February 26th:—Jamaica—Mrs. E. E. Blacker, Miss A. Bernard, Lieut. and Mrs. A. F. J. Cox, Miss Du Cane, Mr. and Mrs. Goxle, Mr. W. Huntington, Mr. V. Kolp, Mr. and Mrs. Merry, Mr. Nardlinger, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mrs. Watts, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Patterson.

Abail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Mar. 9	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Sarston"	Mar. 9, noon.
" 10	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"	" 9, 6 p.m.
" 17	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	" 16, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Mar. 10	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Statia"
" 14	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"
Mar. 17	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Magdalena"

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwts.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to Feb. 3, '06	9,259	27,967	850,318	61,251	5,440,329	81,724	12,987,197	70,318,218
" " " 4, '05	7,386	19,692	900,729	44,316	2,075,693	135,414	7,429,909	75,524,541

The Produce Markets' Summary *continued.***SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, Sept./Jan., 5 months.**

	1905/6	1904/5	1903/4.	
Germany	483,718	424,712	519,433	Tons
Austria	278,208	187,072	221,380	"
France	281,919	294,494	405,937	"
Holland and Belgium	78,003	77,026	98,233	"
England	747,350	709,215	539,075	"

Convention Europe ... 1 808 000 1 700 000 1 784 000 ..
Increase over 1904/5, 108 000 tons and over 1903/4, 24 000 tons

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st February, even dates.

	1906.	1905	1904	
Convention Europe	3,847,000	2,520,000	3,495,000	Tons
United States, Cuba, and afloat	237,000	343,000	300,000	"
Total	4,084,000	2 863 000	3 795 000	"

Excess over last year, 1 231 000 tons, and over 1904 289 000 tons.

F. O. Licht's Latest Estimates of Beet Crops.

	1905/6	1904/5	1903/4.	
Convention Europe	5,545 000	3,423,000	4,231,000	Tons
Other Countries	1,410,000	1 285,000	1,648,000	"
Total	6,955 000	4 708 000	5 881 000	"

Excess over last season, 2 237,000 tons, and over 1903/4, 1 074 000 tons.

The Market has slightly improved, notwithstanding the unfavourable statistical position indicated in F. O. Licht's figures printed above. It is none too easy to find a cause for this movement with Refiners and the Trade continuing their hand to mouth policy. Presumably 8s., basis 88%, was an attractive price for "bears" to cover and this may have done it. Changeable weather also in Cuba suggests a doubt of its 1,300,000 tons crop being all reaped. Hoping against hope, some are looking for a more or less important reduction in beet sowings next month. These various influences may unsettle the Market for the next two months, and if in the end they raise the price of sugar to its natural cost of production, they will not have existed in vain.

The quotations of 88% Beet on the 1st March were:—March, 8s. 3d. May, 8s. 4½d. August, 8s. 6½d. and October/December, 8s. 8½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	3,780,000	2,560,000	3,450,000	3,210,000	3,360,000	Tons
United States	180,000	150,000	100,000	150,000	80,000	"
Cuba	90,000	70,000	150,000	200,000	240,000	"
Cargoes afloat	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	"
Total	4,050,000	2 940,000	3,750,000	3 610,000	3 690,000	"

Quotations of 88% Beet:— 8s. 3d. 15s. 3½d. 8s. 1d. 8s. 5d. 6s. 7½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There is more demand for yellow crystallised, and the recent decline has been recovered, the value of average qualities being 14s. 9d. The general range of this sugar is 14s. 6d. to 15s., with fine and choice in small quantities at 15s. 6d. to 17s., and inferior grades at 12s. 6d. to 14s. 3d. The slight improvement in Continental granulated has helped to produce this recovery. For a cargo of 06 test to Refiners from 08 to 08. 3d. is the value on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in fair demand from 11s to 14s for low to good grocery, and up to 15s for small lots of choice. For 8g test to Refiners about 7s. 6d. is the value on floating terms.

Muscovado. Retail sales are taking place of grocery at fairly steady prices, but the demand is very uncertain. For 8g test to Refiners, from 8s. to 8s. 3d. is the nearest value on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Imports	10,500	6000	6000	7500	Tons
Deliveries	6600	4500	7400	7000	"
Stocks	13 000	9 000	11 000	24 000	"
Quotations of average <i>quality</i> , crystallised	14s. 9d	23s. 0d.	14s. 9d.	14s. 6d.	"

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Jamaica	5700	7000	7700	9100	Pans.
Demerara	9800	6000	11,600	10,500	"
Total of all kinds	22,377	20,259	29,543	30,694	"

Business remains suspended in Demerara and our buyers refuse to make any offers although importers have indicated the fact that they would be prepared to make concessions to realise in quantity. So far this has led to nothing, and quotations cannot be given. All the agitation that is now going on about Jamaica rum and pure whisky is having a very prejudicial effect on the trade, and not benefiting the consumer one atom, he being quite content with matters as they are and have been for many years. These remarks apply equally to Leewards and Jamaica, the nominal value of the latter being 2s. 2d. upwards, according to quality and marks.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	
Trinidad	13,000	19,000	11,700	11,500	Bags.
Grenada	1000	13,000	15,000	13,000	"
Total of all kinds	75,000	85,000	65,000	77,000	"

The market remains steady with fair sales of Trinidad from 52s. to 56s. for fair to fine Estate marks. Grenada is selling freely, the demand running, as usual, on cocoa for price. The general condition of the market is certainly more satisfactory than it has recently been, but higher prices are not generally looked for. The clearest quotations are Trinidad, fair collected 52s., Estate marks 52s., 56s. and 60s.; Grenada, fair 47s. and fermented 49s. to 52s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth 45s. and fermented 48s. to 51s.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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The Homeward Mail.

COMING events cast their shadows before, and the delay of more than three days in the arrival of the R.M.S.P. "La Plata," gives some idea of the inconvenience which might be caused at any moment if the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company were to decide to curtail or suspend altogether their existing arrangements in the West Indies. This is a contingency which is by no means beyond the bounds of possibility, and it is well therefore that we should keep it in mind. On the present occasion the delay was, we understand, due to the heavy traffic from New York to the Isthmus of Panama, and in this connection it is interesting to note from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents that a remarkable tide of emigration is setting from the West Indian Islands to that part of the world. The "La Plata" was delayed at the wharf at Colon and did not leave until February 22nd, four days late. She made up a day on the voyage, and eventually arrived at Southampton at 1 p.m. on March 6th, three days late. The memorandum promised by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company had been received in the Colonies, and was about to be considered in connection with the Report of the Cable Communication Sub-Committee of the West India Committee. We shall hope to give in our next issue the full text of the former document. Though we are without letters from several of our Hon. Correspondents by this mail, we have an important and welcome addition in the shape of a long and interesting letter regarding Agricultural and other matters from Mr. W. N. Sands to the Hon. Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of St. Vincent. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Barbados. Increased Acreage under Cotton.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, writing on February 17th, reported that the drought still continued. During the past few days some light showers of the type known as "trash spoilers" had fallen, and they had done some good, but even these were not an unmingled blessing, if the unfortunate planter had to resort to coal for his furnace. The crop was in full swing, and from all quarters the writer heard that the juice was sweet and the yield satisfactory. Buyers were only offering 81.30 per 100 lbs. for sugar, and at this price, coupled with the reports of the enormous available supply, it was not to be wondered at if planters were turning more and more to cotton. Great preparations were being made for increased sowings, and by this time next year there would be more than double the amount of acres that there were at present. Already the factory with its six gins had more work than it could do, and it would be necessary to re-build it entirely and double its accommodation. A suitable site was already being looked for.

The banana trade was practically dead, as there was no improvement whatever in the shipping arrangements, and sailings were as uncertain as ever. The "La Plata" was advertised to sail on the following day (Sunday), but on the previous Monday Mr. Boveil had written a letter to the newspapers as a warning to banana shippers that he had been informed by the Superintendent that she would not arrive till the Tuesday, and would sail the same day. In spite of this, the advertisement and Post Office notices were continued day by day throughout the week, announcing the Sunday departure, and were only altered on Friday, the 16th, when a further delay till the following Wednesday was declared. The "Orinoco" was advertised to arrive on Thursday and

leave for Trinidad the same evening; she arrived early on Wednesday and sailed that evening—a pleasant state of affairs for any intending passengers up in the country.

The uncertainty of the mail service particularly affected the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. At that time of year Sir Daniel Morris visited most of the Islands, and it was necessary for him to plan out his tours and arrange meetings with various officials and planters beforehand, so as to cover as much ground as possible. He now found that he could not fulfil his appointments, as he could not be certain even on what day, much less at what hour, the steamer would land him. This alone ought to influence the Colonial Office to re-consider the question of mail contract, as the usefulness of an important department was considerably impaired by the absence of adequate mail arrangements.

The "Indefatigable," which was to be the safeguard of the Island, had relieved the "Diamond" in West Indian waters. Her complement, in addition to sailors, was 134 marines, commanded by a Major. The United States flagship "Alabama," and the battleships "Illinois" and "Iowa" were for some time in Carlisle Bay, and the Admiral had given a dance on board the flagship.

The breakdown of the cable before the close of the Elections, and just when the market for sugar was opening, was severely felt; for many days they were without any news whatever.

It was satisfactory that the Liverpool Exhibition had been such a success, and Grenada should be congratulated upon her excellent display. The Permanent Exhibition Committee in Barbados would meet very shortly. The Crystal Palace Exhibition Committee had handed in their report, but nothing more had been heard of it as yet.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt in the Island on the 16th at 1.42 p.m., which was a very rare occurrence. They now heard that a very severe one was experienced at St. Vincent at 1.40 p.m. on that day, and other Islands, which had resulted in the cable being broken again and communication cut off.

The writer regretted to report that incendiary cane fires had been very frequent during the past fortnight, and a great many acres of canes had been burnt. This was the more senseless as every estate was making sugar.

The exodus of their people to Panama had brought about a scarcity of labour in Barbados, and many estates were feeling a difficulty in procuring sufficient, even in the popular crop time. Almost all those who had returned had suffered from fever, which still hung about them, but that did not deter others from going.

British Guiana. Mining and Forest Exports.

The weather had been dry during the fortnight, and cultivation generally was in need of good rains. A good shower fell on the 14th, when Mr. A. Summerson wrote his letter.

In British Guiana the reports as to weather were anything but encouraging, only a little over an inch of rain having fallen for six weeks, with much damage to crops. The annual session of the Combined Court had opened on February 9th. The Governor's speech foreshadowed several important matters, among which were the further extension of the powers of the Department of Science and Agriculture, the entire control of the Government cattle farms being placed in its hands, various irrigation schemes in connection with the rice cultivation, and the establishment of wireless telegraphy with Trinidad. A vote for a mail subsidy was also alluded to as likely to come before the Court.

Lord Elgin's cable, despatched in reply to the request from certain members of the Court for a Royal Commission in connection with the recent riots, has been published. The Secretary of State would only entertain the request if it came from a majority of the Elective Members, and it would have to be carried out at the cost of the Colony.

Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana, has sent us the following statement of exports for the month of January, 1906, which we publish for the purpose of comparison with those of the preceding month:—

	January. 1906.	December. 1905.
Gold, raw	6,772 ..	7,235 ozs.
Diamonds	nil ..	carats
Timber: Greenheart, Mora, etc. ..	22,564 ..	16,559 cub. ft.
Lumber	2,783 ..	— feet
Shingles, Wallaba	13,000 ..	270,500
Wallaba and hardwood posts	119 ..	—
Woods, Firewoods, etc.	624 ..	330½ tons
Charcoal	7,048 ..	4,447 bags
Gums, Locust, etc.	465 ..	364 lbs.
„ Balata	10,607 ..	28,992 „
„ Rubber	465 ..	—
Railway Sleepers (Mora)	— ..	—

British Honduras. America's Interest in the Colony.

When the Hon. A. R. Usher wrote on February 9th a deputation of medical men and others from the United States were in the Colony, representing the Quarantine Authorities of several of the Southern States, who were also to make a tour of the other Central American seaports. It was to be hoped that their visit might result in the people of British Honduras being relieved of some of the quarantine restrictions which had recently been imposed.

Dominica. More American Enterprise.

In his letter of February 12th, Mr. E. A. Agar stated that representatives from Messrs. Pfizer and Co., citric acid manufacturers, of New York, had been visiting the Island with a view to erecting a large local factory for making citrate of lime; it was not yet decided whether they would start business—if they did it would benefit lime planters. It was much to be regretted that no English firm had had the enterprise to do this. Should Messrs. Pfizer decide to erect their factory, it would inevitably result in the bulk of the import trade being with the United States ere long.

The Dominica Agricultural Society had elected the following officers for the current year:—Dr. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G., President; Mr. A. C. Shillingford, Vice-President; Mr. E. A. Agar, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. G. Downing, Hon. Secretary.

Some useful showers had fallen during the past few days. The lime trees throughout the Island were flowering splendidly.

Grenada. The Cable Subsidy Reduced.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada, informs us that the Society has agreed to send exhibits to the exhibitions to be held in Canada during this year, if the Government will make a grant of £40. Messrs. Pickford and Black have offered to carry exhibits free of cost, and to arrange for space and the proper display of exhibits.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on February 12th to pass the Estimates for 1906-7. The subsidy to the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. was reduced from £1000 to £600.

The annual Grand Ance Races took place on February 13th and 14th. Mr. E. I. Gay's "Memory" took the Governor's Cup, beating the "Rake," a horse from Barbados, much to the surprise of everyone. On the first day a horse bolted and knocked over a man, who died next morning. The jockey was badly hurt, and although still alive, was not expected to recover.

They were having rather too much dry weather, and as usual one heard nothing but complaints. A wet Lent, however, might do much to improve things. The United States ship "Colorado" spent about ten days at the Island, and left on the previous evening at 10.30.

It had been decided to hold three special general meetings of the Agricultural Society each year in the parish of St. Andrew. A Prize Holdings Competition was to be carried out during 1906. The prizes amounted to £25, which the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture had promised to pay. In future, if continued, the Government will have to find the money. Two Bills had been referred to

the Society for an expression of their opinion—(1) to amend the Customs Ordinance, and (2) to provide for the licensing of pilots. There was to be a meeting of the Committee of Management next day to consider them. Hundreds of people were going away every mail to Panama.

Jamaica. The Banana Industry.

Mr. J. L. Ashenheim stated that the existing Import Tariff expired on June 1st, 1906, so the coming session of the Legislature must deal with the matter one way or another.

They were having favourable weather for the growing crops. The tourist season promised to be a very large and successful one.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of February 14th, a letter appeared from Mr. Geo. Solomon on the dissatisfaction of the Island with the action of Messrs. Elder Dempster in connection with the banana industry. After reviewing the effect of the combination between that company and the American United Fruit Company, Mr. Solomon says: "It pains one even to reflect indirectly on the chairman's management by permitting Mr. Stockley to carry out combinations that are highly detrimental to the interests of Jamaica, on whose behalf £400,000 has been contracted to be given for a term of years for an exclusive service that was to open the fruit markets of England as a recompense. Instead of which Mr. Stockley's action is calculated to encourage a rival banana producing country, principally Ecuador or Port Limon."

The production of bananas in Jamaica for the year ending March 31st, will probably reach sixteen million bunches. In the face of this fact it can hardly be believed, says Mr. Solomon, that Mr. Stockley cannot secure a few hundred thousand bunches except from the United Fruit Company, which does not produce one-tenth of the entire fruit of the Island.

Nevis. The Mail Trouble Again.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, in his letter of February 9th, complains of the existing mail service arrangements. The delay in the outgoing mail had caused chaos in the postal arrangements, and the sooner some settled system was reverted to the better for all concerned. The "Eden" was expected at the Island that evening, and proceeded *via* St. Kitts and Puerto Rico back to Dominica, dropping the English mails *en route*, so they would not get letters in time to answer them.

Cotton picking was in full swing, but the yield was very variable, and it was difficult to estimate the probable output. The complaint at present was as to the small proportion of lint to seed cotton. Last year 27 per cent. was about the average, whilst this year 25 per cent. and even less has been the order of the day.

At the meeting of the Agricultural Society on February 8th, the report *re* Cable Communication had been placed in the hands of members, and a discussion on the subject generally was down for next meeting.

Sir Robert Brumley was away in Antigua, but would probably return to St. Kitts by steamer that evening.

The weather since last mail had been dry, which was to be expected at the time of year, and facilitated both cotton and sugar reaping.

St. Kitts. A Reliable Cable Wanted.

Owing to the delay occasioned by the accident to the "Trent" and the consequent necessity to make up time, the inter-Colonial steamer bringing the incoming mails had to lift the English mails at the same time, and therefore Mr. Chas. A. Smith said in his letter of February 9th that it would be impossible to reply to the Home letters by that mail.

Sugar-making had been commenced pretty generally, and where slight labour troubles had been experienced, the good sense of the labourers had been manifest, as they had readily consented to the withdrawal of the advances recently given, and had so in a measure contributed to the economy necessary in view of the state of the market, and the present price of their staple product. The yield

promised to be good, and at the same time frequent showers were helping forward the recent plantings and supplyings, so that the young crop had had a most promising start.

The entire absence of outside news for the month made them feel the want of a reliable cable communication, and it was hoped that the near future would see a more satisfactory arrangement.

St. Vincent. An Interesting Agricultural Summary.

Mr. W. N. Sands, Hon. Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, St. Vincent, writing on February 5th, said that the outlook of the Sea Island cotton industry continued of a promising nature, but some difficulty had been experienced by large growers in getting sufficient labour for picking. It was hoped that this matter would be adjusted, otherwise the development of this important industry would be retarded. It was certainly a matter which should be gone into before the next planting season. The returns received from planters showed that the total area in cotton cultivation this season was 790 acres—a much smaller acreage than last season, but better in every way. A noteworthy fact to be recorded was that no serious damage had been done by insect pests or fungoid diseases. The bulk of the crop had been reaped. The Central Cotton Factory was again being worked under the control of the Agricultural Department, and so far good progress had been made. To February 1st, 203 bales of lint of a nett weight of 360 lbs. each had been dealt with and delivered to their owners. Of this number 171 bales had already been shipped to the British Cotton Growing Association. The lint appeared to be of first class quality, and should command good prices. It might be mentioned that some samples of the present crop had been valued at 18-19d. per lb. Already applications for seed for planting purposes had been received from other West Indian Islands, which was a good sign, as the price obtained by planters for seed sold for this purpose was higher than if sold for crushing and the expression of oil.

An Agricultural and Commercial Society had been formed in conjunction with the Cotton Growing Association. A Society such as this had long been required, and as it had been officially recognised by the Government and the Imperial Department of Agriculture its work should be of benefit to all classes of the community. At the Agricultural School, buildings were being erected by the Government to receive a certain number of animals of improved breeds for stud purposes. The local breeds of stock needed bringing up badly. The Imperial Department of Agriculture would select and import the animals as soon as the buildings were finished.

The arrowroot crops were being reaped on nearly all estates. From inquiries made the writer learned that the crop is not likely to be a very heavy one. Prices for manufacturing starch were, however, firmer.

The Muscovado sugar industry is the least hopeful at the present time, owing to low prices, and the possibility of there being little demand for Muscovado sugar, such as made in the Island, in the near future. The planting of cotton as a catch crop on cane lands had been practised to some extent this season and should help planters to cover losses.

In further notes, dated February 20th, Mr. W. N. Sands stated that a rather severe earthquake was experienced on February 16th, which had cracked the walls of a few buildings, but otherwise not doing much damage. Two other slight shocks were also recorded during the same day. The centre of the disturbance appeared to be Martinique, or perhaps between that Island and St. Lucia, as most damage was done in these Islands, and the shocks were much less severe in the Islands north and south of them. From reports received it appeared that both Mount Pelée and the Soufrière were quiet. The Soufrière had been visited by large parties of officers and men of the United States steamship "Pennsylvania" on February 11th, 12th and 13th, and a descent was made into the crater to within a short distance of the crater lake. No strange phenomenon was noticed.

The United States steamship "Pennsylvania" had been in port for seven days, and a good sum of money had been spent locally to the benefit of a large number of traders and others.

A meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on February 12th, and it was decided that a series of photographs of the Central Cotton Factory should be sent to the West India Committee and others who had taken a great interest in the cotton industry. At the same meeting it was decided also to seek membership of the above named Committee. A corresponding member in the person of Mr. W. N. Sands, the Hon. Secretary, was appointed to report on Agricultural matters to that Body.

The export of Stock to Barbados, St. Lucia and Grenada, was still prohibited on account of the sporadic cases of anthrax that had been recorded in different parts of the Island during the past few months. Stock was, however, being exported from the St. Vincent Grenadines under certificate. The question of anthrax and the measures to be adopted in order to enable stock raisers to get the prohibition order rescinded would be discussed at the next meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society. Owing to their not being able to ship their stock much hardship and loss had been sustained by the peasantry, who depended to a great extent on the export and sale of it to pay rent and taxes.

As yet no reports or account sales of this season's cotton shipments had been received, but they were expected daily. The writer had just returned from a visit to some of the more important estates on the Windward coast. The yield of cotton on these estates had been much larger than last season, and the crop appeared to be better in every way. There were still large areas of land in this part of the Island on which cotton could be successfully grown, but the whole development of them hinges on the labour question, which was agitating the minds of planters generally, as this season on two large groups of estates in this district the supply of labour has been much less than the demand; as a result, with only a comparatively small acreage in cultivation a considerable loss of cotton had been sustained. With sugar below the cost of production, and arrowroot scarcely paying even at present prices, the cotton industry appeared to be the only one likely to help planters out of their difficulties.

At the Cotton Factory, 87,649 lbs. of lint, equal to 243 bales, had been ginned for the season and work was still in progress. The total amount of lint ginned was already far in excess of last season's total, and that with only about half the acreage in cultivation.

The weather experienced was seasonable, but a few showers were wanted for the young arrowroot.

Trinidad. A Fair Average Sugar Crop.

The mail brought us no letters from our Hon. Correspondents in Trinidad, but from numerous private advices, newspapers, and Messrs. Rust, Trowbridge and Co.'s Market Report we learn that the weather was perfect for the time of year. The dry season had set in, and conditions were ideal for tourists. Grinding on the sugar estates was general, and the yield so far was up to the average, and there was every prospect of the sugar crop being a fair average one. The cocoa crop was over, but good parcels were still coming in to the market. Values were \$10.90 and \$11.00 for ordinary, up to \$11.25 to \$11.40 for estates qualities.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on February 20th, an important minute from the Governor on the Colony's position was read. He alluded to the increasing expenditure on public works, which the revenue of the Colony, although increasing, did not warrant, and mentioned that the provision of adequate means for the preservation of law and order, mail service subsidies, and improvement of telegraphic communication, were measures which would have to be dealt with in the near future, together with further railway extensions. He also expected much from the favourable report on the oil-fields.

Imperial Questions in the West Indies.

There was a good gathering of members of the West India Committee at a meeting of the Colonial Section of the Society of Arts at Adelphi Terrace on Tuesday, March 6th, to hear Sir Nevile Lubbock's address on Imperial Questions in the West Indies. The chair was taken by Lord Strathcona, and among those present were Sir Henry Bergne, Sir David Barbour, Sir M. M. Bhowndree, Sir Thomas Pittar, Sir Horace Tozer, Sir E. Noel Walker, Sir Frederick Young, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. W. A. Black (of Messrs. Pickford and Black), Mr. J. R. Bose (Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute), Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. T. Du Buisson, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. W. B. Kingsford, Mr. A. M. Low, Mr. and Mrs. D. Mackintosh, Major and Mr. E. Luxmoore Marshall, Mrs. Molineux-Montgomery, Mr. W. M. Pattinson, Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Smith, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Dr. Whykham, Mr. T. B. Younger, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, and Mr. S. Digby, Secretary of the Colonial Section of the Society of Arts.

Lord Strathcona, in introducing Sir Nevile Lubbock to the meeting, said that no one could be better fitted than Sir Nevile Lubbock to speak on the West Indies, as all were aware of what he had done for those Colonies, and how many years he had been connected with their commerce in every respect. It was through him that what is known as the central factory system was introduced into the West Indies, which made it possible to produce sugar there at a profit rather than, as was the case formerly, at a loss. He also did much in introducing cane farming into Trinidad, where it was now a large industry, and in short, in many ways he had done a great deal for the West Indian Colonies. Sir Nevile was Chairman of the West India Committee, whose hospitality he, Lord Strathcona had received at their delightful dinners, at which he had had great pleasure in meeting those connected with the West Indies.

Sir Nevile Lubbock then rose and delivered his address, in the course of which, after describing the position and size of the West Indian Colonies, he said:—

When we consider the importance of some of these Colonies, such as Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and British Guiana, together with the distances which separate them, it seems evident that one Government, *i.e.*, one Governor and one Legislature for all of them, is practically out of the question. It is clear that a legislative body sitting in Jamaica could never satisfy the people of Barbados, Trinidad, or British Guiana, or *vice versa*, and for this reason, amongst others, that the right class of people for legislative purposes from Trinidad, British Guiana, and Barbados would not be induced to spend a large amount of their time yearly in Jamaica; they could not afford to. It must always be remembered that in the West Indies there does not exist a large leisured class such as we have in this country. The best men in all these Colonies are just the men who have most to do, and are most tied to the Colonies in which they live; then they are to a large extent forced to come to Europe every five years or so, and this practically absorbs such time as they are able to spare away from the Colony to which they belong.

But, it may be asked, would it not be possible to have one Governor-General for the whole of the West Indian Colonies, leaving the local Legislatures as they now exist? There certainly would seem to be no difficulty; but it would cost money. Such a Governor-General, to be of real use, would require to be a man of importance in this country, a man whose opinion would carry weight in the House of Commons; and it is obvious such a position must carry a high salary, and there would require to be provided suitable accommodation, staff, etc. It seems likely that the cost first and last would be not less than £10,000 to £12,000 per annum, and it may be asked what would be gained. An efficient Colonial Secretary ought to be able to do as much for the Colonies as such a Governor-General. Nor would the appointment of a Governor-General do away with the necessity of having as many, or almost as many Governors as there now are. It is true that they would probably be called Lieutenant-Governors, but they would be essentially the same class of men as the existing Governors, and would involve approximately the same expenditure.

Although a federation of all the West Indian Colonies appears to offer great, if not insuperable difficulties, at any rate for the present, it does not follow that nothing can be done. I can conceive that something might be done towards this end by the gradual assimilation of the laws of the different Colonies, and by the assembling from time to time of delegates from

all the Colonies to confer together upon subjects of general interest, such, for instance, as postal or telegraphic services, quarantine regulations, exhibitions, and possibly in time to come, tariffs. Already the annual meetings to consider agricultural and industrial questions, which have been inaugurated by Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, do much good, even apart from the useful information they disseminate, in bringing together leading men from the different Colonies. In one respect all will be agreed, viz., that however much federation may be a desirable aim, it is a process which must not be hurried, and still less rushed. Any attempt to do so would do far more harm to the cause than good. We of course cannot see the future, but things which do not appear possible to-day, may in the course of years assume quite a different complexion. It is no use trying to go against nature, and there can be no doubt that, in the case of the West Indies, nature has placed great difficulties in the way of their consolidation under one government or one legislative body.

Referring to the suggested federation with Canada, he said :—We have already seen the great natural difficulties in the way of a federation or unification of our West Indian Colonies, and, of course, exactly the same difficulties would exist in regard to their unification in such a way as to enable them to become a province of Canada. Then, I can hardly imagine that it could be seriously proposed to admit each separate Colony as a province of Canada, and we may perhaps postpone the serious consideration of such a proposition until there is some evidence that it would be welcomed in Canada.

It has been suggested that the meaning of recent resolutions is that Canada should be substituted for the Colonial Office in its relation with the West Indies. Now, whilst I am afraid that I cannot go so far as to say that the relationship between the West Indies and the Colonial Office has at all times been entirely ideal, still, if Canada is to step into their shoes, one would like to have some evidence that the change is likely to be an advantageous one for the West Indies. It is difficult at present to see where the advantage would come in. It is true that the Canadian Parliament recently showed their good will to the West Indies by giving West Indian sugar favoured treatment in regard to its admission into Canada, and no doubt the reduction of 33½ per cent. on the duty upon West Indian sugar was intended to benefit the West Indies. As a matter of fact, however, it has only done so to a very moderate extent, the bulk of the apparent advantage having been intercepted by the Canadian sugar refiners.

We must always remember that one of the nearest neighbours to the West Indies is the United States, with a population of 75,000,000 against a population of some 5,000,000 in Canada. Moreover, for many years past they have been the best customer the West Indies have had, although there seem to be good reasons for believing that they will not be as good customers in the future as they have been in the past. With the heavy protection the United States gives to her own beet sugar production, to the cane sugar production of Louisiana, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, and the privileged treatment of Cuba and Manilla sugar, it seems obvious that the demand for British West Indian sugar may, before many years are passed, cease altogether. How many years may elapse before this takes place no one can say. On the one hand we have a steadily increasing production in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Louisiana, and home-grown beet, and now likely also to take place in the Philippines; on the other hand, there is a rapidly increasing consumption in the United States. Then, again, as regards fruit, the protection to home-grown oranges has shut out British West Indian oranges, and it is quite possible and not improbable that the same policy may be applied to bananas, and might have the same effect upon British West Indian bananas. With cocoa, however, the case is different; this is largely exported from the British West Indies to the United States, and unless they should start a production of their own, this market is likely to continue to be a large one for British West Indian cocoa. A consideration of these facts leads me to the conclusion that the time has not yet arrived when the West Indies can afford to dispense with so good a customer.

Now let us see how it is with Canada. We have already seen that she gives British Colonial

sugar a preference, and the result of this has been that her imports of West Indian sugars are increasing; and in view of the fact that the Canadian consumption is rapidly increasing, there seems every likelihood that before many years she may be able to take the whole of the West Indian production of sugar, in which case her preferential treatment of British Colonial sugar would undoubtedly be of considerable advantage to the West Indies.

Whilst the United States market is a shrinking one for West Indian products, the Canadian market, on the contrary, is an expanding one, and these circumstances seem to indicate that the day is not far distant when some mutually satisfactory commercial arrangement will be possible between Canada and the West Indies.

Having dealt at some length with the question of the rum surtax, Sir Nevile said:— In conclusion, it is gratifying to feel that the great bar to the prosperity of the West Indies, that is to say, the sugar bounties on the Continent, have now ceased, and I have no doubt if this state of things continues that the future history of the West Indies will be of a more satisfactory character than that of the past. We cannot reasonably expect that any prosperity which may be in store for them should be of rapid growth; it is bound to take time. It must be remembered that the removal of the sugar bounties has not given them any artificial advantage whatever in their competition; it has merely removed what was an artificial disadvantage to them and others. They are still and will continue to be, exposed to the severest competition, a competition which is aggravated by the fact that the United States, the largest sugar-consuming country in the world, continues to give very considerable artificial advantages to its own producers, including those of Puerto Rico and Hawaii, and also favoured treatment to those of Cuba and Manilla. It may be reasonably expected, however, in view of the plucky manner in which they have fought a one-sided battle for the last thirty years, that the West Indies will give a satisfactory account of themselves in the future, and continue to be a creditable portion of that British Empire of which they are some of its earliest Colonial possessions.

Lord Strathcona, in opening the discussion which followed, expressed the pleasure with which he had listened to Sir Nevile's well conceived and admirably delivered address. With regard to the relations between the West Indies and Canada, he thought it was often wise to make haste slowly, and it was not to be expected that they could rush into federation immediately, as there were a great many things to be considered. Canada already took two-thirds at least of the whole of the sugar produced by the West Indies, and with her ever increasing population it was to be hoped that she might before long be able to take the whole. Canada had been taking a very considerable and substantial interest in the West Indies, and would be glad to get into still closer relations with those Colonies, to which he hoped their old prosperity would return before long.

Sir David Barbour said that Sir Nevile's experience and knowledge of the West Indies was so much greater than his own that it would be presumptuous for him to criticise the paper. As a member of the Royal Commission of 1897, the question of federation came before him then, and as regarded that matter, he (Sir David) entirely agreed with the remarks made by Sir Nevile Lubbock. Moreover, he did not believe that federation with Canada was practicable. It might be advantageous to enter into certain closer trade relations, and if Canada and the West Indies wished to follow such a course, no one should offer objection. With regard to the rum surtax the Royal Commission had recommended that it should be removed, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had expressed astonishment that the Commission should have made such a monstrous proposal. In spite of this he (Sir David) adhered to his opinion that the surtax was unsound from a theoretical point of view. But when this question was brought before him afterwards in Jamaica, he had to point out to them that they put an extra tax on British whisky to the extent of several shillings a gallon, and he told them that before they could ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to remove the mote of 4d. a gallon from his eye, they should remove the beam of 8s. from their own.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard said he was sure that all interested in the West Indies would be delighted to find that Sir Neville Lubbock, the best authority on the West Indies, had discovered in all his analysis no burning question existing at all. All the questions that had been propounded as Imperial questions were ones which could be solved in peace and quietness, without any agitation or difficulty.

Sir Horace Tozer, Agent-General for Queensland, drew attention to the greatly enhanced importance which would accrue to the West Indies when the Panama Canal was opened, a fact which should not be lost sight of. With regard to the rum surtax, Queensland was determined to secure the redress of this grievance. As to Sir David Barbour's remarks about the Colonial tariffs in this connection, it must, he said, be remembered that the Colonies have got to produce revenue, and that if they tax articles coming from the Mother Country, it is for the sake of revenue and not always as Protection.

The Secretary having read telegrams and letters from the Duke of Marlborough, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., Mr. Joseph Rippon, and others who were prevented from attending the meeting, Lord Strathcona proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Neville Lubbock, which was carried unanimously, and Sir Frederick Young having expressed the thanks of the meeting to Lord Strathcona for presiding, the proceedings were brought to a conclusion.

The Editor's Diary.

- Fri., March 2nd.—Mansion House Fund opened for the relief of sufferers from famine in Japan.—88 per cent. Beet 8s. 2½d. steady.
- Sat., March 3rd.—The mixed Tribunal of First Instance declared the Egyptian Rembles Company to be bankrupt. The shareholders appeal. *Reuter*.—The defendants in the "What is Whisky" prosecutions gave notice of appeal.—Beet 8s. 3½d. steady.
- Sun., March 4th.—Death announced of Mr. C. S. Roundell, who was Secretary to the Jamaica Commission (Governor Lyre).
- Mon., March 5th.—The Earl of Elgin defended the British Guiana Immigration Ordinance in the House of Lords.—Brig.-General Eric John Eagles Swayne, C.B., appointed Governor of British Honduras.—Beet 8s. 2½d. easier.
- Tues., March 6th.—Sir Neville Lubbock read a paper before the Colonial section of the Society of Arts on "Imperial Questions in the West Indies."
- Wed., March 7th.—Army Estimates for 1906-07 issued, total £20,705,000, being a reduction of £17,000 over those for 1905. West India Club Dinner.—Beet 8s. 3d. quiet.
- Thurs., March 8th.—Beet (morning call) 8s. 3½d. steady.

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS, per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Duggall), March 6th: **Barbados**,—Mrs. A. C. Hyde, Miss C. Woodhouse, Mr. W. P. Brown, Mr. Mac and Miss Muel, Miss Longman, Mr. G. D. Pile, Lieut. W. N. White. **Venezuela**—Mr. Jameson Capt. and Mrs. Power, Lady and Miss Hodgson, Mrs. Monypenny, Mr. W. H. Widdicombe, Mr. A. Taylor, Mr. J. Taylor. **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Frith, Mr. Lomas, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Lomas, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Ingram, Mr. G. W. Sawyer, Mr. A. M. Flint, Miss Manson, Mr. Barry, Mr. G. Heck, Mr. Torin. **Trinidad**—Mr. Hamilton, Dr. G. Costin, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Swan, Mr. H. A. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. Strauss, Mr. S. Azevedo, Dr. S. A. H. Taker, Mr. W. Redfern, Mr. C. Woodall, Mr. C. O. Régnie, Mr. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Balston, Mr. W. B. Scott, Mr. Vaughan. **Antigua**,—Lieut. and Mrs. O. Foster.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	British Guiana, Jan. 1st to Feb. 28th.		Jamaica, April 1st to Feb. 28th.		Trinidad, Jan. 1st to Feb. 28th.		Grenada, Oct. 28 to Feb. 15th.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
Sugar	15,177	15,399 tons	995	7386 tons	51,356	15,583 bags & bbls.	—	—
Molasses	110	981 puns.	—	—	346	899 puns. 42 ccs. 54 lbs.	—	—
Rum	4544	3433 "	850,378	990,729 galls.	—	—	—	—
Molasses	1597	2231 tons	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa	4280	— lbs.	27,957	19,691 cwts.	6,669,090	3,790,140 lbs.	27,974	23,284 bags.
Coffee	—	—	61,251	41,316 "	500	900 "	—	—
Coconuts	15,920	87,980	5,480,380	2,075,093	1,388,000	717,400	—	—
Cotton	—	—	—	—	1947	1070 bags	—	—
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphalt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oranges	—	—	—	—	16,474	74,004 tons	—	—
Bananas	—	—	20,518,848	25,534,542	—	—	—	—
Pimento	—	—	12,937,197	7,420,909 bunches	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	81,274	135,414 cwts.	—	—	—	—
Gold	902	6640 ozs.	—	—	—	—	830	2350 bils.
Diamonds	80	2031 carats	—	—	—	—	250	304 ½ bils.
							100	230 cases.
							100	127 bags.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES

No. LXIII.



Sir Hubert E. H. Jennings, K.C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms.

15 SEEBING LANE, LONDON.

Mar. 16th, 1906

Telegrams: "CABLE LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Reuter's correspondent in Trinidad, the Chamber of Commerce of that Island has approved the report of the Cable Communication Sub-Committee of the West India Committee, and has recommended that a fair proportion of the subsidy necessary to secure the all-British communication proposed by the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies should be borne by the Colony. We have not yet heard what decision has been arrived at in the other West Indian Colonies, the consideration of the report having been delayed at the request of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, who, soon after it had been issued, telegraphed to the Colonies stating that they desired to amend their proposal. The amended proposal was subsequently forwarded in a memorandum signed by Mr. WALTER B. KINGSFORD, and dated January 19th, the full text of which we give on another page in the present issue.

With the report of the Cable Communication Sub-Committee and this document before them it will

now remain for the Colonies to decide—if they have not, indeed, arrived at a decision already—which of the two is the better calculated to meet the case. The Cable Communication Sub-Committee recommended the extension of the all-British cable from Bermuda to Barbados, the laying of new cables from Barbados to Trinidad, and from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara, with the establishment on an efficient basis of a connecting cable between the Windward Islands and Barbados, and a reduction of the message rate to a uniform 4s. 2d. per word. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co. have now indicated their willingness to accept a smaller subsidy than that for which they asked at first, so that something, at least, has already been accomplished; but it is to be feared that though they state that they might also be willing to consider a reduction of rates between the Mother Country and the British Colonies in the West Indies, the evidence already submitted would make it appear that they could not do this without a still further increase in the subsidy. Mr. KINGSFORD lays stress upon the fact that the new all-British cable proposed is only to be a single line, but it can hardly be claimed, on the other hand, that his duplicate cables have availed much in the past, and we believe that we are right in saying that one of the cables between Trinidad and Demerara has not been in working order for very many years. Moreover, it is an established fact that the single lines between Halifax and Bermuda, and Bermuda and Jamaica, have never yet broken down since their inauguration in 1898. The reply to this may be that these cables are not in the volcanic zone, but we believe that if the proposed extension from Bermuda to Barbados is carried along the windward side of the Islands, the new cables should be equally secure from interruption. Among the Islands themselves additional security could be provided by means of wireless telegraphy. Already Trinidad and Tobago are linked up in this manner, and there is a probability of communication being established between St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Montserrat. On the whole it cannot be said that the memorandum of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company materially alters the situation. As has been already pointed out, the agreement between this company and the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company is an obstacle in the way of reform which appears to us to be insurmountable. If, however, the Colonies will authorise the Colonial Office to negotiate a cable contract, as suggested, for a subsidy of not exceeding £17,500 for twenty years, we feel sure that an excellent bargain can be made on this side, and cable communication in the West Indies much improved and cheapened.

THE first annual report of the Antigua Sugar Factory Company affords valuable and instructive reading in point of view of the importance of this practically initial scheme for adapting, under Government auspices, the system of central sugar factories to the needs of the smaller West Indian Islands. It will be remembered that in 1903, Sir Gerald Strickland, the then Governor of the Leeward Islands, determined to utilise the £15,000 remaining to the credit of Antigua of its share of the £250,000 Imperial Grant-in-Aid 1902, for the purpose of initiating the central factory system in that Island. The scheme as ultimately decided upon was that a company should be formed with a capital of £40,000, £15,000 of which, the sum mentioned above, would be subscribed by the Government, £1,000 being amortised each year until it had disappeared from the company's capital account. The ownership of the factory would then be divided equally between the factory company and the estates' proprietors guaranteeing the supply of canes. On these lines a company was formed and a factory erected at Gunthorpe's, and it is the first crop's working which is dealt with in the report. On account of the severe drought which the Island had experienced, the crop fell far short of what had been expected, only 1,634½ tons being turned out, as against the 3,000 ton power of the factory. We do not suppose that this was altogether a misfortune, as it gave opportunity for the correction of small defects of working which are almost inseparable from new machinery, and it is gratifying to learn that after setting aside a substantial sum as a sinking fund, the payment of interest on the debentures—

which constituted the bulk of the capital—the 25,000 ordinary shares only representing 11s. each fully paid—and after paying a mean price of 11/7 per ton of canes, directors' fees, &c., there remained the handsome profit of £3,928 for division among the shareholders, half of which profit, as the scheme is constituted, going toward further payment of canes, bringing the value of the latter up to 14/1 per ton. From a factory point of view, therefore, there is every reason for congratulation, and although the poor tonnage of canes must have detracted considerably from the acreage receipts of the cultivator, the position of the latter would have been considerably worse if the sugar had had to be manufactured under the old system. On the other hand, the canes were evidently, and this is often the case with a short crop, sweeter than might be expected for an average, the *diluted* juice polarising 1·83 lbs. per gallon, while the value of the sugar was £12 10s. per ton. Taking, however, the results as a whole, these must have been most gratifying to the promoters. And although the crop was an exceptionally small one, the figures for the working of the factory given in the report are quite sufficient to enable the results, under average conditions of crop and price, to be foreseen. As we have said above, the canes in an ordinary season would not be as rich as in the one under review, in fact, it may be laid down that the heavier the crop the poorer the juice, and 11 tons of cane per ton of sugar would probably be near the amount taken. The mean value of the sugar, also, could not be expected to be more than £9 per ton. By separating the figures representing the fixed expenditure and those varying with the output, the results of a 3,000 lbs. crop under normal conditions of price and yield can be approximated, and we should have for the expenditure :—

Manufacture proper, and transport for 3,000 tons sugar at £2 per ton ...	£6,000	
Salaries and insurance	1,220	
Administration charges	664	
		£7,884
At 4½ %, the payment for canes according to the contract, the cost of these would be :—		
33,000 tons of canes at 8s. 6d. per ton		£14,025
Bringing the total expenditure for the 3,000 tons to		£21,909
As against this, the value of the produce would be :—		
3,000 tons sugar at £9	£27,000	
135,000 gallons molasses at, say, 4d. per gallon	2,250	
		£29,250
Leaving a gross profit of		£7,341

As the capital of the company stands at £40,000 debentures and £1,250 ordinary shares, the latter being practically nominal in order to carry out the scheme as to the ultimate co-operative possession of the factory, after paying the 3½ % on the debentures, £5,841 would remain as representing the profit on the ordinary shares with canes at 8s. 6d. per ton. This sum, however, would be subject to a sinking and reserve fund charge of £3,000, leaving £2,841, out of which £2,475 would have to be paid to the cultivators to make up the price per ton to 10s. as required by the contract, leaving £376 as the profit on the ordinary capital of £1,250 to be further divided. In other words, after paying 10s. per ton for the canes and the debenture interest, putting on one side substantial sums for sinking and reserve funds, there would remain a net profit with sugar, netting £9 per ton. As to the factory part of the question, no doubt its working will be even further improved, as the figures showing the sugar extraction are on the low side, and it remains for the cultivators to do all they can in the direction of greater yield. That this is being done, and done well, we know, and with the help of the researches going on with seedling canes, manures and tillage, under the thorough scientific supervision Antigua now enjoys, there is every prospect

of good times for its cane sugar industry. Now that the value of the central factory system, even on a comparatively small scale, has been so efficiently demonstrated, we sincerely trust that elsewhere among the small Islands no time will be lost in putting the industry on a thoroughly sound basis in this respect. Barbados still holds £80,000, the amount of its share of the grant-in-aid of 1902 in trust, and this, when available, would go some way towards establishing central factories in that Island on similar principles to those which appear to have been so successfully applied in Antigua, and it should not be difficult to arrange details so that participants in the 1902-3 crop, the year of the grant-in-aid, should benefit as they are surely entitled to do.

WHILE commenting on the "Jamaica rum" prosecutions in recent issues of the *West India Committee Circular*, we deprecated the introduction into the subject of the question of the "ether contents" as being calculated to have a prejudicial influence upon the trade. Subsequent events are proving that our fears were not groundless, for owing to the recent prosecutions by the public authorities of Glasgow, in which a minimum standard of 400 of ethers per 100,000 was laid down by Dr. Clarke as representing pure Jamaica rum, the Glasgow and West of Scotland Wholesale Wine and Spirit Association has issued a circular to its members recommending them to cease using the word "Jamaica" in their invoices, as the majority of Jamaica rums used do not contain that amount of ethers. These prosecutions under the "Sale of Food and Drugs" Act bring this part of the whole subject prominently forward. Are the Jamaica planters prepared to bind themselves to a definite quality, which may or may not be generally in their power to supply, or will they voluntarily depreciate their product by assigning a low standard to it? It is a *sine qua non* that such standard be below the average, otherwise there would be danger of a genuine rum being condemned as adulterated. On the other hand, with a low standard accepted, what is there to prevent the rum being "watered" with silent spirit until the ether contents were brought down to a point which would just permit of its passing the legal standard? It seems to us that the fixing of such a standard will either be an injustice to some Jamaica distillers if placed too high, or afford an opportunity of legalised adulteration if low enough to include all Jamaica rums. In these circumstances to fix a standard would be to fall in with the arbitrary views of the Public Analyst without compensatory benefit to the Jamaica planter. The object of the public prosecutions is to protect the consumer *against* the manufacturer; that of the actions now being taken by the Jamaica authorities to protect *both* consumer and distiller, and in this respect we still maintain, that by simply utilising the Merchandise Marks Act, by trusting to the plain evidence of experts in the trade, by leaving out of the subject any reference to "patent" stills or "ether" contents, the objects for which the prosecutions were started would be fully gained, without giving openings for the vexed technical questions with which the subject, in its more complex form, bristles, or providing weapons for use to the detriment of the trade. To put the position briefly, should a standard be fixed, either the planters of Jamaica will be practically compelled to ship rum of high quality or not at all, or else an opportunity for adulteration will be placed in the hands of the retailers. The latter difficulty could be got over in a way by the lowering of the whole quality of Jamaica rum by the distiller, but we cannot imagine this being done in the interest of the industry. Anyway, if a standard of ether contents is fixed, we cannot see how injury to the trade, one way or another, is to be avoided. Rum is a bye-product and not a primary manufacture, and its make is dependent upon other considerations than that of the rum market only. To secure a uniform standard of quality depends, therefore, not only upon the manufacture of the sugar itself, but also upon economic considerations connected with it. Here again an important consideration in relation to central factories comes in. Indeed, on reviewing all the conditions attached to the issue, it appears to us that should a standard of



(Taken by Alphonse E. Aguiar.)

(Copyright)

A CRACK TEAM IN ST. KITTS.

high quality be fixed, the effect would be to make rum a primary product, save where sugar *had* to be the first consideration, as with central factories, and then to cause rum not to be made at all.

Sir Hubert E. B. Jennings, K.C.M.G.

A pleasing indication that the work of the West India Committee is appreciated not only in commercial and planting circles, but also by official classes, is shown by the number of Governors who, upon their retirement, seek membership of this body. By doing so they help to consolidate the various interests represented upon it and to promote the object which we all have in view, that is to say, the furtherance of the welfare of our West Indian Colonies. Sir Hubert E. H. Jennings, whose portrait we give on the first page of the present *Circular* is one of our loyal supporters. He was educated at the University of France, where he took the degree of Bachelier-ès-Lettres, and entered the diplomatic service in 1866. Twenty years later the diplomatic service became the poorer and our Colonies the richer by his transference to British Honduras, of which he was made Colonial Secretary. From 1889 to 1892 he acted in the same capacity in Mauritius, of which Colony he was appointed Lieut.-Governor in 1892 and Governor in 1893, a position which he occupied until 1897, when he was made Governor of Trinidad and Tobago. He carried out his duties in this position with tact and ability until 1900, when he was compelled, owing to continued ill-health, to resign. He represented Berwick in Parliament from 1881 to 1885, and is the author of many books of note, including "Life in a French Chateau," "Reminiscences of an Attaché," "To and from Constantinople," "Diane de Bretenille." Sir Hubert and his wife, whose death was deplored in 1902, were extremely popular in Trinidad, as at home, and his beautiful seat, Longridge Towers, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, is familiar to visitors lucky enough to find themselves in that locality.

A Crack Team in St. Kitts.

Our full page illustration in the present issue represents a party about to start for a picnic on Brimstone Hill from "Con Phipps," an estate at the base of this now dismantled fortress in St. Kitts. Mr. Gordon, the manager of the estate, stands near the top of the steps, on the bottom of which is the late Mr. Grant, of Demerara, while the Hon. Charles T. Cox, the present Colonial Secretary of British Guiana, who was Administrator of St. Kitts when this photograph was taken, is to the right of the picture. In the cart are Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Grant. It is within the memory of the photographer how those mules galloped over the hard high road, while the cart, which is an ordinary estates' cart and absolutely springless, bumped and thundered along in a cloud of dust for all the world like a gun limber!

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, March 8th, the following were elected to Membership of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH GUIANA.	A. N. Lubbock.	Spencer H. Curtis.
THE ST. VINCENT COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION AND AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SOCIETY.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	Cyril Gurney.
GEOFFREY C. BUXTON.	Hon. C. A. Shand.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
J. DALGLISH & Co. (Trinidad).	A. N. Lubbock.	Cyril Gurney.

Full particulars regarding Membership and Candidature Forms can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

The Circuitous Route of the "Mail Pacquets."

The struggles between Great Britain and France in connection with the War of the Revolution towards the end of the 18th century, centred in the West Indies, which were the scene of much fighting. To the West India merchants at home it was naturally a period of the greatest anxiety. Islands were being lost and won, naval battles fought, and the full risks of war felt in connection with the produce convoys. Regular and rapid communi-

cation was consequently urgently required, and the question of the mail service became of the greatest importance. History repeats itself, and though we are thankful to say that the "dogs of war" are not now loosed in these possessions, the "piping days of peace" have their portion of commercial anxiety, and the position of the mail service is in its way as trying as it was then. At the meeting of the Committee on July 25th, 1780, a memorial to Lord Le Despencer, His Majesty's Postmaster General, representing the delays in the mails was reported as having been presented, and from it we extract the following:—

"That according to the present circuitous plan of the West India Mail, there is a considerable and unnecessary waste of time, which frustrates the principal Object of the Institution, viz., a speedy communication of intelligence out and home, an object which is now become of greater Importance than ever, on Account of the West Indies being now the principal Seat of War.

"That the experiment already made by sending Pacquets direct to the Leeward Islands and Jamaica respectively, and to return direct from each of those Stations, has fully evinced the advantages which must result from the general Adoption in future, of this plan

"Whereas the proposed Scheme, by removing those delays, will produce a constant, regular and interchangeable Correspondence, between Great Britain and her Islands in the West Indies.

"That Government are not less interested than the Planters and Merchants in the proposed Improvement, as it will afford them a stated and Speedy Conveyance of intelligence and orders to the several Governors, Admirals and Commanders in each of the West India Stations, and of the earliest Intelligence from them, of those important events which must be expected in time of war."

We may mention that a three months' trip for the mail packets was then wanted as against five months for the system then in force! As the packets brought the return letters, the tediousness of the correspondence in those days of strain can readily be imagined.

What is Demerara Sugar?

The editor of the *Grocer*, in reply to a correspondent in the issue of that paper dated March 10th, who asked if he was legally correct in selling pure cane sugar from Trinidad as "guaranteed pure Demerara sugar," said "Trinidad is very generally sold, both wholesale and retail, as Demerara, but we think a successful prosecution might be brought against you under the Merchandise Marks' Acts in the circumstances you specify." We notice that this same question was raised at a recent meeting of the Midland Council of Grocer's Associations, when Mr. Herbert E. Pickett, of J. Travers & Sons, Limited, said that they always invoiced their sugar under the name of the Island from which it came, that it would be distinctly unsafe to describe all sugar coming from the West Indies under the one name of Demerara, and that the better way was to sell it as pure West Indian sugar. We agree with Mr. Pickett that it would not be right to apply the name "Demerara" to all sugar coming from the West Indies: but, on the other hand, we do not see eye-to-eye with the editor of the *Grocer* in this matter. The West India Committee has always, rightly, as we think, maintained that where factories are provided with modern machinery, as in Demerara, Trinidad and St. Lucia, and in one or two isolated cases in other British West Indian Colonies, the process of manufacture of crystallised yellow sugar is practically the same in all cases, and it, therefore, may be safely maintained that this particular sugar, as it comes to this market from the British West Indies or British Guiana, is all of the same "nature, substance and quality," and, therefore, any conviction of a grocer under the Sale of Food and Drugs' Act for selling Trinidad crystallised yellow as Demerara, could only be made under a misapprehension of the facts of the case.

Germany and its Sugar Tax.

M. George Dureau, in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of February 28th, deals with the recent petition of the Association of the German Sugar Industry for the further lowering of the internal sugar tax. In the petition, regret is expressed that in spite of the representations made to the Reichstag in March last as to the necessity for a further reduction of the tax, the budget has no reference to it, and satisfaction is expressed that the question is being brought up by Count Bernstorff, with the proposal to reduce the tax when the revenue therefrom exceeds 2 marks 10, per head of the population. The sugar industry did not, however, see its way to favour this suggestion, as being calculated to bring about a condition of uncertainty most prejudicial to its interest. The only proposal which it is prepared to

consider is that already formulated by the representatives of the industry, viz., the reduction of the tax from 14 to 10 marks at the most per 100 kilos. The situation of the German exporting industry, says the petition, has become more difficult than ever by reason of the growing competition with cane sugar, of the uncertainty in the English and American markets, of the privilege accorded to Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and the new concessions which have just been made to Philippine sugar. The German industry has made vain efforts to retake its old markets or to acquire fresh, but as a matter of fact the foreign market has retreated more and more before it. In 1904-5 only 756,320 tons of sugar were exported, the smallest figure of the last decade, and this could not be attributed entirely to the small crop. The welfare of the German sugar industry now depends upon the development of the internal consumption. Up till now the efforts in the direction of increasing the use of sugar in the manufacture of marmalade, and the feeding of stock have not yet borne fruit. In these circumstances the extreme lowness of the price of sugar, which is below the cost of production, places the German industry in a threatened position. For this, says the petition, there is only one remedy—the increase of consumption through reduction of the tax. The influence of the price of sugar on consumption is shown by the observations of M. v. d'Olle, a German sugar manufacturer, who concluded from a close inquiry that the small consumer leaves off the use of sugar almost completely when the price reaches 25 pfennigs per lb. (2½d.) for stoved sugars,* and buys again when the price drops. At 20 and 21 pfennigs (2d.) he consumes regularly and persistently, and by reducing the tax to 10 marks per 100 kilos, sugar could be sold at the latter figures. M. Dureau does not, however, think that in view of the heavy calls on the German Treasury that there is much prospect of the request of the petition being entertained at present.

Cocoa in Jamaica.

The *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* for January refers to the important question of the most suitable variety of cocoa to plant in that Colony, Mr. Cradwick, the travelling instructor, having called particular attention to the fine growth of the Criollo variety of cocoa trees in Hanover, Westmoreland, and St. James. The planting of this variety of cocoa is opposed by many well-known and successful cocoa planters, from the fact that it has had to be replaced in the West Indies, in Central and South America and Ceylon by Madras varieties, the greater commercial value of the Criollo being compensated for by the increased yield of the latter without the same risk of loss from climatic and other causes. So far as Jamaica is concerned, it would appear that in the west end of the Island Criollo cocoa undoubtedly thrives to perfection, and has probably survived on account of the conditions being suitable for it, and opinion is expressed that it would be a mistake for any planter in the west end of the Island, possessing good soil and regular rainfall, to plant any other variety. On the other hand it would be a short-sighted policy on the part of planters to intrude the Criollo on varieties now growing, save in exceptional circumstances, in St. Mary, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, and Portland, when the Forastero variety should be adhered to. Forastero and hybrids, with their spreading habit, suffer less and recover more rapidly from the effects of hurricanes than the Criollo.

Jamaica Oranges.

Regarding the complaints as to the poor quality of the Jamaica oranges seen in the fruit shops in England, the *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* says: "The decision of the Orange Conference held on November 3rd last has practically settled that nothing will be done, and that we will have to go on in the same disorganised and reckless way. We have little fear, however that it will kill what orange trade we have. We shall, very likely, always have some trade in pretty much the same hazardous condition, but for a typical orange-growing country like Jamaica, what we ship is absolutely trilling, and the quality far from flattering. It is evident that we are to be obliged to dodge along on the crumbs of an orange trade, and the many growers who have sunk capital and put forth enterprise and energy in building up orange groves, the fruit from which will compare favourably with anything in the world, are to have their ambition and their efforts to put creditable fruit in the British market, absolutely nullified by the large bulk of fruit, inferior or utterly unfit, that is shipped, such as reflects no credit on the shippers or the Island. As we have before written, such orange growers, as their only hope, should put forth every effort to get their fruit in early, and they will then share in the fair prices that prevail for a short period, but which with a properly organised trade should last for eight months instead of two."

* Lard sugar is dried in an étuve, or stove, and is called étuvé, or "stoved" sugar, as distinct from white crystallised sugar, which is not dried artificially. Granulated is dried in a revolving cylinder heated by a steam pipe, but it is not called "stoved" sugar.—ED.

The St. Vincent Cotton Growers' Association.



The St. Vincent Central Cotton Factory.

This factory, which is situated close to Kingstown, was erected under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the supervision of Mr James J. Law, engineer, of Barbados. It was opened in 1904

is recognised by the Imperial Department of Agriculture as the representative agricultural body of the Island, and already it has done much good work in maintaining the cotton industry on its present sound footing. The St. Vincent central cotton factory is quite a short walk from the landing-place at Kingstown. It is a three-storey building and contains six gins, on the foremost of which in our illustration the name of Messrs. Platt Brothers & Company, Limited, will be recognised. During last season the factory was open from January 1st to September 23rd, during which period 281,606 lbs. of seed cotton was sent to be ginned, and the yield was 77,814 lbs. of lint and 199,941 lbs. of seed, or 26.7% of lint. The lint was made up into 233 bales, the majority of which contained 360 lbs. nett, and the amount of seed sent out to be disintegrated was 4,204 lbs. The important work of selecting and disinfecting

Department of Agriculture as the representative agricultural body

By the appointment of Mr. W. N. Sands, the Hon. Secretary of the Cotton Growers' Association and Agricultural Society of St. Vincent, to be an Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee for that Colony, the Committee will be brought into closer touch with the cotton growing industry of that Island, which is making substantial progress. Though the acreage under cotton in the Island is somewhat less than that for last year, the quality of the cotton is unsurpassed, and samples of the present crop have been valued at as high as 18d. and 19d. per lb. We may remind our readers that the St. Vincent Cotton Growers' Association was formed on July 7th, 1904, when Mr. Alexander Smith was appointed Chairman, Mr. J. G. W. Hazell, Treasurer, and Mr. W. N. Sands, Secretary. The Association



The "Gins" in the St. Vincent Cotton Factory.

The factory has three storeys. The engines and baling presses are on the ground floor. On the first floor is the ginning apparatus, while on the floor above is a store-room for the cotton.

seed was also carried on at the factory, the amount of seed treated for local growers being 15,387 lbs., which gave 11,860 lbs. of selected seed.

West Indian Cable Communication.

Subsequent to the despatch to the Colonies, on January 5th, of the Report of the Cable Communication Sub-Committee, which was adopted on January 4th by West India Committee, the West India and Panama Telegraph Company cabled to the West Indies on January 17th, asking the various agricultural and commercial bodies to suspend any decision regarding the report pending the receipt of a communication from the company with "a more modified and more favourable proposal." It will be remembered that the Cable Communication Sub-Committee in their report, the full text of which was published in *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 177, page 63, expressed the opinion that an improvement of the existing state of affairs could best be attained by: (a) By laying a new cable from Bermuda to Barbados. (b) By laying new cables (1) from Barbados to Trinidad, and (2) from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara. (c) Establishment on an efficient basis of a connecting cable between the Windward and Leeward Islands and Barbados; it being a *sine qua non* of any future arrangement that the company contracting should either take over the cable connecting the Windward and Leeward Islands with Barbados, or lay new ones. The Sub-Committee recommended that the Halifax and Bermudas and the Direct West India Cable Companies should be approached with a view to laying these cables, pointing out that its decision was largely influenced by the knowledge of the nature of the arrangement between the West India and Panama Telegraph Company and the Cuba Submarine Company, by which the former Company has to hand all messages for places beyond the Island in perpetuity to the Cuba Submarine Company, which appeared to militate against a reduction of rates without a largely increased subsidy. The Sub-Committee also favoured a reduction of rates to a uniform 4s. 3d. per word. The following is the full text of the memorandum dated January 19th, which was sent by the Chairman of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company to the West Indies:

1.—"The West India Committee in London have furnished us with a copy of a report dealing with West India cable communications, and stating that copies of it were being forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to the principal agricultural and commercial bodies in the West Indies. By the time this reaches you the report will have been for some days in the hands of those to whom it has been forwarded.

2.—It will have been seen that the report contains a recommendation that certain cables be laid, and that the Halifax-Bermudas and the Direct West India Companies should be approached with a view to their being laid by those companies.

3.—The report also deals with proposals made by my Company which did not commend themselves to the favourable consideration of the West India Committee.

4.—For your information it might be well briefly to review the history of the West India and Panama Company and its connection with the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, more especially as the agreement between the two companies is frequently referred to in the report.

5.—The original scheme for laying cables in the West Indies was proposed in 1868, and concessions were granted by the Colonies to the International Ocean Telegraph Company of New York. These concessions were transferred to my Company whose then Board of Directors consisted of gentlemen prominently connected with the West Indies, among whom were the late Sir George Chambers, Messrs. Quintin Hogg, Charles McGarel and J. A. Tinne. The Colonial Acts under which the subsidies were originally granted contemplated only a single line of telegraphic communication. Owing to a revolution which at that time broke out in Cuba it was found necessary to substitute cables along the coast of that Island for the land line which had been originally projected between Havana and Santiago de Cuba. As the substitution of cables for a land line required a much larger expenditure of capital, a separate company, namely, the Cuba Submarine Telegraph Company, was formed to lay cables between Santiago de Cuba and Bata Isano (Havana). In the process of forming that company it became necessary to enter into a working agreement with it (which is invariably done in like cases) in order to secure to the Colonies the advantages of through communication, without which agreement the establishment of telegraphs in the West Indies would have been long delayed.

6.—The prospects of a remunerative traffic held out in the original prospectus of my Company have never been realised owing to the limited amount of telegraphic business in the West Indies.

7.—My Company's system has been established in the West Indies for more than thirty-five years and its cables have to a large extent been duplicated, yet it is now recommended that a company should be invited to lay certain cables which would not only deprive my Company of its subsidies, but would divide between two companies the traffic which has never yet been sufficient even for the support of one.

8.—When we were invited by the West India Committee to lay before it a scheme with the object of strengthening the existing lines of communication, the possibility indicated in the Committee's report of financial or other assistance being granted by the Imperial Government did not enter into our calculations. These calculations were accordingly based only upon the interest and sinking fund for the capital outlay to carry out our scheme, which was to lay cables from Jamaica to St. Lucia, thence to Barbados and thence to Demerara. For laying these cables we asked a subsidy of £12,800 per annum for twenty years, a continuance of the present subsidies of £10,800 for ten years and the restoration of the Barbados subsidy for ten years from £1,500 to its former amount of £2,500.

9.—The report of the West India Committee recommends the laying of cables from Bermuda to Barbados, thence to Trinidad, and from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara, for a subsidy of about £12,500 per annum for twenty years, and that the Windward and Leeward Islands, in consideration of their being connected with the proposed new Bermuda line at Barbados, should pay the same subsidies as they respectively paid in 1887, which amounted to £4,600 (and not £4,000 as stated in the Committee's report).

10.—It will be observed that in our proposal we asked that the present subsidies of £10,800 and the increase of £1,000 from Barbados be paid for ten years, as compared with the Committee's recommendation that the subsidies suggested by them should be paid for twenty years.

The aggregate cost of our proposal was as follows:—

£12,800 per annum for twenty years	...	...	...	...	£256,000
£11,800 per annum for ten years	...	...	...	...	£118,000

(Or a total cost to the Colonies of £374,000

11.—The scheme recommended by the West India Committee would cost the Colonies £342,000 or £32,000 less than our proposal, a difference of only £1,600 per annum.

12.—As already stated, we were not aware that the West India Committee had any hopes of obtaining assistance from the Imperial Government, and as we believe that any assistance which might be given to a competitor would not be withheld from us, the Directors, sharing in the hopes expressed by the Committee, have now reconsidered their proposals and are prepared to lay the following cables:—(a) from Jamaica to St. Lucia; (b) from St. Lucia to Barbados; (c) from Barbados to Demerara, and to accept the same amount of subsidy as that suggested by the Committee to be given to the Halifax-Bermudas and Direct West India Companies, and for the same period.

13.—My Company might also be willing to consider a reduction of rates between the Mother Country and the British Colonies in the West Indies.

14.—In urging the claims of my Company for the continued support of the Colonies, I may remind you that we possess the manifest advantage over any competitor of being in telegraphic communication with several foreign Colonies in the West Indies, and also in direct communication with places on the French Company's system *in* Guadeloupe, with all of which it is important to note that the British Islands have business transactions.

15.—Moreover, the West India Committee recommends the laying merely of a single line of cable, whereas the cables of my Company are largely duplicated, and it is obvious that a single line of cable must afford far less security than a double one.

16.—For more than thirty-five years we have done our very utmost to maintain efficient telegraphic communication in face of physical and other unforeseen difficulties such as no other Cable Company has ever had the misfortune to encounter.

17.—Having regard to the fair and friendly treatment which we have hitherto received from the Colonies I ask with confidence for their favourable support for the proposals now submitted for their consideration."

With reference to paragraphs 8 and 12 of the above memorandum it should be pointed out that the Sub-Committee of the West India Committee did not indicate that there was any possibility of obtaining assistance from the Government for the establishment of new cables. They only emphasised the fact that the use made of the cables by the Colonial Office and Local Governments and the utility of an all-British cable in the time of war constituted important factors in the claims on the home Government for financial or other assistance. We wish that we could feel sure that such assistance was likely to be forthcoming.

Immigration Affairs.

Owing to the continued drought in the United Provinces there now appears to be every prospect of an improvement in emigration from India to the West Indies. In the United Provinces there are now 96,000 persons in receipt of assistance in the Jtansi, Jalaien, Muttra, and Cawnpore

districts. In Rajputana, including Ajmere-Merwara, the numbers have risen to 84,000 and in Central India States to 45,000. In the Bombay districts nearly 11,000 are in receipt of gratuitous relief. It will doubtless be brought home to these famine stricken natives how different is the condition of their fellows in the West Indies, many of whom themselves left India in a state of abject penury, unable to pay even for the simple outfit for the voyage.

Canada and the West Indies.

Mr. W. A. Black, of Messrs. Pickford & Black, of Halifax, attended a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, March 8th, to discuss the question of the Canadian 33½% preference, and matters connected therewith. Mr. Black said that he understood that the stocks were again low in Canada, this state of affairs having been brought about largely by the severe winter, which prevented thousands of families making their weekly purchases of sugars. He believed that the sales of the Halifax refiners were something like 20,000 tons short during the severe winter months, and he had every hope that the refiners would be able to take as much sugar as the West Indies could supply this year. On his attention being called to the complaints which were made in the smaller Islands of the lack of space in his ships for their sugars during crop time, Mr. Black said that if the northern Islands wanted space reserved for them, it was necessary for them to give eight days' notice, as it was naturally unreasonable to expect the company to reserve space which they had a chance of filling up at Demerara, when there was a chance of its not being wanted after all in the northern Islands. Their ships had a certain capacity which they tried to fill, and they endeavoured to divide it fairly among all the Islands as reasonably as they could.

The Royal Horticultural Show.

Will our readers kindly take note that the West Indies will again be represented at the show of Colonial fruit to be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, on March 22nd, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and March 23rd and 24th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We are glad to be able to say that on the present occasion the Jamaica fruit has arrived in good time, 14 boxes of grape fruit, 5 boxes of oranges, 2 boxes of limes, and 2 crates of pines having been received by the Imperial Direct Service's R.M.S. "Port Royal." We would again remind members of the West India Committee that we shall be glad to receive and exhibit on their behalf genuine West Indian produce free of charge for space. The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, will make this exhibition an opportunity for an elaborate display, and we trust that many of our readers will visit the hall. More fruit is expected by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Magdalena," which is due on the 21st inst., and it is hoped that this also will be in time for the Show.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The British West Indies have recently received plenty of attention from our legislators, as will be seen from the notes given below. The British Guiana Immigration system—why, by the way, is nothing ever said of those of Jamaica and Trinidad?—is now held up as a model of fairness, organisation and control, which is as it should be.

Jamaica and the French Tariff.

In reply to a question asked by Mr. Owen Philipps, on March 6th, Mr. Winston Churchill said that the products of Jamaica are admitted into French territory at the minimum rate of duty under the terms of a convention signed on August 8th, 1902, and ratified on August 12th, 1903. The Governments of Barbados and Trinidad were consulted in 1900 as to the expediency of steps being taken to secure similar favourable treatment for their products, and intimated that they did not desire such action to be taken.

The St. Vincent Relief Fund.

On March 14th Mr. Mitchell-Thomson asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what amount of the fund raised in 1902 for the specific purpose of relieving distress caused by the eruption of the Soufrière volcano in St. Vincent remains unspent; and to what purpose it was proposed to apply the balance of the fund.

Mr. Churchill said the Administration of St. Vincent reported, on December 9th, 1905 that the unexpended credit balance of the fund in the books of the Colony amounted on that date to £30,515 11s 5d. Expenditure on certain services intended to repair the injury to the Island caused

by the eruption had been authorised, and instructions had been given for the retention of the sum of £25,000 as a permanent investment. The interest on this amount would be devoted to defraying the cost of the poor relief on St. Vincent, and the principal would be retained as a special reserve to meet any possible recurrence of such distress in future.

The British Guiana Immigration Ordinance.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday, March 6th, Lord Harris expressed the hope that Lord Elgin would consider the points in regard to which the Transvaal Immigration Ordinance could be made more like the British Guiana Ordinance, and Lord Elgin said that he was obliged to the noble Lord for asking him to elaborate the differences which the Government thought they found in the existing Transvaal Ordinance and that which had existed for many years in British Guiana. The idea of the Ordinance in British Guiana was one rather of colonisation than of labour regulation. A large number of the Indian immigrants did not go back to India; they remained in the Colony; and the conditions under which they were living had been carefully looked into by an officer deputed by the Indian Government to make inquiry. This officer had reported that the immigration system in this Colony of British Guiana stood out as an example to all the world of British fairness, organisation, and control. If the noble Lord would give assistance in the consideration of the provisions of the Ordinance which would result in the same being said of the coolies imported into the Transvaal he would be glad to have his aid.

More about the British Guiana Ordinance.

Mr. Churchill, replying to Captain Balfour, said: Section 181 of the British Guiana Ordinance provides that every lessee whose lease expires is entitled to have the indentures of any immigrants on the plantation transferred for the unexpired remainder of their term of service to any employer approved by the Immigration Agent-General, the lessor of the estate having the first option. Section 182 provides that where a plantation is sold or leased, or passes by devise or inheritance, any indentured immigrant on it shall render the same service to the purchaser or lessee as to his former employer. It must be noted that the immigrant enters into an agreement to emigrate with an officer representing the Colonial Government and not with any individual employer, and the Government is responsible for his well-being. The Government provides by Ordinance that he shall not during the period of his indenture suffer by unemployment due to any changes affecting the ownership of plantations. The particular person who owns the plantation is unknown to the immigrant till he arrives in the Colony, but he relies on the Government for the due observance of the terms offered to him. Under the Ordinance the Governor has very wide powers of determining the indentures of any immigrant if in his opinion the management of any estate is unsatisfactory. It should be added that under this system of colonisation through the operation of a labour contract more than 50 per cent. of the Indian immigrants become permanent settlers. No substantial amendment of the Ordinance seems to be required by any facts at present within the knowledge of the Secretary of State.

The Brussels Sugar Convention.

Upon consideration of the vote for Civil Service, in Committee of Supply, in the House of Commons, on March 6th, Lord Balcarras said: He knew that hon. members opposite took a strong view about the Brussels Convention. The Convention might be good or bad, but at any rate the ancient fiction that it had raised the price of sugar had been, he imagined, long since abandoned. They would be justified in saying that it had now brought down the price of sugar to a lower point than it had ever been before. In view of the fact that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and his colleagues would probably be in office when this Convention would come up for revision, and, in view of the fact that enormous interests were being created under the Convention in British Colonies, he hoped the right hon. gentleman would consider the propriety of giving the earliest possible notice to the parties interested that it was the intention of the Government, or was not their intention, to denounce the Convention. Sir E. Grey (Northumberland, Berwick) said he agreed that, whenever a decision was come to as to what the policy of this country was to be in future in regard to the Sugar Convention, that decision should be announced as soon as possible. That was in the interests of the certainty of trade. But he must point out to the noble Lord that the Sugar Convention itself had, in his opinion, introduced an element of uncertainty. We were parties to that Convention at the present moment. As parties to it we, the great consuming country, had rendered ourselves liable to be bound by the decision of the other members of the Convention, who were the producers; and at any moment, it seemed to him, the producers, forming the majority of the Convention, might so use their position and their preponderance on the Convention as to make it necessary for the consuming country to reconsider its position. That was an element of uncertainty which was inherent in the Convention itself; and, so long as we remained a party to the Convention, that element of uncertainty must

remain. With regard to the future, it was clear that we could not withdraw before 1908; and to do that it was necessary to give notice in September, 1907. Even if the Government gave notice to-day they could not withdraw before September, 1908; and, therefore, the Government felt, and he thought rightly felt, that a statement of their policy in regard to the Sugar Convention was not so pressing and urgent at the present moment as some other matters, seeing that whatever they were to decide now, no action could follow upon it before September, 1908. That was how the matter stood at the present moment.

Letter to the Editor.

The Gladstone Family and Demerara.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR, There has been so much ventilation of the subject of "slavery" of late that one's mind is carried back to the old days of the West Indies, and by a sequence of thought to prominent politicians who had a direct interest therein.

Interesting information has been given in *The West India Committee Circular* as to old firms and families connected with the West Indies, and, perhaps, you could tell me something as to the relationship of the Gladstone family to British Guiana. I am under the impression that an estate called "Klien Pouderoyen" on the Demerara River in British Guiana belonged to them in slavery days.

I am,

Yours obediently,

TRUE PATRIOT.

Two sugar estates in Demerara belonged to the Gladstone family at the time of the abolition of slavery, "Vreed-en-Hoop" on the west side of the Demerara river and near its mouth, and "Success" on the east coast, the rum mark of which still bears the initials "L. G.," John Gladstone. Vreed-en-Hoop, which is the property of the New Colonial Company, has been amalgamated with "Windsor Forest" for many years. It is noteworthy as having been the first estate in the West Indies on which a vacuum pan was erected in the early half of last century. The pan was small, holding about a ton of sugar, and was abandoned on account of the difficulty in curing the sugar, the introduction of centrifugals occurring later, and the estate remained muscovado up to the time of its being absorbed into Windsor Forest. Klien Pouderoyen, a cocoa and provision estate, adjoined Vreed-en-Hoop. The name of Gladstone is well-known up the Demerara river in association with wood-cutting, and Im Thurn in his "Among the Indians of Guiana," narrates how he found at the foot of Roraima, the until lately mysterious mountain in the interior of Guiana, a tribe of Indians who had constructed a primitive church, with a lithograph of Mr. W. E. Gladstone over a substitute for an altar. At the abolition of slavery the Gladstone family, we believe, received £68,000 for the freedom of their slaves.—Ed.]

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Fri., Mar. 9th — Mails left by Direct Line S.S. "Sarstoon" — Beet, 8s. 3½d.
 Sat., Mar. 10th — Heavy fighting in the Philippines between the Americans and Insurgents reported.—The R. M. S. "Port Antonio" left Avonmouth for Jamaica — Beet, 8s. 4d., quiet.
 Sun., Mar. 11th — Colliery disaster near Lens, in France, involving the loss of over 1,100 lives.
 Mon., Mar. 12th — The *Times* contained a Memorandum on the new Continental Tariffs issued by the Tariff Commission. — Beet, 8s. 4½d., steady.
 Tues., Mar. 13th — Miss de Thierry read a paper before the Royal Colonial Institute on "Our Policy in the West Indies." Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman spoke at a Banquet at the Reform Club — Beet 8s. 5½d., steady.
 Wed., Mar. 14th — Mr. W. Churchill announced the intention of the Government to "turn off the tap of Chinese immigration into South Africa."—Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., appointed an assistant private secretary (unpaid) to the Prime Minister.—The Nelson Memorandum containing Nelson's instructions for the Battle of Trafalgar, sold to Mr. Sabin, who offered to hand it to the British Museum for the same price which he paid for it, viz. £3,600.—Beet, 8s. 5½d., steady.
 Thur., Mar. 15th — The R.M.S. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica — Beet, 8s. 5½d., quiet.

Our Library.

We invite Members and others to send us copies of their works or of publications regarding the West Indies, photographs of scenery, local events, &c., for our Library.

Report on the Cotton Growing Industry of the British Central Africa Protectorate, by Mr. Samuel Simpson. Manchester: The British Cotton Growing Association. In this a full account is given of the climate, soil, and general conditions of British Central Africa, with concise and useful directions as to economic and scientific cultivation of cotton.

The International Sugar Journal for March contains a strenuous article on "The Temporary Triumph of Liberalism," in which the position of the country as regards Tariff Reform in face of the recent elections is dealt with.

Messrs Heriot & Geerlign continue their respective articles on "Simple Methods of Chemical Control" and "The Constitution of Java Cane Molasses." While Noël Decrè contributes a paper on "The Estimation of Sugar, Dextrose, or Levulose in Cane Sugar Products." The issue also gives a description, with two illustrations, of the new "Lower Bethlehem Factory in St. Croix."

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Vol. III., No. 4. London: James Truscott & Sons, Limited. This number contains reports on various subjects of interest, cotton from the Federated Malay States, rubber from North Eastern Rhodesia, and articles on cotton cultivation in Cyprus and the United States, the production of camphor, the development of volatile oil in plants, and one of special interest on the poisonous properties of the beans of the *Phaseolus Lanatus*, or Mauritius bean, which have been traced in the development of prussic acid in varying quantities. Experience has shown that the white, or more cultivated bean, is free from prussic acid, while the pink or purple contained it in varying proportions according to the degree of colour. The *Bulletin* is full of matters of interest.

The West Indian Bulletin. Vol. VI., No. 4. This issue of the journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture is entirely devoted to sugar, and details are given of the sugar cane experiments in Barbados, and the manurial experiments in the Leeward Islands, which have already been recorded in *The West India Committee Circular*. A specially interesting account of what has been and is being done towards the improvement of the sugar cane by selection and hybridization, is given by Mr. F. A. Stockdale, while the Hon. Francis Watts reviews the sugar industry in Antigua and St. Kitts Nevis from 1881 to 1905, and in collaboration with Mr. H. A. Tempamy an article on the "Fermentation of Cane Juice."

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at 4 per cent. (changed from 3 per cent. on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 90½xd.

W.I.P.A. We are asked to state that the telegraphic address "Wipa, London," has been registered for the West Indian Produce Association, Limited.

A LOLLIPOP. The dividend on the ordinary shares of Fullers, Ltd., the well known firm of confectioners, was 7½ per cent. for 1905, as compared with 5 per cent. for 1904.

DEMERARA SUGAR. In a lecture under the auspices of the Midland Council of Grocers' Association, Mr. Herbert E. Pickett in reply to a question as to how "yellow crystals" could be distinguished from Demerara sugar replied that there was a natural smell about Demerara. If they put water on the yellow crystals and the colour came off quickly this would tell them it was not Demerara.

THE CABLES. The cables between Puerto Rico, St. Croix and St. Thomas were restored on March 6th, and with the exception of St. Vincent, Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, all places in the West Indies are now in communication by cable with the Mother Country. Messages to the Colonies still cut off are being forwarded by sloops, and frequent steamer opportunities are being also availed of.

WEST INDIAN CLUB DINNER. At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club, on Wednesday, March 7th, Mr. C. Cary Elwes, Mr. R. P. Goffe, Mr. A. E. Messer, Major G. F. M. Montgomerie, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. H. F. Previtè, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. F. I. Scard and Mr. Snelling.

A LECTURE ON THE WEST INDIES. Our next issue will contain a report of the paper on "Our Policy in the West Indies," which was read by Miss C. de Thierry at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Whitehall Rooms on Tuesday, March 13th. The paper was a forcible one, and was followed by an interesting discussion, in which Sir Nevile Lubbock, who occupied the chair, Mr. Edward R. Davson and Dr. Miller Maguire, took part.

FARES TO AFRICA. At the monthly meeting of the executive committee of the West African Trade Association, held in Liverpool on March 1st, a strong protest was made against the recent increase in the already heavy rates of passage money to and from certain parts of the West Coast, the opinion being expressed that with the increase in the number of passengers, and the shorter time occupied in the journey, merchants are justified in expecting a reduction.

CANE CUTTING COMPETITION. The Queensland *Daily Mercury*, pointing out the unsuitability of white labour for cane work in the tropics, gives an instance of a case in which ten white men competed with eight Kanakas in cane cutting and loading. At the end of the first day the latter had cut and loaded twenty-seven trucks against the fifteen of the former. On the following day three of the white men were unable to resume work owing to cuts received in their frantic endeavours to prove how superior they were to the Kanaka labourers.

"SWEET ALICE." There was a time when it was not easy to get limes in this country. Now, however, they can always be obtained from the W.I.P.A. and elsewhere. In this connection the following recipe of Sweet Alice Lime Punch, which, according to the *New York Herald's* Florida correspondent, is all the rage at Palmbeach, will be useful to our members. A spoonful of cane sugar, the juice of two limes, a dash of orange juice, two-thirds of a small glass of whisky. Decorate the whole with a slice of pineapple, a slice of orange, a slice of lemon, cherries, and half a lime on top. Ice well.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended March 8th, 338 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.50d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. Prices paid 8d. and 17d. The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ending March 1st, 1906, was 83,311 (including 190 bales British West Indian and 90 British West African), and the number for the nine weeks ending at the same date 1,028,764, of which 826 were British West Indian.

The West Indian Civil Service.

The Hon. N. DARNELL DAVIS, Auditor-General, and the Hon. C. B. HAMILTON, Receiver-General, have been re-appointed members of the Executive Council, British Guiana.

The Hon. T. B. OUGHTON, J.L.S., Attorney-General, Jamaica, has been appointed to be President of the Marine Board in the room of Sir H. K. P. Schoales, now Chief Justice of Gibraltar.

Sir E. BICKHAM SWEET ESCOFF, K.C.M.G., has left England for Antigua, where he will resume the duties of Governor of the Leeward Islands. His Excellency has consented to act as Hon. Corresponding Secretary to the Royal Colonial Institute.

Mr WILLIAM DOUGLAS YOUNG, Commissioner of Turks Island, has been appointed Administrator of Dominica. Mr. Young is an old Carthusian, and entered the Colonial Service in 1876 as Clerk in the Government Secretary's office, British Guiana. He was private Secretary to various administrators of the Government in British Guiana, Trinidad and the Gold Coast and to Sir H. T. Irving, the Governor of British Guiana, 1887-8. In 1895 he acted as Government Agent in the North-West District, and in the same year Assistant Colonial Secretary in Mauritius. He has been Commissioner of Turks and Caicos Islands since 1901.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McCunnell & Co., Ltd.) March 12th (dated 7th). "Weather very dry and rain much wanted." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) March 13th. "No rain worth speaking of since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) March 14th. "Too dry, crops will be short of estimate." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended March 1st. **PORT ANTONIO**: "22nd to 24th and 28th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "22nd to 28th, fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—**SAILINGS** per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall) March 17th:—**Barbados**—Mrs. and two Misses Puttock, Mrs. M. D. Brown. **Demerara**—Mr. P. Milford, Miss M. Wakelin. **Jamaica**—Rev. G. H. and Mrs. Lea, Rev. E. Davies, Miss Stanning, Miss Scott, Mr. H. Cook. **Trinidad**—Mr. S. Sanchez, Mr. Tanasi. **St. Lucia**—Colour-Sergt. Hampton.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix) April 5th—**Barbados**—Mrs. Archer, Mr. F. Young, Mrs. Thomas Young, Mr. D. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Grannum, Sir Hugo and Mr. Richard Fitzherbert, Mr. E. Hargreave. **Trinidad**—Mrs. and Miss Clifford. **St. Vincent**—Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Shaw.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—**SAILINGS** per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Captain W. R. Rowe), March 10th:—**Jamaica**—Capt. W. D. Alexander, Miss E. Croudace, Miss M. McClure, Mr. T. R. Dent, Mr. C. Dent, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. H. B. Hayman, Mr. P. Hughes Jones, Mr. C. C. Minton, Mr. A. Rogers, Mr. L. Rivett, Mr. C. Satow, Mrs. E. K. Stevens, Mr. R. Brogdon, Mr. Holgate, Miss A. E. Nash, Miss D. Nash.

Mail Arrangements.

We have again to announce an important change in the mail arrangements. As will be seen below, the R.M.S.P. Company's "Trent" will sail on Thursday, April 5th, instead of Saturday, March 31st, as originally notified. We understand that there is a possibility of the R.M.S.P. Company's steamers sailing fortnightly thereafter, and assuming that no change is made in the Direct Line services, we shall be in the rather unique position of having three mail opportunities for the West Indies on three consecutive days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and no general ongoing mail for another fortnight thereafter.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Lin.
Mar. 23	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Statia"	Mar. 23, noon.
" 24	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Royal"	" 23, 6 p.m.
April 5	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Trent"	April 4, midn't

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Mar. 26	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Salybia"
" 26	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Kingston"
" 31	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Orinoco"

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocos cwts.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwts.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to Feb. 10, '06	9,281	27,992	840,865	61,684	5,593,929	81,725	13,153,102	70,319,018
" " " 10, '05	7,389	19,786	997,071	44,569	3,031,293	135,445	7,565,942	75,744,841

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The Market during the fortnight has slightly improved, and 88% beet which was quoted last mail 8s 3d. is now 8s. 5½d. The cause of this is entirely "beats" covering their sales of May and August delivery, and is not attributable to any change in the statistical position of sugar nor to any departure from the hand to mouth policy of Refiners and the Trade which has been the leading feature ever since the Market commenced its downward course in January, 1905. What will be the ultimate course of the Market when the huge engagements for May come to be liquidated is not easy to determine. Time alone will demonstrate this, and in the meantime the overplus of sugar remains undisturbed and is an unpleasant feature. Great interest is centred on the probable beet sowings for next year, which cannot be even approximately gauged before quite the end of April. All sorts of figures will be offered to us by interested parties, all equally unreliable. With October/December delivery largely sold ahead in the neighbourhood of 8s. 9d. to 9s., on account of the growers, the reduction of sowings, if any, may not reach an appreciable amount. The writer however, not pretending to know, prefers leaving the solution of the question for the facts to be ascertained. One thing is clear, that a reduction of 20 per cent. is required in Convention Europe to set the Market on its legs again, and it is fervently to be hoped, although doubtful, that some such reduction will be undertaken. With the uncertainty surrounding the Market, distribution does not expand, nor is it likely to do so till things are settled.

The closing quotations of 88% beet are:—March, 8s. 5½d.; May, 8s. 6½d.; August, 8s. 8½d. and Oct./Dec. 8s. 9½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	3,760,000	2,550,000	3,420,000	3,200,000	3,460,000	Tons
United States	200,000	170,000	110,000	160,000	180,000	"
Cuba	140,000	220,000	190,000	250,000	300,000	"
Congress Africa	—	20,000	40,000	40,000	10,000	"
Total	4,100,000	2,960,000	3,760,000	3,650,000	3,880,000	"
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 5½d.	13s. 6d.	8s. 4d.	9s. 5d.	6s. 4½d.	"

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The Market remains steady, with a good demand from the Trade, deliveries continuing satisfactory. The general range of prices is from 14s. for inferior grades, up to 16s. 6d. for small quantities of fine and choice sugar, yellow selling chiefly from 14s. 6d. to 15s. 3d., with average qualities 14s. 9d. or the same as last Mail. For 96 test to Refiners, 9s. 6d. is obtainable on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Is steady from 11s. for low dark, up to 15s. for small lots of choice. To Refiners 8y test is saleable at 7s. 6d. on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—There is no stock of grocery and prices are uncertain. For 8y test to Refiners, a good business has been done at 8s. 1½d. on floating terms, which is to-day's value to a shade over.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	12,000	7000	8000	3100	6000	Tons.
Deliveries	9000	8000	9000	9000	10,000	"
Stocks	12,000	9000	11,000	23,000	8000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	14s. 9d.	21s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	19s. 6d.	15s. 9d.	"

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1906	1905	1904
Landings	1,565,000	921,000	—
Home Consumption	725,000	756,000	1,493,000
Stocks 28th Feb.	7,814,000	8,395,000	769,000
Stocks in London	—	—	10,164,000
Jamaica	5800	6600	—
Demerara	10,300	6100	7500
Total of all kinds	22,800	20,000	12,200
			28,900
			10,000
			29,600

Demerara continues lifeless, and accurate quotations cannot be given. Our chief buyers refrain from operating, having an unusually small outlet in the country. Some sales have been made in outsiders, particulars of which are kept secret. Stocks of this rum in London are 10,300 puns, against 6100 puns last year, and deliveries are falling off. The outlook is not promising. Jamaica being in reduced supply is steady at 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Demerara and other proof kinds are nominal.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 2 months:

	1906	1905	1904
Imports	3694	4467	—
Home Consumption	4137	3861	6552
Stocks 28th Feb.	5005	3885	3862
Stocks in London:			4944
Trinidad	14,000	18,000	12,000
Grenada	8000	14,000	19,000
Total of all kinds	24,000	31,000	31,000
			72,000
			81,000
			72,000
			81,000

The Market is less active, but prices remain unchanged. Trinidad is in only moderate demand. The closing quotations are those of the last Mail, viz.: Trinidad fair collected 52s.; Estate Marks 52s., 56s., and 60s.; Grenada fair, 47s. fermented 49s. to 52s. From other Islands, fair Native remains at 45s. and fermented 46s. to 51s. The first two months of a year, and are no sure indication of what will follow.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Recent sales of West India include 70's at 1s. 00's 8½d. and 132's at 6½d., with wormy and broken, 3d. to 5½d.

Mace.—A few packages sold, good pale, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 12d., fair red, 1s. 6d., and broken, 1s. 3d. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 46s. to 52s. Market steady. **Pimento.**—Shew. Fair 2½d.

Arrowroot.—A slow market, but the value of good manufacturing St. Vincent remains 2d.

Lime Juice.—Steady at 10d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, firmer, value, £17 15s. to £18. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, quoted at 1s. 5d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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THE R.M.S.P. "Magdalena" which, as our readers will remember, was put on the West Indian route to replace the "Trent," when the latter met with an accident on January 20th, made up time on her round route to New York and back, but in spite of that she did not reach Southampton until March 21st, nearly five days late. We are consequently compelled to publish the present mail edition of the *West India Committee Circular* at lightning speed, and can therefore fairly ask forgiveness for any shortcomings which may—but will not, we hope—be noticeable. Added to our present trouble is anxiety as to the future. The sailing of the R.M.S.P. "Trent," originally fixed for March 31st, has been postponed to Thursday, April 5th, five days later. If this is not enough to make the editorial hair turn grey, we should like to know what is! We shall endeavour, however, to show ourselves equal to the occasion. Our printers will have been at work all night when these lines appear in print, and every effort will be made to avoid missing the mail by the Direct Line. As to the future, we have to announce that the *West India Committee Circular* will until further notice be published on Wednesday, in order that our friends in the Colonies may receive the latest information. As we pointed out in our last issue, the result of the change in the services of the R.M.S.P. Co. will be that we shall find ourselves in the unique position of having three mail opportunities to the West Indies on three consecutive days, by the R.M.S.P. Co., the Direct Line, and Elder, Dempster and Co., an *embarras de richesse* indeed! But this is not all; the journey to Barbados and Trinidad will take a day longer than at present, though Demerara will be reached a day earlier, *via* St. Vincent and Grenada, by inter-colonial steamer from Barbados, which will once more be the "junction." With regard to the Northern Islands service, the arrangements are complex to a degree. Leeward Islanders will have several days in which to reply to their letters received by the mails of April 5th and 9th, but the mail steamer connecting with the transatlantic steamer leaving Southampton on May 3rd will only make one call at St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat, and there will be no opportunity of reply to letters for a fortnight. Moreover, the inter-colonial service maintained by the Direct Line since April, 1904, between Barbados and the Islands from St. Vincent to St. Kitts, is to be suspended after the middle of next month. Altogether, the position of affairs is most unsatisfactory, and it is most earnestly hoped that the Government, bearing in mind that the "convenience and business" of the Colony, to quote the words of their predecessors in 1890, "depend in so large a manner upon

the punctuality and absolute regularity of their communication with Europe and with each other," will take matters in hand and give the West Indies an efficient and regular mail service. The present state of affairs is intolerable.

JAMAICA is to be congratulated upon the marked improvement now noticeable in her finances, which were crippled by the hurricane of August, 1903. Sir Alexander Swettenham, in his clear and straightforward address to the Legislative Council of Jamaica on February 27th, a report of which reached us by the "Port Royal" on March 15th, was in the happy position of being able to announce the probability of the financial year 1905-6 showing a satisfactory surplus of revenue over expenditure. It does infinite credit to the Government that the Colony has been able to liquidate its overdraft of £88,832 from the Crown agents, and that there is also a probability of there being a surplus at the close of the year of about £12,000. However, the fact that Jamaica won the lawsuit against the Colonial Bank, involving the release of the money deposited at the bank by mutual consent between the Government and the railway contractors, £22,000, contributed towards the successful result of the year's working, and Sir Alexander Swettenham very properly added that it was evident that the country in general had not fully recovered the comparatively prosperous position it held in the year before the hurricane, and that greater caution than ever was expedient in preparing the Estimates. Dealing with the question of the mail subsidy, he said that its expiration had produced an inferior service to and with the rest of the West Indies and thence to England; but on the other hand the new service established in connection with the Cunard Line *via* New York, afforded a very quick route between England and Jamaica, which had increased the number of passengers from America. Regarding the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, he called attention to the three matters in the contract which still remained unfulfilled, that is to say, the contractors' obligation to visit Port Antonio, the provision of a timetable, and the appointment of agents for instructing fruit producers. With regard to the latter point the same mail brought us the information that the Jamaica Agricultural Society, at a meeting on the 21st, agreed to the suggestion that, if it could be arranged that the Colony should receive the whole of the sum, they would be prepared to accept £500 per annum from Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co. in lieu of the provision of instructors. After touching on the question of emigration to Panama, which was proceeding on voluntary lines under the Emigrants' Protection Laws, 1902-05, Sir Alexander dealt with the military question, and announced that he had received a further communication from the Home Government, notifying that the present arrangements for the Imperial garrison were likely to continue. As regards immigration, the charges on general revenue of the Colony were greatly in excess of those sanctioned by the Council, and meanwhile the rate of payment by employers had been revised and amended to £24. Sir Alexander had a word to say in praise of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and then touched on education, which might necessitate additional taxation if the wishes of the Board with regard to compulsory attendance at school were carried out. The Customs Tariff was to be renewed for a period of five years, this time being fixed in order to avoid uncertainty, and a fresh law renewing the existing system of valuation of property for taxation would be introduced. As to agriculture, he said that it might be hoped that the prospects held out by the Brussels Convention had arrested diminution in sugar production, which had been observable for the last hundred years. All that was needed to convert the Colony from a place of boundless possibilities to one of permanent actual prosperity was continual industry in growth and export of produce, for which there was abundant room. The officer appointed under the rum protection law had undertaken several prosecutions successfully, and had thereby given the genuine product a good advertisement. In conclusion, he pointed out that owing to the death of the King's representative in Central America, negotiations with Nicaragua regarding turtle fishery were still pending. Sir Alexander Swettenham's address appears to have been well received, and it cannot, we think, fail to increase confidence in the Island, whose destinies he now controls.

Our Correspondents.

Following our usual custom, we give the following extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, which must necessarily be shorter than usual, owing to the delay in the arrival of the mail referred to above.

Antigua. The Inconvenient Mail Arrangements.

In a letter dated February 24th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner again referred to the inconvenience of the present mail service. For the second time in succession the Royal Mail steamer had arrived three days late, and had not called at Antigua on the southward journey. Under these conditions regular correspondence became impossible.

A successful Agricultural Show was held on February 22nd under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture; the School Garden exhibits were of especial interest, and considering the conditions, were of very fair merit.

Bendal's factory had commenced crop, and Gunthorpe's was expected to begin in the following week. Both factories had been improved since last crop. Steam ploughing commenced on February 17th on Gunthorpe's land, and the engines appeared to be doing good work on the heavy clay land. There could be little doubt that with the deep breaking up given by steam ploughs, the heavy lands of the Island would prove far more drought resisting than in the past.

Barbados. The Continued Drought.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, in a letter dated March 9th, reported that a meeting of the Permanent Exhibition Committee had been held, at which it was decided what exhibits should be sent to the Canadian Exhibition. A sub-committee had been appointed to prepare a handbook.

It seemed extraordinary that if the W.I. and P. Telegraph Co. desired to advance their interests in the West Indies, they did not take more pains to compile the items of news which they sent. Some of the paragraphs were perfectly ridiculous, as might be seen from the files of the local newspapers. They had been dependent on a sloop for nearly a fortnight to bring them telegrams irregularly from beyond the point where the cable was broken. This was the more inconvenient, as it was in the heart of crop time, with an uncertain market, and when it was of the utmost importance for intending passengers to know the arrivals of the R.M. steamers at the different ports.

There was no change to report in the weather. The rainfall for the year to date hardly amounted to two inches in most places, and this miserable total had only been arrived at by small showers, which had left little impression on the parched soil. The young canes as a whole were keeping green in a miraculous way, but in some places they might be seen dying in the holes. The old canes continued to yield well, two hogsheads per acre being generally obtained, and even more on certain estates. It was to be hoped that this yield might be obtained. Sugar was quoted at \$1.35, Dark Crystals at \$1.80, and molasses 14 cts. weak.

British Guiana. Acceptable Rains.

The Combined Court assembled again on February 20th and the following days.

With regard to weather, Mr. A. Summerson reported in his letter of February 27th that they had had some good rains for a couple of days during the fortnight. The fall was heavier in Demerara than in Essequibo and Berbice, the latter country getting the smallest share. Good heavy showers were wanted generally.

Dominica. An Earthquake Shock.

Mr. E. A. Agar, writing on February 27th, reported that an earthquake shock, severe for Dominica, was felt on the 17th, but no damage was done locally. Cable communication, however, was again interrupted.

The weather for the past fortnight had been beautifully fine. Lime trees in all districts were in excellent condition and covered with flowers and young fruit.

Grenada. A Period of Dulness.

When the Hon. D. S. de Freitas wrote on February 28th rain was needed almost throughout the Island to develop the many small pods and to ripen the large ones on the cocoa trees. The rainfall for January was 2.76 inches, and for February at date it was 2.89, which were the lowest figures on record for those months. In consequence of insufficient rain it was conjectured that the current crop would be about 2000 bags short as compared with the total output of last crop. The effect of the shortness of the cocoa crop and of the low prices prevailing for that staple was accurately reflected in the trade and everyday life of the Island. Dulness overshadowed the Colony.

Close upon 1000 labourers had left the Island for the Panama zone, where work in abundance and high wages awaited the mechanic and the labourer with the spade. For some years there had

been an "industrial reserve" in Grenada to whom employment could be offered intermittently, only when the market price of cocoa justified increased expenditure on the erection of buildings and on intensive culture, manures, etc. Such as these had gone and were going, but nine-tenths of them would return, for an abiding love of their Island was among the most notable and attractive traits of Grenadians. To view an exodus of this nature with dismay was "shortness of thought."

The usual February race meeting took place at Grand Ance, St. George's, on February 13th and 14th. The meeting was successful in every respect; keenness and excitement culminated in a dead heat in the last race of the meeting, a result due alike to excellent handicapping and horsemanship of a high order. The Governor's Cup was won by Mr. E. T. Gay's Memory, and the cup presented by Messrs. Thomson, Hankey and Co. by Mr. M. E. H. Martin's Sweetheart, two handsome trophies won by two of the best and most popular sportsmen in the Island. The reception given to Sir Robert Dlewelyn on both days was most complimentary. He was a thorough sportsman, and all classes appreciated his interest in and enjoyment of local sport.

When Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, closed his letter on February 27th, the Direct Line steamer "Savan" had just arrived from Barbados. A break in the cable between Grenada and St. Vincent had left them at the mercy of sailing and other opportunities for telegraphic news during the past few days.

A meeting of the Agricultural Experiments Committee was held on February 23rd. The first Special General Meeting of the Agricultural Society in the parish of St. Andrew's would be held on or about March 15th. Both the Committee of Management and the Agricultural Experiments Committee had written to ask the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture to allow Mr. Ballou, the entomologist, to come to Grenada to advise as to the best means of dealing with the black blight that was playing havoc with everything that it attacked.

The weather continued very dry and windy, but it was thought that there would be a change for the better soon, and that, as far as cocoa was concerned, good pickings might be looked for in April.

Jamaica. An Increased Acreage under Sugar.

Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, writing from Kingston, Jamaica, on March 1st, informed us that the Legislative Council was opened on February 27th, and the following day was kept as a public holiday. The Governor's able address to the Council, which is referred to elsewhere, was very well received, and his estimates were considered Conservative. The weather had been favourable for the growing crops. The sugar crop in Vere was expected to be the largest for many years, and improved machinery was being erected on several estates. On many estates the acreage under sugar canes had been extended, and the small settlers were also increasing cultivation. The cotton crop in lower Vere had been seriously damaged by caterpillars, and the cassava cultivation at Longville had suffered from the same cause.

Nevis. A More Regular Mail Service Needed.

Writing on February 23rd, the Hon. C. Arthur Shand said that once more the movements of the Royal Mail steamer rendered it necessary to post their letters before receiving the English advices, as the steamer would not return to Nevis on its journey back to Trinidad. The state of things prevailing was most unsatisfactory, and would justify a general appeal throughout the West Indies to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to the re-establishment of some more regular mail service. With the numerous interruptions which were occurring in cable communication, there was no means of ascertaining with any degree of reliability when to expect the steamer's arrival, and a chaotic condition was the result.

The recent seismic disturbances in St. Lucia and the neighbouring Islands had evidently contributed largely towards the breakages in cables, and apprehensions were entertained lest they should be the precursors of some violent eruption in one or more of the Islands. In Nevis up to the present they had been singularly free of earthquakes, but the weather was curiously still and the atmosphere unusually clear for this season.

The weather since last mail had been generally dry, though good showers had fallen in some places and crop operations were now in full swing, both cane and cotton. The percentage of cotton lint to seed cotton this year was not nearly so high as last, when in some instances 28 per cent. of lint was realised, and on an average 27 per cent. This year, although there had been individual cases when the yield was 27 per cent., the average had fallen far below this figure, and might be roughly estimated at 25 per cent., or one quarter of the gross output. Whether this falling off had been due to the weather or other climatic conditions or to the seed, was a moot point.

St. Kitts. The Sugar Yield Good.

Good reaping weather prevailed throughout the Island when Mr. Charles A. Smith wrote on February 24th, and crops were in full progress. The yield was unusually good for a start, and every-

thing pointed to a good crop. There was, however, a temporary difficulty in getting room for their sugars, which they hoped would be remedied soon.

Cotton results had been generally satisfactory, and account sales received showed a fair price, between 18. rd. and 18. 2d. per lb.

St. Lucia. The Seismic Disturbances.

In his letter dated February 27th, the Hon. E. Du Boulay reported that they experienced on the 16th inst., at 1.35 p.m., a very violent shock of earthquake, followed by others of a less severe nature; these shocks, indeed, still continued at long intervals, but of a comparatively mild character. So far as ordinary observation went, there were no premonitory symptoms leading to the supposition that any disturbance, seismic or otherwise, was imminent, so that everyone was taken aback by its appalling suddenness, and a certain amount of panic, quite natural under the circumstances, was manifested. A number of walled buildings in the town had been more or less injured, but most of them were repairable. Happily no loss of life occurred, nor as far as was known, any case of serious injury to the person.

The wharves, over which the Colony has expended a considerable amount of money, fortunately remained quite intact and had not been affected in any way. A small quantity of the filling in at the back of the concrete work subsided a few inches; but this was a matter of little importance, and the business of coaling steamers went on as before without let or hindrance.

The disturbance was felt in the neighbouring Islands, notably Martinique and St. Vincent. Up to the present the volcanoes on those Islands were quiescent. The weather was dry and cropping was general.

St. Vincent. Another Account of the Earthquake.

When Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. wrote on February 28th the topic uppermost in everyone's thoughts was the occurrence of severe earthquakes at St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The first heavy shock in the latter Island parted the telegraph cables, so they were unfortunately again cut off from the rest of the world, and had to depend on steamers or sailing vessels for news of what was going on outside of Barbados and St. Vincent.

The weather has been exceedingly dry and hot, making the earth so hard as to interfere very much with arrowroot digging. They were also beginning to suffer for want of labour to pick the cotton, and they feared, as this cultivation was extended, the question of labour in the Island was going to be a very serious one indeed, more especially as such good inducement was being held out by the Canal Commissioners for male adults to emigrate to Panama.

Mr. Adams, the recently appointed Chief of Excise for the Windward Islands, was in the Colony.

Trinidad. The Cocoa Industry.

Writing on March 8th, the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick stated that prices having fallen since crop started, most of the factories, if not all, except Mr. Lamont's, were now paying 8s. 6d. for canes. Even at this price the purchasing of canes entailed loss to most of the buyers.

The debate on the adoption of the Labour Report was opened on February 19th, but was adjourned after Mr. McCarthy's speech, with a few words from Mr. Fenwick in seconding its adoption. With the report had been got together a mass of information which would be valuable for reference at all times. The debate on the proposals to establish a new governing body for the city of Port of Spain was opened on March 7th rather late in the sitting of the Council, and was adjourned until the 14th. Full reports will be found in the newspapers of the 8th.

With regard to the Agricultural Society, the report of the Committee appointed by the Governor had been adopted by the Society, and a new Ordinance would soon be brought before the Legislative Council and the Society fairly re-started with considerably more influence than it possessed before.

The weather had been very dry throughout the fortnight, with high winds and high temperature for the time of year. There had been occasional very light showers, but too light to be of any good to the rapidly parching vegetation.

The sugar crop kept up its early promise, and would be over the average, but prices were too low for a profitable result.

Arrivals of cocoa during the past month continued on a small scale, and with the continuance of dry weather the prospects of a June crop were very poor. Prices were nominally the same, but the undertone of the market was much easier. Owing to the interrupted cable communication, little or no business had been done for future delivery. Quotations remained unaltered at 52s. 6d. Fine Estates, 50s. 6d. Mixed Estates, and 49s. 6d. for Ordinary C. and F. Havre. With regard to Venezuela, arrivals from the mainland continued on a fairly heavy scale and prices in consequence had somewhat receded. A few lots of Fine realised fancy prices, but ordinary qualities changed hands at \$11.75 to \$12.00.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Intercolonial Free Trade.

In reply to Mr. Norman Lamont, Mr. Winston Churchill said, in the House of Commons on Monday, March 19th: The Secretary of State would view with favour any measures tending to the establishment of inter-colonial free trade in the British West Indies, though the possibilities of such trade are necessarily limited by the similarity of their products; he is also in favour of the establishment of uniform tariffs in the different Colonies, and of the reduction of Customs duties wherever possible; but as these duties are imposed solely for revenue purposes, the possibility of effecting reductions depends upon the financial position. Jamaica has very recently abolished the surtax of 6 per cent. upon the Customs tariff which was imposed last year.

Extension of Elective Institutions.

In reply to Sir C. Dilke, on March 20th, Mr. Churchill said: The recent labour troubles in Demerara were not the outcome of political differences; and, having regard to the peculiar racial conditions of the West Indies, His Majesty's Government are not satisfied that the extension of elective institutions would be likely to conduce to the prosperity or tranquillity of the population. The Constitutions of the Colonies have been so frequently and, in some cases, so recently revised that it is not considered expedient to undertake further experimental changes at present unless special occasion should arise.

Mail Arrangements.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. announce important alterations in their West Indian services. The day of departure is altered to Thursday, five days later than at present (beginning with April 5th). Two inter-colonial steamers will serve (1) St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara, and (2) the Northern Islands, and the "junction" will be effected at Barbados instead of Trinidad.

We are informed by Messrs. Henry Langridge and Co. and Messrs. Scrutton, Sons and Co., that the inter-colonial service which they have maintained since April, 1904, between Barbados and the Islands from St. Vincent to St. Kitts, will be suspended. The service will be discontinued at St. Kitts on April 13th next, after the delivery by the s.s. "Sibun," of cargo *ex* the s.s. "Statia," leaving London on March 22nd. The "Direct" line steamers from London will continue to sail as at present to Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and Demerara, at regular fortnightly intervals. Cargo will be received by these steamers on through bills of lading to St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat. This cargo will be transhipped and forwarded by prompt steamers from Barbados or Trinidad. The London steamers will also proceed as at present to the Northern Islands to deliver rough cargo outward, and to receive shipments of cargo homeward.

Shipments.

Total at last report	..	27,614	Trinidad	4,611	Venezuela	
February 1st.—"Oranje Nassau"	..	1,250	..			New York.
" 1st.—"Martinique"	..	1,908	..	657		Europe.
" 3rd.—"Oruro"	..		..	10		Canada.
" 3rd.—"Grenada"	..	3,131	..	1,737		New York.
" 5th.—"Atrato"	..	1,025	..			Europe.
" 5th.—"Prins Willem III."	..	922	..	1,154		New York.
" 7th.—"Magdalena"	..	150	..	270		"
" 9th.—"Prins der Nederlanden"	..	2,411	..	208		Europe.
" 10th.—"Ascania"	..	1,045	..	200		"
" 15th.—"Orinoco"	..		..	20		Canada.
" 16th.—"Statia"	..	120	..			Europe.
" 19th.—"Venezuela"	..	50	..			"
" 19th.—"Maracas"	..	1,762	..	1,366		New York.
" 19th.—"Prins Fred. Hendrik"	..	1,255	..	963		"
" 21st.—"La Plata"	..	1,363	..			Europe.
" 22nd.—"Prins Willem IV."	..	900	..	454		"
" 23rd.—"Severn"	..	594	..	17		"
" 23rd.—"Schwarzburg"	..	655	..	503		"
March 1st.—"Maraval"	..	1,025	..	782		New York.
" 3rd.—"Ocamo"	..	30	..			Canada.
Totals to date	..	46,510 bags.		12,946	Venezuelan.	

"Our Policy in the West Indies."

As briefly announced in our last issue, Miss C. de Thierry read a forcible paper before the Royal Colonial Institute, entitled "Our Policy in the West Indies," on Tuesday, March 13th. Sir Nevile Lubbock occupied the chair, and among those present we noticed: Mr. J. R. Boose, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. Martin Elliott, Mr. Alex. G. Lowe, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Mackintosh, Mr. Allan E. Messer, Dr. Miller Maguire, Mr. J. S. O'Halloran, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rippon, Mr. F. I. Seard, Mr. Trowbridge, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Dr. and Mrs. Wykham, Sir Frederick Young, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall. Miss de Thierry, who was introduced by Sir Nevile Lubbock, condemned successive British Governments for having no American policy, and said that she supposed from the fact that the Colonial Secretary had said that the rumour as to the cession of the West Indies was absurd, that the Government was drifting. Miss de Thierry went on to say: That the one gleam of light in our diplomacy during the past fifty years was the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, in which the rights of England and the United States in the construction of the Panama Canal were held to be equal. Instead of being a purely American undertaking it was to be under the joint control of the two countries. As a guarantee of her good faith Great Britain gave up Greytown, the Mosquito Coast Protectorate, and the Bay Islands, all commanding positions near the isthmus. As things have turned out this was a surrender absolutely without equivalent. For the Americans never rested until the Treaty was abrogated, which was done in 1901 by the Pauncefote-Hay Convention. Hence the Panama Canal is, with England's consent, to be built as an American concern. Nothing was said about the strategical position we abandoned in the Bulwer-Clayton Treaty, and so, by a mere stroke of the pen, a waterway, which may rival the Suez Canal, was placed under the control of a foreign power.

Nor is this all. The same Power commands the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico, and, when the Mole St. Nicholas is acquired, the Windward Passage entrance to the Caribbean opposite the projected canal. That is to say, the shortest routes from Great Britain and the Dominion to Panama, Honduras, and Jamaica are not now dominated by Spain, but by the United States. The new century found us with our supremacy gone, and a pushing rival in our place. Admitting that the naval point of view was the only one from which to view the West Indies, our policy is no more intelligible than before. In his memorable "invasion" speech last year Mr. Balfour said that, owing to the progress of modern invention, the conditions of defence have changed. He referred particularly to steam and the telegraph. Since that was the view of his Government it might be thought that before removing the outward and visible signs of British power in the Caribbean they would have seen that the modern conditions on which they laid such stress are there. But are they? As a matter of fact cheap and rapid communication, which is one of the means of tightening the bond of Empire, is actually discouraged. That the re-distribution of the Navy called for the withdrawal of the West Indian Squadron may be admitted. But in the circumstances there is something almost farcical in the idea of leaving one second class cruiser to patrol the whole of the Caribbean.

Cable communication with British possessions in this part of the world is inferior to cable communication between France and her dependencies, and between the United States and hers. British Honduras is entirely cut off from everywhere except by steam. Jamaica has cable communication with distant Halifax and Bermuda, over British territory, but none with any of the island fortresses, of which she is the forefront. St. Kitts and Antigua are connected, and so are St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, and British Guiana, but they are not in communication with the outside world and Jamaica, over British territory, and the All-British Cable scheme receives no assistance. Nor is this the worst. The rate for sending telegrams to the West Indies from this country varies from three shillings to seven shillings a word. As it is only 1s. 8d. a word to Havana, and 1s. 10d. to the rest of Cuba, it can readily be seen under what a disadvantage the neighbouring British Colonies labour. Again, it was only the other day that the subsidy for the mail contract was withdrawn.

(To be continued.)

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Fri., March 16th.—Blue Book, Cd. 2322, issued, dealing with the recent disturbances in British Guiana.—88%, Best 8s 6d., quiet.
- Sat., March 17th.—Letter from Mr. Winston Churchill abusing Mr. Chamberlain to an anonymous correspondent, published in the Press.—The Venezuela Government suspended the cable service via Trinidad, alleging irregularities.—Best 8s. 5d., quiet.
- Sun., March 18th.—Earthquake at Kugi, near Formosa.
- Mon., March 19th.—Mr. Chamberlain replied to Mr. Winston Churchill's taunts in *The Times*.—250 Members of the London Conservative Association petitioned the Executive to convene Special Meeting to consider Sir Edward Clarke's speeches on the Fiscal Question.—Best 8s. 5d., steady.
- Tues., March 20th.—Headlock at the Algeiras Conference.—Best 8s. 6d., steady.
- Wed., March 21st.—Mr. Hyles' vote of censure, in the House of Commons, on Lord Milner.—Best 8s. 6d., steady.
- Thur., March 22nd.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall opened Awards in West Indian Section:—The Jamaica Agency (Aston W. Gardner & Co.), silver Knightian medals for grape-fruit: Mr. G. L. Lucas, of Constant Spring, Jamaica, silver Banksian medal for pineapples: Mr. E. W. Muirhead, Mandeville Jamaica, Knightian bronze medal for oranges: Mr. E. F. Coke, Mile Gulls, Jamaica, Knightian bronze medal for lemons; The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, London, silver Knightian medal for general West Indian produce.—Best 8s. 5d., quiet.

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "MAGDALENA" (Capt. A. P. Dix), March 21st:—**Barbados**—Miss F. S. Burton, Miss H. Jones, Mr. J. Stamford, Mr. E. S. Combor, Mr. F. H. Rowntree, Mr. S. H. Davies, Miss L. Jones, Mr. H. Kennedy, Mr. F. C. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Demoreak. **Jamaica**—Mr. J. Atkins, Mr. S. Dunsmore, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Ross, Mr. Morier, Mr. J. R. Florence, Mr. and Mrs. Starrock, Mr. and Mrs. Whitton, Rev. J. Eames. **Trinidad**—Misses E. Y. and J. W. F. Pugh, Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner, Mr. Nosworthy, Mr. and Mrs. H. Finlay, Mr. W. Roberts, Mr. J. Indermaur, Mr. C. Guillemard, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. C. Miller, Mr. Woodroffe, Mr. and Mrs. V. Carroll, Mr. C. Tennant, Mr. J. T. H. Alston, Mr. P. R. Alston, Mrs. B. W. Valentin, Mr. F. R. Chapman, Mr. H. Goodwin, Miss M. E. Ross, Mrs. K. F. Knightley, Mr. Cameron, Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Quait, Mr. and Mrs. E. Head, Major and Mrs. J. Newman, Mr. Hector S. Vandaleur, Mr., and Miss Paggi, Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Thomson, Mrs. M. A. Bern, Mr. M. Volk, Capt. and Mrs. Carey, Lieutenant W. S. Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton, Mr. A. Samad, Mr. R. C. Davis, Mr. D. N. Long, Mrs. F. Sprenger, Master O. Lee Lum, Master J. Tsai a Sue, Mr. Milley, Mrs. and Miss Ulrich, Mr. R. Rust, Professor Garmody, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Fuller, Mrs. Dunn, Miss G. Swarbrick, Mrs. and Miss Phillips, Mr. J. O'Flaherty, Mr. S. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Lovell, Mrs. Pugh.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "PORT ROYAL" (Capt. Owen Jones), March 15th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. J. F. Bornford, Mr. L. L. de Ste. Croix, Mr. Dowdeswell, Mr. and Miss Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Field Fisher, Miss G. George, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Foster Millar, Mrs. F. C. Moore, Miss Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. G. Thurstby, Mr. A. E. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Ward, Mr. E. H. Lewis, Mr. R. Mauro, Mr. T. Sheriff, Lieut. Hunt, Mr. F. A. Steele, Col. Festing, Mr. J. B. Smith, Mr. W. G. Phillips. **SECOND SALOON**—Mr. C. Lines, Miss E. Thorne, Mr. N. Kbourani.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), March 21st, "Very dry, rain wanted." **Trinidad**—(Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), March 19th, "Weather is favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily."—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), March 19th, "Weather is dry." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended March 7th, "Port Antonio—1st, Cloudy; 2nd, Heavy rains; 3rd to 7th, Fine." **KINROSS**—Fine.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1st to Feb. 26th.	1905.	1905.	1905.	Jan. 1st to Mar. 8th.	1905.	1905.	Oct. 1st to Mar. 3rd.
Sugar ..	27,000	20,267 tons	10,049	7,503 tons	7,527 1/2	65,418 bags & brls.	—	—
Melasses ..	737	1,386 puns.	—	—	140	959 puns.	—	—
Rum ..	624	4002 "	—	—	—	42 tres.	—	—
Molasses ..	221	432 tons	761,471	1,083,973 galls.	—	203 brls.	—	—
Cocoa ..	1300	— lbs.	—	—	—	294	—	—
Coffee ..	—	—	28,263	27,500 cwts.	7,916,300	6,517 545 lbs.	—	—
Coconuts ..	—	—	64,419	48,229 "	9601	10,270 "	—	—
Copra ..	15,900	123,302	5,844,928	3,319,193 "	1,774,771	1,411,300	20,044	37,277 bags.
Ortton ..	—	—	—	—	1653	1947 bags	—	—
Cotton Seed ..	—	—	433,307	10,372 lbs.	—	—	—	—
Asphalt ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oranges ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas ..	—	—	20,811,518	15,769,541	20,926	20,535 tons	—	—
Pimento ..	—	—	13,352,379	7,699,012 bunches	—	—	—	—
Spice ..	—	—	83,279	125,862 cwts.	—	—	—	—
Gold ..	12,808	13,250 drs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diamonds ..	20	1649 carats	—	—	—	—	—	—
								2,371 brls. 307 1/2 brls. 260 cases. 123 bags.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

Vol. XXI. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th, 1906. No. 184.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXIV.



Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P.

The West India Committee Rooms.

15 SREYING LANE, LONDON.

April 3rd, 1906

Telegrams: "Cable, London." Telephone: 6842 CENTRAL.

THE question of cable communication continues to be actively discussed in the West Indies, and it is very generally recognised that a cheaper and a more reliable service is required. As already announced in a previous issue, the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, after considering the report of the Cable Communication sub-Committee and the memorandum of the Chairman of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company of January 19th, and also a letter from the Halifax and Bermudas Cable Company of February 2nd, passed a resolution endorsing the recommendations of the Cable Communication sub-Committee, and expressing opinion "that the Colony should provide such proportion of the subsidy as it may be fairly called upon to contribute to secure the advantages offered by the system of all-British cables proposed to be laid by the Halifax and Bermudas and Direct West India Cable Companies." In Barbados, the Committee of Commerce feel also that an improved service is necessary in the

West Indies, but at the same time they regret their inability to recommend to the Legislature of the

Colony an increase of cable subsidy, as the financial position of the Island does not permit it at present; and in these circumstances they have not yet entered into the details of the proposals submitted to them, but they think that the question of Imperial support might be re-opened at home when opportunity affords. British Guiana has declared itself in no uncertain manner. In a letter dated March 13th to the Government Secretary, Mr. H. G. WILLIAMS, the Assistant-Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown, expressed the opinion of the Chamber "That the interests of the Colony would be best served if the scheme of the Direct West India Cable Company were adopted, giving as it would an improved service, a substantial reduction in charges, special reduced rates for press messages, and a better news service." Mr. WILLIAMS added that it would appear superfluous to enlarge on the strategical value the proposed cable would be to the Imperial Government, but the Council suggested that this reason should be urged for its larger contribution to the scheme, so as to reduce the sum required from the already over-burdened Colonies. The Council therefore expressed the hope that in the circumstances of the matter the possibility of supplementing the cable by wireless telegraphy between British Guiana and Trinidad or Barbados would not be overlooked. From Jamaica no definite reply has, as yet, been received to communications on the subject, but we are informed that the feeling is strongly in favour of the extension of the cable from Bermuda to Barbados, which would bring Jamaica into closer touch with the other British Islands. St. Kitts, on the other hand, is of opinion that new cables should be laid by the West India and Panama Telegraph Company. It will be seen that so far, on the basis of the amount of subsidy, the preponderance of feeling is distinctly in favour of the extension from Bermuda. Demerara and Trinidad each contribute £3,000 per annum, and their opinion must, therefore, carry considerable weight. Barbados wants an improved service, but feels, as do other Colonies, that having regard to the immense value the new cables would be to them, the Imperial Government should contribute towards the cost. The Governors of Trinidad and British Guiana will shortly be in this country, and Sir HENRY JACKSON has already suggested the possibility of an official conference on the matter of improved cable communication. We trust very much that it will come about, and that their Excellencies will be able to represent to the Government the need for Imperial aid, and, moreover, secure it. Matters are reaching the critical stage, and there seems at last to be good reason for hoping that communication with and between the West Indian Colonies may be put on a more efficient and a cheaper basis in the near future.

IT is difficult to draw any definite conclusions from the debate on the Sugar Convention raised by Mr. A. H. SCOTT in the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 27th. This gentleman moved and Mr. Ibris seconded, that it is expedient to withdraw from the Convention, but Sir J. DICKSON BONDUR, inspired probably by the Government, moved as an amendment that as the Convention is binding for five years and notice to withdraw is subject to twelve months' notice to be given on September 1907, it is inexpedient for the House to announce any decision as yet. After a considerable amount of talker-talker, in the course of which the old and well-worn arguments were trotted out—without even the embellishment of new comparisons—both resolution and amendment were withdrawn, and we are left none the wiser as to the intentions of the Government. Fortunately the Convention has still nearly three years to live, and much may happen in three years to convince the Government, which will, if still in power, be approaching middle age in 1908, that the abolition of Bounties has been a wise step, not only from the point of view of our sugar-producing Colonies, but also from that of the consumer in this country. The attempt is still being made to vilify the Convention on the grounds that it presses heavily on the poorer classes who have to pay more for their sugar. With sugar as it is now, admittedly below the cost of production, the absurdity of the "pity the consumer" cry is obvious. Moreover, so little interest is really taken by this much-pitied party

in the matter that many newspapers did not even contain a brief account of the debate. On the other hand we are convinced that the consumer is a gainer from the Convention, inasmuch as we now have practically all the world to draw our supply from and an expanding production, instead of being at the mercy of Germany and Austria as we should otherwise have been. This was pointed out very clearly in a letter from the West India Committee to the Press, which appeared at an opportune moment on March 27th last. The consumers have the bone in their mouth and they are invited to drop it for the bounty-fed shadow, viz., a limited production artificially stimulated by Bounties, and this in the name of Free Trade! But, in any case, surely our Colonies are entitled to a little consideration as well as the consumers. What would Mr. SCOTT and Mr. LOKES have to say if the industries with which their names are prominently associated, namely tea and mineral waters, were being crushed out of existence by foreign bounties and cartels? They would probably be the first to cry out in the same way that Manchester did, as LORD PERCY reminded the House, when India imposed a customs' duty on Lancashire cotton goods. Manchester was up in arms at once, and insisted upon a countervailing excise duty equivalent to the customs' duty being immediately imposed by India. One fact stood out prominently in the debate, and that was that though the Colonial party lost many stalwarts at the late elections others have filled their places. Among them is Mr. W. MITCHELL-THOMSON, who made a speech in defence of the Convention, which was admitted on both sides of the House to be incisive and clear. It is at least certain that the Government has not yet made up their mind with regard to the Convention, and their hesitancy is an indication that, in spite of the views which were expressed individually before the elections, there is no unanimity in the Cabinet on this subject.

ALTHOUGH we may incur the charge of harping on the same string, we must, after the somewhat alarmist leading article in our last issue, again devote a few lines to the subject of the mails. We pointed out that the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamers will for the present leave Southampton on Thursday, five days later than heretofore, and we are now glad to be able to announce that the Direct Line have decided to alter their sailings to the following week, so that the departure of the two lines will not clash. Other important changes in the cargo service are referred to in another column. The most noteworthy of these is the starting of a new line of cargo steamers from London to Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Jamaica, which will give a useful means of communication between Jamaica and the lesser Antilles. As already indicated, *The West India Committee Circular* will, until further notice, be published on Wednesday, and although the immediate object for which the weekly edition was inaugurated has ceased for the present to exist, the weekly *Circular* will be continued without intermission. The first homeward steamer under the new arrangement is due on June 4th, when merchants in London will have enjoyed a period of three weeks' rest since the delivery of the preceding mail on May 12th. The mail train to-morrow leaves Waterloo as heretofore at 9.28 a.m.

Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P.

"Our Celebrity" in the present *Circular* is Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., who made such a spirited speech in the debate regarding the Sugar Convention on Tuesday, March 27th, last. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, has recently become a Member of the Executive of the West India Committee. Until a short time ago he was a Director of the Trinidad Shipping and Trading Company, Ltd., and the Trinidad Estates Company, Ltd., but he has now resigned in order to be able to give more time to politics. He is the eldest son of Sir Mitchell Mitchell-Thomson, Bart., formerly Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and was educated at Winchester and Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A., and at Edinburgh University, of which he is J.L.B. He has visited most of the sugar-producing countries in the world.

Seeing the Boat off. Jamaica.

Hardly a day passes in Jamaica which does not witness the departure of one or more banana loaded steamers from Kingston, Morant Bay or Port Antonio. Our full-page illustration in the present issue is reproduced from a snapshot taken a few years ago as the United Fruit Company's S.S. "Admiral Dewey" left the wharf at Kingston on her way to Morant Bay, where she completed her cargo of bananas for Boston. The stems of the bunches of bananas can be seen lying about. Although the departure of such a steamer is an almost every day sight, there is always a small gathering of friends and relatives to see off the passengers, and in the foreground will be recognised Mr. Rocks, who was then superintendent of the Direct West India Cable Co., and is now in the Jamaica Civil Service.

West India Committee Lectures.

We have pleasure in announcing that the lectures at the West India Committee Rooms which proved so successful, will shortly be resumed. MR. RANDOLPH RUST has consented to deliver a lecture on "Petroleum in Trinidad," on Thursday, April 25th, at 4 p.m. It is desirable that Members of the West India Committee should make an early application for tickets, space being limited. Arrangements are being made for this lecture to be followed by another on "Cane and Beet Sugar," by Mr. F. I. SCARD, who is well qualified to speak upon such matters.

A Hundred Years Ago.

In 1780 the French wars were in full swing, and several of our British possessions in the West Indies had been captured by the enemy. A considerable portion, nearly a fourth, of the West Indian sugar supply was then lost, and the deficiency of sugar and the consequent high price was severely felt by the refiners. On the other hand, French merchant ships loaded with sugar were constantly being taken by our men-of-war. Their cargoes were sold in bond at comparatively low prices, by order of the prize courts, and bought up by foreign agents for export, the heavy protective duty on foreign sugars precluding the refiners from competing with them. The refining industry naturally felt the situation acutely. 54,000 hogsheads of raw sugar had been captured from the enemy in twelve months, which would have gone to make up the deficiency from the British Islands had the refiners been in a position to outbid the foreign competitors. The refiners, therefore, memorialised the Treasury to lower the duty on prize sugars, and they in due course submitted the petition to the West India Committee. At a meeting of the latter on March 1st, a reply was resolved upon, from which we extract the following.

"That the West India Islands have been settled and cultivated upon the faith of the whole system of the Commercial Laws of Great Britain, whereby the exclusive Privilege of supplying the British Consumption has hitherto been secured to them, without interruption, and if that faith were forfeited by the Introduction of Foreign Sugar, so as to deprive the Planters of That Increase of Price which forms their natural Relief, under the Pressure of those enormous Expences and Losses, which they have been obliged to support for these three years past, the most fatal consequences must ensue to the Sugar Colonies, and to the Navigation and Commerce of Great Britain thereon dependent."

The memorial having apparently been allowed to remain in abeyance, the matter was again brought up later in the year, and a special Act of Parliament was introduced to deal with the case petitioned for by the refiners. This petition, together with a counter petition from Mr. Stephen Fuller on account of the Jamaica planters, was presented to the House of Parliament on May 28th, 1781. No record occurs in subsequent minutes as to whether the Act was passed or not, but the following minute on May 29th, 1781, referring to the newly-captured Colonies of Essequibo and Demerara in connection with their sugars, is of special interest as indicating the first inclusion of these Colonies among the West Indies:

"That the Meeting having observed that by the Act of 6th George 3 Chap' 52, it is enacted that all Sugars which from and after the 1st Jan'y 1767, shall be imported into Great Britain from any part of the British Colonies or Plantations on the Continent of America, shall be deemed and taken to be French Sugars, and that the Dutch Settlements of Demerary and Essequibo on the Continent of South America lately conquered, may be considered as now falling within this Description."

Resolved:—"That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the case of Demerary and Essequibo, now under the British Dominion, and Subject to the Expences of British Cultivation, does not fall within the original Intent and Meaning of the said Act, and that no just objection would arise to an Application from the Parties concerned for permission to import

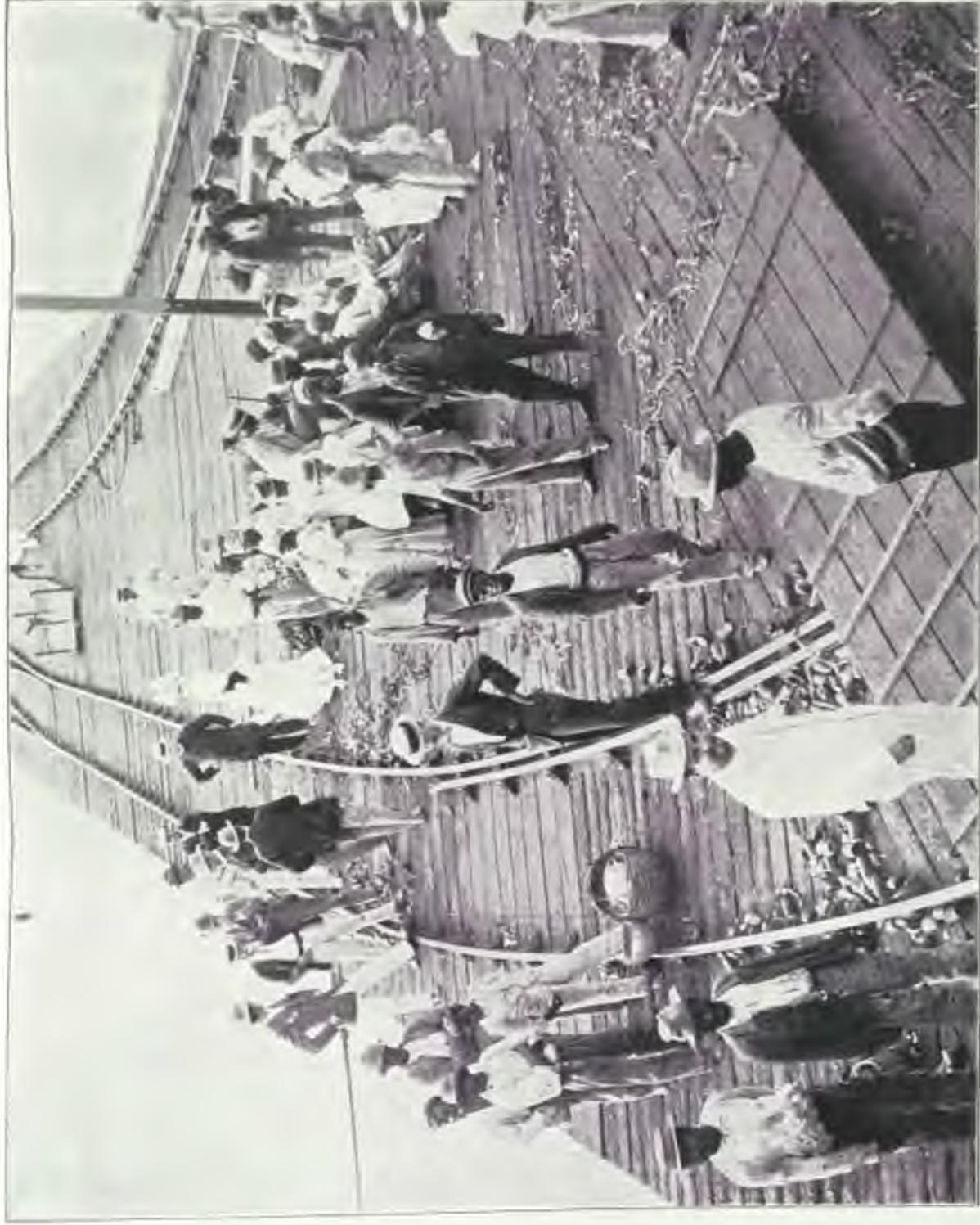


Photo by Missions E. Agardall.

SEEING THE BOAT OFF.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

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the produce of Demerary and Essequibo, into Great Britain, at the British Plantation Duties, under Certificates similar to those required from the British Sugar Islands."

The "British Colonies, or Plantations; on the Continent of America," of course, referred to the revolted North American possessions. The Mr. Fuller mentioned above was the agent of Jamaica, and resident in London from 1765 to 1795. He was associated with the West India Committee in their endeavour to introduce the Bread Fruit tree into the West Indies, a subject with which we hope to deal in a future issue.

The Sea Island Cotton Industry.

A considerable extension of the area in the West Indies under cotton is likely to take place for the crop to be reaped in 1907. With a view of meeting possible requirements the Imperial Department of Agriculture is making special arrangements, and supply carefully selected and disinfected seed at cost price, a proceeding which will doubtless be fully appreciated by the planters. The Commissioner of Agriculture has forwarded to us a copy of a letter which he has addressed to the Colonial Office (Mar. 9th) regarding the position of the Sea Island cotton industry of the West Indies. In this he states that "as compared with 2546 bales exported in 1904, the number of bales exported in 1905 was 3956, showing an increase of 1410 bales. It may be added that the bales exported in 1905 were generally larger than those exported in 1904. The total weight of the lint or clean cotton exported in 1905 was 1,122,800 lbs., of the estimated value (at 1s. per lb. for Sea Island cotton and 6d. per lb. for Marie Galante cotton) of £47,846.



The St. Vincent Cotton Factory.

From this photograph of the ground floor of the cotton factory, it will be seen that it is substantially built. The engine and the driving-wheels connected with the gins above are shown, and also the hoppers through which the cotton-seed descends.

If, however, the average price at which the Sea Island cotton was sold at Liverpool and the value of the seed used for planting purposes and ground into meal for feeding cattle and other purposes are taken into consideration, the total value of the Sea Island cotton industry in the West Indies during 1905 was probably not less than £63,300. A comparison of the figures for the two years, 1904 and 1905, is as follows:—

Year	Number of Bales.	Weight in lbs.	Estimated value of lint and seed.
1904	2546	603,981	£30,056
1905	3956	1,122,800	43,291

"As the West Indian cotton industry is a new one (it was started only four years ago) the result must be gratifying to all who are interested in the welfare of these Colonies, and especially to the British Cotton Growing Association, whose valuable assistance has been of great service in fostering cotton growing in this and other portions of the Empire. The prospects of the crop of 1906 now being shipped are very promising. The total yield will probably show a considerable increase on that of 1905.

"Judging by the results of the sales that have already been made prices are likely to be fully maintained. The first shipment of new crop cotton from Barbados was recently sold at the rate of 16d. and 10½d. per lb. A small shipment of five bales from St. Vincent obtained 17d. per lb." The Imperial Commissioner added that his Department will continue to watch over and encourage the

industry in every possible way. Already systematic efforts are being made to supply the planters with selected and disinfected seed for planting for the crop of 1907.

"We may now regard the West Indies as practically independent of the United States in the matter of seed supply. Owing to the fact that the best West Indian cotton has obtained on an average higher prices than cotton produced in the Sea Islands, applications are being received from Florida and Georgia for improved seed from the West Indies. Similar applications are also being received from Cuba, Porto Rico, and the French Islands. It is admitted that the Sea Island cotton industry is a highly specialised one, and that the skilled assistance of a Department of Agriculture is essential to its stability, for without such assistance it is probable that the general high quality of the lint cannot be maintained, nor can the numerous insect and other pests to which the cotton plant is specially liable be successfully dealt with."

The Colonial Fruit Show.



Jamaica Fruit at the Horticultural Show.

The date of the Show of Colonial Fruit, held by the Royal Horticultural Society at their Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, was primarily fixed for the convenience of the Cape, whose fruit at this time is at its prime. This Colony took full advantage of the opportunity, and made a splendid display of apples, pears, plums and grapes, while Natal sent pineapples, mangoes and avocado pears, all of which, in spite of their long voyage, arrived in splendid condition, a matter which will, we hope, cause our friends in the West Indies to reflect and to take a greater interest in future exhibitions of this nature. As it was, the West Indian exhibits, though excellent in quality, were small in quantity, Jamaica being the only Colony which sent any fruit direct. For this exhibit, Mr. John Barclay, the energetic Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, was responsible. The fruit was set out on a show stand from last year's Colonial Exhibition, and came in for much attention from the judges, who made the following awards:

The JAMAICA AGENCY (Aston W. Gardner & Co.), a silver Knightian medal for grape fruit.

This fruit, uniformly graded and beautifully packed in cases of six, was practically without a blemish, and the judges were able to tell from its weight and appearance alone what excellent condition it was in.

Mr. G. L. Lucas, of Constant Spring, Jamaica, a silver Banksian medal for pineapples.

The pineapples were large in size and juicy. They compared most favourably with those from Natal,

which were of the smooth leaved variety. It has been customary to export pines in tubs, and they have therefore reached the market in poor condition and sold badly. If, however, they could be sent over as these Jamaica pines were, in small crates holding a dozen, there should be a great future for them.

MR. B. W. MUIRHEAD, of Mandeville, Jamaica, a Knightian bronze medal for oranges.

A marked improvement was noticeable in these oranges, which showed evidence of careful cultivation and selection. The colour was bright, and they were juicy and very sweet. Mr. Muirhead also sent grape fruit, but these were, unfortunately, not in so good condition. This fruit to arrive in perfect order should be packed in single layer packages, each fruit being carefully wrapped in paper with woodwork between each.

MR. E. F. COKE, of Mile Gully, Jamaica, a Knightian bronze medal for lemons.

The lemons were very large and full of juice, and it was the opinion of the judges that if they had arrived in quantity last summer when there was a shortage of Neapolitan lemons, they would have easily retailed at from 3d. to 4d. each. If the Jamaica lemons were graded properly and packed in small cases of 200 large, 300 medium and 400 small, they would be saleable, and if sent to arrive in July, August, September and October, they should pay commercially every year.

THE WEST INDIAN PRODUCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED, of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, London, a silver gilt Knightian medal for West India produce.

The West Indian Produce Association made this Show the occasion for their first appearance in public, and a length of table of some thirty feet was covered with a varied assortment of West Indian produce, including pure cane sugars, Blue Mountain coffee, pickles, honey, preserves, Jamaica and Trinidad cigars, and many minor delicacies. The sugar was shown in barrels cut in sections and glazed, which enabled visitors to see the crystals, while they could sample the sugar, which was also piled on the top. The Association also showed papaws and pumpkins of Gargantuan dimensions.

The next Exhibitions of Colonial grown fruit are fixed for June 6th and 7th and December 4th and 5th. There is no charge for space and intending exhibitors are requested to communicate to the Secretary of the West India Committee, who will be pleased to arrange for the staging and take charge of such exhibits as may be sent over.

Our Policy in the West Indies.

(Continued from page 139.)

After dealing with the importance which the West Indies would assume after the completion of the Panama Canal, Miss de Thierry said that if they are worth keeping—and of that there is no doubt at all—they are worth developing. Mr. Chamberlain recognised this in connection with them and our other rich possessions in the Tropics. Hence the evolution of his policy for making the most of the neglected estates of the Empire.

For, unlike the self-governing Colonies, they are not strong enough to grow into a nation. To a certain extent they must always depend on the Mother Country. Why a flow of new blood and capital should be considered essential to the progress of the South American Republics, in which we take so much interest, and superfluous in the case of the West Indies, will be understood only when we understand why foreign trade should be considered so much more valuable than Colonial trade. Few people realise that the united area of the West Indies is no greater than the area of Wales, that it consists of many small Islands, that they are situated in the Tropics, and that, though they are our oldest possessions, they have been shunned by emigrants and capital for two generations. Their marvellous richness, and the character of the population, enabled them to maintain their splendid fight against physical conditions and accumulated misfortunes. In Downing Street it is believed that the withdrawal of the garrisons will lead to confederation as it did in Canada and Australia. The circumstances are, of course, different, but there is need for hope and inquiry.

It may well be that the value of co-operation is not recognised in the West Indies as it ought to be. But of late years there has been improvement. An attempt is being made to have a uniform tariff and coinage, and to secure uniformity in administration whenever it is possible. Moreover, since Mr. Chamberlain's time, every official not absolutely necessary to efficiency is removed as circumstances permit. We professed to be shocked at the idea of a grant-in-aid to the West Indies, but it is not so shocking as the unbusiness-like methods of government in the Caribbean, for which we are largely responsible. The Colonies have no money for progressive undertakings, because it is spent in salaries and pensions fixed in London. The annual cost of Governors and Commissioners

is £600 more than it is in Canada, which is five hundred times greater with a population five times as large. It is true that the tropical climate of the West Indies accounts for much that is otherwise inexplicable in their later history. But it does not account for everything.

It is not for want of accurate information that the Home Government has no intelligible policy in the West Indies. It can always call on the West India Committee, the oldest as it is the most historic, of the Colonial associations in the capital. It is formed of British subjects personally interested in the agricultural and manufacturing interests of the Islands. The Executive numbers not more than thirty-six or less than twenty, and on it are representatives from each Colony. Their watchword is co-operation, members realising that a "solid West India cable is of more practical utility than a single Island link." For by its means planters and merchants are able to speak with one voice, and the grievances of small Islands receive as much attention as the grievances of Jamaica or British Guiana. Honorary correspondents are appointed on the spot, so that the Executive is kept in touch with local affairs, and has its notice drawn to matters that call for attention. Its valuable services all through the sugar crisis can hardly be over-estimated. It was, too, instrumental in preventing the abrogation of the ancient Constitution of Barbados in 1876, and the founding of Codrington College, practically the only University in the West Indies. It is an expression of British genius for devising an institution exactly suited to the need. Without its ceaseless activity it is very safe to say the situation in the Caribbean would be even more unfortunate than it is. The West India Club and other West India associations in this country also do good work towards the same end.

There is a sentimental side to the question. Even if we would we could not cast off the West Indies. They are woven into the warp and woof of our power, and, until the Empire has gone the way of all empires, their influence will live in the Mother Country. The blood of the West Indian flows in half our aristocracy. West Indian wealth built up the fortune of many a noble family, and many a business house. West Indian riches literally paved this country with gold. Through the Napoleonic wars the Islands contributed 25 per cent. to English commerce when the Mediterranean contributed only 2 per cent. Our West Indian fleet of merchant vessels trained men to man our fleet, and, as Mahan truly says, the Islands were the chief factor in our commercial strength and credit which carried us to the triumphant end. It must be remembered, too, that some of the best blood strengthened by fugitive United Empire Loyalists from the United States in the 1790s. If it were not so they could never have struggled unaided against bounty-fed competition of beet-sugar for thirty years. It was, however, not England which saved them from ruin in 1897, but the United States. Is there another instance of a people maintaining their staple industry against such fearful odds? Even if they have equality of opportunity by the Brussels Convention, it is to be hoped that more than mere justice shall be rendered unto them. They need our sympathetic interest. And if for no other reason than their intimate association with our rise as a sea power, they should receive it, particularly in the year of the centenary of Trafalgar. But if we continue to regard them with the indifference of the past decade, the oldest American people will sometime in the future see under the shadow of Nelson's monument with nothing left but the memory of his achievements.

The paper, which was most favourably received, was followed by a discussion in which Mr. Neville Lubbock, Mr. Edward R. Davson, and Dr. Miller Maguire took part, and the usual vote of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

The British Guiana Riots.

We have received a copy of the Blue Book (C.D. 2,822) relating to the recent disturbances in British Guiana. The detailed reports of the riots show that the accounts published on this side were in no way exaggerated, and that the immediate cause of the trouble, the excessive rate paid on one occasion for emergency labour, was merely an excuse for the strike, and for the breaking out of racial animosity so frequently displayed on such occasions. Two grave points are brought prominently forward by Captain Totball of H.M.S. "Diamond," in his report to the Admiralty, viz. the disaffection among the Militia, and the uselessness of trial by jury, the proceedings against the rioters having to be taken in a magistrates court on account of the certainty that no jury could be got to convict. The latter is a serious menace to the administration of justice. It is very evident from the report that if the arrival of the men-of-war had been delayed, the position of things would have been grave in the extreme. It would have been impossible for the police, who were quite worn out by fatigue, to have gone on much longer.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Brussels' Sugar Convention.

At the evening sitting of the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 27th, Mr. A. H. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne) moved: "That, in the opinion of this House, it is expedient to withdraw from the Sugar Convention." Many of the remarks of the speakers against the Convention were so flagrantly misleading that they could not, we imagine, convince even their personal supporters. For example, Mr. Scott said that the result of the Convention was to expose West Indian sugar to the competition of Europe in the United States market, which had excluded bounty-fed sugar, whereas it must be obvious to the meanest intellect that the relative positions of West Indian cane and beet in the U.S. markets are unchanged. He said that sugar had not yet been restored to its old level, and that the price of sugar went down on the Continent and up in this country as a result of the Convention, though he did not add that, without taking into consideration sugar taxes, which have nothing to do with the Convention, the price of sugar is now practically identical all the world over. Then followed the usual fallacious facts of the pro-Bounty Party, about the British workmen being thrown out of employment, Mr. Chamberlain being responsible for raising the price of sugar from £6 to £16 per ton, and so on. In conclusion he said that nothing in all the legislation recently passed had equalled this interference with trade and its disastrous influence on commerce.

Mr. FOX (Flint Boroughs) of mineral water fame, who seconded the resolution, described the Convention as a perfect picture of protection, preference and retaliation combined, and he estimated that owing to the Convention this country had paid an extra price of ten millions for its sugar during the past two years! The Convention had impoverished our country, increased unemployment and thrown thousands out of work. In the industry he was connected with, many thousands had been obliged to discontinue their usual employment. This would make it appear that even when sugar is below the cost of production, the mineral water industry is not on a stable basis.—Ed.

Mr. MITCHELL THOMSON (Lanarkshire) summed up the preceding speeches as a *réchauffé* of the old arguments, and challenged the Hon. Members to say if the Convention had caused the rise in price what had caused the fall? It was said that the confectionery and jam industries were being ruined, but he saw that one company in the trade was paying the substantial dividend of 20%, and the export of confectionery during the eleven months ended November last was higher than in 1904 or in any of its predecessors. In his opinion what had been done by the Convention might have been done quite as effectively by a system of countervailing duties, but the Convention had broadened the area of sugar production, and by so doing was providing the best guarantee against such fluctuations as had occurred in the past. But the Convention had changed the relations of the world's supply of cane and beet sugar. In the three years before the Convention the supply of beet sugar was 6,076,000 tons, and the supply of cane sugar was 3,500,000 tons. In the three years after the Convention the supply of beet sugar was 5,860,000 tons, and the supply of cane sugar was 4,800,000 tons. He believed this change would continue. It was even said that the West Indies were behindhand, and were not benefiting. On the contrary he maintained that they had gained material benefit from the removal of the continued uncertainty. Time and capital were necessary, and there was now security for capital, and when land had gone out of cultivation an interval of at least three years and a great expenditure were necessary before a crop could be obtained. He concluded by asking for justice for the West Indies, and entreated the Hon. Member not to push his motion forward and place a bar against the prosperity and future hope of the West Indies.

Mr. PAUL (Northampton) attributed the Convention to followers of the Tariff Reform League, and asked what that organisation cared about the price of sugar. He described the Convention as mean and cruel, because it pressed on the industrial classes of the community and with real and crushing severity on the poorest of the poor. Note, price of 88% beet, 8s. 4d. per cwt.—Ed.

Mr. DUNCAN (Lanark) spoke in support of the Convention, and Sir J. DICKSON POWDER moved as an amendment: "That inasmuch as the Brussels' Convention is binding on the contracting Powers for a period of five years, and that any notice on behalf of a contracting State to withdraw is subject to twelve months notice to be given in September, 1907, it is inexpedient for this House to announce any decision at this moment." He was opposed to the Convention, but was anxious that our representative should attend the next meeting of the Convention Powers untrammelled by a resolution that could have no effect.

Mr. WHITNEY (Halifax) having seconded the Amendment, EARL PERCY (Kensington S.) maintained that there was no proof that the Convention had occasioned us any practical inconvenience in the past, and that there was no probability that it would occasion us such inconvenience in the future. He was convinced that the effect of the Convention in raising prices, if it had raised them, had been infinitesimal, and that the consumer must gain by its continuance. He said that even assuming that the Convention was responsible for the entire increase in the price of sugar, was it a

conclusive argument against the Convention. He thought not. Pushed to its logical conclusion, that argument meant that the interests of the consumer were the only interests they had to consider (ministerial cheers), that, provided the consumer got his sugar cheap, it did not matter what loss or ruin was inflicted either on the manufacturers at home or on the sugar producers in our Colonies. (Hear, hear). Was that a possible position for those to take up who supported the imposition of Excise duties on cotton in India? No one pretended that we enforced the Excise duties in the interests of the Indian consumer. We enforced them in the interests of the Lancashire *employé*. (Hear, hear). We supported a policy of protection here because it happened to benefit the British consumer, and a policy of free trade in India, although it hurt the Indian consumer, because it benefited our producer. (Cheers). The cheapness of sugar under a system of bounties was artificial, and therefore could not be depended upon.

Then came the turn of Mr. LLOYD GEORGE, who held that it was not desirable for Parliament to pass the resolution, because we could not withdraw from the Convention before a further period of two years and a half had elapsed. To announce now that we intended to withdraw would needlessly embarrass our delegates under the Convention. We were excluding all the produce of a country like Russia, something like a million tons a year. He quoted figures to show that the fluctuations in the price of sugar had been considerable since the Convention was signed, and that the price did not go down with good harvests. As to the West Indies, which the Convention was supposed to be going to benefit, they had derived no advantage from it.* He ended by appealing to Mr. Scott to withdraw his resolution.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN questioned the accuracy of Mr. Lloyd George's figures, and said that it was absurd to draw important conclusions from statistics for a short period and to take the fluctuations since the Convention month by month furnished an absurd and grotesque comparison, and he reminded him that he himself could show that before the Convention in 1889 the fluctuations had been something between 12s. 6d. and 27s. 6d. There had been nothing so great as that since the Convention. He could not believe that Hon. Members could really think that the Convention was as bad as the right hon. gentleman pretended. If they desired to restore the bounties, why did they not say so plainly? A state of things like the present could not but be mischievous in a grave degree. There had been no such loss on the part of this country, and there had been no benefit to other countries in consequence of the Convention. Anyone would think who heard the speech of the hon. member for Ashton that we had lost money, and that it had become injured to the profit of some other country. Nothing can be further from the truth. "In the first place," he said, "we have not lost at all, not one penny, by the Convention, and, in my opinion, we have greatly gained. We have not lost, because the price of sugar has not been raised. The average price of sugar taken over a period of years has been no higher after than before the Convention. I say we have gained, because we have secured an additional supply. We have brought into the market an additional production of raw sugar, and consequently we have done what everybody knows will tend to equalise the price in future, and will render such fluctuations as have been experienced in the past less frequent and less serious. That foreign countries have to some extent reduced the duties upon sugar, and thereby led to greater consumption in those countries is made a matter of derision by hon. members opposite, as though they thought we had a right to complain because other countries now consume more sugar. It is continually made a matter of criticism against foreign countries that, owing to their extravagant financial policy, the consumption of sugar in those countries is very much less than in ours. Their consumption of sugar is now approaching more nearly to ours, and a very good thing it is for those countries, and no harm to us. It is no part of our policy to keep down the consumption of the necessaries of life in foreign countries, and it cannot be considered as a loss to us that their prosperity enables them to consume more of those articles than before. I maintain that the Convention has amply justified itself. Mr. Gladstone, who was never afraid of the conclusions to which his arguments might lead, made it perfectly clear in discussions that have taken place with reference to foreign bounties that in no circumstances could he regard bounties as beneficial or just, even though they brought some advantages to consumers in this country. Do the new free-traders differ from what Mr. Gladstone and, indeed, Mr. Cobden laid down in regard to bounties? If they do not then let us look not to the immediate advantages of consumers in this country, but to the question of justice which affects not merely the consumer, but the producer of sugar. My interest in this question has been greatly exaggerated. I mean that more credit has been given to me than I deserve. But my peculiar interest in the matter was derived from the fact that I was Colonial Secretary at the time the discussions on the sugar bounties arose; and as my right hon. friend, the Chancellor of the Duchy, once said in regard to his post as Indian Secretary, the Colonial Secretary is required to pay particular attention to the interests of the Colonies, and not to forget, at the same time, that he is a British

* This statement, considered in conjunction with that of Mr. Winston Churchill's on April 2nd, clearly indicates that the Government are by no means agreed on this subject. Mr. Churchill distinctly stated that the West Indies had benefited - Eo.

Minister, who has the interests of his own country at heart also. Take the case of the Colonies. The President of the Board of Trade is not connected, of course, with the Colonial Department. But I would undertake to say that the Under-Secretary to the Colonies, if he studied the question, would find that for the last year or two the condition of the West Indian Colonies has most materially improved. Their plight was one of the great difficulties with which I had to deal when I went to the Colonial Office. The present Foreign Secretary very kindly presided over a commission which went out to inquire into their condition, and the commission reported that unless the bounties were done away with the West Indies would become a constant charge upon the Mother Country. That state of things has disappeared—temporarily at all events—and, as I believe, entirely as the result of the Convention. (Cheers). Even if we were to accept the view that the Convention has increased the price of sugar—a result which I do not at all believe has followed—would it be anything more than common justice that we had given up illegitimate profits obtained from bounties in order to give fair play to our Colonies? (Cheers). Take the case of the refining industry. Here also there has been improvement. As you give this trade security you may rest assured that, so far from losing employment, there will be a great addition to the employment of the people of this country. The statement has been made that thousands of workmen have been thrown out of employment in the confectionery trades as the result of the Convention. While accepting the sincerity of the hon. gentleman who made that statement, I say there is no foundation whatever for it. (Ministerial cries of "Oh.") All the statistics show that, on the contrary, those trades have, on the whole, greatly increased (Ministerial cries of "Oh" and Opposition cheers) both in amount and in value. But even if it were true that there has been this loss of trade, it would be the loss of a trade that must be artificial so long as it depends on the aid of bounties."

An Admission from Mr. Churchill.

Replying to a question of Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON on April 2nd, Mr. Churchill said no one has ever suggested that the Brussels Sugar Convention has produced or was likely to produce injury to the West Indies. On the contrary, the West Indies have benefited by the Convention and were intended to benefit by it. It is, however, necessary to remember that the conclusive argument against the Convention is the widespread loss and injury inflicted upon British commerce and the British manufacturer.

Jamaica Garrison.

Replying to Sir C. Dilke on March 27th, Mr. Haldane said: It has been decided to leave in Jamaica the necessary force of Royal Garrison Artillery and Royal Engineers for the Imperial fortress of Kingston, Jamaica.

The Cable Question.

In reply to Mr. W. Mitchell Thomson, Mr. Winston Churchill said, on Feb. 22nd, that the Secretary of State was aware of the desirability of improving telegraphic communication in the British West Indies, and that in considering this question he would certainly not lose sight of the possibilities of wireless telegraphy.

Irish Sugar Beet Culture.

Replying to Mr. O'Dowd on March 27th, Mr. Bryce said: In the opinion of the Department of Agriculture the average analysis of sugar beet grown on small plots in Ireland has shown that beet of good quality can be grown in the country, but there is no evidence to indicate that this crop, if grown widely, would yield a profitable return when the comparatively high cost of cultivation and of the necessary plant is taken into consideration. The department do not feel that they would at present be justified in recommending the growing of beet as a general crop.

No Preference to British Beet.

In the House of Lords on Monday, April 2nd, Lord DENNIGH called attention to the successful experimental cultivation of sugar-beet in this country, and asked His Majesty's Government whether, with a view of encouraging the establishment of a home sugar industry, they would consider the possibility of granting a temporary rebate on any Excise duty which might be imposed on sugar manufactured in the United Kingdom.

LORD DENNIGH, in reply, said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not entertain the suggestion of the noble earl for several reasons. In the first place, it would mark a grave departure by introducing the principle of protection into the fiscal system of the country; and in the next place, on grounds of expediency, it would be unwise to allow an industry to grow up dependent on favoured treatment. It was necessary, moreover, to consider the effect which such an industry would have upon the sugar-growing industry of the West Indies.

LORD LANSDOWNE admitted that there might be serious objections to such a rebate as Lord Denbigh had suggested, but he expressed the hope that encouragement in another form might be possible. A *prima facie* case had been made out for giving benevolent consideration to an industry which would provide a new opening for British capital, and which would benefit agriculturists and manufacturers alike.

LORD RIBON emphasized the difficulty of withdrawing a rebate after once an industry had become dependent on it. He thought there was an opening for the sugar industry in this country, but it must be under natural conditions. A full report of the debate is given in the *Times* of April 3rd.

Letter to the Editor.

A Cotton Experiment in Montserrat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR—You will perhaps remember that some two years ago I saw you with reference to some clients' estates in the Island of Montserrat. It may interest you and other Members of the West India Committee to know that the experiment of planting cotton on these estates has been last year in every way successful so far as it has gone. The experiment was only, it is true, undertaken to a small extent, but has resulted in a profit of 100 per cent. Our clients now propose to further extend the experiment and we trust that the results will be equally satisfactory. The estates are situated close to the town of Plymouth and are under the management of Mr. Conrad Watson, who contributes to the *Circular* of your Committee.

March 14th, 1906.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS OMMANNEY.

[We are pleased to learn that Mr. Ommanney's experiment with cotton-growing in Montserrat has proved so successful. We are always glad to give advice on such matters. ED.]

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Fri., Mar. 23rd.—Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 2,823) issued containing the instructions to the South African Committee.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d.
 Sat., Mar. 24th.—The "Iyo Maru" with 32 officers and 302 Japanese bluejackets, arrived in the Thames.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d.
 Sun., Mar. 25th.—Telegrams from Algieras announced that the prospects of a successful issue to the Conference were improving.
 Mon., Mar. 26th.—Summary of Mr. Smuts' speech to the Pretoria West Branch of Het Volk, in the *Times*, p. 5.—The "Port Kingston" arrived at Ayrmouth from Kingston, Jamaica.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d.
 Tues., Mar. 27th.—Letter from the West India Committee on the benefits of the Sugar Convention appeared in the *Times*, p. 10, and Press generally.—Abrasive debate on the Convention in the House of Commons.—The "Barranca," built for Elders and Fyffes Limited, for their West Indies to Manchester banana service, launched at Glasgow.—Capacity 30,000 bunches. Fitted with J and E Hall's cool air system.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d.
 Wed., Mar. 28th.—The "Chirripo," sister ship to the "Barranca," launched.—British Museum declined to purchase the Nelson Memorandum for £5,000.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d.
 Thur., Mar. 29th.—Crisis in Natal.—The Imperial Government having telegraphed to suspend the execution of 12 natives condemned for participation in the murder of a police inspector, the Natal Ministry refused to accede and resigned.—A resolution moved in the House of Lords by Lord Halifax and seconded by Lord Ampthill, recording appreciation of Lord Milner's services in South Africa, was carried by 170 against 35.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d.
 Fri., Mar. 30th.—Natal crisis ended, the House Government leaving the matter of the punishment of the rebellious natives in the hands of the Governor and Ministry of the Colony.—Prince Hatzfeldt's Ascentic's Silver won the Grand National.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d., quiet.
 Sat., Mar. 31st.—A complete agreement upon all points arrived at by the Algieras Conference.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d., quiet.
 Sun., April 1st.—Revenue returns for the year ended midnight on March 31st showed an increase of £606,202. The R.M.S. "Orinoco" arrived at Southampton.
 Mon., April 2nd.—The twelve natives executed in Natal.—Debate in the House of Lords on sugar beet in the United Kingdom.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d., quiet.
 Tues., April 3rd.—Mr. W. Middleton Campbell re-elected Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.—*Beet*, 8s. 4½d., steady.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate remains at 4 per cent. (changed from 3 per cent. on Sept. 28th, 1905), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 90¼.

CLUB DINNER. Several Members of Parliament identified with our West Indian Colonies are to be entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club at the Imperial Restaurant, on Friday next, April 6th.

PEANUTS. The Louisiana Planter has elicited the information that 100,000,000 lbs. of peanuts are grown annually in the United States, 35,000 acres of land being devoted to the crop, and 170,000 persons being employed in producing it.

WHO KNOWS? The *Star* now talks of the Brussels agreement as "the *dear* Sugar Convention." Does this loving term imply that this paper is beginning to see the error of its ways and appreciate the universal benefits derived from the abolition of bounties? We wonder.

CORRIGENDUM. Mr. John Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, in his interesting article in our issue of February 2nd, intended to say that the coco-nut crops would be getting heavier every year, as the trees damaged by the hurricane fully recover. A comp. thought he knew better and inserted the word "never."

WANTED. A Member of the West India Committee is anxious to obtain the following numbers of *The West India Committee Circular* to complete a set of the new series: 1, 3, 8, 29, 30, 31, 32, 73, 99, 91, 96. Will any reader who has copies of these issues to spare kindly send them to the Editor of *The West India Committee Circular*, 15, Seething Lane, who will be pleased to pay for them.

COTTON COMPETITION. A Royal Decree has been published in Portugal, the object of which is to promote the cultivation of cotton in Portuguese Colonial possessions. Concessions of land on certain conditions will be granted, and cotton exempted from export duty in the Portuguese Colonies and import duty in Portugal. The Government also is authorised to establish experimental stations for cotton cultivation.

CHINESE IN GRENADA. The Agricultural Superintendent of Grenada has established a plot of 100 Chinese bananas at the Botanic Station of that Island for demonstration purposes. The Managing Director of the British West India Fruit Company has recommended that this kind of banana is the best for people in Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia to plant, as it fetches a good price, and travels better than uncrated fruit.

SUGAR IN EGYPT. The Egyptian Court of Appeal has confirmed the judgment of the Mixed Tribunal of First Instance, declaring that the Egyptian Sugar Refineries Company is in bankruptcy. A correspondent of the *Standard* states that it is feared that the liquidation will lead to considerable loss, it being questioned whether the forced realisation of the estates will produce enough to satisfy the debenture holders, this form of debt amounting to 31,790,500 francs.

H. J. WEST & Co. We are requested to state that in consequence of the increasing demand for their refrigerating and ice making machinery, and also the excessive nature of the rates and taxes in London, Messrs. H. J. West & Co., Ltd., Stamford Works, Southwark Bridge Road, have purchased the engineering works belonging to Messrs. J. R. Richardson & Co., Ltd., at Saxilby, near Lincoln, which will be enlarged and equipped with the most up-to-date machinery. Messrs. West & Co., intimate that their present London works will be retained as a branch for some time.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended March 29th, 596 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.60d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13½d. per lb.; fine, 14½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Price paid 14½d. In *The West India Committee Circular*, No. 182, we gave reproductions of the photographs of the interior and the gins in the St. Vincent cotton factory, which were presented to us by the Cotton Growers' Association of the Island. We give on another page two more of these pictures, showing the ground floor, where the engine is situated, and the store-room on the top floor.

LIME JUICE. The Public Health Committee of Southwark have reported to the Borough Council on an analysis of a sample of lime juice which contained salicylic acid to the extent of six grains to the pint, being six times more than that allowed by the Local Government Board as a preservative. The analyst held that this quantity was injurious to health, the drug being an accumulative one. Proceedings were taken at Lambeth, but the Magistrate dismissed the summons. The Committee therefore instructed the solicitor to apply to the magistrate to state a case for decision in the Court of Kings' Bench, and recommended that their action be approved. The Council decided to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee.

The Homeward Mail.

The question of the appointment of an agent to represent Jamaica in this country was again being discussed when the "Port Kingston," which arrived at Avonmouth on Monday, March 26th, left Jamaica. A telling report, signed by the Archbishop of Jamaica and Mr. J. W. Middleton, was considered at a meeting of the Board of Agriculture on March 12th, and a deputation had been appointed to wait on the Governor to lay the matter before him. It will be within the recollection of our readers that when this question was last raised in 1902, the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Merchants' Exchange felt that the suggestion was a desirable one, that official recognition of the agent would be necessary, and that the gentleman appointed as agent should devote his whole time to the agency, and should in no way be engaged with the trade of the Island; but they added also that

it would be difficult to find anyone so conversant with the commercial, industrial and social wants of Jamaica as to command the entire confidence of the public, who was not engaged with the trade of the Colony. It is interesting in this connection to note that at the close of the eighteenth century Jamaica had an agent in this country, Mr. Stephen Fuller by name, who acted on behalf of the Colony for no less than thirty years, from 1765 to 1795, when he was succeeded by Mr. Robert Sewell. Mr. Fuller worked in harmony and in close co-operation with the West India Committee, of the Executive of which he was a Member, and he also was a Member of Parliament. Should another agent be appointed it might be worthy of consideration whether some similar arrangement for co-operation with the Committee might not be arrived at and much expense thereby saved. The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down, R.N.R.), arrived at Southampton at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, April 1st, and the mails were delivered by first post on the following morning. Among her passengers were the Earl of Cork and Orrery, the Earl and Countess of Lindsay, Lady Muriel Bertie, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pile from Barbados, Mr. G. O. Nugent of the Antigua Civil Service, and a large number of tourists. The sugar crop was in full swing in Barbados and the Leeward Islands and the dry weather was facilitating operations, but cocoa in Trinidad was suffering from the drought. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:

Antigua.—The Central Sugar Factories.

Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, writing on March 12th, said that the two central sugar factories were doing good work, the megas proving ample for steam purposes, and the water question being apparently solved by the proper use of the water evaporated from the cane juice as far as practicable. The steam ploughs at Gunthorpe's were doing good work and those for Belvedere were being erected. The sugar crop was in full swing everywhere. Molasses had advanced to 15 cents a gallon, package included, a relatively high price considering the miserable price of sugar.

The weather continued dry as usual at this time of year, and the scarcity of water was being severely felt in the country districts. *The Antigua Standard* of March 3rd gave an interesting account of the Agricultural Show held on February 22nd.

Barbados. The Continued Drought.

In a letter dated March 16th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that it was satisfactory to hear that at last proper attention was to be paid to cold storage on all the ships of the R.M.S.P. Co. The fact, however, must not be lost sight of that the most promising banana industry, as far as Barbados was concerned, had been temporarily killed, and it would be some time before confidence was restored.

A special meeting of the Agricultural Society had been summoned for March 24th, to consider the question of Mr. Hesketh Bell's proposals as to hurricane insurance, at which Mr. Christopher Head was to be present.

Labour used always to be the strong point in Barbados, but there was no question that the extreme emigration to Panama was having a great effect. Masculine labour, especially in the Leeward parishes, was very deficient—women were frequently employed to cut canes, a thing unknown hitherto. Women were also now frequently used on many estates to feed the mills with canes. Mr. Alleyne had applied to the Emigration Office to furnish him with the numbers of those who had emigrated.

Continued drought still had to be reported, but it had come to such a pass now that it was not an unmitigated curse. There was only one course open to them, and that was to press on with the crop as quickly as possible. The canes were yielding splendidly, and almost every estate was doing over two hogsheds per acre, which was more than was expected. If a heavy rain came now, the yield would most certainly go back. What they wanted was a few light showers at night to keep the young canes going, and also some on Sundays. To their amazement the price of beet had gone to 8s. 6d. and muscovado in the Island to \$1.40. Truly the sugar market was the most uncertain thing in the world!

The Estimates were submitted to the House of Assembly on March 13th. The total revenue was set at £185,100 or £4,000 in excess of last year, and the expenditure £178,022.

The Cotton Committee were looking out for a site for a second cotton factory. The annual general meeting of the Commercial Hall was held on March 7th. On December 31st the Society showed a balance of \$297 68, the subscriptions during the year amounting to \$297 16 against \$637 43. All the officers and members of the Committee were re-elected, with Mr. R. Arthur, Sen. as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Commerce, and Mr. V. Hanschell, Chairman of the Committee of Management.

Dr. Thomas Raven died on February 27th.

British Guiana. The Estimates.

Mr. Summersen, writing on March 14th, reported the safe arrival of our respected Deputy Chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson.

The weather had been much too dry during the fortnight, and cultivation was in need of good soaking rains. Crystals were quoted at \$1.85 to \$1.87½ but there was nothing doing.

The recent articles in *The West India Committee Circular* on the ruin prosecutions were favourably commented upon in *The Demerara Daily Chronicle* of March 13th.

The Court of Policy met on March 1st. The Governor, Sir Frederic Hodgson, explained his proposals for reducing the Militia. The vote for capitation pay, &c., \$4,240 was reduced on the motion by Mr. Davis to \$3,700, and the estimate for uniforms from £2,337 to \$1,000. On the following day the Immigration indent for next season was fixed at 1,185. At a meeting of the Combined Court on March 2nd the Hon. C. T. Cox made his budget statement, the estimates amounting to \$2,502,920. He estimated that the Customs would yield \$1,586,000, and the Excise \$470,000. The revenue from Crown Lands and Mines Department showed an upward tendency, and the item was placed at \$135,000. The grand total of the estimated income was \$2,514,043, or \$13,123 over the estimated expenditure. He indicated that he would move that the duty on lust, salt and pickled, should be struck off, and the list of tools used by mechanics free of duty would be extended. The annual estimates were considered on the next day, and a full report of the meeting is given in *The Demerara Daily Chronicle*, Mail Edition, of March 13th, and in *The Argosy*.

We regret that Mr. T. Sidney Hargreaves has been somewhat seriously ill in British Guiana. He has, however,

favoured us with the following figures showing the exports of gold, &c., for February, with which we reproduce, for purposes of comparison, the returns for January—

	February. 1906.	January 1906
Gold, raw	6,036	6,772 ozs
Diamonds	345	nil
Timber: Greenheart, Mora, &c.	83,464	22,564 cub. ft.
Lumber	637	2,783 feet
Shingles	40,000	13,000
Wallaba and Hardwood Posts	429	119
Woods, Firewoods, &c.	—	524
Charcoal	—	7,048 bags
Gums, Lacust, &c.	5,094	465 lbs
.. Balsam	1,708	10,607 lbs
.. Rubber	32,406	465
Railway Sleepers (Mora)	—	—

Jamaica. The Estimates for 1906-7.

The Hon. H. Clarence Bourne, Colonial Secretary, introduced the estimates at the meeting of the Legislative Council on March 6th. He said that no reduction of taxation was possible other than that already effected by the repeal of the 6% surtax, which amounted to £21,000. He estimated the revenue from Customs for the coming year at £370,000. The average excise receipts for the past five years amounted to £95,752, about £1,000 more than that budgetted for. House and land taxes were calculated to yield £31,650. Stamp duties were put at £23,800. Their estimate was £807,500, a revenue which he thought would be sufficient to make both ends meet. On the other hand the Government was now asking them to be allowed to spend £30,000 less than last year, which should show a surplus of £1,190.

According to the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph's* correspondent, the price for bananas at Annotto Bay had risen, two new companies having entered the field. Messrs. Goffe Bros. announced that a line of steamers would ply between Jamaica and Baltimore, and that they would be buying weekly, beginning on March 5th.

On March 14th the Legislative Council struck out the Militia vote, an amendment by Mr. G. Levy to provide for 100 artillerymen for garrison duty at Port Royal, and the internal defence force for the maintenance of peace and order, being carried by 15 votes to 3.

Montserrat. A Satisfactory Cotton Crop.

When Mr. Conrad Watson wrote on March 13th, the cotton crop was almost reaped and was proving a satisfactory one, samples having been favourably reported on, and a small lot having fetched 1s. 3d. per lb. in Liverpool.

A farewell dinner was to be given on March 14th to His Honour F. H. Watkins, J.S.O., who had been appointed Commissioner of Turks Island, and would leave shortly for that place.

Nevis.—Gratitude to the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Writing with regard to the cable question in his letter of March 11th, the Hon. C. A. Shand said that as far as could be gathered the community did not generally approve of taking over the present island cable system, in any new system, as the continuous breaks recently led to the impression that the cable must have so far deteriorated as to require renewing throughout.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society on March 8th, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"WHEREAS,—The members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Nevis are anxious to place on record their thankful appreciation of the splendid results achieved by the Imperial Department of Agriculture since its initiation, and the noteworthy successes that have attended the efforts of that Department under the able and untiring administration of its Commissioner, Sir Daniel Morris, K. C. M. G., &c., &c., in the development of the sugar, cotton and other industries throughout the length and breadth of the West Indies, and especially of the cotton industry in Nevis.

"BE IT RESOLVED, That His Majesty's Government be forthwith apprised of the facts set forth in the preamble above and at the same time be earnestly and respectfully requested through His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to make such provision for the maintenance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture as may be deemed adequate to continue the useful mission it was entrusted with for the rehabilitation of this portion of His Majesty's dominions."

There had been some nice showers during the past fortnight in some parts of the Island, but they had not been general. At this time of year dry weather was to be anticipated, and the reaping of the sugar and cotton crops would be considerably delayed by heavy rains. Cotton was in full swing, and some estates were getting excellent returns, but the major part of the area planted would not yield anything approaching last year's output.

St. Kitts.—A Series of Resolutions.

At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society before Mr. Chas. A. Smith wrote on March 10th, the matter of cable communication was under consideration, and the following resolution was passed unanimously—

"That, in view of the fact that the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Ltd., has done such good service in the face of so many difficulties, this meeting of the St. Kitts Agricultural and Commercial Society is in favour of continuing the services of that Company, and that as their proposals for laying new cables have been made subsequent to the date of the proposals from the West India Committee, that it is also in favour of an increased subsidy for increased cable facilities should be paid by the Government, that it should be given to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Ltd.

The following resolution was also passed—

"That, in view of the stipulation made by the Canadian refiners that the 10 cents per 100 lbs. preference should be allowed only on sugars shipped by the steamers of Messrs. Pickford & Black, this meeting of the St. Kitts Agricultural and Commercial Society, on account of the frequent shutting out of the Island's sugars by the

vessels of this line, desire to place before this shipping company the necessity for increased facilities for shipping sugar being given to exporters during the crop season, as the action of repeatedly shutting out sugar is detrimental to the interests of the community."

The question of cane fires was under consideration, and a resolution urging the Government to institute a system of rewards for the apprehension and conviction of incendiaries was passed unanimously by the Society at the same meeting. Cotton sales were encouraging, one lot having reached 18.50d. per lb., and the opinion was that higher prices would be reached when later pickings were sold.

St. Vincent. The Agricultural Outlook.

Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. reported, in their letter of March 14th, that no damage of any importance was done to the Island by the recent earthquakes, and from reliable sources they had been informed that the Soufrière was quiet, and showed no signs of bursting out again.

They were glad to learn that the efforts of the West India Committee in connection with the proposed federation of Grenada and St. Vincent had been successful, and that the proposals were not to be proceeded with. It was hoped that they would also be successful in getting the Colonial Office to constitute properly their Legislative Council.

Their Chief Justice, Mr. Sheriff, was about to leave St. Vincent to assume duty as Chief Justice of St. Lucia, and it was understood that Chief Justice Walker, of Grenada, would also hold the same position for St. Vincent, so that the latter would no longer have its own Chief Justice.

The weather of late had been very dry and hot, and the dry weather was considerably interfering with the arrowroot crops, the ground being so hard that the labourers could not dig. The crops would be very small this year, and with the small stocks in London they all hoped to get 25. per lb. for their arrowroot.

We are indebted to Mr. W. N. Sands, Hon. Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of St. Vincent, for some interesting notes regarding the Colony. The weather continued dry but this was not unusual for the time of year.

The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies paid a visit to the Island from March 5th to 24th. He addressed a large meeting of planters, merchants and other gentlemen on Tuesday March 6th and discussed with them such important subjects as the labour question, improvement of stock, anthrax and the cotton industry. He spoke very forcibly on the necessity of the development of the agricultural resources of the Island (as well as well organised lines in order to promote an increased export trade and consequently to raise the Island's commercial and industrial status). To impress this matter on the minds of his hearers he stated that whereas the value of exports per head of population in a neighbouring Colony was £4, in St. Vincent with a good soil, abundant rainfall and other opportunities for agricultural progress, the value of exports only amounted to about 9s. per head. The cotton industry was the one he thought most likely to bring up the Island and ensure prosperity, provided that it was worked on progressive lines. He mentioned that the value of exports of cotton and cotton-seed amounted to £500 only in 1902, whereas last year the value was over £6,000, and this year the value would be between £8,000 and £10,000.

A successful Agricultural Show was held on March 7th, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural and Commercial Society. Although the exhibits were not so numerous as last year they reached a higher standard of excellence generally, which showed that the object of these shows was being realised. Sir Daniel Morris and the Administrator visited the show during the day and addressed those present on agricultural matters. Sir Daniel also awarded diplomas to exhibitors whose exhibits were of special merit.

Since Mr. Sands last advised one or two slight shocks of earthquakes had been experienced. The Soufrière was somewhat reassuring to learn that Professor Heilgrin, who was at Martinique recently, had stated that in his opinion the earthquakes lately experienced were not due to the activity of the volcanoes of the Islands, but rather to a general settling of the bed of the Caribbean Sea.

Trinidad.—Arrival of Immigrants.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council on March 14th, the municipal question was under consideration, and the Council, by a majority of 5 (4 to 6), voted in favour of a wholly nominated Board to manage the affairs of Port of Spain. A full account of the debate is given in *The Post of Spain* weekly of March 15th.

Writing on March 17th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick said that at the same meeting of Council the Governor corrected the statement previously made by him that he would give the West India and Panama Telegraph Co. three months' notice. He had, he said, since found that it was not necessary, as the payment of the subsidy was subject to three months' notice.

The immigration season 1905-6 had closed. 2,027 men, 824 women and 227 children, a total of 3,078 souls, equal to 3,014 Statute adults, arrived in the Colony. The first two ships disembarked 1,374 souls from the Madras Presidency, the first they had had from there for many years, the rest being from Calcutta. Commander Condon, the Protector, had told the writer that the Madresses seemed a grand lot on the whole, and that the reports from the estates were so far to the effect that they were good field labourers. He added that it had been a busy time for the Immigration Department, as each of these 3,000 odd souls had to be medically examined, height and body marks checked, verification papers and indenture sheets made out, marriages registered, &c. but the work had gone steadily on, and the whole number with the exception of about fifty, who, suffering from minor ailments, were detained at the Depot as unfit for immediate allotment, had been sent away to their respective estates. Among the 2,851 adults there were only eleven deaths during the voyage, a percentage of 0.38, which spoke well for the care and attention they received on board the ships, and their selection in India. Taking them altogether, they were the best lot of immigrants they had received in any season during the ten years that Commander Condon had been in charge of the Immigration Department.

The weather was now very dry indeed, and some rain was wanted for the young cultivation. Sugar manufacture was making most of the sunshine, and a good part of the crop was already reaped. Cocoa was beginning to suffer severely from the drought, and the prospects for the midsummer crop was far from encouraging. Deliveries during the past fortnight had almost entirely stopped. On the restoration of the cable communication a stronger demand sprang up, and in consequence of the small quantities coming to hand prices had hardened very considerably. Little new business was to be made, owing to the uncertainty of the outlook, and shippers were much occupied in executing the small orders on hand. Fine Estates were quoted at 52s. 6d., mixed Estates at 30s. 6d., and Ordinary at 20s. 6d. and 1. Havre. Supplies from the Mainland had also fallen off, but the demand for commoner grades was not strong. Good qualities were much sought after, prices for these descriptions being well maintained.

Cocoa Shipments.

Total at last report	46,570	Bags	Trinidad	12,946	Venezuelan
Mar 6 S.S. "France"	563	"	"	761	Europe
" 6 S.S. "Prins Willem V"	195	"	"		New York.
" 9 S.S. "Magdalena"	567	"	"	100	Europe.
" 12 S.S. "Grenada"	4,752	"	"	172	New York.
" 12 S.S. "Prins Willem II."	1,234	"	"	400	
Totals to date	50,821	"	"	14,379	Venezuelan

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery and local events for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The Agricultural News, Vol. V, No. 10: Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d. This number gives the total amount of cotton exported for the year 1905 as 7,122,800 lbs. valued at £47,846. Barbados heads the list with 344,232 lbs. Grenada coming next with 212,722 lbs. The Customs' valuation has been 1s. per lb. below the average. At 1s. 2d. per lb. which has been estimated at nearer the average price, the total value, including seed, would have been £63,291. This represents an industry practically only four years old and the returns for the current year are expected to be 30% to 40% higher. A good cotton crop is reported from St. Vincent, the land with no volcanic ash showing better returns than where ash has fallen.

Manurial Experiments with Sugar Canes in the Leeward Islands. Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 4d. This pamphlet, published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, summarises the manurial experiments with sugar cane in the Leeward Islands for crop 1904-5. A résumé of these experiments has already appeared in *The West India Committee Circular*, (Vol. XX, p. 96).



The St. Vincent Cotton factory.

This picture shows the storeroom on the top floor of the factory, which is used for storing the cotton seed, which, as will be seen, is made up in uniform bags and weighed.

The West Indian Civil Service.

MR T. H. WATKINS, I.S.O., has been appointed Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Professor CARMODY, Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry, Trinidad, has arrived in England on leave of absence.

Lieut. Col. W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, District Commissioner in Ashanti, has been appointed Commissioner of Montserrat.

Mr H. A. TEMpany, Assistant Government Analyst, Leeward Islands, has returned from leave of absence, and resumed his duties.

The King's Esquator, empowering Mr Luis E. Cuevas to act as Consul for the Republic of Panama in British Honduras, has received His Majesty's signature.

Mr R. A. CARTER, M.D., M.C., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for two months from March 1st.

During the absence of the Hon. E. DRAYTON from Grenada, the Hon. D. T. TUCKER, Attorney-General, is acting as Colonial Secretary, in conjunction with the duties of his own office.

Some West Indian Securities.

The Prosperous "Gleaner."

The ninth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the *Gleaner* newspaper was held in Kingston on March 2nd

Mr. C. E. de Mercado presiding. The gross earnings for the year ended December 1905, amounted to £13,473 3s. 11d., as compared with £12,184 14s. 10d. for the previous year, being an increase of £1,288 9s. 1d. The expenditure was £8,347 1s. 5d., leaving a gross profit of £5,126 2s. 6d. The dividend for the year was 6 1/2%, leaving £6,618 3s. 5d. in credit of profit and loss account. During the year the directors acquired freehold premises, No. 53, Port Royal Street. The retiring directors, Lieut.-Col. Pinnock, Mr. Fred L. Myers, and Mr. R. A. H. Haggart, were re-elected.

The Colonial Bank Report.

The statement of accounts to December 31st shows a gross profit, after providing for bad and doubtful debts of £56,570 13s. 9d., making, with the £20,000 account brought forward for the last half year, £76,570 13s. 9d. Expenses in London office, and at 14 branches and agencies, including income tax, absorbed £32,741 10s. 8d., leaving a balance of £43,829 5s. 1d. The directors in their report, which is signed by Mr. H. H. Dubree, Chairman, which will be submitted at the 196th half-yearly General Meeting this afternoon, recommend the payment of a dividend of 3 1/2 per cent for the half-year ended December 31st, 1905, free of income tax, which will absorb £21,000, leaving £22,829 5s. 1d. to be carried forward. The directors announce, with deep regret, the death of Mr. H. P. Powell, and recommend that his seat on the Board be filled up at the General Meeting.

The Demerara Railway Company.

The Directors in their report, to be submitted to the General Meeting on Friday next, state that the gross revenue for the half year ended December 31st amounted to £25,877 6s. 6d. and the gross expenditure £10,273 1s. 10d., leaving, after deducting £1,400 debenture interest, net revenue £5,206 4s. 11d. To this is added the Government subsidy, £6,250, and the amount carried forward from the previous half-year, 1910 12s. 4d., making an available total of £12,007 1s. 3d. Out of this sum there falls to be paid the dividend for half-year at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on Extension Preference Shares £6,250; and the Directors recommend that the remainder should be dealt with as follows:—(a) Dividend for half-year at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on Seven per Cent Preference Stock, making 4 per cent for the year, £2,100; (b) appropriation to renewal fund, £3,000—leaving to be carried forward £2,707 1s. 3d. The total number of passengers carried amounted to 224,220, as compared with 226,774 in 1904, and goods 44,024 tons compared with 40,849 tons. The Directors add that the current half-year's traffic to date compares favourably with the corresponding period of last year. A considerable accession of goods traffic is expected on the West Coast Railway in future. To meet this increase, additional rolling stock will be required, and it has also been decided to proceed at once with the relaying, with new 70 lb. steel rails, of the remaining two miles of the old railway. On the completion of this work, the permanent way of the whole railway will be entirely laid with steel rails. Mr. G. D. Wildridge of the London Board, and Mr. A. P. Mackey, of the Demerara Committee, retire from the board by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller) April 2nd. "Very dry, rain wanted." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Hooker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) March 26th. **BRABANT**: "The drought is getting serious." **DEMERARA**: "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain much wanted." **MARCH 30th**. "Heavy showers beneficial to the cultivation in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.) **MARCH 31st**. "Dry weather still continues." **JAMAICA** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended March 22nd. **PORT ANTONIO**: "15th to 21st, fine." **Kingston**: "fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. C. E. Down) April 1st
Barbados—Mr. A. C. Kelway, Rev. and Mrs. H. Patten, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. James, Miss James, Miss Huxill, Mr. T. Mason, Mr. J. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Pitts, Miss Pitts. **Demerara**—Mr. de La Mariniere, Mrs. J. Derkim, Mr. T. Dalzell, Mr. A. Campbell, Mr. J. Smith, Mrs. Henrick. **Jamaica**—Miss Gummerman, Miss Brand, Mr. F. Smithson, Mr. and Mrs. Riley, the Earl of Cork and Orery, Mr. J. N. Bailey, Miss Wright, Mrs. Parsons, Mr. C. Dow, Mr. Parkes. **Trinidad**—Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Dr. and Mrs. Hall, Rev. P. M. Playfair, Mr. Roberts, Mr. J. S. Roberts, Mr. G. Winch, Mr. E. Winch, Mr. and Mrs. Smithart, Rev. Fawcett, Mr. G. Young, Mr. A. B. Cunningham, Mr. A. F. Sarracino, July, Mr. B. Westendorff, Mr. F. Wilson, Mrs. Nelson, Mr. Henderson, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brown, Mr. Fisher, Mr. F. M. Fry, Mr. C. Page, Mr. A. V. Stollmeyer, Rev. J. T. Farnall, Miss de Lamoignon, Mr. and Mrs. Kullala, Prior, Mr. S. Berger, the Earl and Countess of Lindsay, Lady Marjot Bertie, Mrs. Butler, Very Rev. Canon Scott, Hon. Mrs. French. **Antigua**—Mr. G. O. Nugent.

BAILINGS per R.M.S. "Trant" (Capt. A. P. Dix) April 5th—Mr., Mrs. and Miss Frost Young, Mr. D. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Grinnam, Sir H. Fitzherbert, Mr. R. Fitzherbert, Miss Kouch, Major Lombe, Miss E. M. Harford, Mrs. Hopkins, Mr. E. Hargrave, Mr. E. Godfrey, Mr. P. J. Cuthbert, Mr. A. Atkins, Mr. C. Borchardt, Mr. E. Kuhlman, Mr. R. J. Jones, Mr. C. C. Meyendorff, Mr. J. Boulcott, Mr. J. Hoyle, Mr. H. Bessworth, Miss Hartmann, Mr. A. B. Dwyer, Mrs. McMillan, Mr. S. Carter, Dr. R. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Schmullin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiswar, Mr. W. T. Lawson, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. H. Bernard, Mr. J. Morrell, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Barreto, Mr. E. Kromer, Mrs. and Miss Cribb, Mr. and Mrs. Gayler, Mr. Curyat, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Shaw, Mr. T. Turner, Mr. V. Haysard, Mr. W. Ashmore, Mr. J. Lees, Mr. E. Shorman, Mr. R. Eppelt, Mr. W. Dickinson, Mr. G. Payne, Mr. G. W. Martins, Mr. J. F. Brown. His Excellency Sir D. Ricardo de Larios, Mr. Weskes, Mr. W. L. Bennett.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Captain J. G. Parsons) March 26th—**Jamaica**—Sir W. and Lady Acland, Miss Atterwood, Miss Anderson, Maj. Barlow, Miss Barber, Mr. C. C. Bennett, Mr. F. G. Baker, Miss Benson, Mr. E. W. Bellhouse, Mrs. Cleaver, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Mr. H. A. Hood Daniel, Mr. Dunt, Mr. J. J. D'Arcy, Miss M. Dunlop Han, J. Kamran, Mr. D. Estes, Mrs. Foster, Miss G. Gould, Lord F. Hamilton, Mr. Hinchey, Mr. C. M. Hall, Miss Hay, Miss G. M. Hingley, Mr. G. E. Henderson, Capt. and Mrs. Humphreys, Earl and Countess of Lathom, Mr. and Mrs. Leo P. Lopez, Mrs. Lova, Mr. and Mrs. Leighton, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mr. C. McCulloch, Rev. E. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Munn, Miss Munn, Mr. Nicholls, Mrs. Parish, Mr. H. Pwter, Mr. A. C. Paro, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, Miss Pearson, Mrs. Foster, Miss Van

Quincy, Mrs. Ruston, Mr. Roberts, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Capt. and Mrs. J. W. Rodgers, Mrs. M. C. Solomon, Miss Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Silcock, Miss Spoones, Com. and Mrs. Shuckburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Stokes, Miss Spence, Miss Salveson, Mr. C. Turner, Mr. and Miss Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Venner, Mr. and Mrs. Vesey, Maj. Wingfield, Mr. H. C. White, Mr. and Mrs. Wyndham, Mr. W. Wilson, Mr. V. Wilson, Mr. F. Winslow, Mr. C. L. Wingrove, Mr. Jas. Arundel, Mr. Capern.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), March 24th:—Jamaica—Miss A. Archer, Mr. J. Bacon, Mr. F. B. Cox, Rev. and Mrs. J. Craig, Mr. H. W. Hunt, Miss MacDonald, Mr. H. Peake, Lieut. G. R. Panton, Mr. W. J. Phillips, Mr. D. T. S. Robertson, Mr. M. Silvers, Mr. W. Sherlock, Mr. Thomson, Jun.

Mail Arrangements.

A Welcome Alteration.

In our last issue we announced that the day of departure of the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had been altered to Thursday, five days later than heretofore. Alterations have now also been made in the date of sailing of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Company's Direct Line. The steamers of this line will leave London and Dartmouth in the weeks intervening between the Royal Mail sailings. Thus, the next sailing of the Direct Line will be from London on April 12th and from Dartmouth on the night of April 13th. Only mails for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara (including correspondence for Dutch and French Guiana) will be sent by this route. Letter and newspaper mails will be made up in London early in the afternoon of alternate Fridays and correspondence from the provinces reaching London by midday on the dates of despatch will be in time for these mails. Parcel mails for the places named will be made up in London on alternate Fridays, beginning on April 13th, and will include parcels received from the provinces on the morning of despatch. The letter and newspaper mails by the Royal Mail route will close in London at midnight on alternate Wednesdays. Correspondence posted in provincial towns for the night mails on Wednesday will be in time for the mail. Parcel mails for his route will be made up in London on alternate Wednesday mornings, beginning this morning, and will include parcels received from the Provinces by the night mail of Tuesday.

A Joint W.I. Cargo Service.

It is announced that the lines of West India cargo steamers, hitherto separately worked by Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co., of London, Messrs. Proutice, Service & Henderson, of Glasgow, and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from London, Hull and Glasgow, will in future be run as a joint service. The sailings from London will be fortnightly from Glasgow every three weeks, and from Hull as circumstances require.

Another New Route to Jamaica.

There will, in addition, be a new service of cargo steamers run jointly by these three companies from London direct to Antigua, and thence to Montserrat, St. Kitts, Jamaica, and the Pacific ports. This will give the advantage of communication between Jamaica and St. Kitts in four days.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Lon.
April 5	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	April 4, mdn't
" 7	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 6, 6 p.m.
" 12	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Texas"	" 12, mdn't
" 13	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Serrana"	" 12, mdn't
" 19	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"	" 18, mdn't.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
April 11	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"
" 14	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to March 12 1905	1905	April 1 to March 4 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to March 16 1905	1905	Jan. 1 to March 16 1905	1905
Sugar	22,020	20,461 Tons.	10,606	9,141 Tons.	121,629	124,974 Bbls. & Pkts.	168	122 Bbls.
Molasses	86	1555 Pkts.	—	—	1	47 Tons.	—	—
Rum	6511	4106 "	934,856	1,112,061 Gals.	2	294 Pkts.	—	—
Molasses	2374	2497 Tons.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa	1300	— lbs.	99,558	27,083 Cwts.	6,734,770	8,425,795 lbs.	21,201	15,211 Bbls.
Coffee	—	—	73,260	48,468 "	580	10,850 "	—	—
Coconuts	16,008	189,505	6,706,629	1,457,243	2,501,850	2,508,250	—	—
Coira	—	—	—	—	7100	2543 Bales	—	—
Cotton	—	—	13,277	10,542 lbs.	—	—	—	—
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphalt	—	—	—	—	20,512	24,245 Tons.	—	—
Oranges	—	—	71,095,693	76,082,541	—	—	—	—
Bananas	—	—	13,731,147	8,042,716 Bchs.	—	—	—	—
Pimento	—	—	87,716	238,590 cwts.	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	—	1137	248 Bbls.
Cold	16,213	17,390 cwt.	—	—	—	—	229	320 Bbls.
Diamonds	325	1649 carats	—	—	—	—	150	229 Cases
							64	131 Bales

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR. F. O. Licht's Consumption, Sept./Feb., 6 months.

	1905/6.	1904/5	1903/4	Tons
Germany	550,000	410,000	590,000	
Austria	450,000	220,000	260,000	
France	330,000	330,000	450,000	
Holland and Belgium	90,000	100,000	110,000	
Total	1,220,000	1,130,000	1,410,000	

F. O. Licht's Estimates of Crops.

	1905/6.	1904/5.	1903/4	Tons
Convention Europe	8,500,000	3,420,000	4,220,000	
Other Countries	7,410,000	1,280,000	1,640,000	
Total	6,970,000	4,700,000	5,850,000	

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st March, even dates.

	1906	1905	1904	Tons
Convention Europe	3,540,000	2,320,000	3,230,000	
United States, Cuba, and afloat	400,000	430,000	390,000	
Total	3,940,000	2,750,000	3,620,000	

Writing about sugar has been a thankless task for the last twelve months, as with the exception of temporary upward movements in the price of 88% beet, always of insignificant importance, the tendency in prices has been consistently downwards, and all of us are hoping that the bottom has been somewhere about reached, although this is far from assured. The constantly deferred to over-production of beet has caused all the mischief, and what is now wanted is a large curtailment in sowings and an unfavourable summer for the growing of the roots. With regard to the former there seems to be little hope, except possibly in France whose crop this season is about 1,000,000 tons against about 4,500,000 tons in the rest of Convention Europe. As to the weather, who can tell what that will be. This is the one and only real question that will decide the course of prices for the next twelve months. Consumption may do something, but there is a lot for it to do with the heavy stocks printed above.

The moment's quotations of 88% beet are:—April, 8s 4½d. May, 8s 5½d. August, 8s 7½d. and Oct-Dec 8s 4½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	3,510,000	2,370,000	3,200,000	3,030,000	3,150,000	
United States	210,000	250,000	130,000	100,000	110,000	
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	230,000	300,000	300,000	350,000	380,000	
Total	3,950,000	2,920,000	3,630,000	3,570,000	3,670,000	

Quotations of 88% Beet:—

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—With the general flatness in all Markets there has been less doing of late in yellow crystal

lied, and our buyers still continue their hard to mouth policy. As Importers are not pressing sales, prices remain unchanged, viz 14s for inferior grades, up to 16s 6d for small quantities of fine sugar, average qualities being nominally worth 14s 9d. For 90 test to Refiners, 9s 6d on floating terms is about the present value.

Molasses Sugar.—Is slow from 12s. to 15s according to quality, and for 84 test on floating terms, about 7s 7d.

Muscovado.—Small lots of fine grocery are realising fancy prices. The value of fair grocery Barbados is about 12s, and of 84 test to Refiners about 8s 3d on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Imports	11,000	9,000	9,000	4,000	9,000	
Deliveries	10,000	9,000	11,000	11,000	10,000	
Stocks	13,000	9,000	10,000	22,000	20,000	
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	14s. 9d.	21s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 9d.	15s. 3d.	
Rum. Stocks in London	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Jamaica	5500	6500	7300	8000	8500	
Demerara	10,400	1,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	
Total of all kinds	22,400	10,500	28,500	18,000	28,500	

Business in Demerara continues suspended and our buyers are full of complaints about the absence of trade, which is patent to all those who are conversant with the state of the licensed trade. Quotations are entirely nominal and had best be left unrecorded. Jamaica is unchanged at 2s 1d for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other good kinds remain nominal.

Cocoa. Stocks in London

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Bags
Trinidad	43,900	17,400	15,000	14,000	14,000	
Grenada	9700	14,900	16,000	16,000	16,700	
Total of all kinds	53,600	32,300	31,000	30,000	30,700	

In prices there is no alteration, but the tone of the Market is quiet. For qualities from 45s to 51s there is a fairly good demand, but above this range sales can only be made in retail. The winter is passing away, and with the warm season approaching, the use of cocoa does not generally increase. The present quotations remain. Trinidad fair collected, commands 45s and fermented 48s. to 51s. Grenada fair 47s, and fermented 49s to 52s. From other Islands fair Native

Coffee—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Easier. Sales of West India include 72's at 10 5d. 74's at 10 7½d. 76's at 10 9d. 78's at 10 11d. 80's at 11 1d. 82's at 11 3d. 84's at 11 5d. 86's at 11 7d. 88's at 11 9d. 90's at 11 11d. 92's at 12 1d. 94's at 12 3d. 96's at 12 5d. 98's at 12 7d. 100's at 12 9d. 102's at 12 11d. 104's at 13 1d. 106's at 13 3d. 108's at 13 5d. 110's at 13 7d. 112's at 13 9d. 114's at 13 11d. 116's at 14 1d. 118's at 14 3d. 120's at 14 5d. 122's at 14 7d. 124's at 14 9d. 126's at 14 11d. 128's at 15 1d. 130's at 15 3d. 132's at 15 5d. 134's at 15 7d. 136's at 15 9d. 138's at 15 11d. 140's at 16 1d. 142's at 16 3d. 144's at 16 5d. 146's at 16 7d. 148's at 16 9d. 150's at 16 11d. 152's at 17 1d. 154's at 17 3d. 156's at 17 5d. 158's at 17 7d. 160's at 17 9d. 162's at 17 11d. 164's at 18 1d. 166's at 18 3d. 168's at 18 5d. 170's at 18 7d. 172's at 18 9d. 174's at 18 11d. 176's at 19 1d. 178's at 19 3d. 180's at 19 5d. 182's at 19 7d. 184's at 19 9d. 186's at 19 11d. 188's at 20 1d. 190's at 20 3d. 192's at 20 5d. 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West India Committee Circular

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THE views of the West Indian Colonies have been invited through the Hon. Correspondents of the West India Committee, regarding the desirability of taking part in the two exhibitions known as the Confectioners' and Grocers' Exhibitions in 1907. These exhibitions, which are held annually, are fully recognised by the trades with which their names are identified, and attract a large number of visitors and abundant notice by the Press. The managers of the exhibitions have offered to the West India Committee the whole of the Minor Hall of the Agricultural Hall, with a superficial area of 12,000 square feet, free of charge. The exhibitions are held from September 7th to 14th and September 21st to 28th respectively, and exhibitors will be allowed to take possession on August 28th, 1907, and exhibits will have to be removed on October 1st. The Minor Hall was occupied in 1904 at these two exhibitions by the Canadian Government, who reported that they were well satisfied at the result. This year it has been reserved for the Agent-General of Victoria. We are pleased to be able to say that the proposal that the West Indies should take part has been favourably received by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, who suggests that the details might be considered when he returns to this country, as he hopes to do, later in the year. Meanwhile, we would ask our friends in the Colonies to consider the matter and to decide whether they wish to participate.

The Annual Meeting.

Members of the West India Committee are informed that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the West India Committee Rooms at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 17th.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, April 5th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
WILLIAM MACDONALD (British Guiana)	A. Summerson	E. R. Davson
JAMES GILLESPIE (British Guiana)	Hon. B. Howell Jones	S. A. H. Culpeper
R. E. HARVEY	F. N. Martinez	F. I. Scard
A. H. PEARCE	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	F. I. Scard
A. HUNT (St. Lucia)	Hon. F. Du Boulay	Hon. S. D. Melville
R. H. B. HOTCHKIN (Jamaica)	Hon. Oscar Marescaux	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
CHARLES T. HUNTER (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.

Full particulars regarding membership and application forms for candidates can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Petroleum in Trinidad.

We hope that there will be a good attendance at the West India Committee Rooms at 4 o'clock on Thursday, April 26th, when Mr. Randolph Rust will deliver his lecture on Petroleum in Trinidad. It is generally recognised that the petroleum industry is likely to be one of great importance to Trinidad, and Mr. Rust's statements regarding it will be awaited with much interest. *The tickets are now ready and can be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary to the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.*

A Hundred Years Ago.

The Bread Fruit Tree in the West Indies.

In the Bulletin of the Jamaica Department of Agriculture for February, a short note is given regarding Stephen Fuller, the Agent for Jamaica from 1765 to 1795, and an interesting letter from him is published referring to the Bread Fruit trees which were then (1795) in fruit in Jamaica for the first time. He asked that samples of the fruit might be sent home for presentation to the King, who had taken great interest in its introduction into that Island, and by whose authority Admiral Bligh in 1791 had conveyed plants from Oahu. The first step, however, in the direction of introducing this valuable food tree into the West Indies was taken by the West India Committee in 1775. At the meeting of February 7th in that year, Mr. Beeston Long being in the chair, and Mr. Fuller also present, a letter was read from a Mr. George Walker to the chairman—

"Relative to the introduction into England of the Bread Fruit Tree and Mangosteen from the East Indies, in order for their being sent over and propagated in the West Indies"

And 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."

At the following meeting on March 7th it was further resolved—

"That if any Commander 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."

This did not, however, effect the desired object, and it was only through the personal interest of the King in the matter, as mentioned in the Jamaica Bulletin, that Jamaica became possessed of this valuable tree, the cultivation of which was rapidly extended throughout the West Indies.

The Question of a Rum Standard.

Professor P. Carmody, the Government Analyst of Trinidad, Mr. J. C. Nolan, the Commissioner of Jamaica for Rum Prosecutions, and Mr. E. I. Scard, late President of the Agricultural Society of British Guiana, attended the fortnightly meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, April 5th, when a discussion took place regarding the recent rum prosecutions and the question of the standardisation of rum. Sir Neville Lubbock presided, and those present were:—Mr. George Carrington, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. William Gillespie, Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. Arthur McConnell, Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., Mr. H. P. Previté, Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. A. Trotter, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Secretary).

Sir Neville Lubbock said that the object of the West India Committee was to promote the interests of the West Indies generally, and they could not take up a position in favour of one Colony if it prejudiced the welfare of others. It had been put forward that rum from the West Indies and Demerara had no right to be called rum when it was made in patent stills.

Mr. Nolan said that of course he had no interest in any Island except Jamaica alone. His prosecutions were under the Merchandise Marks Act. What he wished to impress was that the Medical Health Authorities had decided that any spirit made in a patent still was not entitled to the name or designation of whisky, brandy or rum. So far as a standard was concerned, he himself, personally, speaking as a Jamaica planter, thought it was most desirable and necessary that Jamaica should have a standard, for the reason that the Island rum was the best in the world, and should occupy the same position as best Highland malt whisky, and best Irish whisky, that is, the best malt whisky made in a pot still.

Sir Neville Lubbock said that he felt sure that the West India Committee would never be party to a decision that rum made in patent stills was not rum, and that if the Public Health Department erred on this point it would be the duty of the Committee to put them right.

Mr. Nolan having stated that the amount of ethers in Jamaica rum varied from 75 to 1200, and that the variation in public-house rums would be about 150 to 400—

Sir Nevile Lubbock asked what the position of the unfortunate planter whose rums standardise at 150 would be if a standard of 200 were adopted. Mr. de Pass replied that low ether rums are preferred in Jamaica and consumed locally.

Mr. Nolan added that the loss to those Jamaica people who would be prohibited from exporting some of their rums would be infinitesimal compared with the gain, as Jamaica would be able to keep up the reputation which she had held for so many years. He continued that rum from any other countries was not supposed to be sold under the name Jamaica rum, and rums from America, Germany, and other places must be called imitation rum. It was the practice to vat other rums and sell them as Jamaica. Rums were vatted, that is Jamaica and inferior rums were blended, and this mixture was put into the original puncheons which came from Jamaica and put on the market as "Jamaica rum." He was strongly opposed to this practice.

Mr. Scard asked what would happen if the mean of such a mixture came to 200 ethers, and Mr. Nolan said that the Merchandise Marks Act would then be applied. Sir Nevile thought this at once showed the want of any necessity for a standard. Mr. Nolan admitted that the standard was only good for Jamaica, and would not suit the low ethers.

Sir Nevile Lubbock pointed out that there was no desire to justify Demerara and Trinidad rum being sold as Jamaica, but what was wanted was to benefit rum generally.

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., asked whether in the event of a standard being set up all the retailers would not stop using the name "Jamaica" for fear of risk.

Mr. Nolan said that public-houses had put up more notices of "Jamaica rum" since the prosecutions than they had done previously.

Sir Nevile said that everyone present admitted that a standard was not to the advantage of the West Indies generally, even if it was to Jamaica, and he could not see that it was any advantage to Jamaica, although that was a matter for the Colony itself to decide. With regard to Demerara and Trinidad, there was an objection to starting a standard, because it gave rise to the impression that the quality of rum depended on the ethers.

Mr. Nolan pointed out that Jamaica rum was not a secondary product, as was the case in the other Colonies; it was more important than the sugar. The stuff from which the rum was made was quite as important as the way it was made.

Professor Carmody said that as regards the question as to whether the substance was to be called rum when made from a patent or pot still, he was sure that Mr. Nolan's position was untenable. It would be quite impossible to say that rum made in a patent still was a different thing from rum made in a pot still, and it was even very hard to draw a line between the various forms of stills. He did not think that any analyst would agree to define rum other than as a spirit made from cane juice in some form, by whatever means it might be made. Speaking generally there were always objections to standards, as a standard must be a low one, and that opened the way for adulteration. The practice in this country had been all along not to fix legal standards, and although they were doing it in America it was only slowly, and with substances upon which analysts generally were agreed as to standards. The other question was as to whether Jamaica planters should fix a standard for rum. If they did so, it should be on their own responsibility, and it would be unwise for the West India Committee to endorse any standard they might propose. Let Jamaica see how the standard worked, and if it were unsatisfactory it could be dropped, without the Committee being asked to take part in the proposals. Among analysts there was yet a great deal of uncertainty with regard to this standard based on ethers, and he thought it was early to propose making a standard dependent upon ethers, but if it were done Jamaica should adopt it alone and on her own responsibility.

Sir Nevile said he thought that the West India Committee should adopt Professor Carmody's point of view, and state what their objections were to a standard, but let the responsibility rest with Jamaica if that Colony decided to adopt one. He was of opinion that the reason for the superiority of Jamaica rum was not the way in which it was made, but the fact that it was made from cane juice, whereas in Demerara and Trinidad the object was to extract first as much sugar from the cane juice as possible before the rum was made.

Mr. Nolan intimated that no immediate steps would be taken by him in connection with a standard until the views of Jamaica were known, and that meanwhile he would continue the prosecutions under the Merchandise Marks Act.

The Sugar Industry in Guadeloupe.

From the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* we gather that efforts are being made to establish the cultivation of cotton and coffee in Guadeloupe. Mr. Longues, speaking on the subject of sugar having been the only cultivation in that island, says: "Our sugar is competed against in the whole world; every year it is produced under improvements in machinery, but we have never been able to raise the necessary funds to transform our plants, whence it happens that we are always at the same point." Mr. Longues' statement corroborates in a forcible manner the argument over and over again maintained in these Colonies that the system of direct bounties to the Colonial manufacture of sugar has not been profited enough by the planters to provide improved sugar machinery. Mr. Longues sees no other way out of the difficulty than to obtain the help of the Bank of Guadeloupe. In connection with this the Bank points out the anomaly of the Colony making its principal industry pay in the form of export tax, a tax which will amount to more than 700,000 frs., when the industry is condemned to lose 4 to 5 frs. per 100 kilos. of sugar. The Bank has pointed out in addition what the *Courrier de Guadeloupe* reports as the necessity for planters to claim from Parliament and the Brussels Commission, by increase of the distance rebate, the equivalent treatment which has always been promised them, but which has never yet been given them. The export tax amounting to 1.80 fr. per 100 kilos., our contemporary estimates that by the revision of half of this tax and an "equitable increase" in the distance rebate, the planters would release a "plus value" of more than 4 frs. per 100 kilos. of sugar. The Bank consented to finance the factories up to the end of February. From all accounts the sugar industry in the French West Indies appears to be in a critical condition.

Sugar Work in Queensland.

We are indebted to the *Mackay Daily Mercury* for a summary of the fifth annual report of Dr. Maxwell, the Director of the Queensland Sugar Experiment Station. The laboratory work included the analysis of 9349 samples of soils, waters, manures, limes, canes, sugars and molasses. Any canes properly sampled were analysed for the general public free of charge, and during the crop season these had priority over other work. In addition to the general supervision of the Experiment Station, Dr. Maxwell had direct charge of six central mills, and the work of sugar district inspector had to be largely carried out by the assistant director, Mr. Anderssen. A considerable number of the best varieties of known canes had been distributed among planters for experimental cultivation, and new varieties were still being introduced. The report on the Mackay Experimental Station mentions that "attention is being given to the question of raising cane from seed, and attempts are being made in order to force the best varieties growing on the estate to produce fertile seed," which points to the seedling cane work being considerably behind that in the West Indies. The cane returns at the sub-stations, as compared with the estates, were, per acre:—

	1904.	1905.	Mean.
Sub-station results	23.9	25.3	25.1 tons
Ordinary cultivation	14.7	13.1	13.9

which appears to be an exceptionally poor return for the ordinary cultivation. The total value of the crop was estimated at £2,276,027. The impression formed by the report is that in the five years during which the Department has been in operation, a large amount of valuable work has been done for the agricultural and technical part of the Queensland sugar industry.

Our Friends in Parliament.

Mr. David McIver, M.P., Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., and Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., were entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club at the Imperial Restaurant on Friday, April 6th. Sir Neville Lubbock presided, and amongst those present were: Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. A. E. Aspinall, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. P. P. Bacon, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. T. Berthon, Mr. G. E. N. Booker, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. C. Czarnikow, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. F. de Pass, Mr. H. de Pass, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. Albert Eugster, Mr. A. G. Evans, Mr. A. H. Etherington, Mr. H. W. Carr-Gomm, M.P., Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. R. P. Goffe, Mr. H. Harper, Mr. E. A. Hay, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. G. J. Johnson, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. F. N. Martinez, Mr. A. E. Messor, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. W. J. Pearson, Mr. E. G. Perne, Mr. A. G. V. Perkins, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. H. F. Previtc, Mr. J. Rippon, Dr. G. H. Rodman, Mr. R. Rust, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Rear-Admiral Hector Stewart, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. W. Thorn, Mr. W. K. Webster, Mr. J. S. Westwood, and Mr. J. H. Wilkinson. The Chairman, proposing the healths of the guests of the evening, expressed the hope that as the Session progressed an increasing number of

Members of Parliament would take an interest in West Indian affairs, and that a small party would be got together similar to that which they had in the last House of Commons. There still remained many matters concerning the West Indies which merited the attention of our Legislatures. Mr. D. Melver, who responded, urged that Colonial considerations should be entirely removed from the sphere of party politics. Mr. Messer submitted the toast, "Prosperity to our West Indian Colonies," and observed that apart from their staple industry, there was a matter which would materially affect the prosperity of the West Indies, and that was the construction of the Panama Canal. The completion of that work would result in converting some of the Islands from mere positions in a *cul de sac* to strategic points in the greatest waterway in the world, the importance of which it was impossible to over-estimate. He did not believe that the West Indian possessions could be federated into one colony for administrative purposes, but they might act more in co-operation.

Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., having replied, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., in proposing the health of the chairman, said that Jamaica would of necessity be the key of the Panama Canal, and he could not therefore understand why this country should have abandoned the coaling station it had there. In the present circumstances the number of coaling stations in that part of the world should be increased rather than diminished.

Mr. Winston Churchill and the Sugar Convention.

In our last issue we gave the text of a reply by Mr. Winston Churchill in the House of Commons to a question asked by Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, in which he said that it was necessary to remember that the conclusive argument against the Sugar Convention was the widespread loss and injury inflicted upon British commerce and the British manufacturer. At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, April 5th, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"That this Committee affirms that the Brussels Convention has had, and can have, no other effect than that consequent upon the cessation of bounties, and therefore emphatically denies the allegation in the reply of Mr. Winston Churchill in the House of Commons on the 2nd inst. to a question by Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, that the Convention had benefited the West Indies at the expense of widespread loss and injury inflicted upon British commerce and manufactures; on the contrary, this Committee affirms that the final abolition of all bounties, whether by convention, legislation, or otherwise, is an absolute and general benefit and security to British commerce and manufacture, and above all to British labour."

Cane Farming in Mauritius.

In our issue of January 5th last we made some reference to a suggestion of Sir Henry Moore Jackson, the Governor of Trinidad, that the system of cane farming prevailing in Mauritius, Fiji and Hawaii, might prove adaptable to Trinidad. In this connection the following notes for which we are indebted to Mr. George W. Malcolm, of Mauritius, will be of interest.

Cane farming is carried out on a large scale in Mauritius, a very great proportion—probably half—of the whole crop of the Island being grown in this way. Farmers may be classed as follows: (A) Whole estates, whose owners have closed down their usines; (B) Private individuals (Mauritian planters) or partnerships, who have either bought or leased comparatively large tracts of land; (C) "Morcellement" planters, who have not finished paying for their land. "Morcellement" means the parcelling out of whole or part of an estate in small lots to Indians on yearly payments, the original owners taking the canes if they have a factory until the whole price of the land with interest at 9 per cent. per annum is paid off. If they have not a factory they usually reserve the right to order the planter to sell his canes (at current rates) where they think fit, and thus keep control of the sales, to secure themselves; (D) Morcellement planters whose land has become their own, and other small proprietors; (E) Planters who grow cane on estate land for their own account.

Class A generally contract for some years at a time with a neighbouring factory to which they are connected by a light railway or by sidings through the Government railway. Payment is usually made by handing over from 65 to 70 lbs. of all sugars (in the proportion turned out by the factory), delivered in Port Louis, to the farmer, who sells it himself, for every 1000 lbs. of cane supplied, delivered at the cane carrier or at some point on the estates light railway. This is equal to about 70 per cent. of the total sugar extracted by the factory from the bought canes, the rest is kept. In other cases the factory sells all the sugar, and pays the farmer a sum equivalent to the above proportion of sugar sold at the average price realised by the factory for their crop. Advances are made,

and a general settlement takes place after crop. Again, some contracts are made at fixed prices per 1000 lbs. of cane, increasing, however, with a rise, and decreasing with a fall in the price realised for sugar, upon a basis previously determined, practically a sliding scale.

Class *B* works in the same way and Class *C* has already been explained above.

Class *D* deals in various ways. Many who are independent and can cultivate their cane without financial assistance, wait till crop begins and then sell to the highest bidder. As a rule these men will not cut a cane until every factory anywhere near them has started grinding. Others not so rich have to seek assistance for guano, etc., and generally get it from the factory that passes their cane, binding themselves to send all their crop there, either at current rates or at a previously fixed price. "Current" rates are those at which cane is sold in the open market during crop in any particular locality, and vary considerably between Rs. 4.50 and Rs. 6.00 per 1000 lbs. of cane cut and delivered. Prices run low at the beginning of crop, but competition soon gets very keen, and up they go to the great joy of the planters. Large sums of money are thus advanced every year to the planters, so that until the cyclone season is over mill owners are exposed to considerable risks. Competition for these independent planters' canes is very keen. Factories put up weighbridges at all stations where the Government railway taps the small planters' districts, and bid against each other, beginning early in the year, making advances, contracts, etc. No less than five weighbridges were going last crop at the station where the writer takes the train every morning, all bidding against each other. Canes run up to prices that cannot possibly pay mill owners, and one wonders why a little mutual understanding and limitation of districts for each factory could not be introduced. Not long ago A wanted more cane; he promptly set up a weighbridge at B's station, fifteen miles away. B immediately retaliated by setting one up at A's station, and these two bought large quantities of cane in each other's district, and kept the railway busily and profitably employed carrying them. Of course, the sole beneficiaries are the planters and the railway.

Class *E*.—Estates owning factories loan land to Indians who cultivate it for their own account. They get advances of guano, etc., and are obliged to pass their canes at the factory, receiving current rates minus about Rs. 0.50 per 1000 lbs. of cane in lieu of rent; the land remains the property of the estate.

Mauritius is in many ways admirably adapted for cane farming. The main line of the Government railways runs through most of the cane districts and sidings are numerous. Many factories own sidings connecting the main line right up to their cane carriers, so canes brought at the various stations arrive at the carrier without any double handling in trucks holding from fifteen to twenty tons. In 1903 when "surra" annihilated the oxen and mules, nearly every estate put down light railways; many have put down weighbridges at central points and carry bought cane on their own lines to the carrier at very low cost. The small farmers thrive, engaged labourers save, and after a few years finish their engagements and take up land. They build a hut on it, and the combined labour of the family cultivates the cane without any outlay. Many also buy a mule or an ox, and a cart, and in addition to carrying cane and goods, make their own manure. Enormous numbers of Indians have thus become farmers, and scarcity of labour is the result. Very few Creoles are engaged in this business. As a rule they are too hopelessly lazy and thriftless ever to do any good in that line.

How to Test Demerara Sugar.

Under the title "The Adulteration of Foodstuffs," Mr. J. Brierly, borough analyst, delivered a technical lecture at Southampton on March 30th. In the course of his remarks he said, according to the *Grocer*, that if they had any suspected articles before them let them taste, touch, smell, and observe them, and by those means in numerous cases they would be able to satisfy themselves as to whether adulteration had taken place or not. Let them take, for instance, the case of common yellow sugar, known as yellow crystals. There were really no chemical differences between those crystals and Demerara or Trinidad sugar, which was produced from the cane. It was in the manufacture where the difference existed. Yellow crystals were made from beetroots, and with the sugar derived from the beet was associated several materials which it was absolutely necessary to remove before the sugar could be put upon the market. In order to effect this removal, the sugar had to be very highly refined, and could only be turned out in that condition colourless, and they knew that a colourless substance could not possibly be sold as Demerara sugar. Between the yellow crystals and the ordinary sugar there were several differences. In the first place, as he had mentioned, the sugar was always associated with the syrup from which it was made; therefore the syrup in the cane sugars was absent from the crystals, and they would find that if they took up a quantity of Demerara sugar in their hand and pressed it in the same manner as they would when making a snowball, they would find that the particles became more or less cohesive,

and would adhere to each other. In the crystals the syrup was not present, and therefore they would not stick together, and consequently one indication of a distinction between yellow crystals and the other sugar was obtained simply by ascertaining whether the syrup was or was not present. Another distinction would be found if they placed samples of both in water and warmed them afterwards, noting the difference in the odours. Thus they would see the necessity of cultivating their powers of observation, and he might tell them that if they were going through an examination to qualify as a chemist and druggist, they would find that one of the most important parts of the examination, and the one most likely to floor them, depended upon the education of the senses, because there was always one test in which a number of chemicals were placed before them in bottles, which they were allowed to examine, smell, feel, and taste—at their own risk—and their success would then depend simply and solely as to whether they had educated their senses, and were thus able to name and classify those poisons and chemicals by means of them. A smart grocer, by similar means, would not only be able to tell them what were yellow crystals and what was Demerara, but he would also be able to tell them if he had a mixture of the two. He wished to impress upon them the necessity for not only using their powers of observation with regard to sugar, but also with regard to starches.

Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

At the sixth congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, to be held in London at the Grocers' Hall, from July 10th to 13th next, several resolutions of interest to West Indians will be brought forward. The Montreal Board of Trade has on the agenda a motion that the Imperial Government be approached to devise means whereby cable and telegraphic news from all parts of the British Empire shall be furnished entirely through British channels, and the same Chamber will urge that lines of steamships shall be secured and retained for the provision of fast mail services and the development and control of trade between the Mother Country and her possessions, and between the Colonies themselves. The Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown, Demerara, will bring forward a resolution on the subject of the rum surtax.

A Cotton Commission.

A Cotton Commission, which consists of Messrs. H. W. Macalister, Hy. P. Greg (Ashton Bros. and Company, Ltd.), W. J. Orr, Thos. D. Barlow (Barlow and Jones, Limited), G. Lennard Bolden (Calico Printers' Association), and Geo. Moores, F.S.S., sailed recently for Boston. Their primary aim is to ascertain how cotton is grown, and to examine the processes which fit it for the market. In doing this they will obtain a good idea of the fair value to which the planter is entitled and their own practical experience may be of service in showing not only how the cotton should be baled and handled, but how expense of transit may be reduced. In this connection no doubt the advantages offered by direct shipments to Manchester will be impressed on the sellers. It is significant that the New England mills will probably send representatives to the cotton fields in company with the Commission. The cotton industry of Lancashire boasts, with good cause, that it is the best organised trade in the world. The attempt to reconcile Continental and British interests has also met with considerable success, one result being a fillip to cotton growing throughout the world. Still for some time, the United States must remain the great source of supply, and if some scheme can be devised whereby the Southern planters obtain an adequate return for their ventures, while spinners, etc., secure freedom from the cotton gambler, the labours of the Lancashire Commission will not have been in vain.—*Cotton*.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Thurs., April 5th.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent" left for the West Indies.—Mr. J. C. Nolan and Professor Carmody attended a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—Prince Bülow taken suddenly ill in the Reichstag.—Bank rate reduced from 4 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ %.—88 % Beet, 8/6 quiet.
- Fri., April 6th.—West Indian Club dinner to several Members of Parliament.—Beet 8/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ quiet.
- Sat., April 7th.—Morocco Conference ended. Agreement signed at Algéiras.—Article in the *Statist* on the Sugar Convention and the Sugar Trade.—Cambridge won the boat race by $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.—Beet 8/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ steady.
- Sun., April 8th.—Eruption of Vesuvius assumed serious proportions.
- Mon., April 9th.—Education Bill introduced into the House of Commons.—Trinidad-Demerara cable interrupted.—Beet 8/0 steady.
- Tues., April 10th.—The Archbishop of Canterbury condemned the Government's Education Bill.—Collapse of a Market in Naples, owing to weight of ashes from Vesuvius.—Beet 8/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ easier.
- Wed., April 11th.—Beet morning call 8/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ steady.

Notes of Interest.

BUBBLES. Among the alleged sufferers from the Sugar Convention is the mineral water industry. Presiding over the general meeting of Schweppes, Ltd., Mr. C. D. Kemp Welch, himself, by the way, a West Indian proprietor, said the accounts showed continued prosperity, increased sales and an augmented profit.

COLONIAL EXHIBITION, 1906. We regret that through an oversight the name of Mr. C. J. Davis, Montego Bay, Jamaica, was omitted from the list of recipients of awards at last year's Colonial Exhibition. Mr. C. J. Davis obtained a diploma for a gold medal for a violin which he constructed himself. The instrument was made from the timber of a chapel in Jamaica.

COTTON INDUSTRY. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland report that there is a continuance of the good demand for Sea Island descriptions of cotton at firm prices, all offerings of desirable qualities being readily taken. The sales include Barbados Cotton from 15d. @ 18½d., St. Vincent, 17d. @ 19d., St. Kitts, 14½d. @ 17d., Antigua, 15d. @ 19d., Nevis, 14½d., and Montserrat, 14½d. The buyers of qualities over 16d. per lb., having a limited consumption, have generally supplied their requirements, and there will probably not be much further demand for extra qualities.

Our Library.

The Agricultural News, Vol. V., No. 102, March 17th, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d. This issue has a leading article on the "Education of the Estate Overseer" in scientific branches, which is calculated to be of use to him in his work on sugar estates and in factory, and drawing attention to facilities for the purpose given by the scientific classes on the necessary subjects at Harrison College, at the instance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The idea is that special training of young men for positions on sugar estates would be a qualification for employment in those positions for which a certain amount of special scientific knowledge would be of the greatest advantage to both employer and employed. At present the curriculum has only had reference to sugar, but the Imperial Commissioner hopes before long to extend the course to cacao, cotton, rubber and other subjects. The number contains the usual amount of general interesting matter in connection with tropical agriculture.

The International Sugar Journal, Vol. VIII., No. 87, Altrincham, Manchester.—This number contains an article on glucinic acid in molasses, the "froth fermentation" (familiar to all sugar boilers as the result of its decomposition, by Mr. Lely, the continuation of Mr. Harrier's contributions to the subject of simple methods of chemical control. A letter also appears from the Harvey Engineering Company, Ltd., bearing on the experience of the Naudet process in Trinidad last year, from which it would appear that the results were as satisfactory as could be expected. A description of Hutton's continuous defecators, which are now working in Cuba, is also given.

West Indian Civil Service.

During the absence on leave of Professor Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S., Mr. B. C. Burt has been appointed to act as Government Analyst and Professor of Chemistry, Trinidad.

Mr. P. C. Harel, Immigration Agent, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his office.

Mr. Joseph John Nunan, B.A., LL.B., Solicitor-General, has arrived in British Guiana, and assumed the duties of his office.

Mr. Herbert Bromley has been appointed private secretary to the Acting Governor of the Leeward Islands.

West Indian Securities.

The Colonial Bank. The 186th half yearly general meeting was held on April 4th, Mr. Harry H. Dobree, chairman, presiding. Moving the adoption of the report, he said that when once it was felt that there was but a remote likelihood of the Convention being abrogated capital would again flow towards cane sugar growing countries, as it had been conclusively proved that with the best known methods of cultivation, the improvements which have been made in the canes and the better adaptation of certain canes to certain soils and better extraction of sugar, the sugar from the cane can be produced at a lower cost per ton than from beetroots. All the West Indies asked was a fair field and no favour, and to be relieved from the uncertainty of being again handicapped by bounties. As Mr. Chamberlain recently put it in a few words, it is uncertainty more than anything else which frightens capital away from this industry. The cocoa industry was fairly flourishing, but there again the West Indies were suffering from drought. As regards Jamaica, the prospects were decidedly more favourable than of late. The Colony was at last getting over the effects of the hurricane. There was a very fine crop of bananas now being reaped, and the prices prevailing were certainly remunerative. The other smaller industries of the West Indies were fairly prosperous, and in Jamaica they were beginning to become manufacturers, which was quite a new departure. Two important factories have been established. One of them, which had been working for some time, was for extracting the salt from logwood, and this promised to be quite a flourishing industry.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. E. Brodie Hoare, and carried unanimously. Mr. John J. Cator, Mr. Charles R. G. Hoare, Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., and Mr. Arthur J. McConnell, who retired from the Board by rotation were re-elected, and Mr. Thomas Du Ruisson was elected a Director.

Weather Telegrams.

Antigua—(Messrs. Boddington & Co.), April 6th, "Rainfall general and will do much good." **British Guiana**—(Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), April 6th, "There is a favourable change in the weather. Good rains have fallen." **New Colonial Co., Ltd.**, April 7th, "Weather fine with occasional light showers." **Jamaica**—(The Great West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended March 29th, "Port Antonio—22nd, Fine; 23rd and 24th, Heavy rains; 25th to 27th, Fine; 28th, Rainy. Kingston—Rainy."

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXV.



Sir George Clarke Pile, Kt.

Estates. On the former estate they are ploughing a piece of land which would, otherwise, be practically untillable in its present condition with either ox-ploughs or manual labour, and they are not only

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SKETCHING LANE, LONDON.

April 17th, 1906

Telegram: "GARDU, LONDON" Telephone: 8642 CENTRAL.

We have received by the homeward mail striking evidence regarding the efficacy of the system of steam-ploughing on sugar estates, which has been adopted in two such dissimilar Colonies as Trinidad and Antigua. Mr. GEORGE CHRISTALL, who, we are glad to welcome back in greatly improved health, tells us that on the Caroni Estate in Trinidad, a considerable area of canes grown on land ploughed by steam has been cut this year, and that the average yield of plant canes per acre has been 34 tons as compared with 23 tons from land cultivated under the old system. The total cost of cultivation of the steam ploughed lands, after allowing for wages and expenses of English ploughmen, and for 10% depreciation on the cost of the ploughs, proved to be somewhat less than under the old methods, so that the result is an increase of 50% in the yield of canes per acre, without any increase in expenditure. In Antigua steam ploughs are now at work on Belvidere and Gunthorpe's, the two new Central Factory

ploughing the land, but pulverising it very satisfactorily. On Gunthorpe's they are also doing excellent work on land which has hitherto defied the old-fashioned methods of tillage. This is all very satisfactory, and with these results before the planters there is a probability of an extension of the system of steam-ploughing in the West Indies. The *Agricultural News* received by the same mail gives some interesting figures supplied by Mr. John Fleming, the Manager of Plantation Diamond in British Guiana, comparing the results of the cultivation of seedling canes with Bourbon canes on his estate. From this it appears that in 1905 the seedling canes showed a better result than the Bourbon by no less than 33%. In 1904 the seedlings were better by 31%, in 1903 by 14%, in 1902 by 21%, and in 1901 by 29%, or an average for five years of 25.6%. These striking improvements in cultivation, coupled with the success attending the working of the two new central sugar factories in Antigua, should encourage West Indian planters to further efforts, bearing in mind as they should do, that while beet manufacture and cultivation cannot be capable of much further improvement, there still remains vast unexplored fields for development in the sugar-cane world. Every nerve must be strained to reduce the cost of production. As we have so often pointed out competition in sugar-production is likely to be keener than ever it has been before, and it will be a case of the weakest going to the wall. It must, moreover, be borne in mind that those who fail to keep abreast of the times, now that equality of opportunity has been restored, will surely alienate that sympathy which was extended to them when they were manfully facing unfair competition, if they fail in the struggle through their own apathy.

USEFUL experimental work is being done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture with cocoa in St. Lucia, and at a recent meeting of the Agricultural Experiments Committee in that island, the Commissioner of Agriculture was able to report very satisfactory progress. At Soufrière a one-acre plot, which had no trees in bearing in 1900, was taken in hand by the Imperial Department in 1901. For an expenditure in the five years ended 1905, on cultivation, manures, &c., of £34 8s. 11d., a total yield was obtained of 2,288 lb. of cured cacao, which, valued at 6d. per lb. of well-cured cacao, showed a gross return of £57 4s., or a profit in five years of £22 15s. 1d. A similar plot at Dennery, which had no trees in bearing in 1900, had £20 5s. spent upon it in 1901-3, and yielded in the three years 1,820 lb. of cacao, valued at above basis at £45 10s., showing a profit in three years of £25 5s. An abandoned field of cacao, one acre in extent, at Roseau, for an expenditure of £27 2s. 2d. in 1901-5, yielded 2,955 lb. of cacao, valued as above at £73 17s. 6d., showing a profit in five years of £46 15s. 4d. The details of the cultivation and manures used are given in the Annual Reports for the years 1901-5. The Imperial Commissioner suggested a new series of experimental plots of cacao, to consist of five acres or 1,000 trees, each divided into five sections. These plots would be supervised by the officers of the Department, on condition that the proprietors defrayed the cost of labour and manures. The suggestion was favourably received, and steps are to be taken by the Agricultural Instructor for selecting plots in suitable localities for the purpose. This is good work, and is just what is wanted for St. Lucia, which now that the troops have been removed, and her naval station reduced to a *cadre*, must depend more than heretofore on the agricultural industries for which she is well suited.

IT occurred to us recently, while witnessing some living pictures of New Zealand at one of our places of entertainment, what a splendid advertisement a series of similar views of West Indian life and scenery would be for our West Indian Colonies, which are already yearly attracting an increasing number of tourists. We accordingly made inquiries as to the probable cost of a visit of an expert

"Biographer" to that part of the world, and a circular letter on the subject was addressed to our Hon. Correspondents. We subsequently received a call from MR. ALFRED J. WEST, of Southsea, probably the best living artist in marine photography, who intimated to us his intention of starting immediately for the West Indies, in order to take animated and other photographs for a series to be entitled "Our Mercantile Marine," to follow "Our Navy" and "Our Army," which have for several years past attracted large audiences to the London Polytechnic and in the provinces. We gladly furnished MR. WEST with the necessary introductions, and have since learnt with satisfaction that he has made good use of his time, having already, when the last mail left, exposed the best part of a mile of film and secured some very beautiful panoramas. MR. WEST first visited Trinidad, where he took some views on the railway and round about Port of Spain. He then went to Jamaica aboard the "Solent," and when we last heard from him he was proposing to return home, visiting some of the smaller Islands on the way. We gather that he is not, after all, confining himself to marine studies; and it is possible, therefore, that his visit may serve the purpose originally contemplated—that is to say the securing of views, life and scenery, and that the West Indies may thus obtain a valuable advertisement without cost. "Coming Boom for Jamaica" was the heading given to an article in a recent issue of the *Daily Gleaner* dealing with MR. WEST's tour, and we certainly think that it is impossible to do too much in the direction of "booming" the Colonies. The tourist season in Jamaica and the West Indies as a whole, which is now drawing to a close, has, we believe, been exceptionally satisfactory. One result must necessarily be a considerable stimulus to local trade and industry, through the money spent by the tourists in a number of ways. Moreover, it must not be overlooked that many of the visitors eventually become interested commercially in the Islands and purchase properties. We could cite many instances of this. Anything, therefore, which conduces towards obtaining publicity for our Colonies is deserving of the fullest measure of support, and we are accordingly well pleased that MR. WEST has been receiving assistance from our friends in the Colonies which he has visited. MR. WEST on his part has consented to give a private exhibition of his views to Members of the West India Committee, an act of courtesy which will be greatly appreciated. In due course we shall hope to make a further announcement on this subject, and meanwhile we may suitably conclude by wishing this skilful artist a safe voyage back to this country with his valuable burden.

Sir George Clarke Pile, Kt.

The patronymic Pile has for many years been a familiar one in Barbados. Indeed, it is to be found in the Parish Registers of the Island of the 17th century. Among the most distinguished bearers of the name is Sir George Clarke Pile, for many years President of the Legislative Council of Barbados, and until recently President of the Agricultural Society of the Island. Sir George Pile, who was until recently one of the largest attorneys in the Island, was created a Knight in 1892 for his distinguished services to the Colony.

Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts.

Our full-page illustration in the present issue is reproduced from a photograph taken on the battlements of the abandoned fortress on what is known as "Brimstone Hill" in St. Kitts. The picture gives some idea of the substantial nature of the fabric. The hill is an isolated mass of volcanic rock about 700 ft. high. Records in the Island show that it was purchased by the Government for £500, and that the fortifications were erected by slave labour, each estates' proprietor furnishing one out of every eighty slaves which he possessed for this purpose. For many years this "Gibraltar of the West Indies" was impregnable, but the French, by placing heavy guns on the mountains at the back, once compelled the garrison to evacuate. The gates of the fortress bear the dates 1793-1794.

The West India Committee.

We have pleasure in announcing that Mr. W. T. James, of Hamilton, has been appointed Hon. Correspondent to the West India Committee for Bermuda.

The next election of members to the West India Committee will be held to-morrow. Particulars regarding membership and forms of application can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

FRENCH BRANDY AND BRITISH RUM.

By the extract from the old Minutes of the West India Committee in our last issue, it was shown how closely the West India Committee and Mr. Stephen Fuller, the Agent for Jamaica, co-operated in the matter of the introduction of the Bread Fruit tree into the West Indies. In the same year, viz., 1775, a joint effort was made to induce the Admiralty to supply the Navy with rum instead of French brandy. At a meeting of the Committee on March 7th, Mr. Beeston Long presiding, and at which there were present Mr. Willitt, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Beckford, Mr. James, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Hauker, Mr. Alderman Oliver, Mr. Lovell, Mr. Stephen Fuller, Mr. Samuel Long, Mr. Neave and Mr. Minifie:—

"Mr. Step" Fuller (Agent for Jamaica) informed the Meeting that having seen an Advertisement from the Victualling Office dated 27th Feby., setting forth, that they were ready to receive Tenders in Writing (sealed up) and to treat for thirty thousand Gallons of french Brandy, for the Service of His Majesty's Navy; having communicated the same to Mr. Long, he waited upon the Commissioners of the Victualling Office, and requested of them, that if it was consistent with the Service, they would recommend it to the Board of Admiralty, that the Navy might be supplied with Rum, instead of Brandy. That the Commissioners of the Victualling Office, had wrote to the Admiralty Board, upon the Subject, and had proposed to Mr. Fuller, by another Advertisement, to stop the Tenders of french Brandy that were to be made on the 8th Instant, in pursuance of their Advertisement.

"Mr. Fuller apply'd through Mr. Cooper to Lord North, on the 2nd Instant, and had a Conference on this subject with his Lordship on the 3rd Instant, when his Lordship was pleased to assure Mr. Fuller, that Rum should be received instead of Brandy, if it could be supplied at the same Price, and equal in Quality.

"The Lords of the Admiralty, having applied to the Treasury in Consequence of the above mentioned letter from the Victualling Office, the Treasury were pleased to issue their Warrant on the 4th Instant, to the Commissioners of the Customs, to give the necessary orders for permitting 15,000 Gallons of Rum, to be delivered into his Majesty's Stores at Portsmouth, and fifteen thousand Gallons of Rum to His Majesty's Stores at Plymouth, Duty free, in Lieu of the French Brandy, in case the Commissioners of the Victualling Office should contract for the same.

At the next meeting it was reported that there had been several attendances at the Treasury, Excise Office and Customs House on the subject.

"And it being apprehended that unless the Bond of the Importer of Rum be cleared of the Excise Duty by the Receipt of His Majesty's Store Keepers at Plymouth, Portsmouth or London, to answer the same Purpose, as Certificates of Rum being landed in foreign Countries, the Importers of Rum declare they cannot contract to supply the Navy with that Article so cheap as french Brandy.

Resolved therefore: "That application be made to the Lords of the Treasury that the Clearance of the Bonds for the Excise Duty and the Drawback of Customs be allowed on the delivery of the Rum into his Majesty's Stores as above."

The records do not state whether the Lords of the Treasury acceded to this request, but it is certain that rum bulked largely in the victualling of the Navy in succeeding years. In those days punch stills were unknown, and there was, therefore, no variance of opinion as to what constituted rum!

Jamaica's Warning to the Trade.

Ten thousand copies of the following manifesto have been forwarded to the leading licensed



(Photo by James E. Aggleall.)

(Continued.)

ON THE SUMMIT OF BRIMSTONE HILL,
ST. KITTS.

vintners of the United Kingdom by Mr. J. C. Nolan, the Special Commissioner of the Jamaica Government:—

Owing to the crisis through which the trade is passing, I think it is expedient for me to issue a word of warning, which may have the effect of saving individual members from the worry of prosecutions, involving heavy law costs and penalties. In consequence of the serious straits to which the Jamaica rum industry was reduced, through dishonest adulteration in the United Kingdom, the Government of that Colony was compelled to take action. A Special Law was called into existence, which received the sanction and support of the Imperial Government. Under this Law a Commissioner was sent to England to enforce the provisions of the "Merchandise Marks Acts," and take all necessary steps to safeguard the product of the Island from imitation and fraud. The home authorities recognised the urgent necessity of preventing the collapse of this industry, and they indicated the importance attached to same by recommending Parliament, from time to time, to vote large sums of money to sustain it, as the preservation of such was essential to the well-being of a great body of the native population, who had no other means of livelihood than that afforded by the working of the sugar estates. Had things been allowed to drift this collapse was inevitable, as forty two distilleries went out of existence in the short period of five years ending 1902.

In carrying out the object of the law and the various inquiries attending same I have received valuable assistance from the Revenue Departments and the Board of Trade, all of which only confirm my worst suspicions that this "trade piracy" of false descriptions has been carried on to a very alarming extent. As a recognised Colonial Official, I was afforded opportunities of acquiring information from which others would be debarred. From the first I have only been actuated by one desire, and that is to stamp out this illegality with as little hardship to the trade as possible. Since I arrived in England I have instituted few prosecutions, though I could have taken proceedings against no less than fifty licensed dealers in London alone. These prosecutions were not by me unduly pressed. They were meant to be a general warning to the trade; but if there be a continuation of the frauds, wherever a conviction is obtained, I will take steps to oppose the renewal of the offending traders' licenses at the annual licensing sessions. Under these circumstances I would advise all publicans to insist on procuring from the wholesale merchant, in every instance, a guarantee that the rum he supplies is the genuine product of the Island of Jamaica. If the publican buys and clears the same in bond he should insist that the "Request Note and Permit, or Certificate," bears the name of "Jamaica Rum." This Revenue Certificate, if correctly filled up, must show whether same has been "racked," "blended," or "operated on in bond." The trader who adopts these precautions has nothing to fear.

There are, no doubt, some wholesale and other dealers who (to reap inflated profits) will inform their customers that many other rums are as good or equal to the product of Jamaica. This carries its own refutation by the mere comparison of the relative market prices. All the Jamaica rums are produced in the old pot-still, which alone maintains the characteristics of the sugar canes used, the superiority of which is due to the soil. Numerous eminent medical authorities have declared that Jamaica rum owes its undoubted excellence to the ethers it contains, which give to the spirit the special medicinal value it admittedly possesses. In this connection I may quote a short paragraph from a leading article on the subject, which appeared in *The Lancet* of October 1st, 1904:—

"Genuine rum is probably the most powerful stimulating spirit which we possess. . . . Rum-and-milk, again, is admittedly one of the most powerful restoratives known, but the rum must not be merely alcohol to the degree of purity produced in the patent-still. It must contain the full complement of ethers, which rum produced from sugar, or sugar residues, in the pot-still retains. Genuine pot-still rum undoubtedly owes its restorative properties to the very marked amount of ethers which it contains, and therefore when a spirit is supplied showing a deficiency in the essential ingredients of rum, it is not of the nature, quality, or substance demanded."

I also wish to draw attention to the fact that there are four causes why Jamaica rum is vastly superior to any other—

(1) Water and soil. (2) Rich molasses. (3) The manner in which the wash is set up for fermentation and the preparation of the ingredients used. (4) The old pot-still and retort.

As to the question of soil and water, Sir Daniel Morris, the Commissioner of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies (who is recognised as the greatest authority on the subject of tropical vegetation) stated in an address recently delivered:—

"There was no doubt that the rum industry of Jamaica had reached its present position owing to something in the soil and climate infusing in the canes here some quality which was preserved or made use of in the rum. It would not be possible for other countries to be able to follow Jamaica in that particular line."

Under the circumstances traders who wish to maintain the reputations of their houses will insist upon being supplied by the wholesale dealers with genuine unblended Jamaica rum, otherwise their patrons and the public will not be satisfied with an inferior article, but will obtain elsewhere what they are denied at the establishments which they now frequent. In conclusion, it is needless for me to point out the serious view which the Medical Authorities and the Public Health Boards are taking of this practice of selling inferior and deleterious alcohol for the genuine article. The results of this widespread adulteration have been to fill our asylums and prisons with "human wreckage," and to cause the general public to become "liquor shy." Therefore the best interests of the Trade will be served by again supplying the public with genuine and wholesome drink, which was the practice twenty-five or thirty years ago, when reputation and honesty were the first consideration of the vintner and the wiles of the "faker" were unknown.

Is Saccharin a Poison?

The following interesting statements as regards the physiological effect of saccharin is taken from a translation in the *Review of Reviews* of an article in the Dutch monthly, *Vrugs des Tijds*, and points conclusively to the dangers attending an habitual use of saccharin as a substitute for sugar.

The influence of saccharin on digestion has been investigated with extreme care by the late Prof. P. C. Pflugge, of the University of Groningen, a noted experimenter and scientist. In the *Netherlands Medical Journal* for 1888, vol. vi., pp. 569-573, he published the results of his investigations to clear up the following questions:—

1. Does saccharin exert any deleterious influence on the digestive process in the mouth, in other words, does it hinder the proper solution of starchy matter by the saliva? 2. Does it prevent digestion in the stomach, the conversion of albuminous matter into peptone? Does saccharin affect the digestive process in the intestines, and, particularly, does it interfere with the pancreatic fluids?

All his experiments, made with small quantities of absolutely pure saccharin, demonstrated that it considerably retards the digestive processes in the mouth, the stomach, and the intestines. Even a very small quantity of the substance he found to prevent completely the action of the saliva upon the starch in food, the effect being such as if one swallowed his bread whole. And for those suffering from the so-called sugar disease, diabetes, who had been particularly promised relief by the use of saccharin, Professor Pflugge added to his report the cautionary statement that for just such patients, for whom perfect digestion is of such moment, he regarded the use of saccharin as extremely deleterious.

A few years ago, in 1900, Bornstein, resuming the work of Pflugge, demonstrated anew that saccharin prevents the assimilation of food, and thus lessens the capacity for labour. Indeed, there is one well established fact that fully confirms Pflugge's unfavourable judgment. The sufferers from diabetes not only complain that saccharin produces nausea, but that it seriously interferes with their digestion. And this was the reason also why the French Health Department, so long as seventeen years ago, expressed a very unfavourable opinion of this substance, there called *sucré de houille*, as a substitute for sugar. There is, however, another and still more serious question—viz., is saccharin a poison?

That one cannot be poisoned with saccharin as with prussic acid, is, of course, undeniable. But a weaker poison may, nevertheless, be very injurious. On one occasion, in 1902, an entire family in the city of Prague was made ill from the immoderate use of saccharin, and one of them even lost his life thus. Nor should it be forgotten that in the German Empire safeguards against the use of saccharin were very early established by the passage of the *Surstoff Gesetz*, a law regulating the sale of sweets, and that in many other countries the sale of this article has been placed under strong restrictions, so that the likelihood of poisoning by the consumption at once of large quantities of it is made well-nigh impossible. The first intimation of poisoning by saccharin occurs in the form of a severe diarrhoea.

Those who may still have some doubts on this matter are advised to make the following simple experiment: Put some live fish into a solution of saccharin. They will speedily show great restlessness, change colour, and lose the sense of direction in swimming; in one word, they are poisoned. In a sugar solution, nothing of the sort would be observed. Now, just as in the fish the saccharin solution drenches the fine webs of the breathing organs, the gills, and obstructs their power of action, so even a weak solution of saccharin floods the delicate organs of the human body and interferes with their function. For one of the characteristics of saccharin is that it circulates unchanged through the entire body, even down to the kidneys. And the likelihood that the tender

organs may ultimately be seriously injured by saccharin is not the least reason for the exercise of care and prudence in the use of it.

The Australian Sugar Bounties.

The Australian Sugar Bounty Act, 1905, provides that after January 1st, 1907, there shall be paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to every grower of white-grown cane or beet within the Commonwealth, a bounty on all such cane or beet delivered for manufacture after that date and before January 1st, 1913, at the following rates:—

Sugar Cane	6s. per ton calculated on cane giving 10 per cent. of sugar, to be increased or decreased proportionately according to any variation from this standard.
Beet	6os. per ton on the actual sugar giving contents of the beet.

It is further provided, however, that the rates payable on all such cane or beet delivered during the years 1911 and 1912 shall be respectively two-thirds and one-third of the aforesaid rates.

It is also provided in the Act that "every grower of white-grown sugar who claims the bounty payable under this Act shall, in making such claim, certify to the Minister the rate of wages paid to any labour employed by him, other than the labour of members of his family. If the Minister finds that such rate of wages is below the standard rate paid in the district in which the sugar is grown, to similar white labour engaged in that industry, then the Minister may withhold the whole or any part of the bounty payable."

The "Excise Tariff, 1905," assented to by the Federal Parliament on the same day, viz., December 21st, 1905, provides that the excise duty imposed on sugar by the Excise Tariff of 1902 shall be increased from 3s. to 4s. per cwt. of manufactured sugar from January 1st, 1907, to January 1st, 1913, provided that the excise duty payable on sugar produced from cane delivered for manufacture in 1911 and 1912 shall be two-thirds and one-third of the above rate respectively.

Exhibition Matters.

Up to the time of going to press we have received no copy of the reports of the Exhibition Committees from any of the Colonies which participated in the very successful 1905 Colonial Exhibition. We understand, however, that the report of the Local Committee in Trinidad—of which the Hon. W. C. Dyett is now Chairman, and Mr. J. H. Hart Secretary—is in course of preparation. The report of the Barbados Committee has been forwarded to the Executive, and will be laid before the House of Assembly at its next meeting. The following are the names of the Permanent Exhibition Committee appointed in Barbados:—Hon. F. J. Clarke, M.C.P. (Chairman), Hon. F. M. Alleyne, Mr. V. Hanschell, Mr. Elliott Sealy, M.C.P., Mr. C. J. Greenidge, M.C.P., Mr. S. S. Robinson, M.C.P., Mr. J. R. Bovell, F.L.S., Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. G. S. Evelyn, and Mr. E. L. Hollinsd. No Secretary has as yet been appointed.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The House of Commons adjourned for the Easter Recess on Wednesday, April 11th. The sittings will be resumed on April 24th next.

The Jamaica Garrison.

In the House of Commons on April 9th, Mr. Haldane, in reply to Mr. Cox, said the garrison of Jamaica, for which provision is made in Estimates 1906-7, is 1,790 all ranks, of whom about 350 are Europeans. The estimated cost of this force is about £136,000, and it is borne by army votes. Some reduction of the non-European troops, West India Regiment, is, however, in contemplation.

Russian Retaliatory Duties.

Sir S. King having asked the Foreign Secretary whether, in view of the fact that the Russian Government has imposed extra duties on Indian and Ceylon teas by way of retaliation for the prohibition of Russian sugar by Great Britain, under the Brussels Convention, he can state if Russia has retaliated in any way against any of the other nations which were parties to the Convention, and, if not, why India, which was not a party to the Sugar Convention, should be singled out for vicarious punishment for Great Britain's action. Sir E. Grey said, in a written reply, on April 11th:—"The reply to the first question is in the negative. With regard to the second, his Majesty's Government have not been informed of the reason why Russia retaliated upon India and Ceylon and not upon the United Kingdom."

Colonial Reports.

The Progress of St. Lucia.

In his Report on the Blue Book of St. Lucia for 1904, Mr. P. C. Cork, Administrator of the Colony, states that the year 1904 was on the whole a good one for trade. As the decline in the public revenue from ordinary local sources was doubtless entirely due to the stoppage of military works and the Imperial expenditure thereon, the decision to remove the troops was a severe blow to St. Lucia, and swept away at one stroke one of the foundations of its recent prosperity. The slight revival in the coal trade of nearly £7,000, more than counter-balanced the decrease in the bags of cocoa exported. 1904 appeared to have been an unfavourable year for cocoa, as the yield was 1,803 bags less than in 1903, and the price was low as compared with 1894. Generally speaking, progress in agriculture made in one direction seemed to have been counter-balanced by retrogression in another, the principal interests affected being sugar and logwood, this latter being almost wiped out. The reports on the cotton experiments show that though good samples of lint were obtained, they resulted in failure to cover expenses. The number of places where cotton could be grown to advantage are probably not



(Photo by)

Dalmistic Estate, Soufriere, St. Lucia.

(The London Mail.)

large, as the bulk of the land is hilly and more suitable for rubber and cocoa. The Central American rubber (*Castilloa elastica*) seems particularly adapted to these latitudes, and would probably handsomely repay intelligent cultivation and treatment. Cocoa has long passed the experimental stage, and may be regarded as a staple industry of the Colony. Since the opening of the Agricultural School at "Union" in 1901, the Botanic Station had been principally of use as a plant nursery and a distributing centre for economic and decorative plants, and as a public garden for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to Castries. It is the only place in the Colony at which continuous meteorological observations of a reliable nature have been made

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
	£	£	£
1900	72,108	64,750	7,358 Surplus.
1901-2	67,365	67,486	121 Deficit.
1902-3	72,193	69,408	2,785 Surplus.
1903-4	66,009	70,692	4,683 Deficit.
1904-5	69,272	65,508	3,764 Surplus.

Enterprising Planters in Ceylon.

The Report of Sir Henry Blake, the Governor of Ceylon, for 1904, indicates a healthy state of affairs agriculturally and commercially in the Colony. The export of tea was the largest yet recorded. An Agricultural Society had been formed with local branches in different parts of the Island. Experiments had been made with the cultivation of ground nuts, and it was found that the seed obtained from Mauritius would yield 1,100 to 1,700 lbs. per acre, and samples sent to England had

been valued at from £7 6s. 8d. to £14 per ton. Experiments were also to be made with cotton, paddy, date-palm and other products. The value of rubber exported was increasing steadily, and 75,000 acres were under cultivation, and experiments with it were being conducted all over the Island. The prices realised reached over 8s. per lb. on two occasions. The rubber is mainly planted in conjunction with other crops, such as tea or cacao, and rarely as a single product. The value of cacao exported increased from 2,248,000 to 2,448,000 rupees. The yield was larger but the price was lower, the low value being mainly due to the mixed nature of the purple and white seeds. The Botanic Department was suggesting better varieties for cultivation. In order to exploit new markets, the planters of cardamoms had agreed to an export cess of 1 per cent. per lb., to provide the necessary funds.

Consular Reports.

Cotton in French West Africa.

Captain Cromie, H.M. Consul-General at Dakar, reports that experiments have been carried on since 1903 both by the Service of Agriculture and also by the French Cotton Association, in different parts of French West Africa with the object of determining the best variety of cotton to plant, both from the point of view of suitability to the climate and of commercial value. The Niger Basin will probably turn out to be the best cotton-growing region, as there it is indigenous, and, therefore, can be grown without irrigation and by native methods. The natives (who already in 1903 had been so impressed by the beauty of the fibre produced under the auspices of the Cotton Association that they refused to sell the cotton harvested, as had been arranged, but preferred to use it for their own weaving) were so struck by the superior capacity of the American plants to resist drought that they came long distances to procure seed.

The German Sugar Industry.

There was last year a further marked decline in the exports of raw sugar, while refined and other kinds of sugar slightly improved. According to the report of Mr. Consul-General Schwabach the total exports of raw sugar amounted to 285,448 tons, and refined 432,965 tons during the year ended August 31st, 1905, as compared with 419,023 tons and 406,617 tons, respectively, in 1903-4. The ground lost by German refined sugar would seem to have been partly recovered in the exports to the United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland, but on the other hand the excellent trade formerly done with the Far East appears to be irretrievably lost. Germany's trade in raw sugar has experienced a considerable set-back in the United Kingdom, last season's exports being 73,202 tons less than in 1903-4.

The Cocoa Market in Amsterdam.

Dealing with the cocoa market in Amsterdam during 1905, Mr. Acting-Consul Chambers says that during the past year the cocoa market was on the whole steady, prices remaining stationary, with the exception of a few slight fluctuations, and towards the close of 1905 the tone was rather firmer. Most of the parcels of Java cocoa put on the market there during the past year contained little or no really fine prime quality, and this fact naturally had a very noticeable influence on prices. Middling sorts were sold throughout the year at fairly satisfactory prices, and ordinary descriptions obtained good prices, especially during the last months of 1905. In 1905 about 9,000 bales were imported as compared with 13,000 bales in 1904, 21,200 bales in 1903, 17,000 bales in 1902, 22,000 bales in 1901, and 19,200 bales in 1900. Samana cocoa experienced an improvement in price in the beginning of the year 1905, chiefly in consequence of smaller arrivals. Prices of St. Thome cocoa, and of other African descriptions, fluctuated repeatedly, ruling at first at about the level of 1904, afterwards rising in consequence of a livelier demand, only to fall again. There was a good demand for superior St. Thomé cocoa throughout the whole year. The quality of Bahia cocoa had suffered considerably in consequence of the state of the weather and prices remained low. The quality of the arrivals during the last quarter of the year was slightly better, and although some large transactions took place, yet this description was less in demand than in 1904. The quality of Accras cocoa was unsatisfactory, and the demand dull in consequence, until the last part of the year, when the new crop drew more attention on account of better quality. The demand grew livelier, and some large parcels were purchased by manufacturers. Trinidad cocoa was dull in tone, especially during the first few months. Afterwards there was a greater demand on account of prices being low in comparison with the previous year, considerable transactions taking place. The market became rather firmer, especially because the quality of the last crop was favourable. Under the influence of favourable crop reports

the year closed in a calmer tone. Surinam cocoa received more attention than formerly. Although the quality was not so fine as wished for, yet transactions were fairly satisfactory during the first eight months.

Letter to the Editor.

Fact and Fiction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR—Lord Denbigh, in his recent speech in the House of Lords on the cultivation of sugar beet, stated the following indisputable fact: "No one was likely to put money into such a concern while foreign bounties existed, and it was only since the Brussels Convention and the abolition of the sugar bounties that this gigantic and important agricultural interest had been brought within the reach of British agriculturists."

In an adjoining column in the newspapers we read the following fiction from the mouth of Mr. Churchill: "It is, however, necessary to remember that the conclusive argument against the Convention is the widespread loss and injury inflicted upon British commerce and the British manufacturer."

This is pure invention, an interesting story that seizes at once on the attention and interest of the casual reader and makes a lasting impression. It requires no effort of the intellect. Lord Denbigh's hard fact, on the other hand, requires a moment's thought and is therefore disregarded.

Yours obediently,

L. C. P.

We agree. Our correspondent will have noted that reference was made to Mr. Churchill's statement in our last issue.—ED.]

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., April 11th.—Letter on "England and the West Indies" in the *Morning Post*.—The House of Commons adjourned for Easter.—8 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1906, 8s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., steady. \
- Thur., April 12th.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 6d., steady.
- Fri., April 13th.—Good Friday.
- Sat., April 14th.—Publication of a telegram from the Kaiser to Count Goluchowski thanking him for being "a brilliant second on the duelling ground" at Algiciras.
- Sun., April 15th.—Easter Day.
- Mon., April 16th.—Bank Holiday.
- Tues., April 17th.—The *Times* published letter from Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P. to the Postmaster General on the subject of universal penny postage.—Beet, 8s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., quiet.

Notes of Interest.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended April 12th, 457 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.75d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; fine, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 18d.

CANADA AND WEST INDIES. The statement is confirmed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in replying to a question in the Dominion House of Commons on March 10th, said that Canada was prepared to extend her relations with the West Indies, but was not prepared at the present time to invite or encourage a political union.

MR. NOLAN WANTED. When the French, after the invasion of Germany, evacuated Coblenz in 1805, a cask of rum was left behind and remained unnoticed until 1885, when it was discovered in the course of exploration of some old cellars. This prize was duly bottled off and sold as a great rarity, as old Jamaica rum, the equivalent of 7s. 6d. being asked, without duty, per bottle. The opinion of experts, however, was that the rum in question was not Jamaica, but a blend of probably Martinique and Demerara.

IMMIGRATION AFFAIRS. The new steamer "Ganges," of Messrs. James Nourse & Co., left Calcutta on March 28th with emigrants for Jamaica, with Dr. Kenny as surgeon. The "Fultala," of the P.I.S.N. Company, left Madras for Fiji with emigrants, but unfortunately cholera broke out on the voyage, and she had to put into the Straits, and there were six deaths. Prospects of a more plentiful

supply of emigrants were improving. The weather continued to be the principal factor, there being few emigrants when rice is cheap, and *vice versa*.

MORE BUBBLES. Mr. C. Czarnikow keeps an alert eye open for mis-statements regarding the Sugar Convention. At the meeting of Messrs. R. White & Sons, Ltd., the Chairman attributed the unsatisfactory result of the year's trading to the effects of that agreement. Mr. Czarnikow pointed out that Mr. White's excuse for lack of dividends must be taken for what it is worth, and showed that the dividends on the ordinary shares declined from 20% in 1898-9 to 6% for 1899-1900 and 3% for 1900-01, since when there has been no distribution. Considering that the Convention only came into force on September 1st, 1903, by which time the dividend on the Ordinary shares had already reached zero, it would seem that some other reason must be found for the present position of the company. Besides, consider how well Schweppes', Ltd., have done.

IMPORTANT TO OUR READERS. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each or post free 3/-.

COCOA FIGURES. A correspondent has written to call attention to the figures of the cocoa crops of the world which we gave in a recent *Circular*, and points out that they do not agree with those obtainable from other sources. The figures in question were obtained from the Hamburg paper, *Gordian*, which is a well known authority on cocoa matters. Possibly any discrepancy which there may be may have arisen through dates being different. This is often the case; but for purposes of comparison we still think that the figures were useful, as showing the remarkable increase in production and consumption of cocoa which has taken place of late years, more especially in the new cocoa producing countries. Our correspondent informs us that Mr. Hogan gives the following figures for the consumption of the United States:—

1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
18,630	21,922	25,230	29,357	33,125 tons.

PRESS "NEWS"? As a fair sample of the cabled news to which the West Indies, Jamaica excepted, are being treated, we reproduce the following item:—"Reynolds' newspaper says King Edward's health is unsatisfactory, that his face is thin and haggard, his hair whiter and his voice weaker, and that he is ageing rapidly. These reports have, however, not been confirmed from other sources." This statement was followed by a longer message regarding the relations between His Majesty and the Kaiser, which were stated as having become warmer "as a result of reciprocated courtesy." The next message stated that the opposition encountered by Mr. Chamberlain in promoting his views gave him much delight, his friends saying, "the odds against him are adding years to his life through renewed interest." It really is pitiable that such mawkish twaddle should be sent over the cables, and we can imagine that our friends in the Colonies will be more pleased to read of the movements of the repairing ship, "Henry Holmes," which are duly recorded from time to time. The Trinidad-Demerara cable was interrupted on April 9th, and communication is not yet restored.

The Homeward Adm.

The R.M.S. "Port Antonio" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on the evening of April 11th. Among her passengers were several members of the West India Committee, notably, Colonel Blagrove, Mr. A. Cram Ewing, and Mr. A. McDowell Nathan. The R.M.S.P. "Tagus" reached Southampton at 9 a.m. on April 14th. His Excellency Sir Henry M. Jackson, Governor of Trinidad, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Lucie-Smith, Admiral Sir Bowden Smith, Mr. and Mrs. George Christall, and a very large number of tourists returned by her. Mr. Christall, who we are glad to say has returned from Trinidad in greatly improved health, reports that the actual results of the steam ploughing on Caroni Estate, Trinidad, are now available, a considerable area of canes having been cut this year on the lands treated. The average yield of plant canes per acre was thirty-four tons as against twenty-three tons under the old system. The total cost of the ploughed lands, not allowing for wages and expenses of English ploughmen, and for 10 per cent. depreciation

on the cost of the ploughs, was somewhat less than under the old system, so that the result shows an increase of 50 per cent. in the yield of canes per acre without any increase in expenditure. The Naudet process is also giving satisfactory results on the same estate. Climatic conditions were on the whole unfavourable to cultivation when the Mail left, the drought having become serious in many Colonies. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Antigua.—Steam Ploughing.

We have to congratulate our Hon. Correspondent for Antigua, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, who was about to be married. His devotion to duty is shown by the fact that this auspicious event was to take place within two hours of his writing to us, on March 25th.

The steam ploughs were well at work on Belvidere as well as at Gunthorpe's, and afforded a very interesting object lesson. On the former estate they were ploughing a piece of land which would be practically untillable in its present condition with either ox ploughs or manual labour, and not only ploughing the land but pulverising it very nicely. On the latter they were doing excellent work, also on land that defied the old-fashioned methods of tillage.

Both central factories were doing very good work; the megass was proving a good deal more than ample as fuel for running the factories, and the surplus was causing some inconvenience. At Bendal's the quantity of peasant grown cane had largely increased. Cotton prospects were favourable, and everywhere one heard of increased areas going into this crop.

Steps were already being taken to ensure the continuance of the excellent work done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture after 1908, when it was possible Imperial assistance might be discontinued. On March 23rd a meeting of principal planters and others interested in the Island was held, Mr. A. M. Lee, the convener, acting as Chairman, and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting of principal planters and others having large interests in Antigua desires to place on record their grateful appreciation of the good and beneficial work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, their fear that this work may be shortly brought to an end, and their earnest wish that the Government of Antigua will contribute according to its financial ability to maintain the existence of the Imperial Department of Agriculture after September, 1908."

A subsequent resolution was carried unanimously that the above resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The weather had been rather dry and windy during the fortnight, but the young cane crop looked very well all over the Island.

Barbados. A Disastrous Cane Fire.

In his letter of March 30th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne expressed opinion that no doubt Mr. Black's visit would do good, and there was likely to be much more sugar shipped from Barbados to Canada than usual. Several proprietors had already sent forward consignments as an experiment, and if these were successful, others were sure to follow.

It was satisfactory that the transference of the Royal Mail headquarters to Barbados had been officially announced.

The slight decline in beet had caused the local market to drop from \$1.50 to \$1.40 for muscovado, molasses remaining at 14 cents.

On Sunday, March 25th, a calamitous fire, which is believed to be the largest that has ever occurred in the Island took place in the valley of Christchurch, and consumed about 188 acres of canes in little over two hours. It originated at Bendley, but rapidly spread to Windsor, tore through the valley fields of Hannays, and was not stopped till it reached the high road by Yorkshire. The height of the flames was immense, and the heat very great. The wind was extremely high at the time, and the fire rushed through the canes at such a speed that it was impossible to check it. It came so near the yard at Hannays that the stock had to be turned out, and water poured on the roof of the manager's house to put out the sparks. The damages may be divided as follows: Windsor, 15 acres; Bentley, 91½ acres and 17 heaps of cane tops; Hannays, 77 acres and 2 heaps of cane tops; Yorkshire, 9 acres. The canes were all insured, but the loss of so many acres of cane tops for fuel for the stock, and of the trash for the young canes, would long be severely felt. It was supposed to have originated from a coal or spark dropped by a passing goods train; but the result of the inquiry had not yet been heard. By the kindness of Hampton, Foursquare and Carrington, assisted by the railway, the burnt canes had been quickly taken off.

There had been a few more light showers during the fortnight, by which the Leeward parishes had chiefly benefited, and which had served to freshen up the young canes. The total rainfall for the month was, however, very small. The crop was proceeding rapidly, and good yields were reported everywhere.

British Guiana.—A Dismal Outlook.

His Excellency Sir Frederic Hodgson had arranged to return to England on April 7th. During his absence Mr. C. F. Cox, Government Secretary, would administer the Government.

The Berbice Agricultural Show was opened by the Governor on March 24th. Mr. Percy Hemmery, President of the Council of Management, invited His Excellency to declare the Show open.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society on March 15th, Mr. G. F. Franks presiding, the question of cable communication was brought forward, but it was pointed out that under the terms of the Charter of this body the discussion of matters of a political nature or tendency must be precluded, and a courteous reply to this effect was ordered to be sent to the West India Committee. It was announced that the Government had decided to grant the sum of \$250 for the representation of the Colony at the Toronto and Halifax Exhibitions.

The report of the Council of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce was adopted at the half-yearly general meeting on March 23rd, Mr. A. P. T. Mackey presiding. In it it is pointed out that the Colony had at the present time a very unsatisfactory mail service as compared with the previous one, and the hope is expressed that some arrangements may yet be made by the Imperial Government to improve the same. The action of the Chamber in connection with the cable service is recorded, and a paragraph deals with the recent disturbances.

A few estates were making sugar. The canes were dry, but the juice was of fair quality. There were no transactions in sugar to report, and the price \$1.95 to \$2 was merely nominal.

The weather continued much too dry, and the very light showers reported during the fortnight had not had much effect on the soil. May/June canes would be short of estimate, and the outlook for the autumn crop was very dismal.

Dominica.—Sale of Crown Lands.

Writing on March 27th, Mr. E. A. Ayer stated that last year there was a lull in the purchase of Crown Lands by capitalists, only 527 acres being taken up, but peasant holdings (i.e. lots of 50 acres and less, usually very much less) amounted to 510 acres.

Many anxious letters of inquiry had been received with regard to the recent earthquakes; these had been drawn forth by the alarming character of newspaper paragraphs. It was rather hard on friends at home to be needlessly worried for the sake of providing "copy" in the Press. Should any occurrence of that sort take place sufficiently serious to be noted, the West India Committee would be informed by cable.

The weather continued fine, with occasional showers. Planters throughout the Island reported excellently on the prospects for the lime crop.



Hastings Rocks, Barbados.

We are indebted to Mr. H. W. Parkinson for the characteristic photograph from which this picture is reproduced. When Barbados was abandoned last year as a military station, the Hastings Rocks were purchased for £300 by the local Government. This is a favourite spot in the cool of the evening and on moonlight nights when the band plays in the small bandstand.

Grenada.—A Grateful Recognition.

We are informed by Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the Grenada Agricultural and Commercial Society, that at a meeting at Grenville, in St. Andrews, on March 15th, the use and abuse of lime in agriculture was the subject discussed. The next ordinary general meeting had been fixed for Friday, April 6th. The Society had decided to make a small present to Mr. and Mrs. Hankinson in recognition of their services on behalf of the Colony at the recent Exhibitions.

The jockey, who it was thought was likely to die from the fall from his horse at the Grand Ance Races, had not succumbed after all.

The R.M.S. Yacht "Solent" had just run into the inner harbour.

Jamaica.—The Banana Subsidy.

Mr. Ashenheim, writing from Kingston on March 29th, called attention to the official statement of revenue and expenditure of the Colony between April 1st, 1905, and January 31st, 1906, which question was discussed in the Legislature of March 16th. The revenue, which included the sum of £24,602, being the balance of the amount received from the Colonial Bank in connection with the recent law suit, amounted to £712,335 as compared with £612,138 during the same period of the preceding year. Expenditure amounted to £607,116 as against £679,353, being a net decrease of £12,836. The general revenue for the first nine months of the financial year, therefore, showed a balance of £45,219. The question of the carrying out of the fruit contract had practically been settled by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co. agreeing to a

reduction of their subsidy by £500 in lieu of providing agricultural instructors. No statement was made as to whether this reduction was to be made entirely from the Jamaica share of the subsidy, but it was felt that in view of the circumstances of the reduction, it should be credited to Jamaica and not also to the Imperial Government.

A subscription list had been opened with the object of establishing a boys' rifle club. Mr. H. E. Wortley, of the Jamaica College, had been selected for the Rhodes' Scholarship, 1906, at Oxford.

A syndicate had been formed to erect another large hotel to the north of Kingston. Most of the capital had already been subscribed locally.

At the monthly meeting of the Agricultural Society on March 22nd, a letter from the Governor was read stating his regret that it was not possible to make a grant for the purpose of the representation of the Colony at the Canadian Exhibitions. The consideration of the question of hurricane insurance was postponed, pending the arrival of Mr. Head in the Island, and the Board recommended the Governor not to sanction the importation of a further supply of starlings, it being understood that these birds had proved a curse in New Zealand. Mr. Muirhead moved a resolution urging the abolition of the 2s. produce license, and that the law be amended so that produce could only be purchased on the premises of the grower, or at properly constructed licensed places, or in the public markets. Mr. Craig agreed, and it was decided to address the Government on the subject.

The Legislative Council met on March 27th, when the Director of Public Works introduced the Petroleum Law and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1906. On the following day it was read a third time. The Produce Protection Laws Amendment Laws, 1906, was also under consideration. The object of the amendment is to compel every exporter of citrus fruit to use one and one only distinctive trade or shipping mark. The Bill passed through its Committee stage, and the Colonial Secretary gave notice that he would move the third reading on that day week.

Nevis.—The Exodus to Panama.

In his letter dated March 25th, the Hon. C. A. Shand reported that cotton picking had been pushed forward vigorously, and most of the first picking was to hand. It was quite impossible, however, to estimate the probable output as yet, seeing that a large proportion of the seed cotton was still awaiting ginning. There were at present five ginneries established in Nevis, viz.: three driven by oil engines, one driven by aeromotor, and one driven by cattle, mules or ponies, and the result had been that competition had brought down the cost of ginning to a much lower rate than prevailing last season, when three cents per lb. was being paid for ginning with an extra charge for baling, whilst at present two cents per lb. covered all expenditure. The seed was as it was last year, returnable to the producer.

At present there was every likelihood of the inducements offered by the Panama (Isthmus) contractors to labourers causing a serious famine throughout these Islands. An American agent in St. Kitts was offering a free passage to all able-bodied labourers (men who could pass a medical examination, of the age of from twenty-five to forty years on a two years' term of service, regular employment guaranteed at the rate of 3s. 4d. per diem. Needless to say, this offer was accompanied by the most glowing accounts of the hygienic conditions of the Isthmus and its many other attractions, all of which differed materially from information collated from other and probably more authentic sources, but in the meantime they were threatened with an exodus of the able-bodied, which would seriously affect the agricultural prospects of the immediate future, and would put the finishing stroke to the already tottering muscovado sugar industry. There was a reasonable prospect of a central factory upon the same lines as the one in Antigua being started in St. Kitts, and doubtless this would materially improve matters, as the labour saving appliances in such a factory necessitate the employment of even fewer labourers than were at present required for a set of works turning out from 300 to 400 tons of muscovado sugar, and as the central factory would be capable of making at least 6000 tons of crystals, it was obvious what an enormous saving this would be under the heading of labour alone.

St. Kitts.—Cane Fire on College Estate.

We are informed by Mr. Chas. A. Smith in a letter dated March 25th, that a large cane fire, caused by accident, burned twenty-six acres of canes on the College Estate of Mr. P. A. Wade, in the previous week. With good machinery at his disposal and good reaping weather, Mr. Wade's loss would not be so large as might have been the case in other circumstances.

Good reaping weather had prevailed since last mail, and rapid progress was being made with crops. Curing-houses were getting blocked, and the obtaining of adequate space on board the steamers of the Pickford & Black line was still giving shippers some concern.

St. Vincent.—Resuscitation of Carib Canal.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., writing on March 28th, again called attention to the inadequacy of shipping facilities to Canada during crop time.

At a general meeting of the St. Vincent Cotton Growers' Association and Agricultural Society held at the Court House on March 15th, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"Resolved that in the opinion of this Society the question of the resuscitation of the Carib country should now receive the attention of the Government, e.g., by restoring the water supply to estates, and by erecting an iron wharf at Georgetown, and also by erecting a bridge over the Mount Beatinck River in connection with the administration of the balance of the Eruption Fund, and, further, that the Government be respectfully asked to consider the question of improving the means of communication by sea between Georgetown and Kingstown, also in connection with the administration of the Eruption Fund."

"Resolved that in the opinion of this Society that the Telegraphic Service of this Island should be maintained and that a copy of this resolution be communicated to the Government."

We are indebted to Mr. W. N. Sands, Secretary of the Cotton Growers Association for the following notes on matters of interest in connection with St. Vincent:—

The spell of dry weather had now broken and nice showers had fallen during the past few days much to the benefit of the young crops.

The most interesting news to record was the very satisfactory result of the first sales of this season's cotton crop. Of 119 bales so far sold, and of which accounts sales had been received by growers from the British Cotton Growing Association, 111 had sold at prices ranging from 16s. to 20s. per lb., of 100, 9 had sold at 17s., and only 2 at a lower rate, namely 16s. and 14s.

Thirty-one bales sold at the 20s. per lb. rate, and Messrs. Walsenthalne & Holland, the brokers to the British Cotton Growing Association, wrote to Mr. C. J. Simmons and Messrs. J. H. Hazell, Sons & Co., to whom the cotton which

realised this high price belonged, as follows:—"The St. Vincent cotton sold at 20d. per lb., was very excellent, and this figure is the highest yet paid for West Indian Sea Island cotton."

By this one could fairly safely state that St. Vincent still holds the proud position as producing the finest cotton grown in the British Empire.

Growers were much pleased with the results so far obtained, and a considerable impetus would be given to cotton growing generally. Already one heard of planters who had not hitherto attempted this cultivation, making preparations for planting considerable areas during the coming season.

The cable repair ship had been at work off the Island during the past few days, and the cables recently broken during the seismic disturbances had been repaired, restoring communication with other parts of the world.

It was with great regret that the people here had read the alarming and greatly exaggerated reports published in some of the English newspapers of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions at St. Vincent, which misleading reports were calculated to do much injury to the Island from commercial and other points of view.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society, at a meeting held on March 15th, had discussed the question of the resuscitation of the Carib country in connection with the administration of the balance of the Eruption Fund, the cable and the anthrax questions. With regard to anthrax it was resolved to ask the Government to supply certain evidence on which it had come to the conclusion that anthrax obtained amongst stock on the Island before submitting proposals for stamping it out.

Trinidad.—Cocoa Suffering.

In his letter of March 31st, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick said that it was surprising how little interest had been shown in the Colony in the change of the headquarters and transhipping station of the Royal Mail Service to Barbados. This indifference could only be accounted for by the fact that instead of being, like some of the other Colonies (and also those in England who were interested in the West Indies) seriously inconvenienced by the irregularities of the present system, they enjoyed additional facilities. It was to be hoped some arrangements ensuring regularity and punctuality in the mail service would speedily be made, but it was feared that Trinidad could not be relied upon for much active assistance.

Large shipments of West Indian sugars were being made to Canada this season, and if the Canadians would only treat the shippers in the matter of 33½% preference, the trade with this Colony would rapidly increase up to the limit of Canada's requirements from them.

There had been some showers, not very heavy, during the fortnight, which were unequally distributed. The young canes in the districts favoured by the showers benefited much, but much more was wanted to keep them going.

The cocoa estates had suffered severely and all chance of a June crop was at an end.

The market, reflecting the prospects of the crop, had been excessively firm, and prices had advanced. Buyers for all markets had exhibited eagerness to make purchases, and with only small supplies coming to hand, values had been forced very high. Under these circumstances little disposition had been shown to make fresh contracts and no new business of importance had been recorded.

Fine Estates were quoted at 53s. 6d., Mixed Estates at 51s., and Ordinary at 50s., C. and P., Havre.

Arrivals from the mainland had suffered both in quantity and quality, but had met with a very strong market at advancing prices, fine qualities being in great demand at fancy figures.

				Cocoa Shipments.			
				50,827	Bags	Trinidad.	
Total at last report	...	...	...	50,827	...	14,379	Venezuelan.
Mar. 15 S.S. "Caroni"	...	...	...	350	...	—	Europe.
" 15 S.S. "Savan"	...	...	...	81	...	212	"
" 15 S.S. "Caribbee"	...	...	...	—	...	10	Canada.
" 17 S.S. "Asiria"	...	...	...	400	...	500	Europe.
" 17 S.S. "Crown of Granada"	...	...	...	50	...	—	"
" 19 S.S. "Orinoco"	...	...	...	266	...	—	"
" 24 S.S. "Maracas"	...	...	...	1114	...	298	New York.
" 26 S.S. "Prins Willem III."	...	...	...	1820	...	—	Europe.
" 28 S.S. "Frisia"	...	...	...	200	...	124	"
Totals to date	...	...	...	55,102	...	15,523	Venezuelan

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or local events for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The Colonial Office List, 1906. London: Waterlow & Sons. Price 10s. 6d. The high standard of excellence reached by this work, so ably edited by Mr. W. H. Mercer, C.M.G., one of the Crown Agents, and Mr. A. F. Collins, of the Colonial Office, is fully maintained in the volume for 1906. It is carefully compiled and revised and has several new maps.

Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Vol. IX. and Vol. X., No. 3. We are indebted to the Jamaica Agricultural Society for a bound volume for 1905 and the March issue for the current year. The latter contains as usual an account of the proceedings of the Board of Management. At a meeting on February 21st, the recent correspondence regarding the Elder Dempster contract was submitted by the Secretary. This is published in full.

The West Indian Fruit Industry. By William G. Freeman, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., F.L.S. London: Spottiswood & Co., Ltd. The substance of this pamphlet was delivered by Mr. Freeman, at a lecture at the Colonial Fruit Show under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1904. It contains many useful statistics showing how remarkably the fruit industry of the West Indies has expanded of late years. Thus in 1885-4 it was valued at £253,332 only, while in 1902-3 fruit to the value of £1,262,604 was exported.

We have to thank Messrs. Gillespie, Bros. & Co., for copies of the Trinidad Official and Commercial Register, 1890 to 1893. This work was the predecessor of the useful "Trinidad and Tobago Year Book," now published annually by Mr. James Henry Collins. A Member of the West India Committee is anxious to obtain the following numbers of *The West India Committee Circular* to complete a set of the new series: 1, 3, 8, 29, 30, 31, 32, 91, 96. Will any reader who

has copies of these issues to spare kindly send them to the Editor of *The West India Committee Circular*, 15, Seething Lane, who will be pleased to pay for them?

Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute. Vol XXXVII, Part 5. A verbatim report of Miss C. de Thierry's paper on our policy in the West Indies is given in this number, and also an account of the discussion which followed. Dr. T. Miller Maguire's speech is as stirring a diatribe against the propounders of our present policy in the West Indies as has ever been published. Dr. Miller Maguire has a wonderful flow of language, of which the following is an example—

"Political legerdemain, fantastic phantasmasgora, cat jumping, or waiting on jumping cats is not statesmanship, as not only the people of the West Indies, but of every isle and peninsula in that vast man of Empire which I see on the wall, know to their cost. The policy of our partisan drifvelers for the past thirty years has been one long series of outrages on the feelings and the prospects of our Colonies, particularly the West Indian Isles. I venture to contend that the proposed withdrawal of our troops and the abandonment of our position in the West Indies, especially with regard to future interest in the Panama Canal and the whole theory of the Lytteltons of *Angonimaire* was not only strategically but commercially atrocious folly, and also an outrage on all the traditions and hopes of our Colonies from the St. Lawrence to Jamaica, and thence to the Cape and Australia. *A friend and a patriot* it was, as Miss de Thierry has demonstrated, irritating puerility."

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros, McConnell & Co., Ltd.) April 17th (dated April 11th) "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message." (Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.) April 17th (dated April 11th). "Heavy rain in Demerara; lighter in Essequibo, where rain is much wanted for cultivation."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty) April 14th—
Barbados—Miss Halliwell, Miss V. C. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis, Mr. and Mrs. Field, Mr. V. Hosking, Mr. P. A. Lynch, Mr. C. Johnson. **Demerara**—Mr. Justice and Mrs. Lucie Smith, Mr. J. A. Louis Smith, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Kissien, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Stewart, Mrs. and Miss Shuman, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Abraham, Mr. C. C. Baker, Mr. W. J. Rennie, Mr. J. R. C. Gordon, Mrs. Newham, Miss Marshall, Mr. J. A. Parsons, Mr. J. Cairns, Mr. A. Kadir, Mr. B. S. Steyn, **Jamaica**—Miss H. Withers, Mrs. Sexton, Mrs. Colver, Mr. W. D. Black, Dr. J. Parton, Mr. C. G. Fraith, Mr. G. R. Tindall, Mr. and Mrs. Goswell, Mr. W. S. P. Skelbing, Capt. and Mrs. J. R. D. Newman, Mr. R. R. J. Hulmwood, Rev. and Miss Bowden-Smith, Mr. Denholm, Dr. and Mrs. Ramsey. **Trinidad**—His Excellency Sir H. M. and Lady Jackson, Lieut. Sarel, the Lady O'Neill, Admiral Sir N. and Lady Boscawen, Miss C. Campbell, Sir John and Lady Holder, Mr. and Mrs. Agar, Mr. and Miss Greenwood, Mrs. Hope, Miss Hayward, Mr. R. de C. Hindlay, Mr. and Miss Bird, Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown, Mr. B. Allan, Mr. J. R. Pike, Col. and Mrs. L. J. Richardson-Gardner, Mr. J. Macfarlane, Mr. S. W. Wheatley, Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. Paterson, Mr. Carvalho, Mr. A. Russell, Hon. R. H. McCarthy, Mr. I. Rumella, Miss Bushe, Mr. and Mrs. M. Van de Velde, Major and Mrs. E. F. Escher, Mr. J. Salaman, Mr. L. Salaman, Mr. W. J. S. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. G. Christall, Mr. Thornton, Dr. Allen, Mr. F. Escher, Mr. J. Salaman, Mr. L. Salaman, Mrs. C. E. Wilson. **Antigua**—Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Hornby. **Dominica**—His Lordship Bishop Schellhorn, Rev. Father Deane, Mr. F. E. Everington. **Grenada**—Mr. A. W. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Lines, Miss Lines.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) April 11th:—Jamaica—Mrs. Allman, Col. Dalrymple, Maj. Barchard, Rev. H. B. Beech, Mrs. Beech, Mr. Barchard, Mr. and Miss C. Coles, Gen. Sir F. and Lady Carrington, Mr. A. Cram-Edging, Mr. J. T. Dawson, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. T. R. Dent, Mr. C. Dent, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. H. B. Hayman, Mr. H. C. Housden, Mr. T. N. Hugo, Mr. Lenthall, Mr. J. J. Leach, Mr. MacMahon, Miss McLure, Mr. F. C. Mitchell, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. and Mrs. C. Oakes, Mrs. Louis Rivers, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bakers, Mrs. Scott, Mr. P. W. F. Scott, Mrs. and Miss Speers, Mr. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Wright, Miss Wylde, Mr. J. Billings, Mr. T. Young.

Mail Arrangements.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd. announce that the R.M.S. "Port Henderson" will take the sailing of R.M.S. "Port Antonio," and will sail from Plymouth on Saturday, 21st inst., instead of from Avonmouth. Goods should be consigned the order of Messrs. H. J. Waring & Co., Plymouth and shipping advices forwarded to that firm. Goods may be sent to Free Trade Wharf as usual. They add that the present rates will apply.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
April 19	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"	April 18, mdn 1
21	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Jamaica	*Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Caroni"	20,
21	Bermuda	*London, via Gravesend	Direct Line	"Cayo Manzanillo"	20, 6 p.m.
21	Jamaica	Plymouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"	20, 6 p.m.
27	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Salybia"	27, 12 noon
May 3	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	May 2, mdn 1.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
April 20	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London	Direct Line	"Torgorm"
21	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"
28	W. I. Islands and Demerara	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"

* Letters to be marked per Private S.S. "

" and via port of Departure

The Produce Markets' Summary.

All our produce markets were closed for Easter, and the volume of business doing is insignificant. It is not only the recess that interferes with the general course of trade, but the political uncertainty which creates a sense of unrest throughout the country, and no one feels it more quickly than those who distribute by wholesale and retail the various articles of consumption necessary for the population of the country.

Sugar.—On the whole little variation has taken place in prices during the last fortnight. The trade demand has been persistently slack, but the covering of "bear" sales of 88% has kept up the quotations of this sugar, quotations, indeed, which should seem low enough for anyone.

How the future course of prices will tend from now till the end of the season it is not easy to calculate. The stocks in Europe are excessive. The sowings of beet now commencing seem likely to be on a large scale again. The uncertain factor is the summer and autumn weather, the result of which could easily raise the price of 88% beet to 9s 6d., and equally easily reduce it to 7s. 6d. before the season closes. It is pretty clear given normal conditions there is no feature pointing to an upward movement other than the usual and temporary fluctuations of the speculative market and with this it behaves us to be content.

The momentary quotations of 88% beet are —April, 8s. 6d.; May, 8s. 6½d.; August, 8s. 8½d.; and Oct/Dec., 8s. 10½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	3,510,000	2,370,000	3,190,000	3,040,000	3,160,000	Tons
United States	250,000	250,000	140,000	200,000	100,000	"
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	250,000	330,000	310,000	370,000	390,000	"
Total	4,010,000	2,950,000	3,640,000	3,610,000	3,650,000	
Quotations of 88% Beet:—	8s. 6d.	13s. 11d.	8s. 6d.	8s. 5d.	8s. 4d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The flatness in this sugar is passing away and there is a good increase of business noticeable, prices, however, remaining the same, viz. inferior grades, 14s., yellows, 14s. 6d. to 15s., and fine sugar in small quantities up to 16s. 6d. The value of average qualities is fully 14s. 9d. The value of a 95 test cargo to Refiners is 9s. 6d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Is steady from 11s. to 15s. For 89 test on floating terms, about 7s. 7½d. is now the value.

Muscovado.—There is little or nothing doing in grocery kinds. To Refiners 89 test is worth about 8s. 3d. on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Imports	18,000	11,000	13,000	5000	11,000	Tons.
Deliveries	12,000	10,000	13,000	12,000	13,000	"
Stocks	15,000	11,000	12,000	21,000	10,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	14s. 9d.	20s. 8d.	15s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 3d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:	1906	1905	1904	1903		
Jamaica	5000	6800	8500	Funs.
Demerara	10,200	6,500	12,700	...	10,100	"
Total of all kinds	22,400	20,700	28,800	...	28,300	"
Board of Trade Returns for 3 months:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.		
Home Consumption	1,095,000	1,103,000	1,179,000	1,033,000	Calls	
Stocks 31st March	7,647,000	8,291,000	10,043,000	9,946,000	"	

The position of Demerara rum remains unchanged. Our wholesale dealers are quite content to allow the Importers to hold the large stocks printed above, the bulk of which is in their hands. Quotations are entirely nominal and cannot be given in the absence of buyers. Leewards and other proof kinds are equally neglected. Jamaica remains quiet, with a nominal quotation of 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:	1906.	1905	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	12,800	17,200	17,900	17,500	Bags
Grenada	8200	14,200	19,700	14,200	"
Total of all kinds	72,000	78,000	87,000	83,000	"
Board of Trade Returns for 3 months:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	7471	6570	10,536	7977	Tons.
Home Consumption	5919	5210	6392	5029	"
Stocks 31st March	4795	5480	5924	5079	"

The Market remains quiet and steady without any special feature. Quotations are the same as last mail, viz.: Trinidad fair collected, 52s.; Estate Marks 52s., 56s. and 60s.; Grenada fair, 72s.; fermented 49s., 51s. 6d., and from other Islands, fair Native 43s., with fermented 48s. to 51s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Small sales of West India, 82's at 7½d., 100's at 8d., 110's at 6d. to 6½d. **Mace.**—Small lots of fair raddas, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. **Ginger.**—Firm. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 60s. to 65s. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d. to 2½d. for fair.

Arrowroot.—Quiet with only retail sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2d.

Ume Juice.—Firm at 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, firmer again, value, £18 10s. Hand Pressed, quiet, at 2s. to 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, slow, value 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.

The . . .
West India Committee Circular

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Annual Meeting.

Members of the West India Committee are hereby informed that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the West India Committee Rooms, on Thursday, May 17th, at 3 p.m.

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL,
Secretary.

Agenda :—

1. To adopt the Annual Report of the Executive Committee and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31st, 1905.
2. To elect eleven members to the Executive Committee in place of eleven retiring by rotation by virtue of Article VI. of the Royal Charter. Mr. W. H. Alley, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. George Carrington, Mr. George Christall, Mr. B. A. de Pass, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. F. McConnell, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard and Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope retire by rotation, but being eligible, submit themselves for re-election.

The Annual Report of the Executive Committee will be found on page 188, and the Income and Expenditure Account for 1905 on page 194 of this number of the "West Indian Committee Circular."

MR. E. C. JACKMAN, in a recent issue of the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, dealt with the Central Factory question in Barbados in an admirable and exhaustive manner. After pointing out the futility of the sporadic attempts which have been made from time to time to bring about a definite scheme, he expresses the belief that no better plan for the establishment of Central Factories could be suggested than that contained in the Government Act of 1895, which provided that the Government should advance the necessary capital, under specific liens for its repayment, and he advocates the further extension of the provisions of the Act in order to narrow down the lines of consent to the immediate owner, who is generally a mortgagor, leaving it to the lien holders to prove to the satisfaction of the Chief Justice that the entry of the estate into the scheme would be injurious to his interests. This would considerably simplify an intricate question, as the difficulty of obtaining unanimity of views among the lien holders, whose consent is necessary as the Act now stands, has been one of the greatest obstacles to the carrying out of central factory schemes in Barbados. Mr. Jackman is strongly opposed to the introduction of the capitalist into the Island, being evidently under the impression that this would mean that the latter would take care to appropriate more than his legitimate share of the profits. If, however, the planters themselves are unable to raise the funds for the erection of the factory, it is a choice between the outside capitalist and Government help, and the fact that planters *might* look forward to the ultimate possession of the factory by the operation of any Government scheme, would probably secure that the project would be entered into with greater zeal and unanimity. We must, however, in this regard, deprecate the attitude Mr. Jackman takes up towards the capitalist. He is afraid, should a central factory be erected by outside agency, that the landowners will fall into his "capacious maw" and that "we shall become an Island of cane farmers living from hand to mouth, and the Barbados that we all know and love will have passed away for ever." May we point out that it would be quite as much to the interest of the capitalist, who might invest a large sum of money in a central factory, to give good

value for the canes as it would be for the grower to receive it. For the factory to be a success canes must be grown generously, and no capitalist, no matter how grasping he is, is going to sink a large sum in a central factory in a far-off possession and then run the risk of killing the goose with the golden eggs by starving the cane supply! Further, the introduction of outside capital and outside interests would have the effect of strengthening rather than lowering the position of the planters, and do more to preserve the Island to them than the half-hearted attitude they have hitherto taken up on the question. Mr. Jackman advocates a 10,000 factory as being a suitable size for the Island, but this, as he points out, must be a matter for local consideration. The cost of manufacture diminishes as the factory increases, it is true, but the limit of economy is determined by the cost of transporting the canes, which naturally increases with the distance and difficulty of access. The size of a factory, therefore, must be determined by local conditions, the general principle accepted being to have it as large as these will economically permit. There is one statement, however, in Mr. Jackman's paper which is difficult to understand. He says: "The price that he (the capitalist) would offer for canes—8s. to 12s. per ton—would only be a little more than half of what we now get under our wasteful system." Now it is a recognised fact, published under no less an authority than that of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, that a fair figure to take as representing the quantity of cane per ton of sugar under average conditions, would be 13.5 tons. With sugar at its present price, £8 10s. per ton for the producer including molasses, would be a full value, which would only give 12s. 6d. on the value of a ton of canes, without any cost for manufacture being allowed for! The Antigua factory, although small, was worked economically; yet with sugar at £12 10s. a ton, the total amount, including profits, which the cane growers received, only amounted to 14s. 1d. per ton, 0.7 tons of cane being taken per ton of sugar. We are afraid that owing to the want of a system of regular weighing of canes, considerable misapprehension has arisen among planters as to the actual quantity of canes worked up, and that this has led to a mistaken idea of the value of the canes, an impression borne out by Mr. Jackman's statement given above. And while on this subject we should like to give one word of warning as to the danger of exaggerated expectations from Central Factory working. The only figures that should enter into calculations should be those from factories working as nearly as possible under the same conditions as would obtain in Barbados. It should be remembered that the working of the juice from a modern mill plant is a different matter to that of the juice from a windmill which, we may remark, so far as it goes, gives typical crushing, and that the proportion of sugar extracted does not increase, *pro rata*, with the juice extracted. The same quality of sugar again, cannot be turned out with triple crushing as with single. These are points, however, which no doubt will be fully taken into account when a scheme is crystallised. In the meantime we would impress upon Barbadian planters the necessity for not taking too high a view of the value of their canes. Mr. Jackman has given an admirable exposition of the Central Factory question in Barbados, and we sincerely trust that the publication of his article will direct the minds of the Barbadian planters to the realisation of some definite scheme. The whole of the West Indies would regret the passing out of Barbados from the world of sugar, which will surely come about unless something is soon done to put their industry on a better footing.

The Annual Report

OF THE

Executive of the West India Committee,

To be laid before the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 17th, 1906.

1. The Executive Committee beg to present to Members of the West India Committee their Annual Report and Income and Expenditure Account for 1905, during which year no fewer than 60 Meetings of the Committee and various Sub-Committees were held.

Membership.

2. One hundred and thirty-seven new Members were elected during 1905 as compared with 335 in 1904, 319 in 1903, 57 in 1902, 40 in 1901, and 42 in 1900. The total membership of the West India Committee now amounts to 1062 and a fresh record is thus established. It is hoped that Members will individually endeavour to maintain the present rate of expansion of the West India Committee and thus support the work which is being done on behalf of our West Indian Colonies. The Committee have with deep regret to record the deaths of the following Members, which have taken place since their last report was issued: Mr. J. D. Taylor, a Member of the Executive Committee; Sir Neale Porter, K.C.M.G., Hon. T. Yearwood, Hon. H. Sewell, Mr. H. G. Arbutnot, Mr. A. Belfield, Mr. W. R. Boon, Mr. A. H. Hicks-Bratt, Mr. John Hinkson, Mr. R. N. Hodges, Mr. F. B. Lyons, Mr. S. Sandbach Parker, Mr. E. J. Sadler, Mr. C. Schiff, Mr. W. W. Symington, and Mr. E. St. G. Tucker.

Finance.

3. The Committee have pleasure in recording an improvement in the financial position of the West India Committee, which has been attained without any increase in the amount of subscriptions payable.* The question of forming an endowment fund is under consideration, it being felt that the permanency of the West India Committee being assured through the grant to it of a Royal Charter of Incorporation it is desirable to establish its finances on a thoroughly stable basis.

The Sugar Industry.

4. The Committee, in their last Report, made reference to the remarkable course taken by the sugar market at the close of 1904. The expanding production of sugar beet on the Continent suffered a severe check owing to a phenomenal drought. This reduction amounted to about 1,200,000 tons as compared with the previous year. As a consequence, buyers took alarm as to what the future course of prices would be, and fanned by an abnormal speculation such as has not been seen for a great many years, the price of 88 per cent beet rose from the average price of 9s. for 1903-04 to 16s. 3d. in January, 1905. From that time onwards, prices persistently declined, till at the close of the year they reached 8s., thus fully proving the contention of the West India Committee, which was put forward in repeated letters to the Press, that the rise was due to a diminution in the supply occasioned by the drought, and not to the Brussels Sugar Convention. Needless to say, sugar planters were disturbed and the market was disorganised throughout the year. In spite of this, however, there was a considerable increase in confidence in the West Indian sugar industry. More machinery was sent out than for many years past, two new central factories began work in Antigua, systems of steam ploughing were successfully inaugurated in Trinidad and Antigua, and other evidence is not wanting of a decided improvement. On March 27th in the present year a resolution was introduced into the House of Commons calling upon the Government to withdraw from the Brussels Convention. An amendment was moved to the effect that it was too early to arrive at a decision, and both resolution and amendment were withdrawn. In view of this debate the Committee issued an exhaustive memorandum in order to correct erroneous views to every member of the House of Commons, and the same appeared in the Press on the morning of the debate. There still remains some uncertainty as to the attitude of the present Government regarding the Brussels Convention, but the Committee hope that before the close of next year, when it will be necessary to arrive at a decision on the subject, the Government will have recognised that the cessation of the Sugar Bounties secured by the Convention has proved a boon not only to our Colonies, by restoring to them equality of opportunity in British markets, but also to consumers, by increasing the sources of supply, instead of narrowing them down to Germany and Austria.

Rum Prosecutions.

5. The Jamaica Government commissioned a representative to visit this country to protect Jamaica rum from the injury being caused by its imitation. Several prosecutions took place and convictions resulted. A meeting of the Committee was held at which the Jamaica Commissioner and the Trinidad Government Chemist were present, and it being understood that there was no intention to conduct the prosecutions in such a manner as to prejudice the interests of the other West Indian Colonies, it was decided that the West India Committee would support the action of Jamaica in defending her rum against imitations.

The Rum Surtax.

6. Another question concerning rum, which has received the continued attention of the Committee, has been the old standing grievance of the Rum Surtax. It appears that the co-operation of the Agents-General of the Colonies is likely to be secured, and there is still a possibility of the Government admitting that the present protection accorded to distillers in this country is most unfair to distillers in the Colonies. In this matter the Committee have received much valuable assistance from Mr. F. J. Scard, F.I.C.

The Cocoa Industry.

7. The Committee were not called upon to take any action with regard to the cocoa industry other than that connected with Coolie Immigration. The Cocoa Market in 1905 was featureless with a declining tendency. The continuance of the form of thieving from the plantations, popularly known as Prædial Larceny, continues to affect this industry as well as smaller industries conducted by peasant proprietors, very prejudicially. The Committee are causing inquiries to be made into the system of slavery which is alleged to prevail in the Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Príncipe, involving as it does the question of competition between free and slave grown cocoa.

The Cotton Industry.

8. Mr. Edward R. Davson and the Secretary continue to represent the West India Committee on the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association which, with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, has done much towards re-establishing the Cotton industry in the West

* The Income and Expenditure Account for 1905 will be found on page 194.

Indies. The Sea Island variety of Cotton is now a valuable article of export from Barbados, St. Vincent, Nevis and Antigua, while in Carriacou, Marie Galante Cotton has been the staple for many years.

Rubber.

9. The production of Rubber has been started in the West Indies. The Committee are fully alive to the importance of this additional industry.

Immigration.

10. The vital question of immigration has received careful attention and the Committee are mindful of the necessity of maintaining a sufficient supply of labour for the Colonies of British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad. In connection with the agitation against the introduction of Chinese into South Africa, an effort was made to compare the Transvaal Immigration Ordinance with the West Indian Ordinances to the detriment of the latter. The Committee sent a letter to the Press on the subject, and thus successfully counteracted his attempt to make party capital by misrepresenting the West Indian Immigration Ordinances.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

11. This Department has, in conjunction with the various botanical and scientific organisations of the different Colonies, rendered infinite service to agricultural teaching and tropical cultivation, not only in the West Indies but in our Colonies generally. Having regard to the fact that the Imperial Grant for the maintenance of the Department ceases in 1908, the Committee are considering what steps it may be desirable to take to secure the continuance of the good work which is being done, and are ascertaining the wishes of the Colonies in this respect.

The Merchandise Marks and Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

12. The Committee continue to watch prosecutions for offences under these Acts, and have on several occasions given advice and assistance in cases of prosecutions for selling dyed beet sugar as Demerara. In accordance with the opinion of eminent counsel on a case submitted to the Committee, the legal security of buyers under the Merchandise Marks Act depends on the goods bought being in packages bearing, or otherwise marked with, the trade description.

Cable Communication.

13. The desirability of establishing a cheaper and more reliable means of cable communication with and between certain of our West Indian Colonies, has received the unremitting attention of the Committee. A sub-Committee was appointed to report on this matter. They recommended the laying of a new cable by the Direct West India Cable Company, from Bermuda to Barbados, the laying of new cables from Barbados to Trinidad, and from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara, and the establishment, on an efficient basis, of a connecting cable between the Windward and Leeward Islands and Barbados, and also a substantial reduction of message rates. These recommendations have already been endorsed by the Chambers of Commerce of Georgetown, British Guiana, and Trinidad. Constant breakdowns of cable communication, such as are now experienced, coupled with the exorbitant message rates at present prevailing, paralyse trade, and render it imperative that steps should be taken to ameliorate the existing condition of affairs.

The Withdrawal of the Troops.

14. The question of the withdrawal of the troops was the subject of a deputation from the Committee to the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, on March 16th, 1905, and to the Right Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, the then Prime Minister, on November 28th. The troops were subsequently withdrawn from Barbados and St. Lucia; but the Committee received an assurance from the late Prime Minister that the Islands should be adequately protected. The Committee believe that their representations were largely instrumental in securing the retention of part of the Jamaica garrison.

The Mail Contract.

15. The West Indian mail contract expired on June 30th, 1905. Tenders for a new service have been invited, but only the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company tendered, and they asked for an increase of £15,500 over the subsidy hitherto received. The Secretary of State informed the Colonies that the Imperial Government were not prepared to contribute towards this increase, and that the Colonies would have to find it themselves, suggesting as an alternative that the contract should be abandoned and the mails carried by weight. To this the Colonies objected, and further tenders were invited, and the contract was subsequently awarded to another company, subject to the Colonies' approval. The Colonies were not satisfied with the manner in which the tenders had been invited and were dealt with, and were, moreover, unwilling to subsidise a service of which they did not approve. The matter was warmly taken up by the Press in the West Indies and at home, and the Government subsequently announced that in the circumstances there would be no contract at all. The present state of affairs is by no means acceptable to all the West Indian Colonies, and it is hoped that some satisfactory solution of the mail question will be arrived at.

Exhibitions.

16. The Colonial Exhibition at Sydenham remained open from May 12th to September 23rd and the results have, it is believed, proved satisfactory to Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica and Grenada, though none of the reports of the local Exhibition Committees have as yet been received. Full particulars of this successful Exhibition were given in a special Souvenir, containing the report of the Exhibition Committee and the awards of the judges, which was issued at the close of 1905. The Committee also undertook arrangements for the representation of Grenada, Barbados, and several private exhibitors at the Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall on December 5th and 6th, 1905, and March 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1906, and of Grenada at the Liverpool Colonial Products Exhibition, January 30th to February 8th, 1906.

The Annual Banquet.

17. The Annual Banquet on June 22nd, was made the opportunity of celebrating the grant by the King to the West India Committee of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, made on August 4th of the preceding year. The Committee were honoured by the presence of the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., M.P., the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon. Lord Strathcona, G.C.M.G., and other distinguished guests. The proceedings were fully recorded in the *West India Committee Circular*. Among other notable functions during the year was the Luncheon given by the West India Committee to the delegates of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association on June 23rd.

Through the courtesy of the Director, the Committee were enabled to hold a successful reception in the Galleries of the Imperial Institute on July 26th, to enable Members to see the excellent exhibition of British grown cotton which was then being held there.

Lecture.

18. Owing to the immense amount of work involved by the Colonial Exhibition, it was only possible to arrange for one lecture to be held at the West India Committee Rooms. Mr. W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.L.S., Superintendent of the Colonial Exhibits at the Imperial Institute, delivered a lecture on "The West Indian Fruit Industry" to a well attended meeting on January 25th, 1905, Sir W. Thiselton Dyer, K.C.M.G., C.I.E., &c., the then Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, presiding.

Publications.

19. During the year the *West India Committee Circular*, the official organ of the West India Committee, was regularly sent to Members. From the four page leaflet, issued twenty years ago, this circular has developed into a weekly publication, registered at the General Post Office as a newspaper, and the Committee believe that it is generally appreciated. Besides being circulated among Members, advance copies are communicated to the Press. The *West India Committee Circular* is also now distributed to the leading hotels and Clubs in the United Kingdom, where they hope that it serves the useful purpose of making the public more fully conversant with West Indian affairs. An illustrated Souvenir of the Colonial Exhibition was also published and forwarded to Members free of charge.

Honorary Correspondents.

20. Since the Report was issued, Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, and Mr. W. N. Sands, have been appointed additional Hon. Correspondents for British Guiana and St. Vincent respectively, and Mr. W. T. James Hon. Correspondent for Bermuda. The Committee again desire to place on record their gratitude to the following Hon. Correspondents, who devote much time and labour to keeping them informed regarding the requirements and conditions of the various Colonies, and whose interesting letters contribute so largely to the success of the *West India Committee Circular*:

HON. A. ST. G. SPOONER ...	ANTIGUA.	JOHN BARCLAY, ESQ. ...	...	JAMAICA.
HON. FORSTER M. ALLAYNE ...	BARBADOS.	CONRAD WATSON, ESQ. ...	...	MONTSERRAY.
W. T. JAMES, ESQ. ...	BERMUDA.	HON. C. ARTHUR SHAND ...	...	NEVIS.
A. SUMMERSON, ESQ. ...	BRITISH GUIANA.	CHARLES A. SMITH, ESQ. ...	...	ST. KITTS.
T. S. HARGREAVES, ESQ. ...		HON. E. DUBOULAY ...	...	ST. LUCIA.
HON. A. R. USHER ...	BRITISH HONDURAS.	MESSRS. D. K. PORTER & CO ...	...	ST. VINCENT.
HON. H. A. A. NICHOLLS, C.M.G., M.D. ...	DOMINICA.	W. N. SANDS, ESQ. ...	...	TOBAGO.
E. A. AGAR, ESQ. ...	GRENADA.	W. J. S. TUCKER, ESQ. ...	...	TRINIDAD.
HON. D. S. DE FREITAS ...		HON. G. TOWNSEND FENWICK, C.M.G. ...	...
P. J. DEAN, ESQ. ...		EDGAR TRIPP, ESQ. ...	...
J. L. ASHENHEIM, ESQ. ...	JAMAICA.	J. RUSSELL MURRAY, ESQ. ...	...	CANADA.
ROBERT CRAIG, ESQ. ...		R. W. S. MITCHELL, ESQ., C.M.G. ...	...	CALCUTTA.
THE WESTMORELAND SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION ...		JOHN FARR, ESQ. ...	...	NEW YORK.

The Committee have continued to keep in touch with the West India Associations of Glasgow and Liverpool, the West India Section of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, the London Chamber of Commerce, and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. They hope, also, during the coming year to appoint Hon. Correspondents in Halifax and St. Johns, New Brunswick.

The Future of the West Indies.

21. A satisfactory feature of the year has been the largely increased number of inquiries received at the West India Committee Rooms from people in all classes of life desirous of visiting the West Indies, either for business or pleasure.

The Committee, in conclusion, are glad to be able to state that they regard with every confidence the future of the West Indies. The Panama Canal will constitute the West Indian Ports of the highest importance to the great trade route from Europe, to both the proper West, and to the East, through the Canal. The cessation of the Sugar Bounty system of Europe has placed the West Indian Cane and European Beet Sugars on their own natural foundations. The West Indies require no special, but only equal, opportunities in the World's Markets for their produce, and are therefore content to place reliance on the physical advantages in production which Nature has bestowed upon them.

N. LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

New Members of the West India Committee.

At a meeting of the Executive on Thursday, April 19th, Mr. Robert Rutherford presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
ROBERT W. WEBBERS, M.I.B.E., A.M.I.C.E.	E. T. Whitaker	R. Rutherford
ALBERT RUGSTER	F. N. Martinez	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
FREDERICK KENT (Grenada)	Cecil Gurney	H. A. Trotter
MRS. W. P. TRIMMINGHAM	Rifiot G. Louis	Sir E. Noël Walker, K.C.M.G.
GEORGE FARMER (Barbados)	W. P. B. Shephard	R. Rutherford

Full particulars regarding membership and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

News from Jamaica and Trinidad.

Since we last went to press mails have been received from Jamaica and Trinidad. The Jamaica papers of March 30th gave the General Order issued by the Governor upon the occasion of the reduction of the strength of the militia. In the Legislative Council on March 31st, Mr Cornaldi's motion for an increase of produce buyers' licences from 2s. to £2 was adopted. The report of the Jamaica Electric Tramway Co. showed gross earnings for the year \$139,762 33, an increase of \$8,596.08 over the previous year, while the nett earnings amounted to \$34,212 57, an increase of \$6,111.39. The entire nett profits were placed to the credit of the surplus account.

Mr. Hugh Clifford was sworn in as Acting Governor of Trinidad at a meeting of the Legislative Council at Port-of-Spain on April 2nd, and Mr. Blache-Fraser took his oath and his seat as Acting Collector of Customs, in the absence of the Hon. R. H. McCarthy. Mr. W. M. Gordon is acting as Colonial Secretary. The *Port-of-Spain Gazette* of April 4th gives an interesting account of the progress being made in the erection of the new Red House. The same journal, in its agricultural summary dated March 31st, reported that the days continued intensely hot, and although a couple of light showers had fallen, the growing cultivation did not receive the amount of moisture necessary, the total rainfall for 1906 to date being only 4.42 inches as compared with 5.70 and 11.25 in the two preceding years. The weather was, however, ideal for crushing, and 184,669 bags and barrels of sugar had already been exported, as compared with 152,672 at the same time in the preceding year. The writer adds that:—

"The latest modern appliances are at work, some of which were introduced for the present campaign—a fact which should be noted by some influential agencies abroad, who, as occasion arises, persist in traducing the West Indian planter and prohibiting to the world that he sticks to primitive sugar-juice methods, and does not invest capital in order to obtain the best possible result from the raw material. . . . It undoubtedly helps his culture removed from the ardency—the masterful hand of the agriculturist applied, aided, of course, by propitious growing weather, to bear of returns averaging between 20 and 25 tons of cane to the acre, obtained *in cane* from lands which for more than a half century knew what the endless, low, and spade were. This excellent return represents between 8 and 12 *marketable* *proceeds* to the acre sufficient proof, we think, that given fair competition in the markets of the world, West Indian grown sugar is able to compete successfully with Beet, if unprincipled devices which help to bolster up the latter are made to disappear, and give way to wholesome competition. We learn that canes grown by farmers, continue to flow in to abundance at factories down the coast—their harvest is a rich one this season, if it can all be gathered before rainy

weather sets in. The rush appears to be so great at some of the factories and loading stations that a 'check' has had to be put on the supply. We heard a couple of days ago of 300 farmers' carts heavily lad'd up, at a factory all at one and the same time."

With regard to cocoa, 9,389,270 lbs. had been exported as compared with 9,631,435 and 18,536,460 for the corresponding period in the two preceding years.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Tues., April 17th.—Article in the *Morning Post* on the situation in the West Indies.—86% Beet 8/11½ quiet.

Wed., April 18th.—Severe earthquake in San Francisco.—Article in *The Standard* on Canada and Jamaica.—Beet 8/5½ quiet.

Thur., April 19th.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—Telegraphic communication with Demerara, which was interrupted on April 9th, restored.—Bank Rate 3½% unchanged.—Beet 8/5 quiet.

Fri., April 20th.—Meeting of Americans in London to express sympathy with the sufferers from the San Francisco disaster.—Decision to increase the British Garrison in Egypt announced.—Beet 8/5½ steady.

Sat., April 21st.—Leading article in *The Times* regarding the Imperial Department of Agriculture.—Beet 8/4½ sat.

Sun., April 22nd.—Mr. J. M. Maclean, ex-M.P. for Oldham and Cardiff died.

Mon., April 23rd.—St. George's Day.—Fresh outbreak of Fire in San Francisco. Beet 8/4½ quiet.

Tues., April 24th.—The House of Commons re-assembled.—Special article in *The Times* on "The Times and Places of Earthquakes."—The Servian Regicides resigned their appointments.—Beet 8/4½ steady.

Wed., April 25th.—West India Club Dinner.—Beet (morning call) 8/4, quiet.

The West Indian Civil Service.

Hon. R. A. L. Warneford has resigned his office of Swedish Consul at St. John's, Antigua, and the Consulate will temporarily remain vacant.

The leave of absence granted to Mr. H. D. Phillips, District Commissioner, British Honduras, has been extended for two months from March 30th last.

Major G. Lambie, Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers, has been granted leave of absence from May 31st to October 31st, 1906.

Mr. L. E. Hawtayne, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana.

Mr. H. I. C. Brown becomes Assistant to the Attorney-General of Jamaica, on the abolition of the office of Solicitor-General in that Colony.

Cotton.

Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland state that since their last report a fair business has been done in Sea Island descriptions, and full prices have been paid, especially for best qualities. Barbados Cotton has been sold up to 18d., but this figure represented a small quantity only, the bulk being about 16d. @ 16½d., St. Kitts, 15d. @ 17d., and Nevis, 13d. @ 15d. A good demand for cotton, 12d. @ 15d., is anticipated, but it will be difficult to obtain above the latter figure for any quantity.

Homeward Passengers.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "TACUS" (Capt. Hodge), May 8rd.—Miss Udall, Miss Murray, Mr. J. Boldingh, Capt. G. Smith, Mr. C. H. Groene, Mr. and Mrs. James J. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. S. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. de Jonge, Mrs. Flageinann, Mrs. Lo Page, Mrs. Gittens, Rev. T. Gardner, Mr. E. Vouls, Mr. J. Smith, Mr. de Vorteuil, Mr. W. H. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Cleave, Lieut. B. van B. Laug, Mr. H. C. Crouch, Mr. C. Andrews, Mr. C. Ball, Mr. S. Hickford, Mr. M. Milton, Mrs. Gittens.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "PORT HENDERSON" (Capt. W. R. Rowel), April 21st. **Jamaica.**—Lieut. J. S. Bischoe, Lieut. C. H. Clibbon, Lieut. E. E. D. Henderson, Miss L. Herde, Mr. J. Courtenay Knollys, Mrs. J. Courtenay Knollys, Capt. G. G. B. Muller, Capt. W. P. Marlay, Lieut. G. Mc C. Roome, Lieut. H. E. Smyth, Mr. J. R. Smith, Mr. D. C. Turner, Mrs. D. C. Turner, Miss Turner, Mr. Wilmer, Mrs. Wilmer, Mr. Eli Essos, Mr. Jas. C. Kennedy, Master Kennedy, Mr. F. E. McGill, Mr. G. Tobeson, Mrs. G. Polesau.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavilleri), April 18th, "Light partial showers." **British Guiana**—(Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.), April 17th (Dated 11th), "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message."—(Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.), April 17th (Dated 11th), "Heavy rain in Demerara, lighter in Essequibo where rain is much wanted for cultivation." April 20th (Dated 18th), "Three inches of rain have fallen in Essequibo."—(Messrs. Henry K. Dawson & Co.), April 11th, "Weather continues favourable in Guiana." **Jamaica**—The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended April 12th, "PORT ANTONIO—5th to 8th, Fine, 10th, Rainy, 11th, Fine. KINGSTON—Fine."

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwt.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwt.	Coconuts	Pimento cwt.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to Mar. 24, '06	11,659	90,948	1,003,684	76,798	6,726,604	87,915	11,500,016	72,500,343
" " " 25, '06	10,820	23,104	1,179,310	80,868	3,977,643	143,323	8,700,987	76,668,111

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES

No. LXVI



Mr. Randolph Rust.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SRETHING LANE, LONDON,

May 1st, 1906

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8852 CENTRAL.

In their Annual Report, the Executive of the West India Committee refer to the services rendered by the Imperial Department of Agriculture to agricultural teaching and tropical cultivation, not only in the West Indies, but in our Colonies generally. We cannot help feeling that the fact that not the West Indies alone, but also other parts of the Empire have benefited to a considerable degree from the research work performed by the Department, should make a request for some further Imperial assistance for its maintenance after 1908, when the period for which the present Grant was made comes to an end, not unreasonable. Already, many of the Colonies have expressed themselves in a very definite manner as to the desirability of ensuring the continuance of the propagandist and educational work which has proved of such immense value during the past nine years, and it is generally admitted that it would be a misfortune if the existence of this organisation were to cease. Elsewhere we give a brief *resumé* of a report on

the working of the Department of Agriculture which has recently been forwarded by the Commissioner for Agriculture to the Secretary of State. No one after perusing this document can, we

imagine, deny that an immense amount of good has been done, or fail to come to the conclusion that there is not an agricultural industry in the West Indies which has not derived advantage in some form or other from the assistance given by the Department in conjunction with the various botanical and scientific organisations of the different Colonies. The *Times* of April 23rd devoted a leading article to the subject, and while all will agree that the tribute paid to the excellence of the work done is just and well earned, certain statements are made regarding the sugar industry, to which we should like to allude, believing as we do that no good purpose can be served by unjustifiably belittling this industry in which such a vast amount of capital has been invested. While it may be said that in several of the Islands the sugar industry has not been maintained at such a pitch of perfection as might have been desired, yet it is only fair to bear in mind that these constitute the smaller proportion, and that for nearly half a century the planters have had to face the unfair competition caused by the bounties, which has effectively precluded their obtaining the necessary capital for improvements. With the bulk of the sugar-producing Colonies it is different. British Guiana, for example, which alone provides upwards of 40 per cent. of the sugar production of the West Indies, was early in the field. The records of the Royal Agricultural Society teem with accounts of experiments and reports regarding the cultivation and manufacture of sugar. The first systematic manurial experiments in the West Indies were carried out in this Colony. Every method of cultivation likely to be of advantage has been tried, and enormous sums have been spent on manufacturing processes and machinery. The late Mr. QUINCY HOGG spent a fortune in trying to adapt the best processes of diffusion and carbonatation to sugar cane conditions, and other large proprietors can show a strong record of enterprise. The first efficient furnaces for burning the wet megass or crushed cane as it came from the mills were built in that Colony, while the seedling cane experiments were well advanced before the establishment of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which has since carried on the good work so effectively. While all are well-equipped, there are many large factories in British Guiana, such as Diamond, Albion, Uitvlugt, Blairmont and Nonpareil, which are the latest word as far as sugar machinery is concerned. The water conservation schemes, with drainage systems similar to those prevailing in Holland, without which it would be impossible to carry on the estates, are of themselves an instance of the energy and capacity of the planters in dealing with the physical defects of the Colony. As a result, Demerara sugar has established for itself a standard of excellence, as is shown by the fact that it is found worthy of deceptive imitation by the makers of refined beet sugar. The same remarks hold good to a considerable extent regarding Trinidad. The sugar estates and factories are well equipped; steam ploughing, as we pointed out in a recent issue, is now working successfully. The Colonial Company many years ago introduced the central factory principle by the erection of the Usine St. Madeleine, which, with its excellent railway system, well managed and modern factory and its cane farmers, speaks for itself. There are also Caroní, La Fortunée, Palmiste, Brechin Castle, Orange Grove and Waterloo, all of which are in the first rank. St. Lucia has several well equipped factories which yearly render good account of themselves and which can in no way be described as out of date. If Barbados be backward in manufacture, this is due in great measure to the excellence of the cultivation of its carefully managed estates, its suitability to the growth of the sugar cane, the high quality and value of its molasses, and its redundant labour supply, natural advantages which, even while capital was not forthcoming, enabled the planters to hold their own. If, again, the sugar factories in Jamaica have not developed their machinery to the extent they might have, except in a few instances, the reason may also be traced to the lack of capital caused by the bounties. It must, moreover, be remembered that the high value of Jamaica rum has rendered the production of this article and not sugar the primary consideration in many instances. With regard to Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, we may refer to the report of

Dr. Francis Watts on the sugar industry of those Islands, which has just been published. In this he says: "The stability given to the sugar industry by the abolition of bounties by the operation of the Brussels Convention, has already led to a considerable amount of development in the sugar industry in Antigua." Two new central factories have been erected at Gunthorpe's and Bendal's, with the extensive substitution of railway and tramway haulage, and an elaborate system of steam-ploughing. Bearing in mind what has been done in the past, notwithstanding the prejudicial effect of the foreign bounties and cartels, it is impossible to resist arriving at the conclusion that now that these obnoxious forms of protection are abolished, the possibilities of the West Indian sugar industry in the future are great. We admit that this is a digression, but we confess that we do not like to see attempts made to minimise the importance of the Sugar Industry or to cast a slur on the enterprise of the planter. As the *Port of Spain Gazette* says: "The latest modern appliances are at work, some of which were introduced for the present campaign—a fact which should be noted by some influential agencies abroad, who, as occasion arises, persist in traducing the West Indian planter and proclaiming to the world that he sticks to primitive sugar home methods, and does not invest capital in order to obtain the best possible result from the raw material." The Imperial Department of Agriculture has helped the sugar industry by the experiments with seedling canes, and also in the matter of the central factories in Antigua, besides in a variety of lesser ways. But its largest claim for support must be based on the remarkable way in which it has succeeded in developing minor industries. We have frequently referred to the development of the Sea Island cotton industry. For which it has been largely responsible, and which would alone justify the existence of the Department. More than this it is not necessary to say, except that it will, in our opinion, most certainly be a grave misfortune if the Imperial Department of Agriculture is allowed to lapse.

If several of our West Indian Colonies suddenly find themselves without a passenger steamer service, we shall not be surprised, and no one will be able to say that they have not received sufficient warning. The mail arrangements are again going from bad to worse. Though it may be considered in some quarters a matter for satisfaction that the money hitherto spent on the mail contract is now going to swell Imperial and local revenues, it is really a case of Peter being robbed to pay Paul. Taking the West Indies as a whole, the saving is small compared with the loss and inconvenience caused to merchants and shippers by the absence of a regular mail service. In the old days there used to be three intercolonial steamers; nine months ago they were cut down to two, and now we are informed that the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, being unwilling to continue their service at a loss, are making arrangements to lay up another steamer, leaving only one available. This remaining vessel will, we believe, be used for a service to Demerara *via* St. Vincent and Grenada, and the Company have consequently ceased booking passengers after May 3rd, for what is now known as the Northern Islands route, thus cutting off communication with St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat. The present position is certainly a curious one. Though several of the larger Colonies have no cause to complain of the lack of shipping facilities, it is different altogether with the smaller Islands, on whom the present position of affairs already presses very severely. It is easy to see where the trouble lies. Downing Street will not move, and concerted action in the West Indies has been difficult, because the larger Colonies naturally feel disposed to ask why they should have to contribute towards a service largely for the benefit of the smaller Islands. After a little consideration they will, we believe, take a broader view of the matter than this, and realise that if the West Indies are to prosper as a whole, there *must* be unity and co-operation, even if a small sacrifice is involved. Evidence of the dislocation caused by the present state of affairs continues to accumulate. Owing to the abandonment of the mail contract, it was not possible to hold the Annual Conference

under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the same reason is preventing the development of the Barbados banana industry. Writing from that Island, our esteemed correspondent, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, tells us of the uncertainty which prevails, and reminds us that one of the main points put forward by the Royal Commission of 1897 was the importance of the improvement of the means of communication between the different Islands, while now, nine years later, such means of communication are becoming steadily worse. We are firmly convinced as ever that if our Colonies are to progress there must be a mail contract. What, we should like to know, would Canada, Australia, or other parts of the Empire, have to say if they were suddenly informed that they were no longer to enjoy the advantages of a subsidised service? The answer would be short, to the point, and one, moreover, which would not altogether be pleasing to the authorities at home. In this matter the West Indies must speak with a united voice. We continue to receive sporadic representations from the distant Colonies, but what is most essential is that these representations should be united. If the Home Government still definitely refuses to make satisfactory arrangements for the conveyance of mails and passengers, the best way out of the difficulty would be for the Colonies jointly, and not severally, to make their own arrangements. We have not heard that it has as yet been definitely laid down that the Secretary of State will refuse to sanction the Colonies themselves arranging a contract, and we therefore, commend this suggestion to our friends for their most careful consideration.

Mr. Randolph Rust.

Mr. Randolph Rust, whose portrait appears in our present issue, has resided in Trinidad for nearly a quarter of a century. He first landed in the Colony as an employé of Messrs. Campbell, Harvey & Co. In 1887 he conducted two expeditions into the interior of British Guiana, where he did pioneer work in the Gold Fields, and on his return he started in business on his own account. Mr. Rust is an ardent politician, and he had an opportunity of showing his ability as a debater when he recently held an acting appointment in the Legislative Council during the absence on leave of the Hon. W. C. Dyett. He has always taken an interest in the volunteer forces of the Colony, and on the playing fields as on those devoted to Mars he is a conspicuous figure, being a good sportsman and an all round athlete. On our celebrity's connection with the oil fields of Trinidad, for the development of which he has good cause to be proud, it is unnecessary for us to dwell, as several pages of *The West India Committee Circular* are devoted to this subject.

The Death of Sir George C. Pile, 1st.

It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the death of Sir George Pile, of whom we published a portrait in *The West India Committee Circular* so recently as April 18th last. Sir George Pile had been in failing health for some considerable time, and the end, which, according to a cabled message, came on Saturday, April 28th, was not unexpected. Sir George Pile did much for the Colony in which he spent his life, and it is with satisfaction that we learn that there is to be a public funeral. In public, as in private life, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.—R.I.P.

A Group of Coolie Immigrants.

The East Indian Coolies depicted in our full-page illustration were photographed at "Windsor Forest," an estate belonging to the New Colonial Company in British Guiana. The Coolies, who are thrifty and industrious, manage to amass savings to an extent they could never hope to do in India. Much is invested in the local savings banks, or is remitted through the Immigration Department to India, while the female immigrants carry a proportion about with them in the form of massive jewellery. In Jamaica and Trinidad the system of Coolie immigration is also in vogue, and our

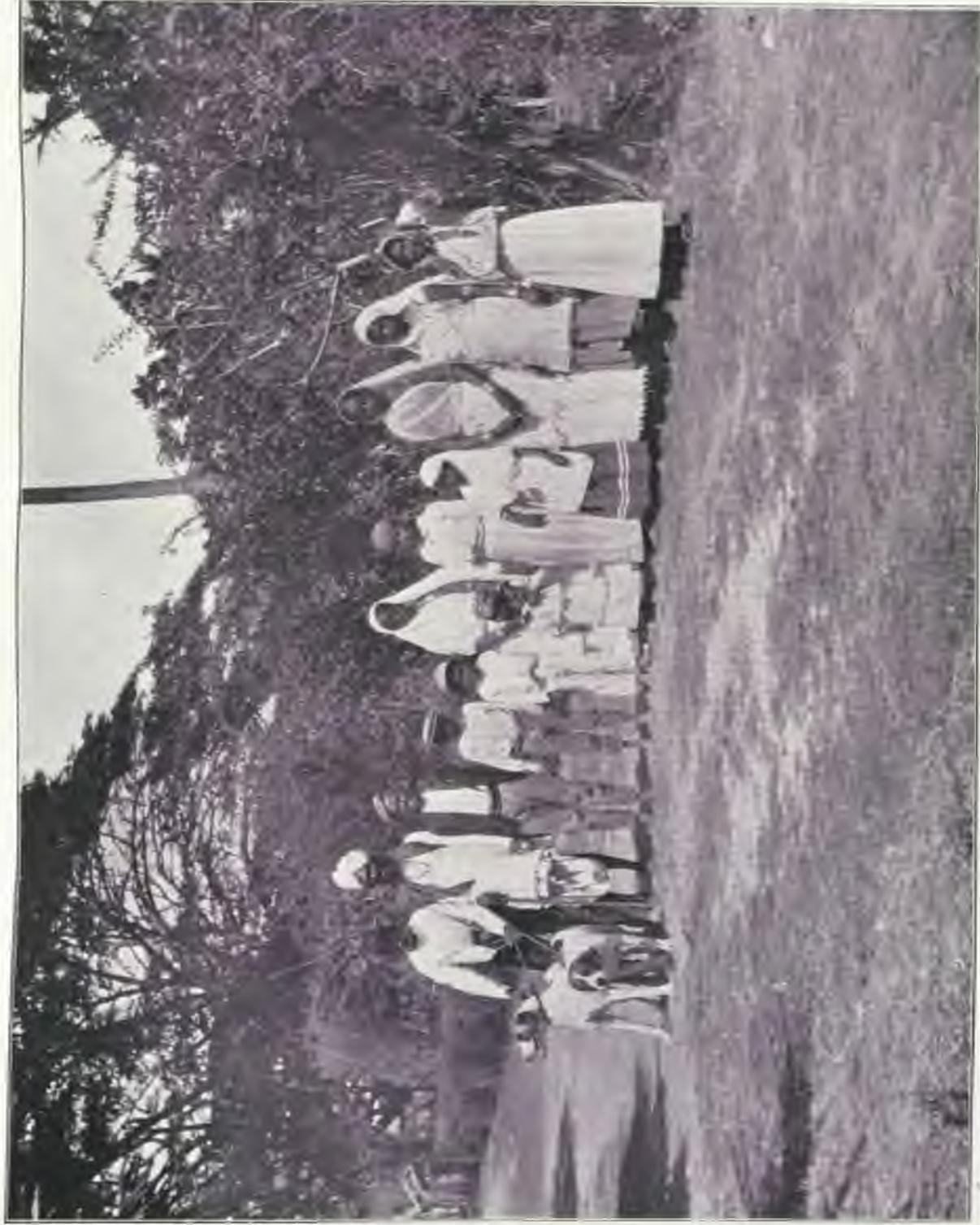


Photo by American E. Agnew.

A GROUP OF COOLIE IMMIGRANTS.

remarks apply equally to these Colonies. Hitherto the Coolies have mainly been recruited from the United Provinces, but lately an experiment has been successfully made with immigrants from Madras, who appear physically to be quite suitable.

The West India Committee.

The next meeting of the Executive and election of Members to the West India Committee will be held on Thursday next at 3 p.m. Particulars regarding Membership and Candidates' Application Forms can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17th, at 3 p.m.

A Hundred Years Ago.

News of the Merchantmen.

In time of war the voyages of our Merchantmen were naturally attended with considerable risk, much anxiety was felt as to their safety and news regarding the fleet eagerly awaited. In 1780 we were at war with France, Spain, Holland and the United States, and consequently, it is easy to imagine what satisfaction was caused to the West India Merchants by the information regarding the position of their ships conveyed to them by Captain Jervis. At a meeting of the West India Committee on March 21st, 1780:—

The following letter from Captain Jervis of His Majesty's Ship "Foudroyant" to the Chairman of the West India Merchants, was read:—

"Foudroyant, Plymouth Sound, 27th Feby, 1780.

Sir,— "I beg leave to acquaint you (for the Information of the Parties interested in the Event) that I fell in with His Majesty's Ships 'Ulysses,' 'Unicorn,' and 'Fortune Sloop,' with between 80 and 90 Sail under their Convoy, from Cork for the West Indies, on the 22nd Jany., and escorted them with the Squadron of His Majesty's Ships under my Command, to the Southward of Cape Finisterre, where I parted with them on the 26th, the Cape bearing East, distant 71 leagues, they were then standing to the Westward, with the Wind at South, but about 24 hours afterwards, it shifted to the North West, and I have no doubt that they are well advanced on their Voyage."

To which the following Answer from the Chairman was read and approved:—

"March 1st, 1780.

"I have this day, the Honour of your Letter, dated from Plymouth Sound the 27th Feby, and immediately took the proper Steps, to make known to the West India Trade, your very singular attention to the Safety of a very valuable Fleet of Ships bound from Cork, to the West India Islands; and that you had left them well and far advanced on their Voyage.

"I am well assured that the West India Merchants will think themselves highly obliged to you, and do you the Justice to esteem this Protection of their Commerce in the light it deserves.

"I have the honour to be, &c.,

"(Signed) BERKTON LONG,
"Chairman."

It will be remembered that the "Foudroyant" was afterwards Nelson's Flagship. She was sold to a German firm of ship-breakers in 1892, but repurchased by a patriotic Englishman and shown to the public. She was ultimately wrecked in a gale off Blackpool and destroyed in 1897.

Petroleum in Trinidad.

The seating capacity of the West India Committee Rooms was taxed to its uttermost at 4 o'clock on Thursday, April 26th, when Mr. Randolph Rust delivered his lecture on "Petroleum in Trinidad." In the absence of Sir Henry M. Jackson, owing to an attack of influenza, Sir Neville Lubbock took the Chair at the commencement of proceedings, but being called away to a pressing engagement he yielded his place to Sir Francis Fleming, late Governor of the Leeward Islands. Among those also present were:—Sir E. Noel Walker, Mr. G. Adams, Mr. F. D. Allen, Mr. P. Arbuthnot, Mr. Arthur a Beckett, Prof. P. Carmody, Mr. H. R. Cowell, Mr. E. H. G. Dalton, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. A. K. F. Duncan, Mr. Alex. Elder, Rev. Canon Elliott, Mr. Martin Elliott, Mrs. Martin Elliott,

Dr. Evans, Mr. F. E. Everington, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. P. Gillespie, Mr. F. Goodhill, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. L. Guggenheim, Miss J. J. Hargreaves, Mr. R. Harvey, Mr. John T. Haynes, Mrs. John T. Haynes, Mr. E. E. Head, Mr. J. D. Henry, Mr. Campbell M. Hunter, Mr. W. St. D. Jenkins, Mr. Wilson Jones, Mr. Reginald Kislisbury, Mr. Lane, Mr. R. G. Lee, Capt. Lund, Mr. A. Macdonald, Mr. F. H. D. Man, Mr. C. Minvielle, Mr. Boyd A. Neilson, The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. P. Preston, Mr. E. J. Previte, Mr. H. F. Prévité, Mr. J. W. Previte, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. H. Murray-Rust, Miss V. Rust, Mrs. R. Shand, Mr. J. W. Stevens, Mr. H. Hamel Smith, Mr. S. A. Smith, Mr. Walter Smith, Mr. Joseph Tsai A. Sue, Mr. Charles C. J. Tarring, Mr. W. A. Tennant, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. Alfred S. Williams, Mr. Corbett W. Woodall, Mr. Wynn and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, introducing the lecturer to the meeting, said that Mr. Rust had lived for twenty-five years in Trinidad and made himself acquainted with the country, devoting himself for many years past to the subject of oil, and he, therefore, might be looked upon as a high authority. He regretted the absence of Sir Henry Jackson, from whom the following sympathetic letter had just been received by the Secretary :—

DEAR MR. ASPINALL,

Will you kindly express to the Committee my great regret at not being able to attend the meeting to-day, owing to a sharp attack of influenza which has confined me to my room?

I particularly wished to be present as the subject of Mr. Rust's paper is of far more than local interest in these days when modern battleships are being fitted to burn oil fuel. It is of national importance, if Great Britain should be found to possess a source of supply within easy reach, the control of which can be kept in exclusively British hands, and I had wished to be able to afford any information that might be desired as to the conditions under which the development of the oil-field is encouraged. I shall be happy to place myself at the service of any enquirer, and I may add that the excellent reports of the Government Geologist, together with his maps of the oil-fields, can be obtained at the Colonial Office.

Yours very faithfully,

H. M. JACKSON.

SIR FRANCIS FLEMING then took the chair, and MR. REXFORD RUST began his lecture by saying that the West India Committee had once upon a time been looked upon as a body who concerned themselves with the one special industry of the Colonies, but it was now very generally recognised that they devoted themselves to furthering all the interests and industries of the West Indies.

He pointed out that he was not going to give a lecture in the proper sense of the word, nor was he going to read a paper, but what he was about to say was the outcome of six years of his life devoted to the oil industry of Trinidad. He then gave a brief description of the Island of Trinidad, and pointed out its great importance to the Empire from a strategic point of view, lying as it does at the north-east corner of the continent of South America, and adjacent to the mainland, Venezuela being within six miles distant at the southern end of the Island, and about fifteen to sixteen miles at the northern end. He pointed out that the British Navy could lie perfectly secure in the land-locked waters of the Gulf of Paria, which, with a little fortification at the Bocas, could be made impregnable to an enemy. Trinidad, moreover, was free from volcanic disturbances, and was out of the hurricane zone. In fact, it only wanted one thing to make Trinidad an ideal naval base, the one thing needful being a supply of fuel. At present the Navy has to coal at various depots along the Atlantic seaboard, but with the discovery of petroleum in Trinidad and its increasing use as a fuel for naval purposes, the importance of the discovery could scarcely be over-estimated. Moreover, with the completion of the Panama Canal in the near future, Trinidad would rise into great importance, lying as it does at one of the important points of what will be the great trade routes of the future. In fact, if one looked at the map it would be seen that in Jamaica and Trinidad, Great Britain owned islands that guarded gateways of the Caribbean sea.

Trinidad had a delightful climate, with splendid scenery, glorious forests, magnificent sea views, and the most lovely surf bathing in the world. The people were about the most mixed lot to be found on the face of the globe, but in common with those of the rest of the West Indies, they were among the most loyal and patriotic to be found in the Empire.

Now as to how oil was found in Trinidad. The then manager of the Colonial Bank had an estate (Aripere) for sale with asphalt on it, and in addition there was found a dark green liquid pulsating up and down in a kind of tube, and this estate was eventually bought by Mr. Rust. A sample of the material was taken to Professor Catmoudy, who pronounced it to be petroleum of a very fine quality. Then at Guayaguayare twenty-five acres of land were found which were just one puddle of soft asphalt and oil, and he acquired not only this, but fifty square miles of the surrounding land.

Having found oil in these two places, drilling was commenced at Aripere. In May, 1902, the first drilling machinery was erected on the Pilote River, and within a month they struck oil in No. 1 well at this spot. Their work had been done in the face of very great difficulties, because of the dense tropical forests in the interior. Mr. Rust then sketched in a vivid manner his explorations in the tropical forests of Trinidad during the past six years, resulting in his having discovered that enormous deposits of oil, estimated as underlying some 400 square miles of land, existed in practically the whole of the southern half of the island. His own personal observations and discoveries had been fully borne out by a close and careful geological survey, and also by experts and consulting engineers in the petroleum world, who had visited the deposits in question and reported most favourably thereon, saying that they had never seen a finer field of oil than that of Trinidad.

Up to date, the Canadian syndicate of which he was a member, had sunk some six wells, and a seventh was also being drilled. These wells were situated several miles apart. In fact, one well was placed not far from the celebrated pitch lake at La Brea, 40 miles as the crow flies from the wells sunk at Guayaguayare, and the oil found, both in No. 1 well and that at Aripere estate, was undoubtedly derived from the same strata, proving beyond doubt that the oil sand existed in a direct line some 40 miles long and at almost similar depths. The quality of the oils found was most excellent, most of those hitherto obtained had an asphaltic base, but in No. 3 well an oil containing no less than 32% of solid paraffin wax had been discovered.

With regard to the calorific value of the oil, it had been tested by the Electric Light and Power Company of Trinidad, and also in the laboratory, and the calorific value was equal to 18.2. The crude oil contained a very large percentage of petrol, an article which is in increasing demand, and also a very high percentage of illuminating oil. In one sample of crude oil obtained from a natural spring, no less than 72% of the same was illuminating oil of a very high character; in fact, it had been analysed by a New York firm of analysts, and pronounced equal in illuminating value to almost double that of Pratt's astral oil. The residues of the crude oils consisted of lubricating oils, with a small percentage, 5 to 6 per cent. only, of solid bitumen. One of the oils discovered was very rich in lubricating oil, in fact, was a natural lubricant, and could be used as drawn from the No. 4 well for that purpose. The Navy of the future, it seemed, was to be fed with oil-burning furnaces; in Trinidad oil they had a magnificent supply of the fuel which would be required.

Mr. Rust then dwelt upon the shipping facilities, due to the proximity of the oil deposits to the sea-shore; two of the wells, in fact, were drilled at high water mark, whilst at various points around the coast large quantities of oil were from time to time found floating on the surface of the sea, indicating that deposits of petroleum underlie the bed of the sea adjacent to the coastline.

With regard to transport facilities, he pointed out very forcibly that up to now they were entirely lacking. Everything had to be landed through the surf on to the beach and then conveyed with immense labour and difficulty into the surrounding forest. Some roads had already been made by his Company and also by the Government, but if the oil fields of Trinidad were to be developed for the benefit not only of Trinidad but for the use of the British Empire, it was imperative that the fields should be opened up by means of a light railroad into the Guayaguayare and Mayaro districts. This could easily be done, as there were no physical or engineering difficulties to overcome, and moreover, a railroad through the districts named would open up some of the most fertile lands in



The Trinidad Oil Fields—Well No. 1.

The Well No. 1 of the Canadian Oil Exploration Company, is situated on the Pilote River in the Guayaguayare district at the South East corner of Trinidad.

the Colony, and he trusted that the Government of the Island would do all in their power to extend the railroad into the oil fields.

In conclusion, he put on record his thanks to Sir Henry Moore Jackson and the various Government officials with whom he had been in contact. He had received at their hands the greatest assistance and sympathy, and he particularly wished to mention the names of the Hon. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., the Hon. R. H. McCarthy and Professor Carmody. He would also add that during Sir Alfred Muloney's tenure of office in Trinidad, and also from the late Sir Courtenay Knollys, he had received every assistance in his initial exploratory efforts. He was glad, too, to recognise the interest taken in the matter by so powerful a body as the West India Committee. He also drew attention to the very valuable assistance that he had received from the Government Geologist, Mr. Cunningham Craig, a gentleman who was an enthusiast in his profession and did not spare himself in his efforts to investigate geological conditions, not only of Trinidad in general, but of the oil fields in particular, and who, he regretted to say, was at the present moment suffering from a

severe attack of typhoid and malarial fever contracted during his journeys in the tropical jungles of Trinidad.

Mr. Rust concluded his remarks by expressing his firm belief in the successful outcome of the work he had already done, and that in the near future Trinidad would be known not only for its sugar, cocoa and asphalt, but also for its petroleum and the birth of a new industry, which would immediately conduce to the welfare of the Colony and indirectly to the safety and welfare of the British Empire, as it was the only place on that side of the Atlantic where Great Britain owned any large deposit of petroleum that could be used in her Navy for fuel purposes. Finally, he wished to impress on those present how extremely important it was that the oil fields of Trinidad should be developed, not only of the Empire. (Applause.)



A Driller's Camp on the Trinidad Oilfields.

This palm-roofed hut is in the Driller's Camp near Well No. 1 on the Toloé River. It is placed amid beautiful scenery, typical of the tropics.

that Trinidad petroleum might come to the front, but also for the benefit of the Empire. (Applause.) The Chairman having invited discussion, Mr. Alfred Williams asked what the depth was to which the wells were sunk. Mr. Rust, in reply, said that there were few matters which his Company did not care to disclose, and this was one of them. In reply to another enquiry, he stated that they had obtained 300 barrels (12,000 gallons) out of one well in six days, working daylight only.

Mr. Macdonald said that he carried with him probably the traditions of the oil trade further back than anyone present. The firm with which he was connected was the first to introduce burning oils to the world. The oil trade in the West Indies was likely to be an enormous one if developed. His belief was that the Gulf of Mexico was a vast basin of oil, and the Islands formed a natural foothold on which they could be worked. There was every indication that oil existed in large quantities in the West Indies, and if developed it would become an immense source of revenue.

The Editor of the *Petroleum Review* said he could corroborate what Mr. Rust had said about the various oils to be found in Trinidad. He felt that here was an opportunity for the British capitalist to devote his money to his own Colonies, and he had no doubt that lectures such as that which Mr. Rust had delivered, would help to bring the interest home to Englishmen. He hoped that Professor Carmody would give his views on the subject.

PROFESSOR CARMODY said that all he knew about the oil had been very ably and concisely put by Mr. Rust, and if he were to say anything from a chemical point of view, the meeting would probably not listen with patience—(laughter). So far as the quality of the oil was concerned, it

might be taken from him, and he had studied the question closely for the last ten or twelve years, that the quality of the oil in Trinidad was at least equal, if not superior, to that in any other part of the world—(hear, hear). Having studied reports put forward by geologists, and having seen for himself these deposits, and the enormous amount of pitch in the pitch lake, he could come to no other conclusion than that there was a vast bed of oil underlying the surface of the land in Trinidad.

Mr. H. F. PREVIRE, proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Rust, said that the lecturer was one of those men of whom pioneers were made, but even he could not have done so much unless he had had the most sympathetic support of the Government, who had acted in a very good spirit. Mr. Rust had referred to the Pitch Lake, with which he, the speaker, was connected. It was only because the Government acted in an equally generous spirit and gave a large portion of the asphalt bearing lands of Trinidad to a group of individuals, that it became worth the while of anyone to develop the asphalt industry, which was now becoming of the greatest importance to Trinidad. He hoped that the result of the same generous treatment to the oil industry in its early stages would be as great a success. He asked the meeting to move a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Rust. The resolution was seconded by Mr. C. W. Woodall, who had recently returned from Trinidad, and carried unanimously, Mr. Rust having responded in a few words.

PROFESSOR CARMODY, on behalf of those present, thanked Sir Francis Fleming for presiding in the regrettable absence of Sir Henry Jackson, whom they would all have liked to see at the lecture that afternoon. Sir E. Noel Walker, seconding the vote, expressed the hope that something would be done, as the oil industry came to greater maturity, to establish an interest in it in this country.

Sir FRANCIS FLEMING, said that there were several points in connection with the lecture which caused him regret, and the first of these was the absence of Sir Henry Jackson. If the same interest was taken in Trinidad by Sir Henry as was taken in the Leeward Islands, they had among them a Governor who would give all his heart to the interest of the Colony he was governing. He was also sorry that Sir Neville Lubbock could not continue in the Chair, as his close connection with the West Indian Colonies would enable him to speak with much greater authority than he, Sir Francis, could do. He regretted that he had never served in the Colony under discussion, but had only passed through it. All that had been said about it by the lecturer had been listened to with deep interest. With regard to a statement as to the loyalty of the West Indians, this was one deserving earnest attention and consideration, because if the West Indies were loyal to us, it was our duty to have the same loyalty and affection towards them, and must bear in mind that we also have a part to play. With regard to oil itself, he could not help expressing his opinion with that of the lecturer that the time would come, and before long, when oil would be a most important material to value and encourage. He had heard with pleasure what the Colonial Government had done to help Mr. Rust in his work, and hoped that it would assist in what they all wished to see, the working together of all for the prosperity and welfare of our great Empire—(hear, hear).

The meeting then came to a close. Tea was served and those present had an opportunity of inspecting various excellent photographs of the oil fields, wells and derricks, and samples of the various crude oils and their distillates.



Well No. 2 on the Trinidad Oil Fields.

This Well No. 2 is also situated on the Pilote River, in a clearing of the Virgin Forest, which is well shown in our illustration.

Banana Flour.

Mr. C. Driberg has communicated to the *Tropical Agriculturist* of Ceylon an interesting article on banana flour. Speaking of its advantages, he says its chief importance is as a diet for invalids and infants, for whom there is no question as to its value. The late Sir H. M. Stanley spoke in high terms of its efficacy in gastritis, and the testimony of physicians in India and the West Indies is forthcoming to prove its value as a food for those suffering from dyspepsia, dysentery, and similar ailments. In a report made on a sample sent to the Paris Exposition, special reference was made to its suitability in cases of diabetes.

Mr. Driberg estimates that 5 cwt. of fruit is the average amount required to produce 1 cwt. of flour. With regard to cost of production, this is stated to be as high as 40 cents. per lb. and £60 per ton in India, though in Ceylon the flour has been produced for 16 cents. per lb. and £24 per ton. At present the consumption of banana flour in the United Kingdom is very small, and is estimated by the Director of the Imperial Institute at under 50 tons per annum, while the current market value is £26 to £28 per ton. In the circumstances Mr. Driberg is not enthusiastic as to the prospects of the industry in Ceylon.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

Reassembling of Parliament.

The House of Commons reassembled after the Easter holidays on Tuesday, April 24th, and the House of Lords, on April 30th.

Mr. Asquith's Budget Statement.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced the Budget on Monday, April 30th. The following figures show the position:—

Estimated Revenue, 1906-7	...	...	...	...	£144,860,000
" Expenditure, 1906-7	...	...	...	...	141,786,000
Estimated Surplus, 1906-7	...	...	...	...	£3,074,000
					Disposal of Surplus.
Estimated Surplus available	...	...	...	...	£3,074,000
Sinking Fund	...	...	...	£500,000	
Necessitous Schools	...	...	...	135,000	
Alterations in Postal Rates	...	...	...	105,000	
Repeal of Coal Tax	...	...	...	1,040,000	
Reduction of Tea Duty by 1d.	...	...	...	920,000	
					2,660,000
Surplus	...	...	...	...	£414,000

Speaking of sugar, Mr. Asquith said: "The main increase in Customs apart from coal, is under the head of sugar, which has exceeded the estimate by £465,000. A considerable decline in the yield of the sugar duty was anticipated in view of the short crop of 1904-5 and a consequent rise in prices; but in the sugar world it is always the unexpected that happens, and the uncertain conditions of the industry from climatic and other causes were unfortunately made still more uncertain by a convention and by organised speculation. (Hear, hear). The world's production, which in 1904-5 was 9,302,000 tons, rose in 1905-6 to 11,834,000 tons, the speculation to keep up the value broke up in July, and the price of 88 per cent. German beet, which at the end of December, 1904, was 14s. 5d. per cwt., fell at the end of December, 1905, to 8s. 1½d. per cwt. (Hear, hear). The increase of the crop was beyond all previous records. The result, I am glad to say, has been a steady increase in consumption at home, and the yield of the duty shows an actual increase over 1904-5."

Consular Reports.

Beet.

The poor beet crop in 1904 showed its unfavourable results in the increased imports into Sweden of unrefined sugar during 1905. While the import of this kind of sugar during 1901 and 1902 was exceedingly small, and during 1903 amounted to only 1,673 metric tons, it rose in 1904 to 7,037, and in 1905 it came to no less than 19,990 metric tons.

Venezuela.

Mr. Consul de Lema in his report on the trade of Ciudad Bolívar, for 1905, remarks that nearly the whole of the imports were carried in transit via Trinidad, British West Indies. The

surtax of 30% on the duties on goods imported from the British West Indies continued during the year. 79,939 kilos of cocoa were exported, as compared with 33,810 kilos in 1901.

Cuban Sugar.

The amount of sugar imported into the United States from Cuba in 1905 was 1,092,180 tons, valued at \$72,649,818. In 1904 the amount imported was 1,151,345 tons, valued at \$55,357,309. According to a well-known authority the consumption of sugar in 1905 decreased 139,946 tons, or 4.896 per cent., against an increased consumption in 1904 of 8.531 per cent. The total refined sugar consumption in 1905 was 2,506,680 tons, of which the Sugar Trust supplied a little over one-half.

Sta Marta, Colombia.

Most of the cocoa produced at Santa Marta, Colombia, went to the interior in 1904, owing to abnormally high prices caused by a partial failure of the crops. Last year the bulk of the crop which amounted to 54,951 kilos, was exported to the United States and Germany, where it fetched high prices. The cultivation of bananas is increasing steadily, fruit to the value of £63,703 having been exported during 1905. In spite of the increase of import duties by 400 per cent. there was no increase in the manufacture of sugar. Immigration for the West Indies ceased, having proved unsatisfactory and costly.

Greek Citrons in Brine.

The demand which has sprung up of late years for citrons has caused land owners in suitable localities in the Morea to devote their attention to their cultivation, so that quite a large business is now the result. The citron is cut in half and shipped in casks containing strong brine. Last year from Patras alone £7,500 worth went to the United States, and, exceptionally, some 300 tons, of a value of about £10,000 were shipped to the United Kingdom, which had hitherto imported very little of this fruit from Greece. In normal seasons, when the various producing countries in this part of the world have average crops, the price of citrons in brine varies from £17 to £20 per ton, but last year there was a general shortage, and prices, which opened at £24 per ton, were gradually driven up to £38.

W. I. Bananas in Baltimore.

Until the year 1888 there was no direct importation of tropical fruits into Baltimore, with the exception of pineapples brought in small schooners from the Bahama Islands. Now there are five steamship lines engaged mostly in bringing bananas from Jamaica and Cuba. In one week of 1905 169,839 bunches of bananas were landed at Baltimore. This was occasioned by the rapid ripening of the fruit, and, of course, caused a glut in the market, so that the best bunches were sold at 2½d. to 5d. each. The usual price is about 3s. a bunch. The value of the bananas received at the port during the past year was £289,387, an increase of £60,000 over 1904. The weight of oranges, however, fell off greatly and 11,572,676 lbs. were imported, whereas 15,859,175 lbs. were the figures for 1904. Several lots of Cuban onions were imported in 1905, and it is expected a considerable trade in that vegetable will be built up.

Colonial Reports.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

This report, which has just been published as one of the miscellaneous series, was forwarded by Sir Daniel Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture to the Secretary of State in January last. It deals fully with the circumstances which led to the establishment of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and with the results achieved through its working during the past eight years. There is also appended to it a series of technical articles upon educational matters, agricultural banks, and the various industries of the West Indies, many, if not all, of which have already appeared in the publications of the Department from the pens of experts. The average amount expended by the Department has been at the rate of £17,400 per annum, of which £5,000 has been spent on salaries and incidental expenses (head Office), and £12,400 on grants-in-aid. The latter have been used in Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands on the maintenance of botanic and experiment stations and agricultural education; at Jamaica, in providing the services of an agricultural lecturer; at British Guiana, in assisting experiments for improving the sugar industry, and at Trinidad (for Tobago), in maintaining a botanic and experiment station. (The three latter grants-in-aid were withdrawn on March 31st last). Education forms an important part of the work of the Department, as it was realised that substantial progress was impossible until the mass of the people were brought into sympathy with agriculture and received the proper training. In Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts and British Guiana, the average expenditure on the scientific investigation of questions regarding the sugar industry was £4,000 per annum. The investigations were mainly directed towards raising seedling varieties of sugar-canes capable of withstanding disease, and of producing a larger yield of

sugar per acre. Valuable experiments were also carried on with various manures, and the chemical selection of sugar-cane, the treatment of cane tops with germicides, and the effect of planting at different distances and tillage have also received attention. Details of the result of the experiments, which have already appeared in *The West India Committee Circular* from time to time, are recorded in the paragraph beginning at the foot of page 16, owing to what is doubtless an error in punctuation,



The Oil Well on Guayaguayare Beach.

The derrick in this illustration is erected over Well No. 3 of the Canadian Oil Exploration Company on Guayaguayare Beach.

year, while manurial experiments have been carried on steadily, and careful experiments have been made regarding fungoid and other pests. With regard to fruit the Commissioner says that if suitable facilities can be provided, it is probable that fresh tropical fruit, such as bananas, mangoes, avocado pears and papaws, could be regularly shipped to Europe from British Guiana, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbados, St. Lucia and Dominica, and also pineapples from Antigua; and he adds that the R.M.S.P. Co. had agreed to fit all their fleet with Hall's cold storage system.

Cotton naturally takes up several pages of the report, but the figures proving the remarkable success of this re nascent industry are too familiar to need repetition. The next paragraphs deal with rice, the cultivation of which has undergone a large increase, and limes, regarding which the Commissioner says that the late Colonial and Indian Exhibition proved of considerable service in bringing limes under the notice of the British public and encouraging their more general use instead of lemons. The experiment of supplying the Fleet with a blend of Jamaica and Virginian tobacco is undergoing a trial.

Rubber, sisal, hemp, stock, diseases of plants, agricultural teaching and publications, are dealt with in successive series of paragraphs. 50,000 to 70,000 copies of the publications of the Department are circulated annually. The Commissioner concludes by saying that one of the most gratifying features connected with the work of the Department is the steady growth of appreciation of its value "in uplifting the several Colonies into the view of one another and into the view of the Mother Country, and new markets and capabilities."

the Commissioner is made to say that the methods adopted for extracting the juice and manufacturing the sugar, except in a few instances at Jamaica, Barbados, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Nevis, are still far from satisfactory. Having regard, however, to the progress in this direction made by British Guiana and Trinidad, it is obvious that there should be a comma after "instances," which, as will be seen, completely alters the sense of the paragraph. The Commissioner adds that the raising of new canes does not cover the whole ground, and that until improved machinery for extracting the juice and manufacturing the sugar is in general use in Jamaica, Barbados and the smaller Islands, it will be impossible for them to compete successfully with other sugar-producing areas. At present, he says, "It takes about 13½ tons of canes to produce a ton of muscovado sugar of the value of £8; while in a well-equipped factory it would only take about 9½ tons of canes to produce a ton of grey crystals of the value of about £10 10s. It is also to be borne in mind that muscovado sugar is only in limited demand in the United States and Canada, while grey crystals are readily sold in any quantity. Remarks of the Hon. F. J. Clarke and Professor Harrison are quoted, urging the necessity of the adoption of a system of central factories in Barbados, and the Commissioner adds that the same remarks apply to Jamaica and the smaller Islands.

Touching on cocoa, the Commissioner estimates that about 80,000 plants, besides large quantities of pods, are distributed from the Botanic Gardens and Experiment Stations every

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. The Bank Rate stands at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (changed from 4 per cent. on April 12th, 1906), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) are quoted $90\frac{1}{2}$.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended April 26th, 511 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.55d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; fine, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid rd. to 17d.

IMMIGRATION. With reference to the paragraph in a recent *Circular* regarding immigration, we are informed by Messrs. James Nourse, Limited, that their new steamer "Ganges" is shortly to proceed on her maiden voyage with returned immigrants from Demerara to Calcutta. It was the "Indus" which left on March 28th with immigrants for Jamaica.

A CORRECTION. In dealing with the results of steam ploughing on "Caroni" estate in Trinidad in our issue of the 18th inst., under the heading "Homeward Mail," it should have been explained that the satisfactory results were arrived at *after* allowing for wages and expenses and English ploughmen. The word "not" was substituted for "after" in error.

GALIPASH AND CALIPEE. Mr. F. K. Bellis has received a consignment of twenty-nine live turtles from Jamaica by the R.M.S. "Port Royal" in excellent condition. These were the first turtles shipped to Avonmouth by Messrs. Elders, Dempster & Co., but thanks to the co-operation of the dock authorities and railway officials the experiment proved so successful that a regular trade is likely to be established, and Bristol's sons will once more have an opportunity of delighting in turtle as they used to—according to Byron—formerly.

Coming Events.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

- Thurs. May 4th — Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee and election, 3 p.m.
 Tues. May 8th — Lecture on "India under British Rule," by Mr. Arthur Sawtell, Royal Colonial Institute, 8 p.m.
 Wed. May 9th — The West India Committee arrange a West Indian Court at the Colonial Missionary Exhibition, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.—West Indian Club Dinner, Howard Hotel, Strand, 7.30 p.m.
 Thurs. May 17th — Annual Meeting of the West India Committee, 3 p.m.
 Mon. June 4th — The West Indian Cricket team arrives at Southampton.
 Wed. June 6th — Show of Colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster.
 Mon. June 11th — Cricket: West Indians v. London County at the Crystal Palace
 Thurs. June 14th — " " " v. Essex, at Leyton.
 Mon. June 18th — " " " v. Lord Brackley's team, at Lords.
 Thurs. June 21st — " " " v. Minor Counties, at Raling.
 Mon. June 25th — " " " v. Surrey, at the Oval

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed. April 25th.—Banquet of the Royal Colonial Institute. Lord Elgin the principal guest.—Remarkable demonstration for women's rights in the ladies' gallery at the House of Commons.—88% Beet, 8s. 4d., quiet.
 Thurs. April 26th.—Mr. Randolph Rust's lecture on "Petroleum in Trinidad" at the West India Committee Rooms.—The R.M.S. Port Royal, from Kingston, Jamaica, reached Avonmouth.—Messrs. Elders & Pybles, Limited, "Reventazon," 389 feet long (tonnage 4,000) fitted for the conveyance of bananas and fruit from the West Indies, launched at Belfast.—Hearing of the Yarmouth election petition begun.—Beet, 8s. 4d., steady.
 Fri. April 27th.—Mr. John Morley, principal guest at a dinner of the Eighty Club.—Miss Ellen Terry's stage jubilee celebrated.—Beet 8s. 3d., easier.
 Sat. April 28th.—Beet, 8s. 4d., quiet.
 Sun. April 29th.—R.M.S.P. "Atrato" arrived at Southampton 12.40 a.m.
 Mon. April 30th.—The House of Lords reassembled after the holidays.—The Budget introduced into the House of Commons.—Beet, 8s. 4d., steady.
 Tues. May 1st.—Statutory General Meeting of the West Indian Produce Association, Ltd.—Beet, 8s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., easier.

The Homeward Mail.

Since we last went to press the R.M.S. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica on Thursday morning, April 26th, and the R.M.S.P. "Atrato" at Southampton at 12.40 a.m. on Sunday, April 29th. Among the passengers by the latter were Sir Frederic Hodgson, the Governor of British Guiana, Mr. and Mrs. Howring, Mr. A. Dreyfus and Mr. F. A. Skeete, from Trinidad, Colonel Frank C. Froloope, from Barbados, and Mr. A. J. West, from Jamaica. The first exhibition of animated pictures of the West Indies, taken by the latter, will be awaited with interest. The

most satisfactory feature of our Correspondents' letters are the records they contain of a decided improvement in the weather, beneficial rains having fallen in most Colonies. The inconvenience of the mail arrangements was still being felt severely. The Commissioner of Agriculture wrote that owing to the irregularity of the mail steamers it is impossible for anything to be done at present in shipping perishable fruit for exhibition in the United Kingdom. The advertisements which appeared announcing the movements of the steamers were unreliable, and it was not uncommon for the vessels to be two or three, or even four days late. Sometimes they came in late at night, and left before the next morning. The Commissioner left for a tour of the Northern Islands on April 17th. Among other letters received by the mail was one from the Venerable Archdeacon E. A. Turpin, chairman of the public meeting in St. Vincent of October 9th, conveying the thanks of the General Committee appointed to protest against the proposed union of Grenada and St. Vincent and other matters, to the West India Committee, and expressing the appreciation of the people of St. Vincent for their action, which proved successful. We extract the following items of information from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

The Cotton Industry in Antigua.

Writing on April 9th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that the event of the fortnight had been the presentation by Sir E. Bickham Sweet-Escott of the medals given by Sir Alfred Jones for the best cotton samples. The Hon. R. A. L. Warneford carried off the prizes both for seed cotton and lint, while the other medal in the peasant class was awarded to the Rev. Christopher, a clergyman, who has taken up cotton growing for the instruction of his flock, a most useful addition to his ordinary clerical work in the Island, and one that others of the clergy having influence over and coming into touch with the peasant classes, would do well to imitate.

The first sales of Antigua cotton (new crop) had just been reported, and the prices ranged from 23d. to 19d. a pound, the latter excellent price was obtained by Mayers, Sion Hill and Coconut Hill Estates.

Welcome rains, amounting generally to 2-3 inches had fallen during the fortnight. They had not done very much good towards filling the ponds, but they had moistened the soil satisfactorily and should benefit the young sprouts and late ratoons considerably.

Barbados and the inconvenient Mail Arrangements.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, writing on April 10th, said that in Barbados they were alive to the inconvenience of the existing mail arrangements and to the probability of further inconvenience in the future. From the new time-table it appeared that there was to be no mail received from home between April 29th and May 22nd, and the time-table was, moreover, to exist for three mails only, and he understood that in the event of the R.M.S.P. Co. not receiving sufficient remuneration for the carriage of letters before the expiration of that period, they would abolish the intercolonial line altogether, and it was quite likely that if sufficient inducement did not offer, the Superintendent would direct the transatlantic steamer to proceed direct to Southampton from Trinidad without calling at Barbados. This was perhaps not a very likely contingency, but it had to be reckoned with, and it at once stopped any chances of the revival of the banana industry. The present position showed lack of cohesion in the West Indies. He believed that Barbados would be prepared to vote the former grant of £4,000 for a mail service, but that would be of no use unless the other Colonies resumed theirs also, and the Governor of the Leeward Islands had already persuaded his Council to reduce theirs. Was there no chance of the Colonial Office taking the matter up and writing out to each Colony and asking what each would be prepared to do? One of the main points put forward by the Royal Commission of 1897 was that opportunities of communication between the West Indian Islands should be multiplied and improved, and now, nine years afterwards, the position was materially altered for the worse. Were the Government utterly careless of this?

The news of Dr. Abel Greenidge's untimely death at Oxford was received in Barbados with very great regret. It was only a few years ago that he paid a visit to his birthplace, where he was warmly received. He was unquestionably the most talented man that Barbados has produced for a very long time, and his career was watched with the deepest interest. It seemed likely that he would take rank with the best historians by his work on the Roman Empire. Enough remained to show what it would have been; but he did not live to finish it.

The following returns had been obtained by the writer from the Emigration Office, giving the shipments of labourers and tradesmen to Panama:

Jan.	18th.	1906,	R. M. S.	"La Plata"	—	—
Feb.	5th.	"	"	"Magdalena"	—	208
"	14th.	"	"	"Orinoco"	—	249
"	28th.	"	"	"Tagus"	—	404
Mar.	14th.	"	"	"Atrato"	—	421
						513
Total for present year to date						1,798

This was certainly not enough to account for the scarcity of labour felt on many estates, especially as it included those who came up from St. Vincent and St. Lucia and transhipped at Barbados. Mr. Alleyne himself saw between 200 and 300 labourers landed at Barbados from the "Tagus" on her homeward voyage. They did not seem to be in bad health, but said it was getting very hot there, and they wanted to come home for a change. Yet many estates were often not able to do a full day's work owing to scarcity of labourers, and women were constantly employed to perform tasks hitherto done exclusively by men. This fact would seem to go far to solving the question of the redundancy of their population, and would undoubtedly tend towards the extension of the cultivation of cotton. This was already proceeding with gigantic strides, Sir Daniel Morris reported that the export of cotton from Barbados during the quarter ended March 31st last amounted to a value of £12,937. This was nearly as large as the export of the whole year 1905.

A committee of inquiry had been held on the huge fire which took place on April 1st but no report had yet been published, and after this long delay all its value would, he feared, be destroyed.

The canes continued to yield well, and everyone seemed satisfied with their returns. The price of sugar was quoted at \$1.45 for muscovado and \$1.95 for dark crystals. Molasses 15 cents.

The writer noted with satisfaction that the West India Committee had at once stamped upon Mr. Churchill's baseless and reckless assertion that the Brussels Convention had brought injury to the British sugar trade.

On the morning of April 8th a nice rain fell over the whole Island. From 1 in. to 1.7 ins. was the general average, but some got less and a few more. The ground was so thirsty that all traces of it had, of course, long since disappeared, and it looked as dry and dusty as ever. Still it enabled the trees to put out fresh leaves, and had done good to the young canes, while, falling as it did, on a Sunday morning, it did not delay the reaping.

Sir Henry K. Davson Honoured in British Guiana.

Sir Frederic Hodgson returned to England by the mail. We are informed by Mr. A. Summerson, who wrote on April 12th, that during his absence Mr. Cox will administer the Government, and Mr. Darnell Davis will act as Government Secretary.

A meeting of the Court of Policy was held on March 29th. The half-yearly meeting of the British Guiana Bank took place on the same day. At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture on April 6th, Professor Harrison submitted a report regarding cane cultivation in the Colony. He said that the acreage of canes other than Bourbon was 21,481, an increase of 6,738 over 1905. In White Transparent there had been a large decrease, from 2,876 acres in 1904 to 1,796 acres in 1905 and 1,416 in 1906. Of the new seedling varieties 20,065 acres were under cultivation, as compared with 12,942 in the previous year.

Sir Henry K. Davson was entertained at dinner on Tuesday, April 3rd, at the Georgetown Club, of which he is one of the oldest members.

Heavy rains had fallen in Berbice and Demerara since the 7th, over 13 ins. being recorded in some places. In Essequibo, however, the fall had been under an inch, and heavy rains were wanted in that county. Crystals were quoted at 2 cents. nominal, but there were no buyers at the moment.

A year of Progress in Dominica.

Mr. E. A. Agar, writing on April 10th, stated that the Legislative Council was opened on the 6th, and Mr. Porter, the President, was able as usual to review a satisfactory year past, and to forecast continued progress. Briefly, the following points were noticed. The cacao crop had been with one exception the best that had ever been produced, but the low prices obtained had been unfortunate. Lime products were the most important article of export, and the industry had practically recovered from the effects of the blight in 1903. The exports exceeded in value those of last year by £13,700 and the imports by £6,000. The revenue, too, had realised more than the estimate, and in spite of extra monies being expended on public works, the year closed with a substantial balance. The principal public works undertaken were: a bridge over the Indian river, a passenger jetty for Roseau, an isolation hospital at Morne Daniel, and electric light for Roseau. The saw-mill had proved the success of native woods in competition with imported lumber. Crown Land sales had amounted to over 1,000 acres, half of which had been taken up in small lots by peasant proprietors. The most important item for the year was the successful carrying out of Mr. Bell's scheme for hurricane insurance. More rain had fallen during the past fortnight.

Hotel Enterprise in Jamaica.

The R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth, on April 25th. The Produce Protection Law was read a third time and passed on April 6th. Arrangements were to be made immediately for recruiting 100 additional men for the police force.

We are informed by Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, who wrote on April 12th, that the committee

appointed by the Board of Agriculture to wait on the Governor with regard to the appointment of a Commercial Agent in London, was received by Sir Alexander Swettenham on April 11th.

It has been decided, consequent upon the disbandment of the infantry militia in the Island, to increase the police force by about 125 men, and to train the entire police to act as a semi-military force.

The tourist season, which had been a very successful one, and probably one of the largest ever known, was nearly over. Yet another hotel was to be erected in St. Andrews, about four miles from Kingston, under the auspices of the owners of the Hotel Titchfield, Port Antonio. It was stated that £19,000 had already been subscribed in Jamaica. There was another scheme afoot to erect a hotel in Kingston. This was being floated by Mr. Fuller, the lessee of the Mandeville Hotel.

During the previous week strong winds had prevailed at Annotto Bay and Portland, and to a minor degree in St. Catherine. Some bananas were blown down, estimated at 100,000 trees, though this seemed too high.

Montserrat complains of the Mail Service.

In his letter of April 9th, Mr. C. Watson said that the withdrawal of the s.s. "Sibun" of the Direct Line, from the service of the Northern Islands, was deeply regretted by all classes, as regular mail communication could not now be depended on.

Good showers, which were much needed, had fallen during the previous week.

Nevis and Mail Communication.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, in a letter dated April 4th, expressed regret that the condition of things now prevailing with regard to steam communication between the Islands and the Mother Country quite precluded the possibility of any regular system of shipment, and that the movements of steamers were so uncertain that it had become absolutely impossible to know what the next stage of the proceedings might be resultant of, whether to plunge them into a fresh vortex or to re-establish, as was hoped for, some semblance of order which existed under the *status quo ante*. Of course, it might be asserted that the result was due to the action in the first instance of the Colonies themselves, but even if that be so, it must be obvious to the Government that unless some regularity can be insured, the interests of those concerned must suffer enormously, and under the present condition of the Colonies, any set back of this sort might prove the "last straw." Drought had dogged their footsteps since last mail, and the aspect was critical. Only to one who lived on the spot came the realisation of the difficulties that the Islands had to contend with from climatic and other unforeseen conditions. It said much for their stability that with so many adverse circumstances militating periodically against their prosperity, they should have been able to survive as they have done calamities innumerable. Could they but enjoy a short period of rest, good seasons, and proper care and attention on the lines now carried out by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, they might once more regain their lost position. Owing to the exceptionally long period of drought, the crops in Nevis had suffered materially, and the original estimate would be greatly reduced. This was very unfortunate, in view of the fact that the sugar market kept low, and the opportunities of shipping cotton had been reduced to a minimum.

The Crop Estimate in St. Kitts Exceeded.

At the last meeting of the Agricultural Society before Mr. Charles A. Smith wrote on April 9th, the subject of greater shipping facilities with Canada was brought up. It learnt with satisfaction that a steamer had been chartered by Messrs. Pickford & Black to take on their sugars in April, as well as another in May. These, together with the usual steamers, would probably meet their wants in this direction.

It was resolved at the meeting to form a Permanent Exhibition Committee on the lines adopted by the other Islands. At the next meeting the Committee was to be nominated.

Some good rains had fallen since last mail, in some localities more than sufficient for immediate wants. Crops might be said to be now about half-way, and the yield so far in most cases had been in excess of expectations. The young crop was very promising. The molasses market had opened at 12 cents per wine gallon (package included), and a vessel would shortly be loading at the Island with 600 puncheons.

Another Controversy in St. Lucia.

In his letter of April 10th, the Hon. E. DuBoulay said that the departure of the troops from the Island had had the effect, generally anticipated, of reducing their revenue. The Governor-in-Chief and the unofficial members of the Council were at issue as to the methods whereby the defiling of revenue was to be made good. The Governor was in favour of a general overhauling of the Tariff, but to this, the unofficial section of the Council was opposed. A Committee was appointed and made certain recommendations, but these were cavalierly set aside by the Governor-in-Chief, so matters were for the moment at a standstill.

It was felt in the Colony as a great hardship that in spite of the difficulty in making both ends

meet, the Island should be burdened with expenditure looked upon as useless. Lieutenant Barker had arrived together with a staff sergeant to organise a local Defence Force. How this force was to be raised remained to be seen, and they all wanted to know against whom the defence of the Island was to be maintained.

They were enjoying a few much needed showers, and crops were progressing favourably. Slight shocks of earthquake still continued, but fortunately nothing approaching in severity to the disturbance on February 16th last.

Agricultural Progress in St. Vincent.

The ginning of the season's cotton crop was, according to Mr. W. N. Sands, who wrote on April 10th, almost finished, and only a few bales remained to be done. The total weight of lint dealt with for the season at the cotton factory would equal about 117,000 lbs. or 325 bales. Of course, this does not represent the total crop of cotton, but only the Sea Island. From the St. Vincent Grenadines several thousand pounds of lint of the "Marie Galante" type would be exported, and this would have to be added to the total when the returns were made up.

The high prices obtained for the first lots of Sea Island cotton had been maintained for the later ones, of which account sales had been received, for instance from advices received by last mail, Mr. Sands learnt that out of 70 bales, only one sold at a price below 18d. per lb. of lint, and that 23 had sold at 20d., and 41 at 19d., an extremely satisfactory result.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture were again undertaking the selection and disinfection of cotton seed for planting during the coming season, and already work had been started in the Island with seed, the lint from which had realised the highest price, and which had been produced from healthy plants giving a good yield. As St. Vincent had produced the finest cotton it was thought that there would be a good demand for seed from other Islands.

The Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture paid a flying visit to the Island on April 4th, to discuss with the Agricultural and Commercial Society, the question of dealing with the disease of anthrax and other matters. With regard to anthrax, evidence was submitted to the meeting of the Society as to the number of cases which had occurred during the last six months, and it was resolved to ask the Imperial Department to co-operate, and make suggestions to the Government as to the best steps which should be taken to stamp out the disease, as it was a matter affecting all classes of the community. At the same meeting the silver medals awarded by Sir Alfred Jones, K.C.M.G., for the best exhibits of Sea Island cotton at the Agricultural Show held in March last, were presented by the Administrator to the successful exhibitors. In the class for samples from large growers, Messrs. J. H. Hazell, Sons & Co. gained a medal for a sample of Grand Sable Cotton, and in the class for small growers Miss Huggins, of Golden Vale, was awarded the other medal.

In the absence of cable quotations, owing to the subsidy to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company having been withdrawn, the latest market reports could not be given, but from advices received by the mail, it was learnt that the price of good manufacturing arrowroot was still fairly satisfactory.

The weather continued seasonable, with bright days and light showers at night, and was favourable for the preparation of land for cotton. Much larger areas were being prepared for this crop than last season.

Trinidad and Mr. Winston Churchill.

The attitude of Mr. Winston Churchill regarding the Brussels Conference and his inaccurate statements had caused much indignation in Trinidad, and the following resolutions proposed by Mr. Edgar Tripp and seconded by Mr. L. J. Bernstein, were adopted unanimously at a meeting of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad on April 13th.

1. That this Chamber desires to enter its earnest protest against the statement reported by cable-gram to have been made in the House of Commons on April 3rd, by the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, to the effect that the Brussels Convention had benefited the West Indies at the expense of widespread loss and injury inflicted upon British commerce and manufacturers.
 - a. Because, having regard to the present exceptionally low price of sugar in the European markets, such a statement is manifestly incorrect, and,
 - b. Because of the incalculable injury and loss which must inevitably have befallen the West Indian portion of His Majesty's dominions but for the abolition of the system of bounties which had pressed for so many years and so unfairly upon the British colonial sugar industry, and upon the Sugar Refining Industries of Great Britain.
2. That His Excellency the Acting Governor be respectfully requested to transmit a copy of the resolution to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
3. That the hearty thanks of this Chamber be accorded to the West India Committee for its prompt action in protesting against the incorrect and misleading statement.

The Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick, C.M.G., writing on April 14th, said that a number of showers had fallen during the fortnight, but they were too light and too partial to do much good; otherwise the weather had been very hot and dry.

The sugar crop progressed merrily and promised to be a record one. Deliveries of cocoa had been on a somewhat large scale, and in consequence prices had receded, but they still remained much above the parity of the consuming markets, and with a large number of unfilled orders in the hands of merchants, they were not likely to recede further. Fine Estates were quoted at 53s., Mixed Estates at 51s., and Ordinary at 50s. 6d., c. and f. Havre. There had been a strong demand for the latter quality for Europe, and consequently the price had been firmly maintained in the face of a weaker market for other grades. A strong demand existed for all grades of Venezuelan cocoa, and with little or no supplies prices had again risen. The reports in regard to the crop were very discouraging and arrivals excessively small.

		Cocoa Shipments.					
Total at last report	...	...	55,102	Bags	Trinidad.	15,523	Venezuelan
Mar. 31	S.S. "Orizaba"	...	...	...	...	10	Canada
" 31	S.S. "Martinique"	...	1385	"	...	1018	Europe
" 31	S.S. "Tagus"	...	415	"	...		
April 3	S.S. "Prins Maurits"	...	200	"	...		New York
" 4	S.S. "Maraval"	...	1250	"	...	213	
" 6	S.S. "P. Frederick Hendrik"	...	1853	"	...	479	Europe.
" 9	S.S. "Obi"	...	138	"	...	120	
" 13	S.S. "Mecklenburg"	...	1350	"	...	944	
Totals to date	...	...	61,693	"	...	18,312	Venezuelan.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies and photographs of scenery or local events for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Modern Sugar Mills. This is a finely illustrated book of illustrations of sugar machinery. The major part of the illustrations show mills and gearing manufactured by Messrs. Manlove, Allott & Co., Ltd., of Nottingham, to till two crushing plants for different parts of the world.

The British Guiana Medical Annual for 1905. Edited by C. P. Kennard, M.D. (Edin.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.) (Demerara: "The Argosy" Company, Ltd. ss; post free, 5s. 3d.). Also the specimens of the little "mollusks" at the Zoo are no more, owing to the action of an attendant, who filled up their tank with water which was too cold. These little fish, it will be remembered, feed on the larvæ of mosquitoes and Mr. C. Kerlock (London) suggested that their presence in the ponds of Barbados might be the reason for the immunity of that island from malarial fever. In the book under review there is a picture of typical examples of Mr. and Mrs. Million, who are similar to fish found in the trenches of New Amsterdam. The Rev. J. Aiken and Mr. E. D. Rowland, in one of the essays of which the book is made up, find that the fish is responsible for the consumption of *graphidouria Aikeni*, but these two gentlemen also discovered some kinds of waterbugs as well as two other kinds of insects which feed upon larvæ. The appearance of these insects is terrifying, but like the book as a whole, the pictures are excellent. Other essays are Anchylostomiasis by the Hon. J. C. Godfrey; A report on smallpox, Acute anemia, The criminal insane, Cataract, The climate of Peter Hall, and other articles, each by an expert in the subject dealt with. Dr. Kennard had hoped to make the present "annual," which is the fourteenth published from the other Colonies as a whole, but he was compelled to confine it to local efforts as he had not received medical fraternity, and each of these should make a point of writing to the Argosy Company for a copy of this book, which is replete with interest.

The West Indian Produce Association, Limited.

The statutory meeting of this Company was held on May 1st. The secretary, Mr. T. Hankinson, read the notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' certificate and report were presented. On the motion of Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, seconded by Mr. C. A. Philip, Mr. H. F. Previte was elected chairman of the Company. In the course of some general remarks, Mr. Previte expressed the hope of the directors that the new Company would do much to develop the demand for West Indian produce of all kinds in this country. He pointed out that individual shareholders could do much to help by sending their own orders for sugars and West Indian produce to the Association, and by inducing their friends to do the same. A wine and spirit business had been acquired as part of the business of Messrs. James Philip & Co., and this it was intended to develop, especially in the export trade; and shareholders resident in the West Indies, and those having businesses and correspondents there, could in this direction do much to strengthen the Association. It was hoped and believed that while the West Indies would derive substantial benefit from the increased consumption of their products, fostered by the Association, the subscribers for shares would get a good return for their investment. Mr. G. H. Pile made some remarks as to the standardising of muscovado sugars, and the production of a better class of lump sugar of uniform size. Mr. W. P. B. Shephard also made some valuable suggestions, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. J. Rippon.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.) April 25th. "Heavy rains since last message, but now finer." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended April 19th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "12th to 18th, fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby) April 28th.—**Barbados**—Mr. J. S. Sainsbury, Mr. A. S. Gossett-Tanner, Mr. O. C. Fitzgerald, Miss B. Mason, Mrs. Slater, Miss M. Bryden, Mr. D. Evans, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Colonel Trollope. **Demerara**—Sir F. M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G. Rev. and Mrs. Jas. Rae, Mr. A. H. Brebner, Mr. J. Cruickshank, Mr. C. Reynolds, Mr. A. Brand, Mr. E. Branscombe, Mr. Causton, Mr. Romney, Mr. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Worsdrolfe, Mr. T. Wilson, Mrs. A. G. Bell, Mr. C. H. Barclay, Mr. E. Siedler, Madame M. Hooton, Mr. Brock, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Banhof, Right Hon. and Mrs. Parker Smith, Mr. J. Harvey, Mr. A. Gomes, Miss L. Niblit, Mr. A. Afzal, D.B.S. **Jamaica**—Mrs. W. H. Lockey, Mr. W. Hulme, Mr. A. J. West, F.R.G.S., Mr. McNeight, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Leyland, Mr. H. F. Morgan, Dr. W. Haden-Haden, Mr. West, jun., Miss McNeight, Miss Leyland, Miss M. Chetwynd, Rev. and Mrs. Schubert. **Trinidad**—Mr. S. Dreyfus, Lady Northcote, Mr. C. E. Probyn, Mrs. Hudson, Mr. J. Symonds, Mrs. Pawson, Miss MacKenzie, Mr. B. Sifontes, Mr. A. W. Holguin, Mr. F. A. Szeete, Mr. A. Dreyfus, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. G. Hudson, Mr. A. O. Granam, Mr. Gaskell, Mr. and Mrs. Bowring, Mr. A. Savignac, Mr. H. Savignac. **Antigua**—Mrs. Greenhow, Miss Currie, Mrs. Beaumont, Mr. E. B. Jarvis. **Dominica**—Rev. F. Gerbier. **St. Lucia**—Mr. J. B. Thelwall. **St. Vincent**—Mrs. Dasent.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Tagus" (Capt. Lawes), May 3rd.—Miss Udall, Miss Murray, Mr. J. Boldingh, Capt. G. Smith, Mr. C. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. J. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. de Jonge, Mrs. Plogemann, Mrs. Le Page, Rev. T. Gardner, Miss Walker, Miss A. Walker, Mr. E. Woule, Mr. J. Smith, Mrs. de Verteuil, Mr. and Mrs. Cleave, Mr. W. Young, Lieut. S. van B. Laing, Mr. F. Walter, Mr. H. C. Crouch, Mr. C. F. Andrews, Mr. C. Ball, Mr. S. Hickford, Mr. M. Milton, Mr. J. Ricuarte, Mrs. F. R. Gittens, Mr. L. W. Gittens, Mr. A. Clarke, Mr. S. Siddons, Mr. and Mrs. Sowray, Miss Bolan, Mr. Pietrantonio, Miss Hunt, Miss Halkett, Mr. A. Abello, Mr. E. R. Charles, Mr. and Mrs. Silva y Silva, Dr. M. A. Angel, Mr. E. Angel, Mr. S. Salgado, Mr. and Mrs. G. Saravia, Miss Rodriguez, Mr. A. Ginsburger, Mr. Nachenius.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), April 25th:—**Jamaica**—Mr. R. A. Bloxham, Miss Blake, Mr. H. Courau, Miss Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Crane, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. T. Croxall, Mrs. J. Cork, Mrs. and Miss Garcia, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Gamble, Miss Haslop, Sir C. Harvey, Miss Heighington, Miss Lockyer, Mrs. Langdon, Miss MacDonald, Mr. D. I. Motta, Miss M. F. Miles, Miss E. B. Nowell, Mr. Peake, Miss Pinnock, Mr. L. I. Roper, Major A. R. P. Russell, Mr. Ruston, Mr. B. L. Vorley, Mr. L. Murphy.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
May 3	W. I. Islands and Demerara ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	May 2, mid'n.
5	Barbados (for W. I. Islands and Demerara ...)	Liverpool ...	Harrison Line	"Orion"	" 4, "
" 5	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 4, 6 p.m.
" 11	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara ...	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Savan"	" 11, 12 noon.
" 17	W. I. Islands (Northern Islands excepted) and Demerara ...	Southampton ..	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"	" 16, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
May 7	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"
" 12	W. I. Islands and Demerara ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"La Plata"
" 17	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted) and Demerara	London ...	Direct Line	"Sarstoom"

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to April 31 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to April 9 1906	1905	April 1 to March 26. 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to April 24. 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to April 31 1904	1903
Sugar	899	693 Tons.	25,853	22,320 Tons.	31,459	10,860 Tons.	253,960	157,451	Bis. & Bks.	...
Molasses	16,440	11,620 Pms.	1302	1558 Casks.	...	...	348	1485	Pms.	...
Rum	7193	4299 Pms.	3,003,584	1,479,540	Galls.	...	...	...
Molasses	2306 Tms.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cocoa	3200	...	30,048	92,004	Cwts.	10,280,920	9,939,045	lbs.
Coffee	76,796	94,368	"	10,240	10,890	"
Cocoanuts	22,038	216,000	6,920,604	3,027,643	...	3,218,850	3,476,740	...
Copra	3084	3103	bags.	467
Cotton	65,307	14,210	lbs.	...	...	2685
Cotton Seed	4736
Asphalt	22,204,343	76,568,111	...	39,153	32,015	Tons.
Oranges	14,500,016	8,000,000	Bchs.	...	...	...
Bananas	87,915	143,323	cwts.	...	...	...
Pimento
Spice
Gold	22,997	93,794	028-	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds	504	1614	carats.	...	...	...	...	...

GRAND TOTAL
 2499 1764 Bales
 324 376 1/2 Hds.
 134 151 Casks
 68 134 Bags

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR. F. O. Licht's Consumption, Sept./March, 7 months.

	1906.	1905	1904
Convention Europe	2,450,000	2,210,000	2,430,000 Tons
F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st April, even dates.			
Known world	3,780,000	2,720,000	3,390,000 "
F. O. Licht's Estimates of Beet Crops.			
All Europe	6,970,000	4,700,000	5,880,000 "

Sugar.—The liquidation of the enormous speculative account in 88% beet for May delivery may now be considered as practically closed, and so far has been arranged without producing a figure of less than 8s 1½d, closing at 8s 1½d. Fortunately, or one might say necessarily, the holders of these time bargains decided to pay premiums of 2d to 2½d to have the time of delivery postponed till August, and 4½d to 5d, till October/December, thus preventing a glut of sugar being thrown on the Market. Had this sugar been dealt with otherwise, we may well have seen 7s 6d or even less. The same conditions may easily arise in August, but in a modified form, and we shall not be safe until this speculation in the present crop is all liquidated. August being on the fringe of the next crop will not make it any easier to deal with, and in the meantime Refiners and the Trade will undoubtedly continue their hand to mouth policy. After then, the weather being the determining factor as to the extent of next year's beet crop, prices for the season 1906/7 can then be discussed, but not now. All that can be said at present is that indications point to an insignificant reduction in savings, and it is to the weather we must look to guide us.

The momentary quotations of 88% Beet are:—May, 8s. 3½d.; August, 8s. 0½d., and October/December, 8s. 1½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Europe	3,100,000	2,180,000	2,840,000	2,700,000	2,100,000 Tons
United States	320,000	380,000	180,000	210,000	130,000 "
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	280,000	390,000	270,000	380,000	430,000 "
Total	3,700,000	2,850,000	3,290,000	3,350,000	3,450,000 "
Quotations of 88% Beet, 1st May:—	8s. 3½d.	12s. 10½d.	8s. 9½d.	8s. 3½d.	8s. 2½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Business in grocery crystallised has been suspended for the last two weeks in anticipation of the Budget, but Importers have shown no desire to anticipate buyers' wants, and prices remain unchanged on the basis of 14s. 6d. for average qualities. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners, 9s. 6d. is the value on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Steady, but with little doing for the moment, prices being unchanged. To Refiners 8s. test is worth 7s. 6d. to 7s. 9d. on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—There is little or nothing doing in grocery kinds. Large sales of muscovado Barbados, aggregating some 6000 tons have recently been made to *Clay's Refiners*, chiefly at 8s. 3d. on floating conditions, basis 8s.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Imports	22,000	14,000	17,000	7000	17,000 Tons.
Deliveries	13,000	12,000	15,000	13,000	15,000 "
Stocks	18,000	12,000	13,000	22,000	14,000 "
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	14s. 9d.	20s. 0d.	15s. 6d.	18s. 0d.	14s. 0d.

Rum. Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	5600	7200	7800	9200 Puns.
Demerara	10,000	6300	12,000	10,100 "
Total of all kinds	22,000	21,000	29,000	25,000 "

Demerara rum continues in the same position, our buyers having before them the experience of the closing months of 1903 and the first six months of 1904, when the stocks were nearly all held by Importers, the same as now. Early in Oct., 1903, business was done at 9d. to 9½d., and it was not till the following June or Sept. that Importers, being tired out, accepted 7d., and in some cases less. It is to be hoped this result will not be repeated this year. The united stocks in London and Liverpool aggregate 14,000 Puns., of which Importers hold fully 10,000 Puns. It would be quite misleading to give a quotation. Jamaica remains steady at 2s. 11d. for recognised Standard Home Trade Marks, but inactive. Leewards and other proof kinds are nominal.

Cocoa. Stocks in London:

	1906	1905	1904.	1903
Trinidad	15,000	15,800	23,000	20,100 Bags.
Grenada	8,500	14,500	20,300	12,700 "
Total of all kinds	23,500	30,300	43,300	32,800 "

We have a steady Market, with rather more doing. Trinidad has met a shade better demand at unchanged prices. Grenada and other West India kinds are in some cases 2s. dearer, owing to the execution of a few special export orders. The closing quotations are: Trinidad fair collected, 52s.; Estate Marks 52s. to 50s. and 60s.; Grenada fair, 48s., and fermented 57s. to 55s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth 46s., and fermented 48s. to 52s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Steady, with free sales of West India, including 60's at 1s. 7d., 65's at 1s. 4d., 72's at 1s. 1d., 80's at 9d., 99's at 7d., 108's at 6d., 120's at 5½d., 132's at 5d., 148's at 4½d. and in shell 8d. to 8½d. **Mace.**—Also steady. Sales of fair to good pale, 3s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., dark to good red, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. **Ginger.**—Unchanged. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 60s. in 65s. **Pimento.**—Quiet but steady. Value of fair, 4½d. to 4½d.

Arrowroot.—Steady. About 150 barrels of good manufacturing St. Vincent sold at 2d.

Lime Juice.—Quiet; value, 1½d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, firm and dearer, value, 1/6. Hand Pressed, no alteration at 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. c. Distilled Oil, unchanged at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.

The . . .
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THE attitude taken up by the Colonial Office towards the Railway question in British Honduras affords another and a grave instance of active injury being done to the interests of the smaller—especially the Crown—Colonies, by ill advised action on the part of the Home Government. Fifteen years ago, with a view to internal development, a railway scheme, having for its object the opening of the valuable timber and dyewood country and extending to the South Mexican frontier, was proposed, in length seventy miles, and having Belize for its terminal port. This scheme met with the general approval of the community, and the local Legislature sanctioned a bonus of £60,000 and 350,000 acres of land to further the construction of the line. On the matter being referred to the Colonial Office, surveyors were sent out by the latter to survey the proposed route, who reported that the sum of £735,000 would be required for construction, although the conditions were of the simplest, the mean grade being only 50 in. to the mile, no cutting being deeper than 10 feet, and three small creeks only having to be bridged. This alternative measure, involving an excessive estimate, and coupled with stringent and practically impossible conditions, such as six-sevenths of this sum having to be banked before commencement, and no colonial expenditure to be made without their sanction on the part of the Crown Agents, was at once, and naturally, objected to by British Honduras, who failed to see why the Colony should be put to this uncalled for expenditure, and a further scheme was formulated in which the bonus mentioned above was raised to £75,000, and the land grant reduced to 200,000 acres. On these terms a well known firm of railway constructors were willing to carry out the work. Incredible as it may seem, the scheme was vetoed by the Colonial Office, although it is only just to state that Mr. Chamberlain—who was then in office—was on his visit to South Africa at the time. Recently, however, a third scheme, backed by wealthy contractors, was projected, in which the local Legislature were to pay £3500 for ten years with no land grant beyond, we presume, what was necessary for the construction of the line itself. The line at its completion, as with the two former schemes, would be worked by the constructors. This was vetoed by Lord Elgin, and the Colony has now to be content with a substituted measure, emanating from this side, in which a short line of twelve miles is to be constructed by the Colony at a cost of £50,000 in a tract of country which may be suited for banana growing, and which, starting from an out of the way port on the coast, leads practically nowhere. Were the foregoing not stubborn facts, it is difficult to believe that such a serious blindness to the interests of a Colony could exist on the part of those responsible for them to the Empire. It is possible that a certain amount of traditional unwillingness to part with a large tract of land, to, perhaps, aliens, might have had something to do with the attitude of the Home Government in the first two instances, but this excuse could not be offered for the veto of the third. The Colony could have been provided with a much desired means of opening up a valuable interior, including a fertile banana district, and affording communication with a flourishing and neighbouring

State at a cost of £35,000, with no after responsibility for the line, whereas now £50,000 is to be devoted towards the development of a doubtful banana industry, and the Colony saddled with what may prove a white elephant. For many years past it has been a constant grievance with the Crown Colonies that their best interests have not been served by the traditional adherence of the Colonial Office to the system under which expenditure incurred for public works must be through the Crown Agents, and it is a fixed and well grounded opinion that Colonial development has been considerably hampered thereby. The present seems to be a case in point. It is inconceivable that a scheme so manifestly to the benefit of the Colony, sanctioned by the local Legislature and meeting with the whole hearted approval of the inhabitants, should have been rejected in favour of a project which, at its best, must be an unsatisfactory substitute, and may be a source of continual expense to the Colony. We take it that in matters of this kind those on the spot should form the best judges of what is wanted, and when we see schemes furthered by the local responsible officers of the Crown and accepted by the people vetoed in the manner and in the circumstances the British Honduras railway schemes have been, we cannot but feel that the interests of the Crown Colonies are not altogether regarded as they should be by the Home Government. British Honduras stands in the sphere of American influence, and the action of the Government in this matter means another goad in the direction of the United States. Anyway, it tends to a further weakening of the chain of Empire. In the old days it was a standing grievance of the West Indian Colonies that they were the happy hunting grounds of official patronage, but that was far better than the present "active indifference" shown to their vital interests.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, May 3rd, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
CHARLES J. TARRING	Howard K. F. Smith	W. Gillespie
MRS. AMY T. STORR	E. L. Marshall	W. P. B. Shephard
LYCESTER P. STORR	E. L. Marshall	R. Rutherford
THE VEN. ARCHDEACON S. EDMUND BRANCH (Antigua)	Hon. R. A. L. Warneford	Hon. Donald McDonald
THE RIGHT REV. WALTER FARRAR, D.D., BISHOP OF ANTIGUA	Hon. R. A. L. Warneford	Hon. Donald McDonald
ALBERT J. JORDAN (Trinidad)	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	E. L. Marshall
ALBERT CLIFTON KELWAY	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne	Colonel A. H. Nourse

Full particulars regarding membership and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The Address to Lord Milner.

The public address to Lord Milner now lies at the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, for signature by members of the West India Committee. The address reads: "We, the undersigned, desire to place on record our high appreciation of the services rendered by your Lordship, in Africa, to the Crown and Empire." The movement is non-political, and the address is being very largely signed. It is hoped that many members of the West India Committee will do honour to this great statesman.

Jamaica as a Tourist Resort.

The above is the title of a lecture to be delivered by Mr. Albert C. Kelway at the West India Committee Rooms at 4 p.m. on Empire Day, May 24th next. Mr. Kelway, who was formerly Editor of the *Church Review*, has just returned from a visit to Jamaica. He was much impressed with the advantages of the Island as a health and tourist resort, and the possibilities of its development in this connection. Tickets for the lecture can now be obtained free of charge from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

"What is Whisky?"

In the spring of the year 1800, either from diminished consumption from the heavy duties, or large crops, the accumulation of sugar at home was so great as to cause considerable alarm to the West India merchants, and it was proposed to approach the Government with the view of its use being encouraged in distilleries, and of permission being given for its adoption in breweries. A Committee for the purpose was appointed at the January meeting of the West India Committee, and at the following meeting on February 12th, 1800, it was reported that Mr. Pitt, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been interviewed on the subject, and that it had been proposed to him that—

"A Drawback of about 10s. should be allowed on sugar which, under Certificates and Cheques of the Excise Office, should be shown to have been reduced into Wash for the Use of the Distillers; or that a proportionate Reduction of the Excise Duty should be deducted from the Wash produced, both by sugar and molasses. In respect to the Breweries they did not ask that any Drawback should be granted (as it could not be done without subjecting those works to a stricter superintendence of Excise Officers than they are now liable to), but merely that the penalties on the Use of Sugar therein should for a limited time be removed."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer fully acknowledged the propriety of the claim, but was of opinion that unless it was thought fit to forbid entirely the use of grain in distilleries, he did not see how a drawback on the use of sugar, or reduction in the duty on wash produced from sugar and molasses, could be granted with safety to the Revenue, and that—

"Upon further inquiries and Investigation and upon Applications made to him from other Quarters, it is understood that he had come to a determination that the Distillery from Grain ought not at present to be stopped, a determination which he has declared would in his mind carry with it great difficulty in granting the proposed Drawback on the Sugar used therein or reduction of Duty on the Wash produced from Sugar or Molasses.

"In respect to the Use of Sugar in the Breweries, although he confessed that he did not think the objections made to him on that head insuperable, yet he did not intimate any decided opinion."

The important part which grain, apart from malt, was evidently playing in home distilleries, even in those days, is interesting in relation to the question, "What is Whisky?" and the fact that he considered that the "Distillery from Grain" ought not to be stopped is an official recognition of the propriety of its use, even before the days of patent stills. We do not, however, see why the use of grain should have to be prohibited in distilleries if sugar were cheapened to the home distillers, and it suggests that even in these days the interests of the latter were antagonistic to the West Indian sugar industry, as they are now in connection with the Rum Surtax.

The Mail Arrangements.

We give below the text of a letter which was addressed by the West India Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on April 27th with regard to the Mail arrangements, together with Lord Elgin's reply. Our readers will remember that in our last issue we announced that only one inter-colonial steamer will now be used in conjunction with the R.M.S.P. Company's trans-Atlantic steamers. This inter-colonial steamer will leave Barbados for Demerara on May 29th, arriving on June 1st and returning on the following day to Barbados. No subsequent departures have been arranged, and St. Lucia and the Northern Islands are now completely cut off.

The West India Committee to the Colonial Office.

"MY LORD,—I have the honour to transmit herewith the time table of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, from which your Lordship will observe that no sailings have been arranged for St. Vincent, Grenada and Demerara and the Northern Islands branch lines, after those connecting with the trans-Atlantic steamer leaving Southampton on May 3rd next. From inquiry at the Company's office we learn that they are not prepared to book passengers by these routes after that date.

"I need not say that this announcement has caused considerable apprehension to those having business dealings with British Guiana and the Windward and Leeward Islands.

"I am, therefore, respectfully to ask if you will be pleased to inform my Committee what arrangements it is proposed to make for the conveyance of Mails and passengers to those Colonies after the date indicated. In view of the urgency of the matter, I am to express a hope that it may be found convenient to furnish my Committee with a reply before the next out-going Mail.

"ALGERSON E. ASPINALL, Secretary."

To this letter the following reply, dated May 1st, was received:—

The Colonial Office to the West India Committee.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Earl of Elgin to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 27th (No. 2/7), inquiring as to the Mail arrangements in the case of St. Vincent, Grenada, British

Guiana, and the Northern Islands in the West Indies, after May 3rd, and, in reply, I am to inform you that Lord Elgin is in communication on the subject with the General Post Office, to which Department his Lordship must refer you as regards any immediate Mail arrangements.

"I am, etc., C. P. LUCAS."

A copy of the correspondence was subsequently addressed to the Postmaster-General, with a request for information.

The Price of Sugar at Home and Abroad.

Attempts are often made to induce the public to believe that as a result of the Brussels Convention sugar is cheaper abroad than in this country. As a matter of fact it is considerably dearer abroad than here. This is clearly demonstrated in a return just issued by the Board of Trade, at the instance of Mr. Toulmin, M.P. This shows the retail prices of the kind of sugar most largely consumed by the working classes in London, Paris and Berlin, in March 1st of this and the last three years—

		Retail Price of Sugar at March 1st.			
		1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
		d. per lb.	d. per lb.	d. per lb.	d. per lb.
LONDON:	Retail price	1½	1½	2½	2
	Customs duty	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
	Excise duty	—	—	—	—
PARIS:	Retail price	4½	9	3½	3
	Customs duty §	2.21*	1.44**	1.44*	1.44*
	Excise Duty	2.79*	1.18**†	1.18*	1.18*
BERLIN:	Retail Price	3½	2½	2½	2½
	Customs duty §	2.14	1.02*	1.02	1.02
	Excise duty	1.09	0.76†	0.76	0.76

* Including also the "taxe de raffinage," levied equally on imported sugar and on sugar of home production.

† In force from 1st September, 1905.

‡ In France and Germany, imported sugar is subject to excise duty in addition to import duty proper. The "Customs duty" stated above for these countries includes the total amount of duty payable on importation—i.e., it includes both import and excise duty.

The Budget and Sugar.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Thursday, May 3rd, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis presiding, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—

"It appearing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his speech on the Budget stated with respect to sugar, that 'the uncertain conditions of the industry from climatic and other causes were unfortunately made still more uncertain by a Convention and by organised speculation,' this Committee, from its long experience of the sugar trade and industry, unhesitatingly affirms that the cessation of bounties, secured by the Brussels Sugar Convention, has eliminated one most material factor of uncertainty, inasmuch as it has re-instated the sugar industry of the world on its natural foundations of Free Trade and no Protection, and left prices to be regulated by supply and demand, without the arbitrary intervention of bounties on production and export."

A Vegetable Mosquitoicide.

Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Botanical Department of Trinidad, describes in his *Trinidad Bulletin* an observation made in the laboratory of the Department, showing mosquito larvae caught by the sacs or bladders of a certain plant. This he at first took to belong to the *Characeæ*, but the subsequent discovery of flowers enabled him to refer it with exactness to the genus *Utricularia*. This order is known to be able to catch small aquatic animals, such as *Rotifers*, *Copepoda*, etc., but it does not appear to be recorded that it is able to catch and destroy mosquito larvae. Placing the plants in tubes, he noted that two of the bladders contained dead mosquito larvae, and shortly afterwards he found one newly caught, struggling hard for freedom. The following day this larva was dead. He has since found others in process of absorption. Two of the larvae have been mounted in glycerine and sealed for future examination and reference. The plant was found in pools at the well known Pitch Lake at La Brea, Trinidad, where it is reported that considerable malarial fever exists. It would appear doubtful policy to apply petroleum oil in this instance, for such an application would, while killing a foe, also kill a friend in the plant able to destroy mosquito larvae. As the plant is shown to kill the larvae, it would appear desirable to encourage its growth, and also that of allied species, with the view of forming effective mosquito traps, which would be at work continuously at little expense for the destruction of larvae of the various species of mosquito.

Discovery of New Rubber Tree.

H.M. Consul at Ciudad Bolivar (Mr. C. de Lemos) reports that a new kind of rubber tree, previously unknown in that part of Venezuela, has been discovered in the extensive forests of the Cana district, situated from 150 to 200 miles to the west and south-west of Ciudad Bolivar. Sample lots of the rubber produced from this tree have been sent to London, New York and Hamburg, and have realised from 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb. This price is remunerative, as good facilities for transport by water exist. Unfortunately, as yet no efficient system of tapping the trees has been discovered, as by the method of tapping applied to the india-rubber trees in the Rio Negro district the milk does not exude freely. The consequence is that the collectors felt the trees to be able to tap them all along the trunk, following in this respect the system they employ for collecting the Balata rubber. This of course will bring about the eventual exhaustion of the forests which, in the case of the Balata tree, is already beginning to be felt.

Antigua Estates for Sale.

Messrs. W. W. Jenkinson and Sons, of 6, Moorgate Street, London, E.C., will sell on June 10th, some well known sugar estates in Antigua. The lot consists of a block of three estates, "Gambles," "The Villa," and "Mackinnons," containing 1427 acres in all, and close to the capital, St. Johns, and "Delaps," "Lucas's," and "Little Duers" in the division of Willoughby Bay, containing 767 acres. On "Mackinnons" there are twenty-eight acres of Sea Island cotton already in cultivation. In view of the success of the Central Factory recently erected in Antigua and the geographical suitability of the estates to be sold for entrance into similar schemes, and from the excellent prospects of cotton in the Leeward Islands, this sale should attract the attention of would-be investors in these industries. As cane and cotton growers combined, the cultivation of these properties would form typical investments for small capitalists, the machinery at present on them being sufficient to manufacture the cane pending the further development of the Central Factory system.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

The Cotton Industry.

In reply to Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Churchill said, on May 2nd, that in 1902 the amount of cotton exported from British Colonies to the United Kingdom comprised only 827 bales of the value of £4742. In 1904 the amount had risen to 9438 bales of a value of £52,026; while the amount exported to all other countries, which in 1902 was 2093 bales, of a value of £11,467, rose in 1904 to 12,937 bales of a value of £61,475. The figures for 1905 are not yet complete. The amount of cotton grown under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association was in 1903 approximately estimated at 1900 bales of a value of £29,000; in 1904 this had risen to 6000 bales of a value of £80,000; and in 1905 to 14,200 bales of a value of £190,000. The estimate for 1905 far surpasses all previous records, and the total crop is computed at 20,000 bales of a value of £330,000. I think these figures, which exceed an arithmetical progression, are highly remarkable and encouraging, especially considering the brief period during which the experiment has been made. The multiplication of the sources of cotton supply cannot fail in the course of time, by averaging climatic risks, and consequently preventing unusual shortages, to exercise a steady influence upon cotton prices, with a resulting restraint upon cotton gambling. The Secretary of State is warmly interested in the work of the British Cotton Growing Association. The policy initiated under the late Administration will be maintained and, I trust, pursued. The Government is in cordial co-operation with the association in the furtherance of its work, both by means of monthly conferences held at the Colonial Office with representatives of its council, and through the assistance which is given to its objects by the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies, and by the Governments of African Colonies and Dependencies. (Cheers.)

Customs Duties on Articles containing Sugar.

In the House of Commons on May 4th, Mr. Asquith, in reply to Mr. Channing, said the gross and net receipts of customs and excise duties on sugar, molasses, glucose, saccharin, and articles containing sugar during the financial year 1905-06 were: Customs—Sugar, raw and refined, British and foreign, gross £5,859,778, net £3,723,458; glucose, gross £163,630, net £160,882; molasses, British and foreign, gross £140,211, net £139,643; saccharin, gross £40,080, net £39,596; articles containing sugar, gross £115,201, net £114,375; totals, gross £6,318,900, net £6,177,952. Excise—glucose, gross £91,400, net £89,496; saccharin, gross £13,144, net £13,144; totals, gross £104,604, net £102,640. Grand total, gross £6,423,504, net £6,280,592.

The Mail Arrangements under Consideration.

In the House of Commons on May 7th, Mr. Winston Churchill, replying to Mr. Mitchell Thomson, said: "It is not strictly correct to say that mail opportunities for the Northern Islands of the West Indies occur only once a month at present, but His Majesty's Government have the question of the West Indian mail arrangements now under their consideration. The circumstances which led to the decision not to continue the West Indian mail contract are fully explained in the dispatch to the Governors of the West Indian Colonies, which was laid before Parliament in May last."

Colonial Reports.

Agriculture in Montserrat.

A Colonial Report on the Agricultural Industries of Montserrat, by Dr. Francis Watts, C.M.G. has just been issued, in which the agricultural position of the Island is reviewed at length. As to the sugar industry which has fallen almost entirely to the level of a peasant industry, the greater part is conducted on the share system, manufacturer and grower each taking a moiety of the produce. Some attempt is being made in the direction of extension, but this industry is not likely to assume any magnitude. The lime industry, the value of the products of which now exceeds the value of the sugar, has passed through great vicissitudes. Twenty years ago the older plantations were dying out from attacks of scale insects, and the new plantations established were in satisfactory bearing when destroyed by the hurricane of 1899. Since then the cultivation has been restored and the industry has again assumed its former dimensions, being of especial importance to Montserrat as being the only wage producing industry besides cotton in the Island. Cotton cultivation is spoken of as rapidly becoming an important industry, and Dr. Watts speaks of the development of the Island in the immediate future as depending largely upon this. In 1903 the value of the output was £1486, in 1905 it rose to £4114, and this should be greatly exceeded next year. Eight hundred acres are now in cultivation. Cacao cultivation, the attempts to resuscitate which were rendered abortive by the hurricane, is being revived on a small scale by the Montserrat Company. Attention is being given to rubber, which may have some importance as a future industry. The collection of papain, the dried fruit of the papaw, an industry introduced into the Island by Dr. Watts many years ago, is unfortunately suspended, owing to the flooding of the market with large supplies of this drug from the East. Dr. Watts speaks hopefully of the future of this struggling Presidency. He considers that what is necessary for the ideal welfare of the Island is an "estate" wage earning system, combined with a peasant proprietary body from which, if possible, the labour supply should be drawn. Interesting diagrams accompany the Report, from which it is seen that the value of the exports, which had sunk in 1901 to £8287 from £32,644 in 1893, had risen in 1904 to £21,640.

Consular Reports.

A Chance for Trinidad.

The effect of the internal disorganisation of Russia has been disastrous, says Mr. Consul Stevens, on the oil industry of Batoum. The oil deliveries at Baku had diminished from 77,229,357 pounds in 1902 to 25,743,334 in 1905. The British companies connected with the industry, representing £6,000,000 of British capital, suffered severely during the August-September riots, but it is hoped that with steady work during the current year and present high prices that their losses may be recuperated.

The Citrus Fruits of California.

The citrus fruit season of 1904-05 proved to be a record breaker in respect to the size of the output, the production being over 2000 car loads in excess of the previous year. During the year ended October 31st, 1905, the exports of California oranges and lemons reached the grand total of 31,422 car loads. Of these 26,044 car loads were oranges and 5378 car loads lemons. The great bulk was produced in Southern California, but exports from Northern and Central California showed a marked increase, the output for the region north of the Tehachapi being 1830 car loads. The enormous volume of citrus exports may be better understood when reduced to boxes, the total forwarded for the last season being 11,105,864 boxes.

Sugar Prospects on the Zambesi.

The export of sugar from the Zambesi was 1000 tons less than 1905, the total output only reaching 6095 tons. This important industry, which will, it is believed, have a considerable influence in shaping the destinies of the Zambesi Valley, continues to attract attention, and another important plantation on the south side of the river at Chimbué in the Mozambique Company's territory is projected. This undertaking has received a concession of 12,500 acres of land on the condition

that by June 1st, 1908, it is capable of manufacturing 8000 tons of sugar yearly. On the Lower Zambesi, which year by year grows shallower and more and more unreliable as a waterway, there are on both sides immense expanses of land in every way suitable for the cultivation of the sugar cane, and it is probable that in years to come this industry will be very extensively pursued in this favourable region.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Thur., May 3rd.—Lord Elgin's speech at the Canada Club dinner reported in the Press.—Mr. Churchill read the Chinese Cooite repatriation notice in the House of Commons.—88% Beet, 8/2½ steady.
- Fri., May 4th.—Announcement made that an ultimatum had been sent to the Porte requesting the withdrawal of Turkish troops from disputed territory in the Sinai peninsula.—Yarmouth election petition dismissed.—Annual dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce.—Beet, 8/2½ quiet.
- Sat., May 5th.—Royal Academy Banquet.—Mr. Winston Churchill spoke in Liverpool on the development of our tropical possessions.—The R.M.S. "Port Royal" left Avonmouth for Jamaica.—Beet, 8/2½ steadier.
- Sun., May 6th.—Death announced of Mr. William S. Andrews, a former chairman of the W. I. and P. Telegraph Company.
- Mon., May 7th.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth. The King returned to London and the Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at Spithead.—Beet, 8/2 quiet.
- Tues., May 8th.—Mr. Chamberlain spoke at the Australasian Merchants' Annual Banquet.—Beet, 8/2 quiet.
- Wed., May 9th.—Beet, 8/2 quiet, Morning Call.

Notes of Interest.

Cheap Bananas. On the Easter Monday Bank Holiday at 'Appy 'Ampstead, bananas in good condition were being sold at 2d. per dozen! What were they? and where did they come from?

Seedless Oranges. The cultivation of the seedless oranges has created a revolution in the orange growing industry of the United States. Introduced from Brazil in the seventies, it has added directly \$43,000,000 to the taxable wealth of California.

Sugar. The output of beet sugar in the United States has risen from 20,072 tons in 1894-95, to 283,717 tons in 1905-06. In Canada very little progress has been as yet made, 11,419 tons only being turned out for 1905-06. The return of roots per acre was only 7.47 tons, and until a substantial improvement in cultivation is made there is little chance of the industry assuming large proportions.

"Science Progress." Mr. W. G. Freeman, who was recently Scientific Assistant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and is now Superintendent of the Colonial Collections at the Imperial Institute, is joint editor of *Science Progress*, a quarterly journal of scientific thought which is about to make its re-appearance after a lapse of eight years. In distant parts of the Empire, owing to the want of access to much current literature, more and more reliance has to be placed on such summarised information as it is the purpose of this journal to provide.

Cotton. Messrs. Wostenholme and Holland report that a good business has been done in West Indian Sea Island at steady prices. The sales include Nevis, 14d. to 15d., Anguilla, 14½d. to 16d., Montserrat, 14d. to 15½d., St. Kitts, 15d. to 17d., Antigua, 14½d. to 18d. and Barbados, 15½d. to 17d. There is an indisposition to pay over 16d. for "Fine," as users have sufficient stock to last them for several months. There is, however, a limited demand for really "Extra Fine" 18d. to 19d. For common qualities 12d. to 14d. there is a large inquiry, but we have hopes of obtaining 14d. to 15d. for these sorts for a while at any rate.

Molasses for Canada. The standard of test of duty for molasses admitted into Canada is to be determined by Clerget's method of polarisation, which if any invert sugar be present, will indicate higher than the ordinary direct polarisation. The limit of 52°, therefore, should cover all molasses from the West Indies. The Canadian Commissioner of Customs, writing to a firm of sugar dealers in Barbados, mentions a sample of a recent importation from the West Indies as showing no cane sugar. "Either the sugar manufacture had been perfect, or so bad as to destroy all the cane sugar, or the cane juice purposely boiled down with some inverting acid, so as to produce a concentrated syrup; anyhow, the shipment paid duty at 3 cents per lb."

Our Library.

Seedling Canes and Manurial Experiments at Barbados, 1903-5.—This Pamphlet, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d., summarises the results obtained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. These have already been dealt with from time to time in the *West India Committee Circular*.

The West Indian Civil Service.

Mr. Justice A. V. Lucie-Smith, Senior Puisne Judge of British Guiana, has arrived in England on leave of absence, during which Mr. J. J. Nunan, the Solicitor-General, will act as Puisne Judge. Mr. Nunan has only recently arrived in the Colony from British Central Africa, where he occupied the position of Judge of the High Court.

Mr. Nigel B. Burnside, Auditor of Public Accounts, Bahamas, has taken over the duties of Receiver-General and Treasurer during the absence from the Colony of the Hon. W. R. Hunt, who has arrived in England on six months' leave. Mr. J. H. East acts as Auditor.

Mr. H. D. Phillips, District Commissioner, of Stann Creek, British Honduras, left England recently for Belize to resume the duties of his office.

The appointment of Mr. L. E. Hawtayne as a Stipendiary Magistrate of British Guiana, has been confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. E. B. Anson, Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana, has been granted three months' vacation leave from the 30th of May with an extension till February, 1907, on half salary. Mr. E. A. Hudge, Barrister-at-Law, of Georgetown, will act for Mr. Anson.

Mr. D. Y. G. Hill, Deputy Receiver-General, British Guiana, has been granted vacation leave of absence for three months from April 9th.

His Honour P. M. C. Sheriff, Chief Justice of St. Vincent, has been appointed Chief Justice of St. Lucia, and has assumed the duties of his office.

Lieut. W. A. J. Harker, South Staffordshire Regiment, who has been selected for the post of Staff Officer of the Local Forces of the Windward Islands, with the local rank of Captain, arrived in St. Lucia on March 21st.

Mr. H. L. Knaggs has been appointed to act as Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk to the Executive Council, Trinidad.

Mr. H. T. Bowen has been appointed to be Private Secretary to His Excellency the Acting Governor of Trinidad. Hon. Sydney Colthart, Commissioner of Currency and Member of the Legislative Council, British Honduras, has been granted six months' leave of absence from April 18th.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados—Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavillet, May 8th, "No rain since last message." **British Guiana**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 5th, "Moderate rain generally."—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), May 7th, "Five inches rain have fallen this week, evenly distributed." **Trinidad**—(Messrs. G. Tennant, Sons & Co.), May 8th, "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended April 25th, "Four ANTOBIO—19th, Heavy rain; 20th to 24th, Fine; 25th, Rainy; 26th, Rainy; 27th, Rainy; 28th, Rainy; 29th to 30th, Fine." **KINOSTON**—20th to 22nd, Fine; 23rd, Rainy; 24th to 25th, Fine.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—OUTWARD BOOKINGS, per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. R. H. Strangar), May 17th:—Mr. F. Strangar, Mrs. Swaby, Mr. Westendorff, Mr. W. Houk, Mr. P. H. Roberts, Mr. Salgado, Mr. H. Delafons, Mr. Pletrantone.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "PORT KINOSTON" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), May 7th:—Mr. and Mrs. A. Abrahams, Mr. and Mrs. M. Abrahams, Dr. and Mrs. Borgesson, Mrs. Bowker, Major Bewsher, Mr. Bolt, Mrs. A. M. Brown, Mrs. and Miss Buckley, Miss Breit, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bradley, Mr. P. A. Cravin, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Miss Coulborn, Mr. B. D. G. Caseres, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor de Cordova, Mr. and Mrs. M. de Cordova, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. de Costa, Misses Durrell, Mr. Duvven, Mrs. and Misses Evelyn, Hon. Evelyn Ellis, Mr. P. Flynn, Capt. French, Miss Farrow, Mr. and Mrs. Farsh, Mr. W. Franklin, Mrs. C. E. Green, Mr. E. Greg, Mrs. M. C. Hark, Lord and Lady Harwood, Miss H. Hart, Mr. P. Hume, Mrs. L. A. Isaacs, Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Col. and Mrs. Jabobson, Mr. P. Jones, Mr. P. King, Mr. Kieffer, Miss Kirkwood, Miss Kuznetz, Miss Kitchener, Rev. Canon Kilburn, Mrs. Kennedy, Miss Kisby, Mr. J. Lawton, Mr. P. E. Lyons, Miss Ledger, Miss M. Ledger, Miss Leabong, Lady M. Lascelles, Mr. E. Lasselles, Misses Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Nixey, Miss Nixon, Mrs. and Miss Palmer, Miss K. O'H. Postman, Mrs. C. Phang, Misses Phang, Mrs. Row, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. G. E. Roberts, Mr. J. Sinclair, Mr. P. M. Slater, Miss Slater, Mr. M. Slater, Miss Stewart, Miss Squiera, Mrs. Stoman, Miss Sanders, Mr. J. Sinclair, Mr. P. E. Thomson, Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Turton, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Verley, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Vickers, Mr. S. G. Wilson, Miss E. Wright, Miss Wylarde, Mrs. Wickham, Mrs. Wake, Misses Younger, Capt. T. Berg.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "PORT ROYAL" (Capt. Owen Jones), May 5th:—**Jamaica**—Major W. H. Hardyman, Mr. E. H. Lavis, Mr. M. Malcolm, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearson, Mr. P. A. Steele, Mr. D. Watson, Mrs. Shagory, Mr. C. Clairmont.

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwt.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwt.	Coconuts	Pimento cwt.	Bananas bunches	Oranges.
April 1 to Mar. 31, '06	11,523	22,587	1,098,636	83,910	7,101,054	89,607	14,748,642	72,691,498
" 1 " 31, '05	11,251	22,337	1,239,256	80,721	4,065,448	143,627	8,982,040	76,570,211

larger portion of authority and control than their position properly justifies." "These men," he says, "have not, and cannot have, the knowledge and experience required for such duties: and it is naturally galling to high officials in the Colonies to know that their suggestions are criticised by youths almost fresh from school or college, and their mature and well-weighed advice possibly rejected on the recommendation of these embryo statesmen." Another ground of complaint urged is the lack of continuity and constant interruption and reversal of policy arising through the change of Governors. The remedy suggested is that the Governors should spend half the year within the walls of the Colonial Office, where they would be provided with an office and a small staff, and the other in their Government; but SIR CHARLES BRUCE does not consider this suggestion workable, as apart from all questions of departmental duties and routine, and far above them, is the personal influence of the Governor, which can only be maintained by tact, judgment and sympathy exercised daily and hourly. We are not among those who think as our correspondent, who signs himself "Hopeful," appears to do, that no good can come of a Government Department. On the other hand we were glad to recognise the remarkable improvement which was initiated at the Colonial Office during the Chamberlain régime. But may it not be a fact that the Empire has outgrown the capacity of the Office Staff? Is it always possible for the officials to devote as much time as could be desired to the development of the latent resources of the Empire? SIR CHARLES BRUCE believes not, and he proposes as a remedy the absorption by the Colonial Office of the Imperial Institute as an integral department. Already there are four departments at the Colonial Office, the establishment, the Crown Agents, a nebulous body forming the medical side, and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. For the last ten years the Imperial Institute has been maintained under the Board of Trade, its funds being provided by a temporary grant from the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, and latterly a subsidy of £500 a year for four years from the Treasury. This, however, has now come to an end, and SIR CHARLES BRUCE informs us that notice has already been given to the staff. A perusal of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute furnishes ample evidence of what has been done by the Institute in the direction of economic investigation in its laboratories of the composition of every natural product of the Empire referred to it, and there are, moreover, the valuable economic collections from every part of the Empire, which were visited last year by over 100,000 people. The Institute is, in short, an expert agency for gauging the value of the raw material of our vast possessions. Its operations in connection with cotton and rubber are fresh in our memory. The usefulness of a public department must depend largely upon the right man being found to administer it, and assuming that such an appointment can be satisfactorily filled, we believe that the establishment of a scientific and technical department would prove of immense value and benefit to our Colonies.

PROF. H. THOMSON has recently reported to the Ways and Means Committee of the American House of Representatives as to the results obtained with a specially constructed alcohol engine designed for driving a dynamo in Cuba, which were entirely successful. The spirit used contained 94% of absolute alcohol by volume with 6% of water, but PROF. THOMSON stated that alcohol up to 13% of water is quite suitable for a motor fuel. Although the theoretical heating value of alcohol is less than that of petrol, it is found by actual experience that on account of the much greater efficiency of combustion which is possible with it, the net power obtained is equal to that given by the latter. A gallon of alcohol, in other words, is equal in power to a gallon of petrol. The experiments of PROF. THOMSON evidence still further the possibility of the use of alcohol for motor purposes, and in view of the many objections to petrol which are not attached to alcohol, it is within the range of probability that an extensive development will soon take place in this direction. For distillers in this country there is every chance, therefore, of the opening up of a new use for their

product, which the Duty Free Alcohol Act for industrial purposes, again coming before the House, will place in their power to utilise to full advantage. It will be remembered that when the Parliamentary Committee sat on the subject a couple of years ago, every effort was made to secure the representation of the British Colonies, with a view to obtain the remission of the surtax for alcohol introduced from them for industrial purposes, but that the Treasury emphatically declined to extend the scope of the inquiry beyond Great Britain. There is, therefore, as things are now, but little chance of West Indian spirit being used industrially on this side; but as the economic alcohol engine appears to be a *fait accompli*, there will be a considerable opening for the use of alcohol in the West Indies in light machinery, which at present involves the use of coal, and where, from the character of the climate, petrol is particularly objectionable. This would form a convenient way of getting rid of a surplus of spirit. Should mechanical tillage come into operation generally, there would appear to be no reason why alcohol motors should not be used for this purpose. Those estates equipped with continuous stills, and able to turn out a strong spirit, could in this way provide their own tillage power, and there are probably many other ways in which the local product could be utilised. Anyway, although the crying injustice of a distillers' protection in the United Kingdom precludes the West Indian alcohol makers competing with them in this direction in the United Kingdom, there is still, as we have said, some opening for the use of alcohol in engines of a light description for work such as the above, and no doubt the Colonial Legislature would readily grant facilities for denaturing in some simple manner.

Colonel Arthur Russell Loscombe.

Among the increasing number of Anglo-West Indians in this country is Colonel Arthur Russell Loscombe, who has recently retired from the command of the 1st West India Regiment. His family at one time were joint owners of the Llandovery estate in Jamaica. His grandfather, Major Wintringham Loscombe, served in the Island with the 18th Royal Irish Regiment in 1808-9, and another of his forebears, Sir Clifton Wintringham, Bart., served with the army which captured Havana in 1762. Colonel Loscombe, who is a son of the late Francis Russell Loscombe, of Heath House, Andover, was educated at Queen Elizabeth's School, Wimborne, Lancing College, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, whence he passed with honours in 1880. In the same year he was gazetted to the 1st West India Regiment, in which his whole military service was passed. He served at various periods in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd battalions, and commanded the 1st from June 24th, 1903, to February, 1906, when he retired. Colonel Loscombe has also held several Staff appointments, including those of Fort Adjutant, Sierra Leone, 1882-3, Garrison Adjutant, Nassau, Bahamas, 1885, and Garrison Adjutant, Sierra Leone, 1892, and he was also Assistant Adjutant-General for prisoners of war in charge of over 4,000 Boer prisoners in Bermuda in 1902-3. He is a J.P. for the Island of Bermuda and for St. Andrew's, Jamaica. It will be remembered that it was through the courtesy of Colonel Loscombe and the officers that the band of the 1st West India Regiment was enabled to visit this country last year, where its playing was so much appreciated.

The Approach to Kingston.

While most visitors from the United States make their acquaintance with Jamaica at Port Antonio, which is the principal fruit exporting port, those from England arrive at Kingston, the capital. The town lies on the shore of the harbour, which is an almost landlocked stretch of water, protected from the east by a long spit of land called the Palisadoes, at the extremity of which is the town and dockyard of Port Royal. To the west is a frowning battery known as the Apostles' battery, because of the number of its embrasures. Behind Kingston are the Blue Mountains, who give their name to the finest coffee the world produces, and which for beauty are unsurpassed.

Annual Meeting of the West India Committee.

Members of the West India Committee are reminded that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the West India Committee Rooms to-morrow at 3 p.m.

Jamaica as a Tourist Resort.

Tickets for the lecture, with the above title, to be delivered by Mr. Albert C. Kelway, at the West India Committee Rooms at 4 p.m. on Empire Day, May 24th next, can now be obtained free of charge from the Secretary of the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Having regard to the increasing interest being taken in the development of Jamaica the Lecture will probably be largely attended. It is desirable, therefore, that those wishing to be present should make an early application for tickets.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Recruiting for the Navy.

During the closing years of the 18th century, the prolonged strain of naval wars was telling upon our recruiting for the navy, and a Bill was passed by which no merchant ship would have the benefit of convoy unless a certain number of men were supplied in proportion to her tonnage to His Majesty's Navy. The West India Committee objected strongly to this, representing that already in spite of the extra inducements offered by the merchant service in the form of extra wages, regular return home, and allowance to wives and families, the vessels in the West Indian trade in time of war had to be for the most part manned by foreigners. On March 26th, 1795, the appointment of a convoy outward being notified by the Admiralty, it was resolved:—

“That Mr. Nepean be informed that under the present Circumstances of the Embargo, the Ships for the West India Islands, cannot take the Benefit of the Convoy now appointed.”

And Mr. Beeston Long acquainted the meeting that he had written to the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and said:—

“I beg you to submit to the Consideration of the Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council whether the West India Ships now ready to clear out should not be released from the Embargo upon condition that the said Ships shall not take on board and carry out any Seamen His Majesty's Subjects who are under the Age of 50 Years or above the Age of 16 Years, except the Master, two Mates, the Boatswain and Carpenter and One Apprentice for every 100 Tons, this is agreeable to Act of Parliament which provides that no British Ship in time of War shall take more than $\frac{1}{3}$ Foreigners.”

And later on it was announced that under these conditions the embargo was removed and that the fleet would duly sail.

The interesting point in connection with this matter is that even in those days the foreign element formed a very large proportion of the merchant crews, probably quite as much as to-day, and the present outcry that the British Merchant service is no longer the feeder of the Navy has its parallel.

Demerara Rum.

A return has been prepared by Professor J. B. Harrison, Government Analyst of British Guiana, giving the proportion of esters found to be present in the rum distilled in British Guiana during the crop year from July 1st, 1904, to June 30th, 1905. The mean contents of esters calculated as acetic ether in the samples of rum examined was 63 parts per 100,000 of alcohol by volume as compared with 64.7 in the year 1903-4, 81.5 in 1902-3, and 104 in 1901-2. The mean contents in the rum crops of the four years was 78.3 parts of esters per 100,000 parts of alcohol.

The Professor gives a table giving the names of plantations from which samples were drawn, the kinds of stills used, their outputs and the contents of esters. This, he says, shows that, as in the crop of 1903-4, the variation in the contents of esters was very great, ranging from 30.1 to 122.7 parts per 100,000 of alcohol by volume. The mean contents of esters in the rum from distilleries in Demerara was 59.7 parts, that of the rum from the distilleries in Essequibo 69.5 parts, and that of the rum from Berbice 76.1 parts. Rum distilled by means of Continuous and of Coffey stills contained a mean of 56.1 parts of esters per 100,000 of alcohol by volume, the extremes being 30.1 and 105.1 parts. Rum distilled by means of vat stills contained a mean of 65.6 parts of esters per 100,000 of alcohol by volume, the extremes being 36.9 and 122.7 parts. The report concludes, “The results of the examinations of the rum produced in the crop of 1904-5 fully confirm the opinion expressed in the 1904 report that rum, a spirit produced by the fermentation of molasses, the by-product in the manufacture of sugar from the sugar cane, cannot be judged as to its freedom from



Photo by Algernon S. Apted.

Germany.

THE APPROACH TO KINGSTON,
JAMAICA.

admixture with silent spirit by the amount of esters found therein. It is also not possible in the majority of cases to distinguish between rum distilled in Continuous or in Coffey stills from rum distilled in vat stills by means of the contents of esters only."

It is interesting to note that the proportion of esters in the rum bears no relation to the market reputation of the marks.

Messrs. W. H. Chaplin & Co., in their Trade Circular of April 12th, comment as follows on Mr. Nolan's Jamaica Rum manifesto, which we reprinted in our issue of April 18th:—

Mr. Nolan, the Jamaican Special Commissioner, has just issued a circular to the Licensed Trade, in an envelope marked "On His Majesty's Service." In this, after referring to prosecutions he has instituted, or may institute in future, he advises all publicans to insist on having Jamaica rum only from his merchant. So far as he endeavours to secure that only the produce of Jamaica shall be sold as Jamaica rum the Commissioner's efforts will, of course, have our fullest sympathy and support. But when he claims that no other rum shall be sold, and states, as he appears to do in the last two paragraphs of the circular, that all other rum is "inferior and deleterious," we must protest and deny his proposition; there is plenty of good wholesome rum from Demerara, and other British possessions, as well as from Cuba, &c. His argument as to the "relative market prices" proving that no other rum is as good as Jamaica is not sound: these prices are subject to large fluctuations due to the varying crops in different producing centres, and to the price of sugar. It is true that for the finest high-flavoured rums we turn to Jamaica, and pay fancy prices for exceptional qualities, just as with all natural products higher prices are paid for qualities which go to make the *article de luxe*. These higher prices, however, do not indicate superior wholesomeness. Any trader may, therefore, continue to sell other rums than those of Jamaica, the only restriction being, as heretofore, that they must not be sold as Jamaica rums.

Fuel for Sugar Factories.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of April 28th, contains an article by M. Bouvier on the steam required in cane sugar factories, under different conditions of extraction of juice and evaporation, from which we take the following figures. The cane supposed to be dealt with contains 14% of sugar and the crushing with triple mills only, with 15% water of dilution:—

		Per 1,000 lbs. of Cane.				
		Steam required. lbs.	Steam given by megass. lbs.	Steam deficient. lbs.	Steam excess. lbs.	Coal required. lbs.
Megass with 50% Water.						
Mills and triple effect	... ..	556.5	446.4	110.1	—	15
Mills and quadruple effect	... ..	505.5	446.4	59.1	—	8.5
Mills and quintuple effect with double effect heating	... ..	436	446.4	—	10.4	—
Diffusion of megass and quintuple effect with double effect heating	... ..	536	403.2	132.8	—	18
Diffusion of cane and quintuple effect with double effect heating	... ..	568	403.2	164.8	—	22.3
Megass with 33% Water.						
Mills and triple effect	... ..	556.5	520.8	35.7	—	4.8
Mills and quadruple effect	... ..	505.5	520.8	—	15.3	—
Mills and quintuple effect with double effect heating	... ..	436	520.8	—	84.8	—
Diffusion of megass and quintuple effect with double effect heating	... ..	536	464.8	71.2	—	9.5
Diffusion of cane and quintuple effect with double effect heating	... ..	568	464.8	103.2	—	14

We may point out that M. Bouvier has calculated the different quantities of steam required with the several evaporators on their theoretical efficiency. In practice it is recognised that the economy of evaporation does not proceed *pro rata* with the number of vessels in the evaporator, and that with plain evaporation the limit of economy is practically reached with a triple effect. The megass with only 33% of water was supposed to have been dried either by the sun or by the waste heat from the furnaces, both methods involving far more expense in handling than the saving in fuel

would represent. Applying M. Bouvier's figures to West Indian conditions, it may be said that 3 cwt. of coal per ton should cover the fuel required for a triple crushing factory with 15% maceration, and this agrees with practical results.

Mr. Churchill on the British Cotton Movement.

Mr. Winston Churchill was entertained at a banquet by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, May 5th, Sir Alfred Jones presiding. Replying to the toast of his health he said that the bonds between the self-governing Colonies and the Mother Country were now so strong that they were not likely to be injured by political partisanship on either side. In the commercial development of the tropical possessions of the Crown, the business men in this country had to go hand in hand with the Government, and the Government hand in hand with the business men. It was necessary that private enterprise should support the Government, and that officials of the Government and business men should work in friendly co-operation and render each other mutual assistance. Though not a banana eater, Mr. Churchill was loud in praise of bananas, adding that the industry reflected the greatest honour and credit upon Mr. Chamberlain and upon all those who were associated with him in the work of popularising and democratising the banana. The banana on the street barrow was a monument of efficient administration at the Colonial Office, and while it is not the largest monument or the most expensive, it is nevertheless one which we all of all parties unite to applaud and admire. The operations of the British Cotton Growing Association were significant and important, but he doubted if the time would ever come when cotton grown within the Empire would be abundant enough to supply the needs of the Empire, or when Lancashire would be able to dispense with the right and freedom to purchase her cotton in the world's markets at the world's prices. He is strongly in favour of improvement in transport facilities, and gave an assurance that Colonial interests were not being neglected by the Government.

An Opening for Small Capitalists.

Cotton planting takes place in the Leeward Islands from about June to August, and in a short time planters in Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat will be getting their land ready, so that it is doubtful if any contemplating to go out to the West Indies to embark upon cotton cultivation could be in time for the 1907 crop. In view, however, of the many inquiries which reach us as to the *cur and quomodo* of cotton cultivation, we may usefully quote some notes with which Dr. Frances Watts has kindly furnished us on the subject. There are, he says, openings for young men of capital ranging from £500 to £1,000, who wish to take up cotton growing. They could probably find land in Antigua, Nevis or Montserrat. Two or three settlers of this class have already arrived. The proper course to adopt would be to leave for the Colony some time between October and November. The embryo planter would then see the cotton crop in progress of growing and reaping. He could inspect the land in several Islands and carefully select what suits him best and arrange as to the price without having his hand forced by pressure of time. A little experience of the work, especially if he could attach himself to some cotton plantation would be useful. It is a difficult matter to assess the value of cotton land, for much of it has been out of cultivation for some time, and has ceased to have a definite value. Naturally, owing to the success of the Sea Island cotton industry, prices are rising and should increase still further during the next few years so that the sooner intending cotton growers make up their minds the better. Land at present fetches from £2 to £5 per acre, or it can be rented at from 10s. to £1 per annum according to circumstances. There are many hundreds of acres of suitable land in Antigua now unoccupied, and there is also some quantity in Nevis, but it is being taken up. In Montserrat there is a limited amount, while in St. Kitts there is little or none available, all being taken up with estates cultivation.

Trinidad Chamber of Commerce.

The Report of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce for the year 1905 is to hand, and gives an interesting summary of the valuable work carried out during the year by this energetic body. The question of the mail contract forms a prominent item in the proceedings, and a record of other matters of importance to the interests of the Colony is made. The Chamber has to regret the death of four of its members during the year: Mr. J. Graham Taylor, Mr. William Schoener, Mr. Louis Sievert and Mr. John Hoadly. The list of members attached shows how thoroughly representative the Chamber is of the commerce of Trinidad.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

British Grown Cotton.

In the House of Lords on May 10th, the Duke of Marlborough asked the Secretary for the Colonies if the Government had given the British Cotton Growing Association any facilities for the development of the growth of cotton in the Empire.

Lord Elgin, in reply, said that the Government felt as deeply as the late Government the necessity of having an ample supply of cotton for the great Lancashire industry. As far as he was concerned, he was prepared to accept the policy of his predecessors in supporting cotton growing within the Empire. If possible, he would go further in giving that support.

Consular Report.

The Javanese Sugar Industry.

The area planted under sugar-cane was slightly larger in Java in 1905, but the yield was less owing to unfavourable weather. Progress is noticeable in the endeavours made to eradicate the many diseases to which sugar-cane is liable, the success in great measure being due to the process of careful selection. The best results were again obtained from the seedlings, the popularity of which increases annually. The foreign cane has fallen into disfavour and is likely soon to be entirely abandoned, while the indigenous cane, although yielding good results, proves expensive through having to be nurtured in gardens in the hills. As foreshadowed the profits made by mills on the 1904 working were in most cases expended on new machinery and the majority of the mills in Java may now be said to be up to date as far as installation is concerned. Many are now capable of producing, in addition to the usual qualities, superior sugar, which in shade and grain most nearly approaches the refined article, and finds a ready market in India.

Colonial Report.

The Sugar Industry in Antigua and St. Kitts.

Dr. Francis Watts, the Superintendent of Agriculture in the Leeward Islands, in a report also published in the miscellaneous series, reviews the sugar industry in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis during 1881-1905. He points out that it must be recognised, that, until the present year, these two Presidencies have been entirely dependent upon the sugar industry. During the last year cotton-growing has made such progress as to have produced an appreciable effect in Nevis and Anguilla, and, to a certain extent, in St. Kitts itself. Although cotton-growing has made much progress in Antigua, it has not yet had any very marked effect on the trade of the Island. Up to the present, therefore, the trade of these Presidencies may be accurately measured by a consideration of the sugar industry. He deals elaborately with the "ups and downs" of the crops from 1881 and their causes, and his remarks under this head are illustrated by a table showing by curves the exports of sugar, molasses and rum, in quantity and in value, and the acreage under sugar cultivation. In St. Kitts, with the exception of one small factory, which has a vacuum pan, but no triple effect, the muscovado process is followed throughout. It would seem natural that at this juncture the attention of the owners of sugar estates should be centred on the question of the advisability and possibility of introducing modern methods of sugar manufacture. Along this line appears to lie the course of development in the immediate future. The fall in price of sugar has to be faced, and can be faced, by economies and improved methods, now that a measure of stability has been introduced by the operation of the Brussels Convention. In concluding his report, of which we give a summary, Dr. Watts says, "It augurs well for the stability of the sugar industry of these Presidencies that it has been able to weather the steady depression of the past ten years, while our survey of the position gives good ground for hoping that the future will be brighter than the immediate past, so that, with careful handling and judicious development, the sugar industry may be placed on as sure a basis as it has ever occupied." With all of which we are in cordial agreement. Dealing with future prospects Dr. Watts says it is only reasonable to suppose and to hope that a series of more propitious seasons may again visit the Island in the future as has happened in the past, and that the sugar crop may again reach, or exceed, the average of the period, 1881-1894, namely, over 13,000 tons a year. Doubtless, during the recent period of intense depression, some deficiency may have arisen from a scarcity of money, whereby cultural operations have not been so well performed as planters could wish.

The stability given to the sugar industry by the abolition of bounties, by the operation of the

Brussels Convention, has already led to a considerable amount of development in the sugar industry in Antigua in the past two years. The erection and successful operation of the central sugar factory at Gunthorpe's at a cost of £45,358, and the conversion of Bendal's sugar factory into a small, but well-equipped modern factory at a cost of some £12,000, together with the extensive substitution of railway and tramway haulage for less perfect methods at both these factories, indicate a desire for progress such as has not been seen in the smaller Islands for a generation or more, and are good evidence of a determination to do the best to make the industry successful. Nor does the tendency towards progress end here. Two sets of steam-ploughing plant were imported for working the lands associated with each of the above-mentioned factories. These, by deeper cultivation of the soil, are calculated to minimise the effects of drought. Concurrently with this, we may expect other improvements, all of which must have their effect on the production of sugar and the welfare of the Island. We are, therefore, justified, he adds, in making some forecast of the future, and may reasonably hope to see the sugar crop in Antigua not only equalling, but, by virtue of the improvements now introduced, exceeding, the crops of the period 1881-1894; that is, exceeding, on the average, 13,000 tons. The price of sugar will doubtless be low, but at £8 per ton, at which price in an average year sugar can be produced at a small profit, this is worth £104,000, while there will probably be a steady increase in the amount of crystal (vacuum pan) sugar produced and a diminution of muscovado, thus increasing the value of the output. In addition to this we may look forward to those developments which are sure to arise when the planting body is stimulated to a degree of activity exceeding anything which has existed in the past. Increased areas and improved methods of cultivation, improved varieties of canes, and various other improvements, such as may be anticipated from the intelligent working together of a well-equipped Department of Agriculture and active and alert planters cannot fail to result in beneficial changes. It is clear that the sugar industry is to be improved by progress rather than by diminished expenditure and petty economies, though there is no margin for extravagant or unproductive expenditure. During the past ten years economy and reduction have been carried out almost drastically. The time now appears to have arrived for an effort at progress and increased expenditure in order to place the sugar industry on a sound footing, which could undoubtedly be reached, if it were not for the element of uncertainty introduced by unpropitious seasons. While, therefore, but a relatively small margin exists, the choice appears to lie between reduction and the ultimate extinction of the sugar industry on the one hand, and on the other, the development of the industry along sound lines of progress, leading, Dr. Watts believes, to its being placed upon a stable footing, and thus providing a reasonably sure means of livelihood to those of all classes now engaged in it. It would appear that in Antigua, at least, a decision has been cast in favour of the latter alternative, and the efforts of all engaged deserve the sympathetic support and mutual co-operation of the Government and of the proprietors of estates.

Letter to the Editor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—Careful consideration of the recent papers read by Sir Neville Lubbock and Messrs de Thierry shows that from the Imperial point of view a proper appreciation of the value of the West Indies by the Imperial Government is wanting and it is common knowledge that the Colonial Office, as the administrative head of the Crown Colonies in the West Indian portion of the Empire, is far from efficient, nor has it a healthy conception of its duties towards them.

Are West Indians and those who have large interest in the various Islands content to let matters go on as they do now? The answer must be left to them, but at least suggestions can be made and proposals discussed, and I believe with the assistance of your Committee recommendations can be made to Parliament of an effective nature. While it is clear that the present system of Government is at fault it is at least not certain that the permanent or political officials are to blame, and it is no part of my case to lay any on individuals, I speak of the system which can only be changed by representations to Parliament.

A correspondent some months ago urged upon your Committee the desirability of holding in London a Conference of West Indians and the suggestion is one which is well worthy of consideration.

One of the subjects to be submitted to the Conference should be the necessity of asking the Government to establish an Advisory Council for the West Indies, which Council by the experience of its members, from residence or acquaintance with its affairs, would amongst other duties represent directly to the Secretary of State the special requirements of the different Islands.

The public are possibly under the impression that the Secretary of State can give personal consideration to all Colonial questions, the reverse is the case, he has far too much to do and important matters are actually disposed of by junior permanent officials whose sole claim to a knowledge of the question is that gained by correspondence with a Governor who in his turn has frequently no experience whatever to guide him.

Given vigorous and intelligent, as opposed to apathetic, administration, there is no doubt in my mind that the West Indies would become prosperous in themselves and a valuable asset of the Empire, no effort, therefore, should be spared to enlist the sympathy of the present Parliament for their long suffering inhabitants.

In addressing this letter to you I am appealing to your readers who know the facts as well or better than I do,

there is consequently no necessity to quote instances, it is sufficient to ask you to take such steps as may be thought fit to ascertain the views of the members of the Committee upon these two points, namely, the holding of a Conference and the appointment of a West Indian Advisory Council.

Your obedient servant,
HOPEFUL

We shall be glad to receive the views of our readers in the West Indies on this subject, which is certainly one which admits of discussion and consideration. We assume that "Hopeful" has in his mind a Council on the lines of the India Council, which would be established on an efficient basis and advise the Government on such matters as appointments, &c. On matters of general policy it certainly seems to us that the West India Committee should be able adequately to express the views of the Colonies. What we feel is wanted is a closer co-operation among the Colonies themselves.—ED.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., May 9th.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke at the dinner of the Association of Bankers.—Beet, 8s. 1½d., easier.
- Thurs., May 10th.—The Duma, the new Russian Legislative Body, opened at St. Petersburg. Education Bill read a second time in the House of Commons, the opposition Amendment being defeated by a majority of 206 (410 against 204). Bank rate unchanged 4%.—Beet, 8s. 1½d., steady.
- Frid., May 11th.—Mr. Chamberlain presided at the annual meeting of the Liberal Union Club.—Beet, 8s. 1½d., easier.
- Sat., May 12th.—The Sultan complied with British demands as to the evacuation of Tabah, and the delimitation of the Egyptian frontier.—Beet, morning call, 8s. 1d., flat.
- Sun., May 13th.—Thanksgiving Service at Westminster Abbey for the return of the Prince of Wales from India.—His Honour Sir Robert Bromley, Bart., died at St. Kitts.
- Mon., May 14th.—Sir Edward Grey made a statement in the House of Commons with regard to the negotiations with Turkey.—Beet, 8s. 1d., quiet.
- Tues., May 15th.—Dulwich bye Election: Bonar Law (U. and T. K.), 6,709; Williamson (L.), 5,430. Majority 1,279.—Beet, 8s. ½d., flat.

Coming Events.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

- Thurs., May 17th.—Annual Meeting of the West India Committee, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., May 24th.—Lecture on "Jamaica as a Tourist Resort," by Mr. A. C. Kelway, at the West India Committee Rooms, 4 p.m.
- Wed., May 30th.—Annual Meeting of the R.M.S.P. Co.
- Mon., June 4th.—The West Indian Cricket team arrives at Southampton.
- Wed., June 6th.—Show of Colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster.
- Mon., June 11th.—Cricket: West Indians v. London County at the Crystal Palace.
- Thurs., June 14th.—" " " v. Essex, at Leyton.
- Mon., June 18th.—" " " v. Lord Brackley's team, at Lords.
- Thurs., June 21st.—" " " v. Minor Counties, at Ealing.
- Mon., June 25th.—" " " v. Surrey, at the Oval.

Notes of Interest.

WEDDING. We have to congratulate Mr. Alfred M. Low upon his marriage to Miss Isolt Leclimere Guppy.

ASPHALT. The tender of the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Paving Company, Ltd., has been accepted for street paving work in the Metropolitan Borough of Lambeth.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE. A pioneer company, with a capital of £5,000, has been formed in Trinidad to manufacture cocoa grown locally. Mr. W. J. S. Tucker is Chairman of the Board of Directors.

ZULU SUGAR. The Minister of Agriculture, Pietermaritzburg, has issued a notice throwing open for occupation by sugar planters certain lots of the Zululand coast lands, in all about 8,000 acres, for lease at rs. a year rental for 99 years.

FRENCH SUGAR TAX. The French Budget Law for 1906 provides that from September 1st, 1906, the "refining tax" on sugar is to be reduced from 2 frs. to 1 fr. per 100 kilos (10d. to 5d. per cwt.) of refined sugar. This tax is levied on all refined sugars imported into or refined in France.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended May 10th, 358 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.65d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13½d. per lb.; fine, 14½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 05d. to 20d.

USE FOR SUGAR. The *Gazette de Cologne* gives a new industrial application of sugar, viz. the extraction of zinc ore by means of sugar solutions. The calcareous calamine is roasted, water added, and the lime extracted by a solution of sugar. The residue includes all the zinc which is separated by filtration. The sugar is subsequently recovered and used for further extraction.

JAMAICA AND THE CABLES. Mr. Eliot Arthur de Pass and Mr. William Gillespie have been appointed to represent Jamaica at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in July. They have been instructed to support the scheme for direct cable communication between England, the West Indies and British Guiana, and also to urge the Imperial Government to contribute to all British cables.

MR G. B. MASON. His many friends will be glad to learn that Mr. Gerald B. Mason, Magistrate and Medical Officer of Anguilla, is to be married on June 5th to Miss Betty Rey. The family of the bride elect, like that of the bridegroom, has been connected for many years with the West Indies, while Mr. Mason is well known as founder of the West Indian Club. Our readers will join with us in offering to him sincere congratulations.

FOR SCIENTISTS. The French Syndicate of Sugar Manufacturers has voted a prize of £4,000 to the object of stimulating research in the direction of new methods for employing sugar industrially. The terms are that the new application of sugar must be made solely for industrial purposes, not for the manufacture of any form of food, and the prize will not be awarded until 100,000 tons of sugar have been thus utilised. The more uses for sugar the better!

SLAVE GROWN COCOA. Since the appearance of Mr. Nevinson's article on the Portuguese slave trade in Africa, which was published a few months' back in *Harpers' Magazine*, one of the great American cocoa manufacturers has written to him to say that in consequence of the article he has stopped the importation of San Thomé cocoa. Will British manufacturers not follow suit? *Tropical Life* gives the shipments into Great Britain for the first three months of the present year as 99,346 from San Thomé as against 153,447 bags from the British West Indies.

HOTEL FOR JAMAICA. A Company, entitled the St. Andrew Hotels Company, has been registered in Jamaica for the purpose of conducting hotels in that Island. The first hotel to be erected under its auspices will be called the St. Andrew Hotel, and the site will probably be near the Hope Road electric car line. The directorate comprises Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, Mr. Alfred Pawsey, Mr. I. Hunter McNish, Mr. E. R. Grabow, Mr. Aston W. Gardner, Mr. Fred L. Myers and Capt. W. Peplow Forwood. Half the capital, which is £40,000, has, it is understood, already been subscribed locally.

W. I. CLUB DINNER. At the West Indian Club dinner on Wednesday, May 9th, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall presided and amongst those present were:—Mr. Arthur a'Beckett, Mr. C. E. Berthon, Mr. W. A. Black, Brigadier-Gen. W. A. Collings, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. H. A. Hood-Daniel, Mr. J. Howard, Mr. A. C. Kelway, Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Col. A. H. Nourse, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. H. A. Pile, Mr. H. F. Previte, Capt. W. W. Rhodes, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. P. Simon, Mr. F. A. Skeete, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. H. B. Swan, Mr. Chas. Wilson and Mr. C. L. Wingrove.

THE R.M.S.P. CO. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company intimate that in connection with their Scottish business they have completed arrangements for the opening of the Company's own office at 125, Buchanan Street, Glasgow. At the General Meeting of the Orient Line, the Chairman, referring to the amalgamation with the R.M.S.P. Co. for their Australian service, said that the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. realised that to maintain the service in a proper state of efficiency it would be necessary to build bigger boats, and as they were already building extensively for other service, they did not see their way to extend operations in this direction. From this it would appear that the R.M.S.P. Co. intend to pursue their go-ahead policy in the East as they are doing in the West.

A USEFUL CARTEL. While turning over some old papers we recently came across a copy of the *Star* of March 19th, 1804. It contained a news paragraph headed "Jamaica Papers," in which it was announced that: "An English Guineaman lately put into Surinam, under the impression that it had received a British Garrison; the crew were made prisoners, but have arrived in a cartel at St. Vincent's." What a welcome cartel, and how different it must have been to the cartels which in after years so nearly proved the ruin of several of our West India Colonies. In another column there was a letter from Commodore Hood, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels in the

Leeward Islands, to William Marsden, Esq., dated at Martinique, giving copies of letters from a Captain Nourse of His Majesty's sloop "Cyane," with an account of the capture of a privateer of eight guns and eighty-four men, and recapture of a valuable Guineaman. This Captain Nourse was an ancestor of one of our most loyal Members, Colonel Nourse, who owns Ashbury Estate in Barbados.

OH! SO GOOD FOR . . . Dr. Francis Bond puts in a word for his "venerable old friend, Jamaica rum" in a recent issue of the *Lancet*. When married to milk he believes that a combination results which, like all well assorted unions, brings out to advantage the good qualities of both parties to the alliance. Taken wisely and not too well rum is hard to heat as a remedy for dyspeptics, and the indigestion must be a very hopeless one which will not yield to a diet of a small cup of warm milk to which a teaspoonful of rum has been added. Dr. Meredith Young in the succeeding number continued the discussion, and quoted authorities to show that Jamaica rum has a more decided action than either brandy, whisky or gin, in increasing the amount of carbonic acid given off the system. Dr. Edward Smith used to state that rum and milk was "the most powerful restorative with which he is acquainted" and Dr. James Inman held that "for internal use in cases of phthisis and similar diseases rum and milk is far better as a means of supplying fat to the body than cod liver oil." The rum used must, however, be Jamaica rum.

The Homeward Mail.

Lord and Lady Harewood, Mr. Justice Vickers, the Hon. E. Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Michael de Cordova, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor de Cordova, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. de Costa, and Mr. Horace Myers were among the large number of passengers from Jamaica who arrived at Avonmouth on Monday, May 7th. The R.M.S.P. "La Plata" reached Southampton at 10.45 p.m. on Sunday, May 13th, but the mails, which were unusually heavy, were not delivered in London until after midday on Monday. The exodus of labourers to Panama showed no signs of abating, and a feature of danger is that many returning labourers from the Isthmus are affected with a malignant form of malaria, a matter into which we are now making further inquiries. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Sugar Cane Farming in Antigua.

The sugar crop was in full swing when the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on April 25th, and the produce was finding its market in Canada. The price of molasses remained at 18 cents a gallon, puncheon included. The amount of peasant grown cane purchased at Bendal's Factory was larger than ever before, over 2,000 tons having been purchased since the beginning of crop at the end of February, and the supply seemed to be continuing.

The only regular means of communication left to Antigua after the cessation of the Royal Mail service will be the Pickford and Black Line to Canada.

On April 24th Sir Daniel Morris addressed a meeting of those interested in cotton growing



(Over 100.)
The Members of the Antigua Diocesan Synod.

The 13th Synod of the Diocese of Antigua, assembled in the Cathedral of St. John early in the year. In this group many well-known faces will be recognised. The Right Rev. Walter Farrar, D.D., the Bishop of Antigua, is seated in the middle of the top row.

with the object of getting up a local company to take over the Government cotton ginnery. The view generally held on this subject was that the ginnery had been worked to the satisfaction of all parties as things were, and that if the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who ran the ginnery, were willing to continue doing so, there was no objection to their running it at a profit to the Department, as was the case at present.

The exodus of labourers to Panama was a new feature in Antigua; no one complained so much at the loss of useful labourers, for they had a perfect right to go where they could earn the highest wages, which was not likely to be in the sugar industry at present prices; but what was objected to was the leaving behind of the women and children and other less able-bodied dependants whose support was likely to fall on the revenue of the Island.

The weather had been unusually showery for the time of year, and the young canes looked very pretty and more forward than usual at this season.

The Exodus from Barbados to Panama.

We have received from the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, who wrote on April 26th, a report of the discussion on hurricane insurance at the Agricultural Society, at which Mr. Christopher Head was present. The objections which planters had to the scheme as now formulated were pointed out, and Mr. Head intimated that he hoped he might obtain important modifications from his principals. A report of the meeting is given in the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter*, of April 19th. — Ed.

The worst thing that was overshadowing the Island now was the scarcity of labour. The returns obtained from the Emigration office a few mails previously did not include the total number of emigrants to Panama, as Mr. Alleyne subsequently found that hundreds went who paid their own passage and who did not go through the Emigration department at all. Anyhow, the effect on the Island was apparent. The most skilled and reliable workmen were either gone or were going — carters, mill-workmen, artisans, cane-cutters, grooms, and domestic servants. The loafers were the only class who did not go. On most estates, even now in crop-time where formerly labour was superabundant, it was difficult to get through a good day's work. Either the cane-cutter would not turn out, the carters had gone, or the stokers would not come, and it was hard to get canes carried to the mill. Most of the men having gone, the labour of women had to be much more largely employed, and in carrying canes to the mill even children had to carry them in small quantities. Every steamer, and they were frequent, took away several hundred, but many hundreds came back by the Royal Mail, and these served to stir up the enthusiasm of the others. Bridgetown was full of American bank notes, and the trade of the stores in the last few months had increased immensely.

Since last mail Barbados had had practically no rain whatever. On the 10th a few estates to the north of the Island had .25 to .30 parts, but that was all. Day after day the sun rose with unbroken splendour, and the heat was very great. Many cabbage palms in the Government House grounds, in Belleville Avenue, and in St. Philip's had died from drought, which was a most unusual occurrence; and the shrubs had suffered terribly. It was marvellous how well the young canes were still holding: of course, in some places in shallow soils the young canes were beginning to give out, but as a rule they were holding wonderfully, and were the only green things to be seen. It was impossible to plant provisions or grain of any kind, and fodder would be very scarce after the crop. Sugar-making had finished on many estates on the seaboard of Christ Church, but was in full swing over the generality of the Island. Another three weeks, however, would make a great difference. The yield had kept up marvellously, and considering that 1905 gave them almost the shortest rainfall on record, it was astonishing what the canes were doing. Some months ago they estimated the crop at 47,000 tons, but it would certainly reach 53,000 tons, including syrup, if not more; while the molasses crop estimated at 35,000 puncheons would reach 45,000 puns. If they only had prices to meet it! But sugar had dropped in England to 8s. 4½d., and on that day was offered in Barbados at \$1.45 per 100 lbs. with molasses at 16 cents.

Sir George Pile was called to his rest on the afternoon of April 25th, and it was announced immediately by the Governor that the funeral would be a public one. This took place at St. Luke's Church, in the parish of St. George, at 4 p.m. on April 26th. The coffin was accompanied by an escort of mounted police, all arrangements having been made by Colonel Kaye. The Governor, attended by his A.D.C., was present, also the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, magistrates, planters, merchants, and numerous managers, who had served under him during his many Attorneyships. In the unavoidable absence of the Bishop the service was taken by the Archdeacon, assisted by the Dean, Dr. Taylor, Vicar of St. Luke's, and Canon Reece. The Church was filled to overflowing, and the vast crowd behaved in the most decorous manner.

Sir George never seemed to recover the shock caused by the death of his wife, which occurred less than a year ago, and since then he took no part in public affairs. He was knighted in 1892, and from his birth in 1821 he may be said to have lived in and for Barbados. For years he has been the leading Attorney of the Island, was a prominent member of the House of Assembly, and latterly, and until last year, President of the Legislative Council. The sympathy of all classes of the community is offered to the Hon. G. Laurie Pile and his family in their bereavement. It is noteworthy to add that the last public funeral in Barbados was that of Sir George's nephew, the Hon. Archibald Pile, C.M.G., Speaker of the House of Assembly, shortly before the hurricane of 1898.

British Guiana still wants more Rain.

Writing on April 25th, Mr. A. Summerson reported that a meeting of the Court of Policy was held on April 19th, when Counsel was heard in respect to the opposition by the Success-Ressouvenir Estates to the proposed East Coast Sea Defence Bill. Particulars of the proceedings will be found in the Mail Edition of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*.

The sugar market was at a standstill, buyers being without limits, and estates were all closed down.

The weather had been favourable during the fortnight. Nice rains had fallen in Lissequebo, and they still wanted moderate ones there. In Berbice they had had heavy rains, but the last few days had been fine and bright in that county and Demerara.

As the result of correspondence between the Governor, the Director of Science and Agriculture Messrs. Harvie, Lockie & Co., of Mincing Lane, there was every reason to hope that the cultivation of limes for export would be established in the Colony. Professor Harrison considered that if these were cultivated on soils near the coast similar to those inland where limes flourish so well, a profitable industry would result. Messrs. Harvey, Lockie & Co. are sending out an expert to look into the matter.

British Honduras has trouble on the Hondo.

Hon. A. R. Usher draws attention in his letter of April 27th to the restrictions on the navigation of the Hondo. Some time ago he referred to the arbitrary and high-handed action of the Mexican authorities at the mouth of the Rio Hondo, and now they had again been giving trouble by detaining a number of boats trading up the Hondo River, and exacting heavy fines for passing through the channel which is in Mexican waters. The matter had been represented to the Colonial Office, and it was understood that representations were also being made to the Mexican Government, and the Colonial Government were now making arrangements to dredge a channel on the British side of the Hondo, but in the meantime the Mexican authorities still persisted in their apparently unlawful action. It was strange that although Mexican vessels had the right to navigate British Colonial waters by the recent treaty, British vessels had not got a similar right, and hence the trouble and annoyance that was being experienced, which it was hoped would not be allowed to continue much longer.

The weather had been very dry for some time, and favourable for wood-cutting operations.

Mr. Young takes the Oath in Dominica.

When Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on April 25th, Sir Daniel Morris was in the Island, and there was to be a meeting of the Experimental Committee shortly, when the subject of the continuance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture would probably come up for discussion. This Experimental Committee, it will be remembered, is composed of independent planters, who are asked to discuss matters agricultural with Sir Daniel, quite unofficially.

Mr. Young had arrived by the last R.M. steamer, and duly taken the oath as Administrator. All those who had met him spoke in high terms of him personally.

The electric light installation was now nearly complete, and a trial lighting proved it in good working order.

The weather still remained fine, but with enough rain to promote growth.

Grenada anxious about Labour.

We are informed by Mr. C. Falconer Anton, Secretary of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, in a letter dated April 26th, that a deputation from the Society waited on the Governor on April 10th with reference to the labour conditions at Panama, and to an application from the Rev. Mr. Branch to be allowed to use eight acres of Point Salmes, which was a stock estate and only liable to land tax, at the rate of ninepence per acre, for experimenting with Sea Island cotton, without paying the tax. This the Governor declined to allow on the ground that as the law stood he had no legal power to do so, although it was alleged that a similar concession had been granted in respect of another estate.

The Committee of Management was to hold a meeting on the following day, and on May 11th there would be an ordinary General Meeting. In addition to the special General Meetings to be held in St. Andrews, there were to be three in St. Patricks in each year.

The French ship of war "Jurieu de la Graviere" arrived on the previous afternoon and would be at the Island until the 30th, and on April 26th H.M.S. "Indefatigable" with General Caulfield, who was said to have come to inspect the Police Force, now being furnished up by Captain Legge. She was to leave for St. Vincent that evening.

Hon. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., and Mrs. Browne, Dr. E. F. and Mrs. Hatton, and possibly Dr. P. F. Macleod, would be among the passengers for England by the outgoing mail steamer. It is with sincere regret that we have since heard by cable of the death of Dr. Patrick Fletcher Macleod.—Ed.

The weather was dull and still very dry.

Mr. P. J. Dean wrote on April 27th that the question of the mail service was again causing considerable anxiety, instructions having been given that no more tickets were to be issued by the R.M.S.P. Co. after May 21st.

The Government had refused to grant the sum asked for by the Agricultural Society towards the expenses of exhibits to be sent to Canada. The Committee had accordingly decided to start a subscription list. The writer had resigned his position as President of the Permanent Exhibition Committee in favour of the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., President of the Agricultural Society.

Fears of a short cocoa crop were being realised, and it was some 5,000 bags short of last year's crop to date.

A subsequent cable states that on May 11th the Grenada Agricultural Society appointed a deputation to wait on the Governor with regard to the mail question, it appearing that the Colony would be prepared to contribute £1,000 towards a subsidy.

Jamaican exports for 1905-06.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council on April 18th, the Bill to amend the Distilleries Law to make way for locked stills, was thrown out.

Mr. John Barclay has favoured us with some interesting notes regarding the agricultural situation based on the Collector-General's returns for the year ended 31st March, 1906. Exports of bananas form a record 14,748,642 stems. The previous best was the year before the 1903 hurricane when 14,184,375 stems, valued at £1,134,750, were exported, and this amount was increased by over £40,000. As they have had so far most favourable seasons on the whole, the end of the current year should see 18,000,000 stems of bananas exported. The trees are getting better cultivation generally than before, and with an extension of the work of the local Agricultural Instructors now contemplated, with the aid of the amount compromised under the Elder Dempster contract, small settlers who are responsible for a large proportion of the total exports of bananas as well as other products, may be so guided as to produce better fruit and more of it, on the same land.

Exports of oranges were less by 4,000,000 single fruits than the year before, and they have been gradually getting less every year in spite of more fruit being available. The duty against Jamaica in the United States is largely responsible for this decrease, for the quantity sent to the United Kingdom has slightly increased. When shipping to the United States, planters cannot even use native woods for fruit boxes, the making of which would provide labour locally, as they are charged duty on wood at United States ports.

Exports of grapefruit have nearly doubled and also over-topped all previous years, and a further large increase is likely.

Both coffee and cocoa show an increase in the quantity exported over the last three years, but the production of cocoa has not yet reached the figures for the year 1902-3, showing how severely the hurricane of 1903 dealt with this crop. Two years more should see the exports of cocoa more than doubled.

The export of coco-nuts has almost doubled that of last year. Of all those bearing trees left standing, about 75% have now fully recovered, and 25% will never be their old selves again, but then, there were a large number of young trees not yet bearing in 1903, which the wind did not damage much, and every year more of these are beginning to bear. Then, too, large numbers of selected nuts have been set out and are being set out still, more carefully planted and cultivated than the old trees were, so future crops should be better than in the past.

Sugar, also, shows an increase over the previous year, but still much below that of years gone by. This should also improve.

The export of tobacco shows a substantial increase, in the form of cigars principally, and local business, *i.e.*, the consumption of cigars in the Island by visitors, if figures were available, would also show a large trade now being done.

Of cotton Jamaica only shipped 75,307 lbs. of lint, worth, 6d. per lb. locally. The other West Indian Islands have beaten Jamaica hollow in the cotton industry. One reason is that Jamaica has so many products that people can do fairly well with, that they are not very keen on anything new and doubtful. Those who did make a start in cotton, thinking, perhaps, of the wild cotton growing perennially, so vigorously, were caught napping by caterpillars, which pests fancied the Sea Island cotton immensely. However, with paris green and much labour the pests were got under. The expense and trouble of doing so, however, frightened a good many who might have started growing this cotton, so the cultivation is not being extended so much as was expected.

In dyewoods, ginger, pimento and rum, exports showed a decrease, but the price of ginger has gone up, and this will encourage cultivators. There is a splendid bloom on the pimento trees—also a good coffee blossom—and a second dyewood factory is now buying logwood as hard as it can, so all these items have favourable prospects.

With favourable weather and casualties excepted, the current years' business seems likely to be something more than merely good.

Uncertainty as to the Mails in Nevis.

Writing on April 24th, the Hon. C. A. Shand said that the uncertainty attached to the future of their mail service was causing grave anxiety, as the local agent had instructions not to book passengers homewards after a certain date in June, which looked as if they were to be left out of the itinerary.

At the last meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society it was unanimously decided that it would be more advantageous that an entirely new cable service should be instituted connecting the rest of the West Indies with the direct cable than that the old cables should be made use of. (Of course in any fresh scheme it was hoped that Nevis might be included as a separate station.)

The yield of cotton generally this season had been very disappointing, and though individual instances had occurred of exceptionally good returns, the average had been phenomenally low; indeed, it was doubtful whether last year's output would be realised. This result was mainly attributable to the extended period of dry weather experienced last year, and to the ravages committed by the caterpillars in certain districts where they were not effectually combated. Inferior seed might also have had an evil influence, as the first planting failed in one district entirely, and as no more St. Vincent seed was available, other kinds were substituted.

The weather since last mail had been on the whole dry. Rain fell in certain districts in the early part of the previous week, but it was only partial, and some parts of the Island were in need of good soaking showers.

This mail would be taking a batch of labourers from the Presidency to the Isthmus. In the depressed condition of the sugar industry one could hardly wonder at their desire to improve their condition.

St. Kitts and the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Chas. A. Smith, in his letter of April 24th, gave the text of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Agricultural Society in March, referred to in a previous issue.

"Be it resolved that this meeting hereby expresses its appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered the sugar and minor industries of this Island by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and earnestly hopes that the Imperial Government will see its way to continue the grant-in-aid to the Department on the expiry of the present term, so that its good work may be continued."

The weather had been showery for April, but not sufficient to interfere with the yield of their canes.

The late Sir Robert Bromley, Bart.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Sir Robert Bromley, Administrator of St. Kitts, which took place in the Island on Sunday, May 13th. Up to the time of going to press we have received no intimation as to the cause of his untimely decease. He was the sixth baronet and succeeded his father last year. From 1901 to 1903 he was Assistant Private Secretary to Mr. Chamberlain, and was appointed Administrator and Treasurer of St. Kitts-Nevis in 1904. Popular with all with whom he came in contact, Sir Robert Bromley will be missed by a large circle of friends, and mourned for at home and in the Colony, whose interests he had at heart.

No telegraphic news in St. Vincent.

When Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. wrote on April 28th, the question before all others occupying the minds of the entire community was whether the local authorities were going to reconsider their decision with regard to the subsidy to the Telegraph Company, and the feeling against the Government was very bitter, more especially since the earthquake at San Francisco, the news of which only reached the Island by sailing vessel from Trinidad ten days after the awful occurrence.

Kingstown had again been gay owing to a few days' stay of two French warships in the harbour. Strange to say, they had their first visit on the previous day from the fast cruiser appointed to police the West Indian Islands. The "Indefatigable" arrived in the morning and left at noon.

The weather had been abnormally dry, and unless they got rain very shortly their water supply would be short in Kingstown.

Mr. W. N. Sands, in his letter dated April 28th, also refers to the lack of rain, and says that the weather was very dry and rain was badly wanted. We learn that in the St. Vincent Grenadines the question of water was assuming serious proportions, and that there was likely to be a serious loss of stock if the rains did not soon come in. Here also the stock was suffering severely on estates on the Windward coast. Rain was also wanted for the preparation of lands for planting.

Two French cruisers had been in port during the past three days, namely, the "Desaix" and "Trude." It was hoped that French ships such as these would come oftener, considering that there now existed such good feeling between the British and French nations.

The H.M.S. "Indefatigable" called at the Island on April 27th, and landed Brig.-General Caulfield, who was on a tour of inspection of the police and military forces in the West Indies. The General inspected the local Police Force and discussed with the local officers of the Defence Reserve the question of the formation of a rifle club and other matters.

Just now there was little to report on from an agricultural point of view. The Imperial Department of Agriculture had received large orders for selected cotton seed from other Islands, and the work of selecting and disinfecting the seed was in full swing.

From a return supplied by the Customs the cotton exported from the Colony during the first quarter of the amounted to 255½ bales and 121½ bags, of a total estimated value of £5,561, but the actual value would be much above that figure.

The question of the continuance of the grant for carrying on the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the Island was being freely discussed, and a motion would be brought forward on the subject at the next meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society.

Mr. Cunningham Craig's return from Trinidad.

We learn from a letter from the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, dated April 28th, that the Agricultural Society will not be reconstituted and at work again until near the end of the year. Sir Henry Jackson left for England before the new Ordinance could be introduced, and as he took a special interest in the Society, the Acting-Governor would probably leave the reconstruction over till Sir Henry's return.

The slight rains of the early part of the month had not continued, and they have again experienced fourteen days of excessive heat and drought. This, while not greatly affecting the sugar crop, had seriously affected the cocoa crop and prospects of heavy June pickings had entirely disappeared. A fair quantity of cocoa had come to town and had been marketed at advancing prices. A very strong demand had set in from Europe, and difficulty had been experienced in filling orders. Fine estates was quoted at 53s., mixed estates at 52s., and ordinary at 51s. The quantity of the latter grade had not been satisfactory owing to the large quantity of sunburnt beans. Arrivals from the mainland had been almost nil, and the few bags which had come to market were sold at fancy prices.

Cocoa Shipments.

Total at last report	...	...	61,693	Bags	Trinidad.	18,312	Venezuelan.
Apr. 15 S.S. "Orinoco"	...	...	...	"	...	11	Canada
" S.S. "Grenada"	...	...	690	"	...	—	New York.
" S.S. "Atrato"	...	...	108	"	...	—	Europe.
18 S.S. "Saratoon"	...	...	34	"	...	—	—
" S.S. "Venezuela"	...	...	50	"	...	—	—
23 S.S. "Oranje Nassau"	...	...	125	"	...	—	New York.
" 24 S.S. "Prins Willem V"	...	...	1279	"	...	—	Europe.
Totals to date	...	...	64,988	"	...	18,323	Venezuelan

Mr. Cunningham Craig, the Government Geologist, was proceeding home by the mail, having suffered severely from fever contracted in his work. Mr. Craig had published valuable reports on the

oil and Manjak fields of the Island, and the scientific results of his labours have been much appreciated. It is feared that this gentleman, owing to important calls upon his services at home, may not return to the Colony, where he will be much missed.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The International Sugar Journal. This publication for May has an especially interesting article on Sugar in Parliament, in which the fiction of the statements of the Anti-Convention speakers in the recent debate is well shown up; notes on the "available sugar" in cane sugar juices; the occurrence of Levulose in normal cane juice, and an application of Pinoff's Levulose—malybdate reaction—by Noel Deer, and excerpts of value from other sources in connection with the sugar industry.

The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society. Vol. X. No. 4. The proceedings of the March meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society are recorded in this issue. The Hon. George McGrath was elected to the Board in the place of Mr. J. Allwood, C.M.G., resigned. The question of hurricane insurance was allowed to stand over pending the arrival of Mr. Christopher Head in the Colony. An article and a letter deal with coconuts, and many useful hints are given as to cultivation. So many coconuts have been planted since the hurricane of 1903 that in four or five years Jamaica should soon be exporting very largely again. The experiment in shipping Jamaica Seville oranges was providing substantial results. A large firm of marmalade makers wrote that the fruit was suitable in every respect for their requirements. In order to develop a trade in the fruit the K.M.S.P. Co. had reduced their freight rates to 5s. per barrel, and 2s. 6d. per box.

Notes on Militia and Volunteer Field Training for Officers and non-Commissioned Officers. By Major R. L. Aspinal D.S.O. Aldershot: Gale and Polden. 1s. net. The time available at an annual training of an Auxiliary Corps, which is in a great measure devoted to the musketry course, is too short to make it possible to enter very closely into the minute details of a soldiers' duties in the field. In "Notes on Militia and Volunteer Training" the author suggests a method of instruction which touches in the simplest possible manner upon all the most important field duties, embracing outposts, skirmishing, advance and rear guards, and employment of scouts. In describing the system it is best to adopt as to obtain a maximum of efficiency in a minimum of time limit, the author's own practical experience has shown him how much it is possible to attempt, and in his description he has confined himself absolutely to plain expression of facts, and avoided, as far as possible, elaborate technicalities, in order that the work can be studied suitably by all ranks. Having regard to the re-organisation of the Volunteer Forces this small pamphlet should prove useful in the West Indies, assuming that their methods of training are identical with those prevailing at home.

The Technology of Sugar. By J. C. McIntosh. London: Messrs. Scott, Greenwood & Son. 10s. 6d. net. This is the second edition of a work dealing with beet and cane sugar. It covers an enormous amount of technical ground, but we are afraid that in several respects the author has omitted to make himself quite so conversant with the many and varied items comprised in the subject. We give a few extracts by which our planting readers will be able to judge for themselves of the value of some of the statements made: p. 236. "Cane under ordinary conditions does not bear fruit. The wild cane reproduces itself by seeds." "Attempts still in the experimental stage have lately been made to regenerate the sugar cane by sowing wild species." "The sugar cane may contain eighteen to twenty per cent. of sugar"; p. 230. "The nodes remaining on this part of the stem (the top) are generally used as buds for the propagation of the plant, a bad practice, leading to the degeneracy of the species. The ripe portions of the cane produce much better shoots than the nodes of the badly developed unripe crown." On p. 252 speaking of wet megass, the statement is made that "such fuel produces but little steam," an antiquated type of megass furnace being given as an illustration. Again, in the directions for analysis of cane, the cut up fragments of cane are directed, on p. 238, to be "crushed in a mortar to obtain a more or less coarse bulk." With the normal ripe cane this is a practically impossible process. As to film evaporators, on p. 175, we find "the first plant of this sort was invented by an American, named Lillie, and caused but little commotion; whilst another American, Varyan, adopted the same principle." The Lillie Evaporator succeeded the Varyan, is essentially different, and has proved a success, while the Varyan is stated practically to have failed in sugar work. We give the above extracts to show how what might have been a valuable work is full of pitfalls for the uninitiated for whom it is intended.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Hon. J. M. ROSADO has been appointed to act provisionally as a Commissioner of Currency, British Honduras.

Mr. C. HALMAN DEARD, Resident Magistrate of Portland, Jamaica, becomes Acting Junior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court during the absence on leave of Mr. Justice E. Vickers.

Captain the Hon. F. M. MAXWELL, R.C., has been appointed Officer Commanding the British Honduras Volunteers with the rank of Major in place of Captain Gaiteron, resigned. The following officers have also been promoted: viz., Lieut. W. J. Slack to be Captain; and 2nd Lieut. P. S. Woods to be Lieutenant.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), May 9th. "Weather still continues favourable in Berbice." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), May 12th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 14th. "Weather showery and unsettled." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), May 15th. "Weather favourable, crop progressing satisfactorily." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended May 2nd. **PORT ANTONIO**: "April 26th to May 2nd, fine." **KINGSTON**: "rainy."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall) May 13th—Miss Hardwick, two Misses Burr, Mr. Sharp, Miss Templer, Miss Ward, Miss Denholm, Mr and Mrs Shard, Mr H. R. Graham, Hon. T. Egerton, Miss E. Seiler, Mr. E. Thorndike, Mr. H. Ochsner, Mr. W. Reushaw, Mr. C. Villaran, Miss Y. Villaran, Mr. O. Rasetto, Mr. and Mrs. Borham, Mr. R. Ellis, Mr. C. Almond, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Almond, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. de Castro, Mr. R. de Castro, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lauria, Miss Knubley, Mrs. Turner, Rev. Father Leimann, Miss Brown, His Honour Judge R. Routledge, Mrs. Routledge, Mr. F. Kuhn, Miss M. Douglas, Mr. Dawson, Rev. Father Cantwell, Rev. Father O'Reilly, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown, Dr. Seccombe, Mr. C. Craig, Mrs. G. T. Fenwick, Miss S. Fenwick, Mr. G. Sandford, Mr. C. Dawson, Mr. G. B. Allen, Mr. C. Dillon, Miss M. Howell, Captain Stranger, Mr. W. A. Colley, Mr. C. F. Canton, Dr. Bovallius, Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams, Mr. J. Smith, Mrs. Evers Hutton, Mrs. W. Morton, Mr. R. H. Goodwin, Mr. E. Riches, Mrs. W. A. Colley, Mr. B. B. Bockett-Pugh, Mr. M. H. Bogle, Hon. W. H. Lascelles, Hon. C. and Mrs. Macaulay Browne, Mr. R. Ferguson, Dr. and Mrs. F. Halton, Mr. H. Crammond, Mr. G. C. Sellar, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Forest, Rev. W. R. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Churchill, Mr. Weekes, Mr. J. Hoyle, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Low, Miss K. M. Arthur, Mrs. Sumner, Mr. S. de Trais Bago, Miss Rigg, Miss Wolsely, Miss Carter, Mr. G. W. Grant, Sir H. Fitzherbert, Bart., Mr. and Mrs. W. Abbott, Miss Bailey, Miss White, Miss Woodhams, Major A. G. Ingliss, Mr. J. G. Knight, Mr. T. S. Blay, Dr. Dunbar Brunton.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Atrato" (Capt. Boby), May 17th—Rev. Canon Stevenson, Mrs. Swaty, Mrs. S. Salgado, Mr. H. Delafons, Mr. B. Westendorff, Mr. A. Goerke, Mr. N. Gardine, Mr. R. Fitzwilliam, Mr. and Mrs. J. Knorr, Miss Violet Beauchamp, His Excellency Francis W. Strage, Mr. G. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Santos, Sergeant T. W. Coles, Mr. J. H. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Branker, Mr. L. Grosselin.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
May 17	W. I. Islands (Northern Islands excepted) and Demerara...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"	May 16, mid'n.
" 19	Jamaica and Bermuda ...	Avonmouth ...	L.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 18, 6 p.m.
" 25	W. I. Islands and Demerara ...	Glasgow ...	Direct Line	"Torgorm"	" 24, 6 p.m.
" 26	Demerara ...	*Liverpool ...	Liverpool Line	"Penshurst"	" 25, 6 p.m.
" 26	Barbados and Trinidad ...	*Liverpool ...	Leyland Line	"William Cliff"	" 25, 6 p.m.
" 26	Demerara ...	*Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Cheniston"	" 25, 12 noon.
" 26	W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted)...	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Saba"	" 25, 12 noon.
" 31	W. I. Islands (Northern Islands excepted) and Demerara...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	" 30, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
May 18	W. I. Islands ...	London ...	Direct Line	"Sarstoon"
" 23	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	L.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"
June 4	W. I. Islands ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Trent"

* Letters to be marked per S.S. "

" and via Port of Departure.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Apr. 30 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to April 24 1906	1905	April 1 to April 15, 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to April 28, 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to April 27, 1906	1905
Sugar ...	14,378	8461 Tons.	28,774	23,022 Tons.	706	1477 Tons.	298,450	105,844 Bcs & Bkls.	...	...
Molasses ...	26,311	16,085 Pns.	1309	1951 Casks	...	...	463	1762 Pms.	...	...
Rum	7340	4810 Pms.	102,246	141,553 Galls.	...	52	...	...
Cattle Food	2905	2714 Tons.	...	...	...	109	...	...
Cocoa	1300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coffee
Coconuts	24000	216000	286,000	327,450	3,682,950	3,475,740	...	...
Copra	5204	3523 Bags	...	...
Cotton	877	381 Bales.
Cotton Seed	4882	2328 Bags.
Asphalt	47,921	5540 Tons.	...	...
Oranges	1,376,830	242,500	...	...	...	...
Bananas	561,387	634,052 Bchs.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	769	1312 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	2776	2035 Bels
Gold	27,232	30,283 ozs.	...	...	...	...	346	385 1/2-341s.
Diamonds	104	2174 carats.	...	...	...	...	105	161 Cms.
									112	145 Bags

Some West Indian Securities.

Prepaid Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44...	100	4 %	102 1/4
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3 1/2 " " 1925-42...	100	3 1/2 %	89 1/4
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935...	100	4 %	108 1/4
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	101-103
1,098,907 1/2.	"	Jamaica " " 4 " " 1934...	100	4 %	109 1/4
85,479 1/2.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " 1919-44...	100	4 %	103 1/4
422,593 1/2.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " 1917-42...	100	4 %	102-104
600,000.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44...	100	3 %	86 90
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£6	7 %	8-6 1/2
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	85	—	53-54
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4 1/2% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 1/2 %	90-93
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd. ...	5	—	2-3
16,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	—	2 1/2-3 1/2
347,500.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	83 85
345,000.	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6 %	101-106
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	—	20-23
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7 % Preference ...	100	4 %	99 102
31,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference...	10	4 %	8 8
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	96 98
70,000.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 1/2% Reg. Debts (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4 1/2 %	101-103
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
42,300.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 1/2% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4 1/2 %	101-103
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,327	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	16-1 1/4
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5 1/2 %	8-8 1/2
4,669	10	" " " " 2nd "	10	—	6-7
30,000.	100	" " " " 5% Deb ...	100	5 %	101-104
5000	1	West Indian Produce Association, Ltd. ...	£1	—	—

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Court of Directors recommend out of the profits for the year ended December 31st, 1905, the payment of a Dividend at the rate of £5 per cent per annum on the Preference Stock; the undivided original Shares receiving an amount equivalent to that to which they would have been entitled in respect of the Preference portion of the Capital, had they already been converted into Stock, the Dividends in each case being calculated from the due dates for payment of the Instalments. The whole of the Capital will be converted into Preference and Ordinary Stocks in October next.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 4% on the 6% first preference shares for the six months ended December 31st last, as against 5% for the corresponding period of 1904 and 6% on the June half of 1905. This makes the full return for the whole year 5%, as compared with the full 6% in 1904. The arrears now amount to 2%. The 6% second preference capital will receive no dividend, and the amount in default on these shares has increased to 33%.

Bank Rate at 4 % (changed May 3rd, 1906), and Consols (2 1/2 %) 89 1/4.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—It is not pleasant writing about sugar and its over production, with the attendant fall in prices below natural cost, but what could have been expected in a season like the present when the record beet crop in Europe of say 7,000,000 tons has flooded the world with sugar far beyond the power of consumers to deal with. But this is not all for on the top of it, indications point, if the weather continues favourable, to another fairly large crop in 1906-7 which may prevent for some little time a return to a more satisfactory range of values. Notwithstanding that some authorities have been constantly indicating that we should require a large crop for next season, the writer of these lines has on more than one occasion advocated a reduction of twenty to twenty-five per cent. in the beet sowings to lift prices to a decent paying basis. Had this been done, there is no doubt but that the price of 88% beet, which to-day is 8s. 1d., would have been nearer 10s. and have so remained until, in their greed, the Continental growers once again exceeded the bounds of wisdom. As it is, this continuous fall in prices only intensifies the absence of confidence amongst buyers and consumers, and the lower we go the less inclined are these distributors to forsake their hand-to-mouth policy, and so the Market gets no relief from its monotony. Some day, no doubt, this will all change. A repetition of the summer of 1904 would quickly do it. Without this or some such miracle, the outlook is in a measure uncertain, but still the unexpected is always happening, and may do so again in this instance.

The closing quotations of 88% beet are:—May, 8s. 1d.; August, 8s. 3d.; and October/December, 8s. 6d. all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	3,130,000	2,140,000	2,700,000	2,690,000	2,850,000	
United States	340,000	270,000	200,000	250,000	120,000	..
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	300,000	340,000	240,000	400,000	460,000	..

Total 3,770,000 2,800,000 3,200,000 3,340,000 3,410,000
 Quotations of 88% Beet, 15th May:— 8s. 1d. 11s. 7½d. 9s. 3d. 8s. 4d. 8s. 4½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Only a moderate business has been doing in yellow crystallised during the fortnight at a decline of 3d. per cwt., and the value of average qualities does not now exceed 14s. 6d. This reduction is on the parity of the fall in 88% beet, white granulated sugar, and 'imitations.' The value of a cargo of grey crystals to Refiners remains about 9s. 6d. on floating conditions for 96 test.

Molasses Sugar.—There is a fairly good demand from 10s. 6d. for low dark, up to 14s. 6d. for fine grocery duty paid. To Refiners and others, on floating terms, this sugar is worth about 7s. 6d. for 89 test.

Muscovado.—Further sales have been made of British West India to Refiners at 8s. 1½d. to 8s. 3d. for 89 test on floating terms. On the spot there is little doing in grocery kinds, values ranging from about 13s. to 15s., but in small quantities only.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Imports	27,000	17,000	18,000	8000	22,000	
Deliveries	15,000	13,000	17,000	16,000	16,000	..
Stocks	20,000	14,000	14,000	21,000	18,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised:— 14s. 8d. 13s. 9d. 15s. 9d. 13s. 0d. 14s. 0d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904	1903	Pans
Jamaica	5500	7700	7700	—	9400
Demerara	9700	6100	11,800	—	9900
Total of all kinds	21,400	21,700	28,100	—	29,100

Board of Trade Returns for 4 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904	1903	Galls
Home Consumption	—	1,421,000	1,387,000	1,516,000	1,359,000
Stocks 30th April	—	7,447,000	8,249,000	9,750,000	9,964,000

Buyers are paying more attention to Demerara, and considerable sales have been made, chiefly from 9d. to 9½d. with fine and choice Marks from 10d. to 11d., but the Importers have still a lot to dispose of. Jamaica remains steady at 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks, Leewards and other proof kinds are minimally worth 8d. to 1s.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1906	1905.	1904.	1903	Flags
Trinidad	—	71,100	15,000	23,900	19,600
Grenada	—	10,200	14,800	21,200	11,700
Total of all kinds	—	72,200	77,100	91,800	84,300

Board of Trade Returns for 4 months

	1906	1905.	1904.	1903.	Tons
Imports	—	9293	7923	12,466	10,029
Home Consumption	—	7519	6006	7878	6812
Stocks 30th April	—	4877	5097	6014	6042

There has been an improving Market, especially in Trinidad, and prices of all West India cocoa are from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. dearer than a fortnight ago. It is difficult to give a reason for this, other than that temporarily supplies are shorter than usual. The closing values are: Trinidad fair collected, 35s.; Estate Marks, 46s. to 52s.; Grenada fair, 30s.; and fermented 53s. to 54s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth 48s., and fermented 51s. to 54s.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Firm. Recent sales of West India include 64's at 15. 3d., 70's at 14. 5d., 82's at 10d., 90's at 8½d., 114's at 7d., 125's at 6d., 153's at 5½d., and in shell at 4½d. **Macis.**—Steady. Fair to good pale sold at 12. 3d. to 12. 5d., 12d. 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., and broken, 1s. to 1s. 2d. **Oniger.**—Lower. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 52s. to 54s.

Pimento.—Firm, at 2½d. to 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Quiet but steady. Importers are holding good manufacturing St. Vincent for 2d., buyers indicating a probable 1½d.

Lime Juice.—Steady at 11d. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, firm, value, £20 5s. Hand Pressed, quoted at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. Distilled Oil, former, value 18. 9d. to 1s. 10d.

The . . .

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A QUESTION which has again come very prominently forward of late, is, "What actual evidence is there that the Sugar Convention has benefited the West Indies?" Although those associated with the West Indian sugar industry know well its position before the Brussels Convention came into force and after, the outside inquirer is barely satisfied with the mere statement that the restoration of credit has placed this industry on a different footing, is inclined to ask how, and in what manner, this is shown, and to require actual evidence that this credit has been the means of materially assisting the planter and developing the industry. We doubt very much—and the fact that such questions should be put, itself shows this—if the condition of the West Indies, during the past thirty years, has ever fully been realised in this country. It is true that the Royal Commission of 1897 brought home the fact that something was industrially very wrong with them, but the tradition of the wealth of the tropical planter was too deeply grounded in the minds of the British people to be easily eradicated. Of recent years, the increasing tourist traffic to the West Indies has spread abroad a better knowledge of the actual position of affairs, but an enormous amount of ignorance still exists on the subject. The great point, and this should be distinctly understood, is not what the improvement in sugar production has been as the result of the Convention, but that the West Indian sugar industry could not possibly have gone on as things were. In British Guiana, which is essentially, if we may use an Irishism, the home of the absentee proprietor, to whom the strong manufacturing position of the sugar industry of this Colony is largely due, enormous sums from this side had been sunk on machinery and development before the establishment of the cartels brought about an impossible state of things. In the years immediately preceding the Convention, it was only the assured hope that justice would be done in regard to the sugar bounties, which had encouraged those who possessed the capital to carry on the estates. Had there been no prospect of the Sugar Convention being signed, those proprietors with capital would have become tired of the constant drain on their resources, and would have "cropped" and abandoned the estates, while those who were depending on overstrained outside credit would have been compelled to follow a similar procedure. The same may be said of Trinidad and St. Lucia, while in Barbados the increasing number of estates in Chancery and heavily mortgaged, were in themselves an index of the position of affairs. The value of Jamaica run would probably have kept the bulk of the estates in that Colony going, but as regards the other Islands the sugar industry was practically moribund. This was how matters stood when the Brussels Convention was arranged. Either estates were at their last gasp from the threatened cessation of credit, or else those proprietors

who had the money had become tired of their constant losses. The Royal Commission, a purely impartial one, of which Sir Edward Grey was a member, fully recognised the seriousness of the position. Now, apart from the important point of the continuance of the industry, what occurred as the result of the Convention? British Guiana, already well equipped as regards machinery from special circumstances connected with the sugar industry there, went still further ahead. The value of the sugar machinery imports into that Colony went up from \$160,000 per annum for the years 1898-1901, to \$300,000 per annum for the four years, 1902-1905. One large firm alone has spent in the last three years, £90,000 in machinery, but a small proportion of which, and that only necessary to keep the machinery going while the estates were being cropped, would have been spent had the Brussels Convention not been in force. Another wealthy firm added £40,000 to their machinery bill, and spent £30,000 during the same period by purchase and putting in new land, while a general overhauling of the plant, naturally somewhat depreciated under the stress of hard times, took place. In Trinidad, besides general rehabilitation of cultivation and factory, the installation of steam ploughing, of the Naudet semi-diffusion process, of triple milling and cane farming development, instanced the new vitality given to the industry of that Island, while two new central factories were erected in Antigua and additions were made to works already existing to bring them up to date. In Jamaica, three central factory schemes have been formulated, for which the capital is being raised, while in St. Lucia machinery was supplied, which would not have been the case were it not for the Convention. Instances might be multiplied of actual work done and capital invested, which could not have been had the Brussels Convention not been ratified, but the prime fact is that had it not been for this the sugar industry would not now be in existence. It seems to us that the fact that there has been so much progress in the first three years of the Convention period, after all the debit balance sheets and penury of years, is in itself an index of what this measure has done and is doing for the West Indies. It is not that a higher price has been obtained for the sugar which has led to this sounder position, for the mean of the last three years is under 10s. per cwt., and is now below the cost of production, but it is the knowledge of free trade which the Convention brought and of the ability of the West Indian sugar industry to hold its own, which has been instrumental in the renewal of confidence, and led to extensive outlays in connection with the industry. It has been argued frequently of late that the Brussels Convention has led to uncertainty in sugar. This may be the case, but if it is so, it is the uncertainty arising from the doubts about its continuance. Without it, there would, indeed, have been certainty—the certainty of ruin to the West Indian sugar industry, the certainty of Continental beet dominating the British market, the certainty of British consumers being handed over to the tender mercies of the Continental beet producers.

A Hundred Years Ago.

The Thames River Police.

A prominent feature in the old minutes of the West India Committee is the frequent reference to the thefts of sugar and rum from the West Indiamen in the River Thames, and to the prosecutions connected therewith, and large sums were disbursed for the purpose, not only for providing watchmen, etc., but also for legal expenses, the prosecutions having to be conducted by private individuals, and not by the Crown. Records of these disbursements form a constant feature in these old minutes. On May 17th, 1797, Messrs. Crowther & Peate, Solicitors, sent in an account for £1125, while in June of the following year, a Mr. Chatham put before the Committee a bill for £830. The punishments meted out to offenders were apparently as heavy as the lawyers' fees. Seven years was no uncommon sentence, and on one occasion it is reported that—

“At the last Surrey Assizes a Waterman (an Old Offender) was convicted of receiving some Sugar out of a West India Ship, and notwithstanding his defence that he had received

it in the Way of his Business, as he should have received any other Fare to have carried ashore, it was decided that his Case came within the Act of Parliament, and he was sentenced to Transportation for 14 Years, which Conviction, we flatter ourselves, will be attended with salutary effects, as the Watermen finding themselves subject to this Punishment, will, of course, be extremely cautious in assisting the Lumpers, without whose Aid it is impossible the Plunderage can be carried on as heretofore."

As the outcome of these thefts, and owing to the inefficiency of the official means of repression, at the suggestion of a Mr. Patric Colquhoun, it was resolved to approach the Government with the view of their approving of the formation of an organised Marine Police to be under the control of the West India Committee. Subsequently, with the approval and assistance of the Government, who provided the magisterial department, the Marine Police Institution was organised in June, 1798. Associated with this Institution was an organised system of bumping, or discharge of cargoes, whereby, only registered "lumpers" were employed. The Police portion of the scheme was an extremely costly one, costing £7,200 per annum, and in January, 1799, the West India Committee petitioned the Duke of Portland to the end that it might be taken over by the Government. A Bill for the establishment of a Thames Police Office accordingly passed the House, and on May 22nd, 1801, the following resolution appears in the minutes as having been proposed by Mr. Colquhoun—

"That in consequence of the Establishment of the Thames Police Office by Act of Parliament, and of provision having been made by the Legislature for supporting an effectual System of Police in every Part of the Port, from London Bridge to Deptford, by means of Guard Boats constantly patrolling the River, the Assistance heretofore given to the Marine Police from the West India fund shall cease and determine, and the Expenses in future to be merely confined to the sum necessary to support a proper and effective Guard upon the Quays and Wharfs for the purpose of Preventing Pillage and Depredation after the goods are landed, and out of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates and the Protection of the Police Boats."

For his services in connection with the passing of the above Bill, Mr. Colquhoun was presented by the West India Merchants with a service of plate, valued at £500. It is interesting to note, that the Thames River Police Service owes its origination to the action of the West India Committee.

"Jamaica as a Tourist Resort."

Sir Augustus Henning, G.C.M.G., has kindly consented to preside at the meeting to be held at the West India Committee Rooms on May 24th, at 4 p.m., to hear Mr. Albert C. Kelway's lecture on "Jamaica as a Tourist Resort." There are still a few tickets available, which can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane. Tea will be served after the lecture.

The Annual Meeting of the West India Committee.

The Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at the Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 17th. Mr. Spencer H. Curtis presided, and among those present, were:—Mr. Cyril Gurney, Mr. Robert Rutherford, Mr. Edward Anderson, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. Mewburn Garnett, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. L. Gray, Mr. Rodolph Hankey, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. Alex C. Low, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. B. A. Neilson, Mr. C. S. Parker, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. J. W. Previté, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. F. L. Scard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. S. A. Smith, Mr. C. J. Tarring, Colonel F. C. Trollope, Mr. R. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. Alfred S. Williams, Mr. S. J. Wilson, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Mr. Spencer H. Curtis said:—In the unavoidable absence of our Chairman, Sir Neville Lubbock, and of our Deputy Chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson, whom we hope soon to welcome on his return from British Guiana, the duty devolves on me of taking the chair at this our annual meeting, and of moving the adoption of the annual report of the Executive Committee and the statement of receipts and expenditure for 1905. My task is lightened by the fact that our proceedings have been so very fully recorded in the *West India Committee Circular*, which has now developed into a weekly newspaper, and I need, therefore, only say a few words as to the year's record of the Committee.

Since we last met at an annual general meeting in this room, death has robbed us of no less than sixteen of our members, including Mr. J. D. Taylor, who was a member of the Executive. On the other hand, 137 new members were elected to the West India Committee, bringing our total membership up to 1062, and thus establishing a new record. But we must not stop there. We must use every effort to increase our membership still further, in order that we may be fully prepared for the proverbial rainy day, and that when occasion arises we may be still more fully representative of the West Indian Colonies whose interests we have at heart. If each member were to introduce at least one new candidate for election during the present year—surely no difficult task—we should more than achieve our ambition, which is to raise our total membership to 2000. Incidentally I may remark in this connection that as the Committee grows, the expenses increase also, and I may also perhaps remind you that at the present time at least a quarter of the subscriptions from our Colonial members are absorbed by the postage to them of the *Circular* alone. As regards our financial position, reference to the balance sheet will show that it shows an improvement, in spite of the increased outlay in connection with the *West India Committee Circular*.

Coming now to the report, you will observe that we have dealt with the principal industries of the West Indies, and to such action as has been taken by the Committee in relation to them. On the whole, the year under review was conspicuous for the revival of interest taken in our West Indian Colonies, to which state of affairs the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, which the Committee helped to bring to a successful issue, was undoubtedly a contributory cause. There is no doubt that the West Indies afford a splendid field for the investment of capital in a variety of directions, and scarcely a day passes without several callers presenting themselves at the West India Committee Rooms to make inquiries regarding the various industries, and I am glad to add that few, if any, of these go empty away, while many have already put into practice the advice given them, whether it has been in the direction of cocoa, lime, cotton cultivation, or what not. Many of our members have embarked upon cotton growing, which, though not likely to become the largest industry in the West Indies, is being very profitably carried out in Barbados, St. Vincent, Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat, where Sea Island cotton of the highest value is produced—higher indeed than that produced in America—and also in the Grenadines, where cotton has been the staple for many years.

In this connection I should like to say a word regarding the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which under Sir Daniel Morris has done so much to develop our smaller West Indian Colonies. The Imperial Grant for its maintenance ceases in 1908, but it is hoped that arrangements may be made to continue this useful department.

A large amount of work in the way of putting the public right as to the true effect of the Brussels Convention and its influence on the price of sugar, was entailed by the misstatements of politicians during the recent elections, and it is satisfactory to notice that this has not been without value. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that the abolition of bounties by the Brussels Convention has been the salvation of sugar consumers in this country, who, if bounties and cartels had been allowed to continue unchecked, would eventually have had to depend mainly upon Austria and Germany for the supply of their sugar, instead of having, as they now have, increasing sources of supply.

The position of the cable and the mail service, to which our Chairman alluded at the last general meeting, still remains most unsatisfactory. As regards the former, however, the local Governments are taking the matter seriously into consideration, realising as they do the benefits to be derived from a cheaper rate instead of the exorbitant one now prevailing in many cases, and a more reliable and efficient service. As to the mail service, however, the state of affairs, especially as regards British Guiana and the smaller Islands of the West Indies, has gone from bad to worse. The service to the Northern Islands from Barbados is being discontinued, while that from Barbados to Demerara is threatened, and the only consolation we can get is the knowledge that mails are to be sent forward by first opportunity, a state of affairs which is, it must be admitted, retrograde.

That we have not been idle during the past year is, I think, shown by the fact that no less than sixty meetings were held, in addition to the other general meetings of our members. An immense amount of routine work was involved by the successful exhibition at the Crystal Palace, which has been the cause of the visit of a large number of inquirers to the West India Committee Rooms than ever before. Owing to this exhibition, we were unable to have as many lectures last year as we had hoped, but these have now been resumed, and I am glad to be able to tell you that we have already made arrangements for several to be delivered in the near future.

Before I bring my remarks to a close, I should like to say how very grateful we all are to our Honorary Correspondents. Without their loyal assistance our work would be a difficult one, and you will, I am sure, permit me to convey to them on your behalf most cordial thanks.

I cannot conclude without referring to the sad event which took place in St. Kitts on Sunday last. I refer to the untimely death of Sir Robert Bromley, the Administrator. Our relations with the Colonial Office and its Governors are of a friendly description, though in some cases we are bound to criticise, but Sir Robert Bromley was proving himself a capable Administrator and a popular one, and we shall all deplore his death. Gentlemen, I now beg formally to move that the annual report and statement of receipts and expenditure for 1905 be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. W. Previté, and carried unanimously.

Mr. George Hughes then moved that Mr. W. H. Alty, Mr. C. Algernon Campbell, Mr. George Christall, Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. A. McConnell, Mr. F. McConnell, Mr. E. Packard, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard and Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope, retiring by rotation, be re-elected to the Executive Committee. He expressed regret on behalf of his partner, Mr. Edward Packard, that as he had to attend another meeting on Thursdays at 3 o'clock he was not able often to be present.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, expressed the responsiveness of the Committee to the remarks made by Mr. Curtis, and more particularly with regard to the Brussels Convention. He thought those present were hardly aware how much the Committee had to stand on their defence regarding the question of bounties. It was in the arena of the House of Commons, and as a question of pure economics, that they would have to defend, and would be able to defend, the international abolition of bounties and cartels, which the Brussels Convention was a means of securing.

The vote of thanks was carried unanimously, and the proceedings then terminated.

The British Cotton Growing Association.

A large and influential deputation, organised by the British Cotton Growing Association, waited upon the Prime Minister at the Foreign Office on Friday, May 18th, to urge the desirability of the extension of railways and roads, and the improvement of waterways in West Africa. The deputation was introduced by Lord Derby and the Duke of Marlborough, and included Sir Alfred Jones, Sir W. H. Houldsworth, and a large number of Members of Parliament and representatives of institutions interested. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, in reply, said he fully recognised the importance of the deputation and its object, and expressed the sincere sympathy of the Government with the desire for developing the industrial resources of West Africa, but pointed out the necessity of caution on the part of the Government in committing themselves to any definite scheme. They would, however, do everything that, in justice to the taxpayer, they could see their way to doing.

India under British Rule.

At the Royal Colonial Institute on the 4th inst. a paper was read by Mr. Sawtell on "India under British Rule," in which he pointed out the great future open to Indian agriculture, if India could undertake the manufacture of her raw products. Cane culture was on such an extremely primitive and unscientific basis that the yield per acre compared most unfavourably with other cane producing countries. Even so, the annual output of British India alone is estimated at 3,000,000 tons of raw sugar, all of which is consumed in the country. The general mineral possibilities also were very great, and with capital flowing were likely to be developed extensively. It will be remembered by some of our readers that Mr. Sawtell was at one time Editor of the *Demerara Daily Chronicle*.

Imperial Interests at Westminster.

The West Indies and the Imperial Troops.

In the House of Commons on May 16th, Mr. Haldane gave the following figures to show the annual cost of the troops stationed in certain Colonies, and the annual contributions received from such Colonies:—

	Cost.	Colonial Contributions.
Ceylon	£217,003	£156,718
Hong-Kong (including North China and Wei-hai-Wei)	£598,691	£119,639
Straits Settlements	£245,647	£208,713
West Indies	£365,354	No Contribution.

The Objects of the Jamaica Banana Subsidy.

On May 17th, in reply to Mr. Kennedy (Cavan, W.), Mr. Churchill said the proportion of bananas imported from Jamaica to the total import of bananas into the United Kingdom since the contract for a direct line to Jamaica was signed, has varied from 27 per cent. to 103 per cent., the average having been affected by the hurricane of August, 1903. The contract provided for an annual subsidy of £40,000, of which £20,000 is paid by the Imperial Government. The cost of transit as compared with the value of the fruit can only be ascertained from Messrs. Elder, Dempster. The contract was designed in the interests of the Jamaica fruit grower and the British consumer, but the importance of a direct mail service of steamers between the West Indies and this country is not to be measured merely by the value of the cargoes carried, and still less by any particular commodity included in those cargoes. (Ironic cheers.)

The Withdrawal of the West Indian Garrisons.

On May 14th, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the economic loss that has accrued to the inhabitants of Barbados and St. Lucia as the result of the withdrawal of the garrison from these Islands, His Majesty's Government propose to devote any sum of money to their relief in the form of a Grant-in-Aid. Mr. Churchill, in reply, said there is no precedent for paying compensation to the inhabitants in a case of this kind. At present both colonies are in a sound financial position. Barbados has a surplus, and St. Lucia has a reserve fund of, I think, over £20,000. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson: What circumstances differentiate the cases of Barbados and St. Lucia from St. Helena? Mr. Churchill: If the resources of a colony are greatly impaired, then it becomes a matter for the consideration of the Government. Such circumstances may occur in St. Helena which, so far as we are aware, will not arise in the case of the other Islands.

Consular Report.

Bushire and Mauritian Sugar.

Owing to the disturbed state of Russia, no supplies reached the north, and stocks running low, an unprecedented demand in the south for sugar, both loaf and soft, was the result, and big shipments have been arriving since October. Up to the present the merchants in Bushire refuse to have anything to do with Mauritius sugar, especially the brown, but it has been largely imported lately into Bunder Abbas and Lingah, therefore it is only a matter of time before it will be accepted there.

The Brussels Sugar Convention.

At a meeting of the Permanent Committee established under the Sugar Convention, on May 14th, Great Britain was represented by Sir Henry Bergne, and by Mr. H. Fountain, of the Board of Trade, Mr. A. Pearson, and Mr. J. Addison, Secretary. The proposal to penalize Brazilian sugar on the ground that it is bounty-fed has been vigorously opposed by the Brazilian envoy, Senhor Wileman, whose arguments tending to show that no bounty exists received the support of Sir H. Bergne at the last meeting. The Committee decided, on the following day, that no countervailing duties shall be levied by the signatory States on Brazilian sugar. Sir H. Bergne's views have therefore prevailed. The *Times* Brussels correspondent points out that this decision is more in harmony with the attitude of the present British Cabinet towards the Convention.

The Colonial Conference.

From the Parliamentary Paper containing the correspondence relating to the proposed Colonial Conference in 1907 which has just been published, it appears that the Crown Colonies invitations have been sent to the self-governing Colonies, and in the House of Commons, on May 21st, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, in reply to Sir C. Dilke, said that the Government were of opinion that India should be represented. It is not easy to see why the Crown Colonies should be left out in the cold, and we hope that before 1907 the Government will see their way clear to extend an invitation to them also.

The West Indian Mails.

The last general West Indian Mail was delivered on Monday, May 14th, the next is not due until Monday, June 4th. The Northern Island Service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is discontinued, with the result that much inconvenience is being caused to merchants and all having dealings with those Colonies. To know that passengers and mails for, say, St. Kitts can only now be despatched "by first opportunity" from Barbados naturally causes some apprehension, agreeable and congenial though the climate and inhabitants of the latter Island are. There are indications, however, of an improvement, and we have every reason to hope that arrangements will soon be completed for ameliorating the present position of affairs on the lines already foreshadowed in the *West India Committee Circular*.

Meanwhile, we are informed through Reuters' Agency that at a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Antigua, held on Wednesday, May 16th: "That this Society begs strongly to urge upon the Government the hardship inflicted upon the people of this Island by the cessation of the regular Mail Service with the United Kingdom, and appeals to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to use his best endeavours to secure for the Island the continuance of such service without delay, and that the Governor be asked to forward a copy of this resolution by cable to the Secretary of State for the Colonies."

The Late Sir Robert Bromley.

Lord Elgin, in a dispatch to Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, the Governor of the Leeward Islands, regarding the death of Sir Robert Bromley, the Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, said, "Sir Robert Bromley's death has deprived the Colonial Office of one whose high character and abilities promised a bright future, which has been sadly cut short. From the date of his first connection with the Colonial Office he took a special interest in the affairs of the West Indies; and by his death the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis has lost an Administrator who had the welfare of its inhabitants at heart, and used his best endeavours to promote their interests."

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Wed., May 16th.—See, Beet, 7/11 flat.

Thur., May 17th.—Annual General Meeting of the West India Committee.—Deputation of the British Cotton Growing Association to the Prime Minister.—Princess and Princess of Wales entertained at luncheon at the Guildhall.—Beet, 7/11½ quiet.

Fri., May 18th.—The Wireless Telegraphy Bill passed through the Committee stage in the House of Lords.—Beet, 7/11 quiet.

Sat., May 19th.—German municipal visitors were entertained at Messrs. Cadbury Brothers' model village at Bourneville.—Beet, 7/10½ quiet.

Sun., May 20th.—The Simplon Tunnel opened by the King of Italy.

Mon., May 21st.—Parliamentary paper regarding the Colonial Conference, 1907 [C.A., 2976] published.—Beet, 7/10½ quiet.

Tue., May 22nd.—Beet, 7/10 flat.

Notes of Interest.

A New Fertilizer. Chile saltpetre, or nitrate of soda, is valued at \$5.33 per 220 pounds, delivered in Europe. Reports come from Norway that a new fertilizer product, nitrate of calcium, or, let us say, nitrate of lime, is manufactured from the nitrogen of the atmosphere, and its price has been fixed at \$4.13 per 220 lbs. It is called the Birkeland fertilizer. Experiments made last season have demonstrated that the two fertilizers, the nitrate of calcium and Chile saltpetre are of about equal value for plant fertilization.—*Louisiana Planter*.

A Record Growth. According to a Sagua (Cuba) paper, one single stool has just yielded 2100 lbs. of fine crystalline white cane. About eighteen months ago a piece of cane about twelve inches long near one of the sides of the manager's dwelling, who bestowed no care upon it, until it sprang up with such an extraordinarily large number of sprouts as to attract his attention and he then determined to surround the stool with a small fence in order to protect it against cattle. This is emphatically a record yield! If a single stool would yield $\frac{1}{3}$ ton dry sugar, what would be the output for the acre?

Our Library.

The Agricultural News, Vol. V. No. 105, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 1d. This number has a leading article on Messrs. Honey Head & Co.'s hurricane insurance scheme, useful notes on *Conton Fencing*, an interesting personal narrative of how to get rid of mosquitos about dwelling houses, and a large amount of general information.

The West Indian Civil Service.

Sir Alexander Ashmore, Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, who formerly acted in the same capacity in British Guiana, is in England on leave of absence.

Mr. R. V. Vernon, who used to be in the West Indian Department, has now been transferred to the South African Department at the Colonial Office.

The leave of absence granted to Mr. E. F. S. Bowen, Superintendent of Public Works, Barbados, has been extended from the 24th June to the 22nd July next, inclusive.

The Hon. Edward Thomas Grannum, who has been appointed to be a member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, resumed his duties as Auditor-General on April 17th.

Mr. G. Hall Green, First Class Clerk in the Government Secretariat of British Guiana, acts as Principal Clerk during the time. Mr. G. D. Bayley acts as Assistant Government Secretary.

Mr. D. G. Gurnaway, Comptroller of Customs, British Guiana, left the Colony on the 9th inst. on nine months' leave, during which Mr. E. W. Collier, Post-Master-General, will perform his duties.

Mr. Walter S. Shaw, Barrister at Law, has arrived in St. Vincent and assumed his duties as Police Magistrate of the First District. Mr. Shaw has also been appointed to act temporarily as Chief Justice of the Colony and to be a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Justice H. M. Routledge, First Puisne Judge of Trinidad, has arrived in England prior to his retirement from the Service on pension. Before proceeding to Trinidad thirteen years ago, Judge Routledge had served in the Falkland Islands as a Judge and Colonial Secretary. He has acted as Chief Justice of Trinidad.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 18th. "Weather showery and unsettled." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd), week ended May 9th, PORT ANTONIO—"Fine," KINGSTON—"Fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—OUTWARD BOOKINGS, per R.M.S. "LA PLATA" (Capt. W. J. Deznall), May 21st.—Mrs. and Miss Trimmingham, Mr. E. McClelland, Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Tunstall, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. M. Graillet, Mr. F. C. Morgan, Mr. R. H. Chasree, Mr. J. A. Harding, Mr. J. Burgoyne, Mr. H. Grierson, Mr. R. S. Monkman, Mr. Lee, Mr. Dudley da Costa, Mr. H. L. Paine.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service. SAILINGS per R.M.S. "PORT KINGSTON" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), May 15th: **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Becker, Mr. M. A. Bonitto, Mr. J. J. De Costa, Miss Wilson, Mr. O. Alberg. **Bermuda**—Miss Hutchall, Miss M. Shelton, Miss Alexander, Capt. and Mrs. J. P. Robinson, Major J. J. C. Watson.

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwts.	Hum galls.	Coffee cwts.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges.
Apr. 1 to Apr. 15, '06	706	1,830	109,248	1,874	286,000	769	864,387	1,870,850
" 1 " 15, '05	1,427	1,925	141,555	947	327,250	1,312	634,052	242,500

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXVIII.



Major-General the Earl of Dundonald, C.B., C.V.O.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SRETHING LANE, LONDON.

May 29th, 1906

TELEGRAMS: "CABLE LONDON." TELEPHONE: 8843 CENTRAL.

IT will be within the recollection of our readers that the date originally proposed for the coming into force of the Brussels Convention for the abolition of sugar bounties was September 1st, 1902. When it was found that a year later was the earliest date which would meet with the approval of two of the Powers, the British delegates, as a condition precedent to their agreeing to the Convention, insisted upon complete liberty of action being reserved to the British Government as to measures of relief to be afforded to the West Indies "in order to enable the interests concerned to tide over the time before the Convention should take effect." A largely signed memorial was addressed to the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, calling attention to the grave position in which they were placed owing to the delay, and no opportunity was lost by the West India Committee of representing to the Government, by deputations and otherwise, the urgent need which there was of assistance being given to enable the sugar industry to survive the period before the Convention came into force. An Imperial Grant-in-Aid of £250,000 was the result. This was divided among the West Indian sugar-producing Colonies, the more necessitous receiving a larger

before the Convention came into force. An Imperial Grant-in-Aid of £250,000 was the result. This was divided among the West Indian sugar-producing Colonies, the more necessitous receiving a larger

proportion than those better able to face the situation. In most cases the grant was distributed as a free gift to plantations, but the £80,000 which was allotted to Barbados was applied for the purpose of enabling temporary loans to be made to planters, and a bill entitled "The Plantation-in-Aid Act, 1902," was passed by the Legislature of the Colony containing the necessary provision for this purpose. This measure so far realised the expectations of its promoters that in 1903 and again in 1904 and 1905 its provisions were extended for a further period of a year. When the last homeward mail left Barbados it was proposed to continue the Act for a further limited period subject to certain modifications necessary owing to the attitude of the Colonial Bank. Assuming that this is done it does not seem to us a bit too soon for those concerned with the Barbados Sugar Industry to consider what must be done when the £80,000 becomes available, to secure to every and each Barbadian sugar planter his proper share of benefit from the dole. We say sugar planter advisedly, as it will be remembered that by virtue of Ordinance 12 of 1904, the £80,000 is vested in the Governor of Barbados in Executive Committee upon trust to be applied with the sanction of the Legislature to such object or objects as will best promote the collective and permanent interest of the sugar interest in the Island. A scheme which immediately suggests itself is that of following the example of Antigua and devoting the fund as a bonus for the erection of central sugar factories. As, however, the fund would not be sufficient to form a nucleus for more than, say, at the most, two factories, the difficulty at once presents itself as to how planters in, let us say, Christchurch or St. James, would benefit from factories in St. Johns or St. Andrews, and we now understand that many would hardly be content with shares in the factories. The money, by virtue of the original intention of the grant, and, moreover the Act already referred to, belongs to the planters, and must be devoted to sugar in such a way as will be to the interest of planters generally. Outside a *pro rata* distribution it is difficult to assign an application for which it would serve the purpose in view. A plan, however, which would get over the difficulty, and should, at the same time, satisfy the planters, occurs to us, and we hope that it will be deemed worthy of consideration. The term for which the Imperial Grant for the Imperial Department of Agriculture was made is drawing to a close. Barbados has especially felt the advantage of it in connection with the sugar industry, and should the Department not be renewed on its present lines, would it not be possible to carry on the work, so far as Barbados is concerned, with the aid of the £80,000? It would be the greatest possible pity if the excellent work of the Department were allowed to lapse, and by the planters in this way taking over the Barbados branch as a going concern, a valuable institution would be maintained in a position to develop further the results which have been already attained. It would be quite possible, also, to aid any central factory scheme at the same time. Sufficient of the fund could be placed on one side to run the Agricultural Department for three years, say, £12,000, while the balance could be devoted to furthering the erection of a central factory, repayment of the principal and interest being begun when the factory starts, say at the second year, and provision thus made for the further carrying on of the Department. In this way, not only would individual planters derive the benefit of a Department run practically by their own money, but the Island generally would reap the advantage of the initial step towards sugar centralisation. We commend this idea to the Barbadian planters as being one calculated to do the maximum of benefit to the Island, while carrying out the design intended by the Grant-in-Aid, viz. the benefit of the sugar planter, individually and collectively. The Department would afford scientific aid to every branch of cane growing and manufacture, and continue its investigations regarding seedling canes, a line of research which has already done so much for the Barbadian planter, even though it is only in its infancy.

AT this time of year the hoardings in London are adorned by many beautiful pictorial posters inviting one to spend a holiday in Switzerland, the Tyrol, or other parts of the Continent.

Later they will be succeeded by others calling attention to the climatic and spectacular advantages of the Italian lakes, and various "health" resorts on the Riviera, to which people begin to flock after the official close of the Swiss season on September 15th. This systematic advertising is due partly to the individual effort of the railway companies and hotel proprietors, partly to co-operative effort through hotel-keepers' societies, and partly also to Government action and municipal enterprise. That the results of the advertisements must be remunerative will, we think, be generally admitted, as every year they become more and more numerous. In this country there is now a tendency to follow the example of the Continent, and in many seaside towns a special rate is levied for "Amusements' associations," and the like, which advertise the town, it being felt that as the whole community benefit from a large influx of tourists, it is right that every member of it should contribute. Now, hitherto, in these artistic displays the West Indies have been conspicuous by their absence, though it must be admitted that much has been done to popularise the Islands by the posters of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, and Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., which of recent years have shown a very marked improvement from an artistic point of view. But much more can be done in this direction than has as yet been attempted, and it is a question for serious consideration whether a tourist bureau might not be formed in one or more of the Islands on lines similar to that existing in New Zealand of which Mr. KELWAY spoke to us in the course of his interesting lecture on May 24th last, with the object of popularising the West Indies as a tourist resort. But it is no good advertising scenery for tourists unless you have accommodation for them; and although Jamaica has many hotels of first order and Trinidad and Barbados have their Queen's Park Hotel and Marine Hotel respectively—the former is a particularly good one—it must be conceded that the other Colonies make a poor show in this respect. Mr. KELWAY reminded us how very remunerative the tourist traffic is to Jamaica, and there is no reason whatever why the other West Indian Colonies should not be equally popular and reap equal benefit. But we always hear the same story; the tourists return and complain of the hotels, and of the lack of general arrangements made for their convenience and entertainment. As regards the amusements provided for tourists, it is open to question whether the example of foreign spas might not be adopted, and a small levy made on visitors staying over one week in the Island. This practice is almost universal on the Continent, and added to the weekly bill a "kurtax" of 1/- does not press heavily on the visitor, who gets in return for it such advantages as first class reading-rooms, music in abundance, and every facility for obtaining information regarding the best expeditions and excursions to be made and how to set about making them. The quiet season—we will not call it the dull season—is now coming on in the West Indies and it is just at this time when plans for the next tourist season should be considered and threshed out with a view to their consummation in time for 1906. It is out of the question to provide in the time new hotels in those islands which need them, but something should be done towards putting what accommodation they do possess on a better footing, and especially, and this applies generally, in improving the food. It must be remembered that tourists from Great Britain and the United States are accustomed to *moris* out of the power, as a rule, of tropical countries to supply, but a great deal can be done in the direction of making the most of what there is he had. The attendance, also, is another point on which too much stress cannot be laid. At any rate, there are many ways in which existing accommodation and arrangement can be considerably improved and made more attractive to the twentieth century visitors, and on these the attention of all interested in the tourist traffic—and who are not?—should focus their attention.

IN a former issue we referred to Canada's preferential sugar tariff, and to the dissatisfaction on the part of West Indian planters at the scanty advantage which they were reaping from it. From the Canadian demand not being equal to the West Indian supply, as we pointed out, the control

of the market was practically in the hands of the refiners, who were in a position to give as much as they thought fit of the preference to the sellers. The proportion, therefore, of the latter which the planters received depended entirely upon the immediate wants of the refiner. Of late, however, a new factor has entered into the question, and that is the increasing amount of Scotch granulated which goes into Canada and obtains preferential treatment on the declaration that it was made from British raw sugar. This sugar enters into direct competition with the Canadian refiners, and has introduced an element of considerable perplexity. It would appear that the Scotch refiner, notwithstanding the double freight, is in a position not only to give a higher price for his raw article, but also to compete with the Canadian refiner on his own ground, for it is a fact that of late the Clyde refiners have been paying a higher price for muscovado than the Canadian. A recent trade circular from Halifax states that the refiners were then giving, practically, the whole of the preference to the seller of 96° centrifugal, and half to those of muscovado, but recent sales of the former in Demerara and elsewhere, in no way bear this out. The Canadian refiners aver that their cost of refining is higher than that of the Scotch, but surely this is a matter within their own control. Probably as regards coal they are handicapped as compared with their Scotch brethren, still the fact of the Canadian refiners preferring 96° crystals to muscovado points to a weakness in their refining capacity, which it is in their power to remedy. While extra freight charges in winter from the locking up of the St. Lawrence applies equally to the Scotch imported sugar. Anyhow, there must be something wrong somewhere if they cannot, as they allege, prevent sugar made in Scotland from West Indian raws competing with them successfully in their own market. If this be the case as things are now there is nothing to prevent the whole of the Canadian sugar industry passing into the hands of the Scotch refiners save the capacity of output of the latter. Putting the question of preference altogether on one side, the fact remains that Scotch refiners are, according to the Canadian refiners, apparently able to refine West Indian sugar, and land the finished article in Canada at a lower figure than the Canadian refiners, after, in the case of muscovado certainly, paying a higher price for the raw article. As we have said above the question of the preference does not enter into the competition between the Scotch and Canadian refiners. Were there no preferential tariff at all the position would be unaltered, and the whole question resolves itself into this: Can the Scotch refiners refine cane sugar so much cheaper than the Canadians as to more than equalise the extra freight, and at the same time to pay a higher price for their sugars? Can this be the case; or, is it that the Canadian refiners have made the worst of their position in order to prolong the payment of as little as possible of the preference to West Indian sugar? The more we look at the question the more we see the advantage that would be gained by a West Indian refinery in Canada carrying and working up its own raw sugars.

Major-General the Earl of Dundonald, C.B., C.V.O.

The distinguished career of Lord Dundonald as a soldier in Egypt and South Africa is so familiar that it is hardly necessary to recall how, when in the 2nd Life Guards, he served in the Nile Expedition 1884-5, how he took part in the march for the relief of Khartoum, how he was present at Abu Klea and Goubat, and volunteered to carry despatches announcing the seizure of Gakdull Wells and subsequently the fall of Khartoum and the death of Gordon, for which he was mentioned in despatches and promoted. All remember how, in 1899, he commanded the Natal Field Force, and later the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, entering Ladysmith in advance of the Natal Army on Feb. 28th, 1900, and how he participated with the 3rd Mounted and Natal Brigades in the fighting which brought the war to a close. It is rather on his connection with the West Indies in general, and Trinidad in particular, that we wish to dwell. The Cochrane family, of which Lord Dundonald is the representative, have long been associated with that part of our Empire. Lord Dundonald's great uncle, Sir Alexander Cochrane, commanded the British Squadron in West Indian waters during the war with France in 1805, and met Nelson at Barbados. His grandfather, the famous Admiral, commanded the British fleet there in



(Photo by Alvarado E. Arguilla.)

(Copyright)

A CHARACTERISTIC SCENE IN THE WEST INDIES.

1847, and wrote a most interesting book entitled "The utilisation of a waste product," in which he pointed out the valuable uses to which the Trinidad pitch might be put, this substance not being at that time utilised for industrial purposes. It was he who took out all the patents for the use of this material, some of them being for asphalted streets, covering and insulating wires, foundations for piers, coatings for iron pipes, and some for various other new contrivances. The family still holds asphalt property in the islands, and Lord Dundonald himself takes a great interest in Trinidad, its people, and its prosperity. While he was there recently he personally superintended the carrying out of improvements on his property near the town, by which a most magnificent view over the harbour and town has been opened up. We understand that it is his intention to build himself a house there in the midst of the beautiful flora of the Island which he so greatly admires. Lord Dundonald is a respected Member of the West India Committee.

Lord Milner.

The address to Lord Milner, expressing appreciation of his services in Africa, can be signed at the West India Committee Rooms, or any reader who finds a difficulty in personally signing may have his signature appended upon sending his name, address, and profession or occupation—and authorising, in writing, such signature—to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

A Court Martial.

On the 26th of July, 1795, a fleet of 130 vessels started from Jamaica for home under the convoy of the H.M.S.S. "Medusa" and "Triton," Captain Norman of the former vessel being in charge. The faster sailing men of war made the pace home, the slower of the merchantmen being quite unable to keep up with them, while the convoying ships apparently made no endeavour to hold the fleet together or wait for the laggards. As a result, the fleet tailed off, being further separated by bad weather, which caused considerable damage to the slower vessels, from the latter having to carry an undue amount of sail in their endeavours to maintain their position. The Commodore, according to the report presented to the Committee, was sometimes so far ahead as to be out of sight even of the foremost ships. The result of this was that on nearing the Channel towards the middle of September, the fleet in touch with the convoy was reduced to about 30 sail, and sixteen of the merchantmen were captured by the enemy. On the matter being reported to the Admiralty, a Court Martial was held on Captain Norman, and in the minutes of the 8th March, 1796, the following appears:

"Mr. Sewell acquainted the Committee that having received Notice, that a Court Martial was ordered to be held on board His Majesty's Ship, "Prince George," in Portsmouth Harbour, on Monday, the 8th day of February last, for the Trial of Captain James Norman, Commander of His Majesty's Ship "Medusa," for Neglect and Misconduct towards the Fleet which sailed from Jamaica, in the Month of July last under his Convoy; he had proceeded to Portsmouth, and had there, as Agent for the Island of Jamaica, and also on behalf of the Merchants, and Others interested in the West India Trade, conducted the Prosecution against the said Captain Norman. That the Trial commenced on Tuesday the 9th day of February, and ended on Monday the 29th day of the same Month, when Captain Norman was by the Court Adjudged to be Reprimanded and to be continued on Half Pay for the remainder of his Life."

Rear Admiral Sir Roger Curtis was president of the Board, and Rear Admiral Rodney Bligh, probably of "Bonny" fame, one of the members. The sentence would have been more severe had it not been for disobedience to orders shown by some of the merchantmen. The Court Martial sat for nineteen days. The West India Committee presented Mr. Sewell with a piece of plate value 100 guineas in recognition of his services on this occasion, a practical method of showing appreciation much in vogue in those days, but which in recent years has been allowed almost entirely to fall in desuetude.

The Mail Service.

Many complaints continue to reach us regarding the present state of the mail service; but though there is, as indicated in another paragraph in the present issue, some hope that the Northern Islands services will be re-established in perhaps a modified form, it is of the utmost importance that the West Indian mail service as a whole should be taken in hand in order that the proper connections may be effected. We have again to announce an alteration in the date of sailing of the Royal Mail steamers, that originally fixed for July 12th having been postponed to July 19th, three weeks after the departure of the R.M.S.P. "Orinoco," which leaves Southampton on June 26th.

As will be seen from the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents representations are being made to the Government by the Leeward Islands and St. Lucia, while according to Reuters' Agency the Barbados House of Assembly have appointed a committee to consider the best means of securing a continuation of a regular mail service from England, and to the neighbouring islands. Most of the mayors (merchants?) in the Colony have telegraphed to Lord Elgin, and it is generally hoped that some arrangement may be come to with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company to secure the same reliable service that existed formerly.

Jamaica as a Tourist Resort.

Empire Day was celebrated in a suitable manner at the West India Committee Rooms on May 24th, when Mr. A. Clifton Kelway delivered a very interesting lecture on Jamaica as a tourist resort. Sir Augustus Hemming, a late Governor of Jamaica, presided, and among those present were: Sir Charles Bruce, Sir E. Noel Walker, Mr. Edward Anderson, Mr. J. Bains, Mr. G. Baxter, Mrs. E. R. Beccles, Mrs. Carey, Colonel Cargill, Mr. G. T. Case, Mr. Claxton, a representative of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons, Miss Cushman, Mr. H. de Pass, a representative of Messrs. Elder,



From a photo by

Castleton Gardens, Jamaica.

J. W. Cleary.

These beautiful gardens in the Parish of St. Mary, 19 miles, on the road from Kingston to Annotto Bay, contain a large and varied collection of tropical plants and economic, spice and fruit trees.

and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Sir Augustus Hemming, in introducing the lecturer to the meeting, read the following letter, which had been received by the Secretary of the West India Committee from Lord Meath, the originator of the Empire Day movement:—

Sir,—It has given me great pleasure to hear that the West India Committee propose to commemorate 'Empire Day' by having a lecture delivered on 'Jamaica as a Tourist Resort' by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, under the presidency of Sir Augustus Hemming, who, as Governor of Jamaica, took such an active interest last year in the promotion of the Empire Day movement in that Colony.

I am informed that last year the Empire Day movement was observed there in 706 schools, and I doubt not that at all events in some of these schools, and I trust in all of them, the inner meaning of the movement was not forgotten.

As you are probably aware the inner meaning of the movement may be translated as the subordination of selfish or class interests to those of the State and of the community, and the inculcation on the minds of all British subjects of the honourable obligation which rests upon them of preparing themselves, each in his or her own sphere, for the day which has ever known, and responsibility attached to the high privilege of being subjects of the mightiest Empire the world

Sir Augustus went on to say he had no doubt that in Jamaica, Empire Day was being observed

Dempster & Co., Mrs. Ellis, Miss A. Elmslie, Miss Q. Elmslie, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. W. J. Grasett, Mr. L. Gray, Mr. J. T. Haynes, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Hinkson, Mr. George Hughes, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Kolkenbeck, Miss Constance Lee, Mr. R. G. Lee, Mr. Alex. G. Low, Mr. Duncan Mackintosh, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. Boyd A. Neilson, Mrs. Neilson, Mr. Newton, Mrs. Stanhope Nicoll, Mr. G. Osmond, Mr. M. H. Pattinson, Mr. W. F. Piper, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. W. G. Roberts, Miss Robinson, a representative of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Mr. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Rutherford, Mr. T. W. Rutherford, Mr. F. I. Scard, Miss R. C. Scott, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Mr. Charles J. Tarring, Miss Villiers, Miss Weston, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. T. B. Younger

as it was when he was there, and he trusted that it was so in all the Colonies of the Empire. It was, perhaps, not inappropriate that he should have been asked to take the chair upon this occasion, as for nearly seven years he had his home in the beautiful Island of which they were to hear that afternoon, and it was during his administration, and principally due to his initiation, that the Direct Line to Jamaica, which, under the energetic management of Sir Alfred Jones, had done so much to increase tourist traffic and bring the knowledge of Jamaica before the British public, was first established. He did not think that there were many parts of Jamaica with which he was not familiar, and he could not speak too enthusiastically of its varied and entrancing beauty. Jamaica might fairly be called the "Riviera of the West," and it had advantages over the European Riviera in that it did not experience the sudden variations of climate to which the latter was subject. It was now placed within ten days reach of England, and he hoped that a good many persons who had gone before to the Mediterranean, or Egypt, or even further afield, for their winter holiday, would take the opportunity of visiting the West Indies, where they would undoubtedly be rewarded for any extra trouble to which they might be put in getting there. He looked forward with much interest to what Mr. Kelway had to say.



From a photo by

On the Shore of Kingston Harbour.

J. W. Cleary.

A conspicuous feature of tropical scenery is the coco-nut palm, which is second only to the stately cabbage palm in beauty.



From a photo by

Constant Spring Hotel, Jamaica.

J. W. Cleary

Within a short distance from Kingston and easily approached by electric train, the Constant Spring Hotel is one of the best in the Island. During the season it is always crowded with visitors, English and American.

He thought it was all for the good that some day, and preferably the birthday of such a truly great ruler as the late Queen Victoria, should have been chosen to make them think of Empire. He was not quite sure if even all in the room really thought how great the Empire was. Lord Meath's letter, to which

all had listened with interest, stated very clearly the purpose of Empire Day. Mr. Kelway proceeded to give some interesting statistics concerning the Empire.

In addressing an audience like that before him, there was, said the lecturer, an advantage, as to many of those present Jamaica being well known, he might, therefore, omit much of the usual guide-book information. As to his qualification to speak, they were just these: During the main part of the past English winter he had been in the Island, and had sojourned there for ten weeks, from November to February, during which time it was his good fortune to travel the whole of the 180 miles of railway in the Island, to visit several times about ten of the principal towns, and to drive something like 200 miles through the more unknown and remote parts of the Colony. Moreover, he had stayed in all the leading hotels and boarding houses, and, best of all, he had been privileged to know many of the hospitable inhabitants of Jamaica, and to draw upon the vast amount of practical experience of the Island which they possessed.

Coming directly to the subject, he would like to take it in two parts—First of all, he would endeavour to indicate some of the many undeniable advantages possessed by Jamaica as a tourist



From a photo by

J. W. Cleary.

The Hotel Hitchfield, Port Antonio, Jamaica.

This magnificent hotel, entirely rebuilt in 1905, has accommodation for 350 persons. It has 60 private suites. It is built and run with American capital, being owned by the United Fruit Company.

one had the opportunity of seeing that great prospective waterway of the world which was in the making, the Panama Canal. To the student of big events he thought few things could be more interesting than to see this vast work in what he might term the "workshop stage."

Coming to Jamaica, this "Queen of the Antilles," as it was so well and truly called, it was very difficult indeed to say anything that adequately described the Island or was worthy of it. Mr. Kelway had long since read a very great deal of what Froude, Kingsley, and other masters of literature had written regarding its beauties, but when he got to Jamaica he felt that the half had not been told him. In fact he hardly thought it possible to describe its loveliness in any way so as to make those who had not seen the Island fully realise its beauty and manifold attractiveness. But he would speak of a few practical points, such as climate. In his ten weeks experience, the climate, regarded from the most critical point of view, was absolutely satisfactory. He never knew an hour's illness or discomfort there during his stay. Roughly speaking, he did not think there was ever a time in Jamaica when there was no rain: of course, there were two rainy seasons, but in the intervals in some degree moist. The temperature being thus moistened, the heat was not so likely to inflict disastrous consequences on strangers to it, and he believed he was right in saying that in Jamaica it was a very rare thing indeed to meet with cases of sunstroke. Then there was the wonderful breeze

resort, especially for English people; and then, secondly, perhaps he might be permitted to make some suggestions which, in his humble opinion, might lead to further development of that tourist traffic which meant so much to Jamaica. Undeniably the Island lay a considerable distance from England, but this had been much abridged by the Imperial Direct Line from Bristol, and remembering the advantages of a sea voyage, in addition to the charm of the Island, the distance seemed well worth doing, compared with the trouble of getting to those Continental resorts which had been mentioned by Sir Augustus Hemming. Then, in travelling to Jamaica by the Royal Mail route, although the time was longer there were great and compensating advantages. First of all the tourist went to Barbados, then to Trinidad, and thence down the Spanish Main to Colon, where

which poured through Kingston by night and by day, and which regularly ventilated, fumigated and made pure and wholesome that city. Even if the heat at Kingston were found to be too great and one wished to evade it, there were the hill resorts, where it was always delightfully cool. So it would be seen that a great deal of change and variety of climate was available for those who visited Jamaica.

With reference to the beauty spots of the Island, the difficulty in speaking of them was that they were so numerous, and each was so intrinsically beautiful in itself. The lecturer could only generalise, and perhaps mention one or two with which he was privileged to make a close and enjoyable acquaintance. The chief delight, in his opinion, was to be found in tiding or driving along the excellent roads, thus seeing the scenery and people of Jamaica as one could not do in any other way. Much, of course, might be seen from the railway. For instance, in the course of the ride between Port Antonio and Kingston, a distance of seventy miles, the line penetrated twenty-seven tunnels and spanned many roaring torrents, the whole journey presenting scenes of exceptional grandeur. There was, however, so much of interest in the people, and it was only by driving that one could come upon the inhabitants in their natural and simple life, see them at their daily work, and gain an adequate idea of their method of life.

In regard to the much discussed question of hotels in Jamaica, it was true here, of course, as in other places, that the demand would create the supply; no better evidence of this was needed than was to be found in such a hotel as the Titchfield, at Port Antonio, which represented almost the very last word in hotel building and equipment. He did not say that the hotels of Jamaica were absolute perfection; but after a long and enjoyable stay at Constant Spring, beautifully situated some seven miles out of Kingston, at the foot of the Blue Mountains, he could speak with the certainty born of personal experience. And it was his opinion that if the hotels of Jamaica were compared with those of, say, the Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, California, with which he was personally acquainted, then they stood the comparison well. A comparison with the Savoy or the Cecil in London, or the St. Regis in New York, was not a fair one, as the local difficulties in regard to catering, furnishing, &c., were necessarily great. Mr. Kelway had heard that there was a scheme on foot to increase still further the hotel accommodation, and to this endeavour everyone who had the welfare of the Island at heart could only wish the very heartiest success.

Going further afield than Kingston, the lecturer had been remarkably impressed with the excellence of the accommodation provided for the tourist; indeed, it would be difficult to find here in England similarly good and satisfactory accommodation in places of equal size, of equal isolation, and equal remoteness from the larger cities. Those going for driving or riding tours might be sure that they would be well received at the smaller places of interest when they arrived at their destination. In connection with the roads, too much honour could not be paid to those gentlemen who had to do with their construction and maintenance; indeed, the main roads, more than 2,000 miles in extent, were so excellent that there could be no danger even about the encouragement of the automobile traffic, as they were quite able to cope with it. The railway, unfortunately, was not an unmitigated success. The line was a triumph of engineering, and the views along it were some of the finest to be seen; but he was bound to add that the journey was rendered unnecessarily unpleasant and uncomfortable by the antiquated style of the carriages used, and the amount of dirt which found its way into those carriages.

This brought the lecturer to the one or two suggestions which he would like to make, and he



From a photo by

J. W. Chesley

A Seller of Coconuts in Jamaica

This illustration hardly requires a description. Judging by the amiable smile on the face of the itinerant vendor it is safe to assume that his trade in carved coconuts and curries is brisk and satisfactory.

did so in the hope that some at any rate of those present might, perhaps, be able to bring their influence to bear, if the suggestions commended themselves, to turn them into facts. In New Zealand, where he had travelled during 1904, there was an important official Tourist Bureau or Department of Tourist and Health Resorts, whose duty it was to care for, as far as was necessary and possible, all strangers and visitors to that country. The advantages of such a provision were obvious. In Jamaica there were individual and excellent semi-private attempts to meet the need, but in New Zealand nothing was left to chance or private enterprise, and plans were made to suit every wish of the tourist. It seemed to him that if in Jamaica something of this kind could be arranged (allowing for the difference in Government, of course), something larger and more adequate than those agencies which now existed, and were entirely due to private enterprise, then much might be done to increase and develop the tourist traffic in this wonderful Island. In Kingston, also, perhaps something might be done to enhance the natural attractions, especially in the way of providing band music, and constructing a marine drive along the harbour shore. At any rate, he hoped that the day would come when one or two of these suggestions might be carried into effect and be found of good result.

For the dry facts concerning Jamaica, historical, geographical and commercial, Mr. Kelway referred those present to Mr. Cundall's book, "Jamaica in 1905," which was distributed among the audience, and was an excellent work. He was also much impressed by what could be done in the way of advertising the Island and its charms by means of picture postcards. He found that Germany alone during the past year had issued 1,161,000,000 of postcards, then came the United States, and Great Britain was third with 613,000,000. These figures pointed to the conclusion that great things could be done by means of postcards of the West Indies, such as those with which the Secretary of the West India Committee had made them all so pleasantly acquainted. He would also like to draw attention to a book issued by the United Fruit Company of Boston, dealing with Jamaica: this was a triumph of artistic advertisement.

With regard to the suggestions made, the question of expense would quite probably be brought forward against them. But on good authority he had learnt that during the season just ended £150,000 was brought into Jamaica by the visitors who came to the Island. Surely this was an important point, and one which made it worth while, for even the most ardent economist, to pause ere rejecting any effort to improve the condition of things in the Island as concerning tourists.

In concluding, Mr. Kelway had, he thought, said enough to indicate that his remembrances of the Island were most happy, indeed all the overwhelming beauty and magnificence of Jamaica united to produce an impression which could never be successfully realised until people had gone there and seen for themselves something of its superb loveliness, its unrivalled scenic splendour. (Applause.)

Mr. A. McDowell Nathan said he was sure that all had listened with delight to the lecture which had just been delivered by Mr. Kelway, and he might say that never before had he heard Jamaica described so beautifully. Mr. Kelway, it was quite evident, had a mind to grasp the beautiful. He had spoken of the necessity for a tourist bureau which might cope with the tourist trade that had lately sprung up in Jamaica. Two years ago Mr. Nathan had brought the matter up at a meeting of the Merchants' Exchange, and tried to get the thing started by everyone in the Island interested. At that time it was thought too early for anything of the kind, and it fell through, but he was pleased to say that it had not been lost sight of. Also, they were hoping to put up in St. Andrew a hotel which would rival the Fitchfield. With respect to the railway, it was hoped that this would be put in good order as soon as the finances got a little better. Mr. Kelway was quite correct about the disadvantages of travelling on the railway, but the great trouble in constructing the line through the Island was some excuse for its present deficiencies.

Sir Augustus Henning, who offered on behalf of the audience a sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Kelway for his interesting and instructive lecture, agreed almost entirely with all he had said, and in regard to climate he could say that while Mr. Kelway had stated that he had enjoyed perfect health during the ten weeks he was in Jamaica, he himself had never suffered at all during his stay of nearly seven years. The old idea that Jamaica was an unhealthy climate was now exploded. Yellow Fever was a thing of the past, and a little ordinary care and prudence were all that was required to ensure perfect health. In addition to the welcome sea breeze of which they had just been told, there was always a delightful land breeze blowing at night from the hills, so that the nights were cool and pleasant. There was no doubt that great improvements were required in connection with the railway, and he hoped that the time would come when those improvements would be made, but it must not be forgotten that the Island was saddled with a very heavy debt as regarded the railway. Until the trade and prosperity of the Island considerably increased, he was afraid that it would not be possible for the Government to afford any very large sum to put the railway into order. He was pleased to hear from Mr. Nathan that a new hotel was to be erected, for the hotel accommodation was not at present adequate to meet the increasing demands. Mr. Kelway had also spoken of the

excellent roads in Jamaica, and of these the Colony might well be proud. They were the admiration and envy of American visitors.

Mr. Kelway thanked the meeting for their vote of thanks, and in response to Mr. Rutherford's resolution of thanks to the Chairman, Sir Augustus Hemming expressed the pleasure it had been to him to attend and to do anything to promote the welfare of Jamaica, in which he would always take a sincere interest.

A copy of Mr. Frank Cundall's "Jamaica in 1905" was presented to each lady and gentleman present, and tea having been served in the Secretary's office, the very successful meeting was brought to a close.

The proposed Rum Standard for Jamaica.

At a meeting of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture held on March 12th last, the papers in connection with the fixing of a rum standard were under consideration. Mr. Cousins, the Island Chemist, Mr. G. D. Murray and the Hon. Clarence Bourne were in favour of the proposed standardisation. Mr. Fawcett, the Director of Public Gardens, was opposed to it, and the Archbishop considered that the facts should be put before the Governor for him to form his own opinion. The Island Chemist was asked to make a statement of the arguments in favour of his case to be sent first to Mr. Fawcett so that he could explain his arguments against it, and then, together with Mr. Fawcett's reply, to be circulated among the members of the Board.

Cotton Imports.

The Board of Trade has issued the following statement showing the quantity (in cwts.) of cotton consigned to the United Kingdom during the month ending April 30th, 1906, compared with the corresponding period of 1905:—

Country whence Consigned.	Month ended April 30th, 1906.	Month ended April 30th, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1906, compared with 1905.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
(A) Consigned from Foreign Countries—			
America	970,679	1,117,964	— 147,285
Brazil	49,794	10,547	+ 39,247
Egypt	149,224	252,056	— 102,832
Other countries	8,212	6,048	+ 2,164
Total	1,177,909	1,386,615	— 208,706
(B) Consigned from Places in the British Empire—			
East Indies	54,120	13,007	+ 41,113
British West Indies	2,918	580	+ 2,338
British West Africa	2,812	514	+ 2,298
British Central Africa	87	—	+ 87
British East Africa	453	—	+ 453
British Guiana and Honduras	2	—	+ 2
Canada	180	2,030	— 1,850
Other British Possessions... ..	24	—	+ 24
Total	60,596	16,131	+ 44,465
Grand total	1,238,505	1,402,746	— 164,241

Consular Reports.

The Yield of Cane in Vera Cruz.

The American Consul at Vera Cruz states that in 1904, 38,608 acres were planted in sugar cane in eighteen counties in the State of Vera Cruz, and twenty-six to forty-five tons of cane per acre were obtained. The saccharin matter in the cane is put at 65% (sic) of the weight of the cane, and the quantity of white centrifugal sugar produced runs from 7½% to 10% or over.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. Bank Rate at 4 % (changed May 3rd, 1906), and Consols (2½ %) 89½.

BON VOYAGE. Professor Carmody, the Government Analyst of Trinidad, is returning to the Colony by the R.M.S.P. "La Plata," completely restored to health, after a brief holiday in this country.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended May 24th, 359 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.70d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13½d. per lb.; fine, 14½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 14d. to 15d.

FRENCH SUGAR. The diminution of the French sugar consumption of last year is officially attributed to the high prices in the early part of the year and to low stocks. The shortage of fruit and the restrictions on the employment of sugar in the wine industry has also had considerable effect on the consumption.

8008 MAYORS. Can it be that Speightstown, Holetown and Bathsheba have been incorporated and given municipal rights since the last mail left Barbados? A press agency the other day reported that most of the mayors in the Colony had telegraphed to Lord Elgin on a matter of importance. Hence our enquiry.

RUM, INDEED. An appeal to all lovers of the only spirit appears in the advertisement columns of the *Times* of St. Vincent to the effect that "Flower of the Field" is the name of the latest novelty in old rum. This spirit, which exceeds in purity and flavour anything sold in the Island, is genuine rum with a history attached to it. Stored at Tourama, during the eruptions it was completely covered with ejecta which has increased its flavour.—Sold by James A. Davy.

TRINIDAD OILFIELDS. Among our distinguished visitors at the present time is Mr. Cunningham Craig, the Government Geologist of Trinidad, who has published valuable reports on the oil-fields of the Colony, to which he expects to return for a further period of at least a year in the near future. It is possible that before his departure he may deliver a lecture on the oil-fields at the Royal Colonial Institute. We are likely to hear of considerable developments in connection with the oil industry in the near future.

WEST EAST. Mr. Alfred J. West, whose return from his photographic tour in the West Indies was recorded in a recent issue, informs us that he was successful in obtaining some excellent results with his camera. We have already been privileged to inspect one or two of his photographs taken in Jamaica. They are certainly very beautiful, and will be a great source of attraction when they are publicly exhibited. It is probable that the private view, foreshadowed in the *West India Committee Circular*, will take place in London in the autumn.

W. I. CLUB DINNER. Mr. Arthur Johnson presided at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, May 23rd, and among those present were—Mr. W. A. Black, Mr. M. de Cordova, Mr. O'Connor de Cordova, Mr. A. Elder, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. L. F. Hudson, Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Mr. Johnson, jun., Mr. Stewart M. Massey, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Dr. Seton Pattison, Mr. F. G. Rayment, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. J. Spicer, Mr. K. P. Spicer, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Dr. E. Sturridge, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. E. T. Whitaker and Mr. J. H. Wilkinson.

DOMINICA WOODS. Messrs. Rowntree & Co., Ltd., have been kind enough to present to the West India Committee samples of West Indian woods taken from their "Mount Pleasant" estate in Dominica. There are no less than thirty-two different specimens, which show how remarkably rich the Island is in the matter of timber. They include the following: Cacaoier, Mahant Cochon, Laurier rouge, Controyon, Ti Citron, Yellow Sanders, Bois Rivière, Bois de Was (Rosewood), Mapon, Blackheart, Bois d'cote, Chatsaignier, Bois diable, Bois noir, Bois jaune, Gommier, Maricypree, Balâtre, Bois blanc, Laurier noir, Laurier blanc, Zolivière, Bully Tree and Bois Brands. Though we cannot claim to speak as experts, the woods are, many of them, very beautiful.

BLACK AND WHITE. While many of the northern cane growers in Queensland are registering for the bonus on crops grown by "all white" labour, there are others who cannot overcome the conviction that there is not sufficient of this available, nor is it of a quality for satisfactory work, and who prefer to trust to coloured labour, Kanaka, Indian and Chinese, rather than hind themselves. At a meeting at Bundaberg in April it was decided that the standard rate of wages for field labour for the current year should be 10s. to 25s. per week all found. Rates for cutting by contract were fixed at 20 tons

per acre, and over 2s. 9d. per ton, 15 and under 20 tons per acre 3s., and under 15 tons per acre 3s. 6d. The rates to be for untrashed cane. It was explained that the rates were neither maximum nor minimum, the object being to fix some standard rate.

IMPORTANT TO OUR READERS. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each or post free 3/-.

Some Homeward Mails.

The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 25th. Among her passengers were Mrs. Hood Daniel and her daughters, General Wilson Black, Capt. and Mrs. F. J. Hunter, Capt. J. E. McKenzie, and Mr. P. J. Browne. As the next general West Indian mail is not due until June 4th (three weeks after the last arrival) we are unable to give so much news from the Islands as usual, though we have received some letters by French mail and also *via* New York. Meanwhile the greatest apprehension is being felt in the Leeward Islands and St. Lucia at the cessation of the Northern Islands service of the R.M.S.P. Co., and the matter has been the subject of representations from St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua and St. Lucia. We are glad to be able to reassure those resident in and having dealings with those Colonies, it now appearing that there is every probability of satisfactory arrangements being completed for the conveyance of mails and passengers in the near future.

Gold Exports from British Guiana.

Gold amounting to 3865 ozs. 0 dwt. 16 grs., and valued at \$68,696.79 was entered at the Custom House for shipment by R.M.S. "Eden," on April 26th.

With regard to the controversy as to pot and patent stills, Mr. A. Summerson informs us that patent stills were used for making rum in British Guiana as far back as 1872, the still then generally used being known as "MacFarlane's patent still." The present "Coffey still" had been at work for fifteen years.

At a meeting of the Legislature on April 30th, the East Coast Sea Defence Bill was passed with only one dissentient. The sugar market was at a standstill, and the quotation of \$1.85 was merely nominal.

The weather was favourable. Good rains fell between May 2nd and 6th very generally, but the weather was again fine and bright.

The proposed Jamaica Agent.

The weather was exceptionally hot and sultry in Kingston when Mr. J. L. Ashenheim wrote on May 10th. This was unusual for the time of the year and it was hoped that it might point to the approach of the ordinary May seasons.

With regard to the suggested appointment of an agent to represent Jamaica in the Mother Country which had been the subject of a deputation from the Board of Agriculture to the Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham in his reply, while admitting that the Colony should be represented, expressed the opinion that such a representative should be provided by the Commercial Community and not by the Government.

The cassava starch factory at Longville, in Clarendon, was completed, and starch had already been produced. Mr. J. W. Middleton had been spending a couple of weeks at the factory. There were rumours of the establishment of a central factory by a Canadian capitalist at Montego Bay.

When the mail left, a meeting was about to be held at the Merchants' Exchange, at which Mr. Christopher Head was to explain his proposals for insurance against hurricanes.

The Cotton Crop in Nevis.

The Hon. C. Arthur Shand, writing from Nevis on May 8th, said that no little confusion was being caused by the vagaries of the mails, and the announcement that the Northern Islands Service was to be discontinued had given the finishing touch to the hopeless outlook. Nevis was indeed in a sorry plight with regard to the mails, and it was hoped that something would soon be done to establish a healthier state of affairs.

The dry weather had had a most adverse effect on the cotton crop, which was shrinking perceptibly with each successive return, and it looked very much as if the year's output would fall shorter than that of 1905, in spite of the fact that a largely increased area was planted. The planters, however, were not so discouraged as might be anticipated, and there would be no diminution in the sowings for 1907. Grateful showers had fallen during the past week, and vegetation had greatly improved. Sugar manufacture, owing to the rain, had come more or less to a standstill.

The Governor had intimated that Empire day was to be adequately celebrated throughout the Colony.

St. Kitts asks for Mail Facilities.

In his letter of May 9th, Mr. Chas. A. Smith reported that at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society at Basseterre a resolution was passed affirming that the stoppage of the Royal Mail service after May 22nd would cause most serious inconvenience and injury to the agricultural and commercial interests of the Presidency, and it was resolved that the Administrator be requested to communicate with the Colonial Office with a view to arrange with the R.M.S.P. Co. for the continuance of a regular service such as had been enjoyed for over sixty years.

Frequent, and in some parts, heavy showers had interfered with reaping during the past week, and it was feared that if they continued the cane juice must deteriorate.

Messrs. Pickford & Black had, by means of their two chartered steamers, cleared out their stock of cured sugars. Some sugars, however, had gone to the United Kingdom during the past few weeks.

Mr. Smith regretted to have to report the illness of the Hon. J. T. Manchester, one of the most energetic members. He was suffering from appendicitis, but it was hoped that he would recover without an operation.

Over 100 able-bodied males left during the fortnight for Panama, and a further contingent would leave in ten days' time by the R.M.S.P. Co.

St. Lucia prepared to pay for a Mail Service.

Much anxiety was being felt in St. Lucia when the Hon. E. DuBoulay wrote on May 9th, as to what was to happen with respect to future mail opportunities, and unless something were done immediately they would have to depend on the French mail for the conveyance of their letters. An official deputation had waited on the Administrator to urge that some action should be taken to ensure the continuance of mail facilities, and there was a strong feeling that if the R.M.S.P. Co. would be willing to continue the Islands service for a small subsidy from each Colony served, advantage should be taken of such an arrangement.

Crops were finishing with fair results. A few much needed showers had fallen.

The Trinidad Asphalt Ordinance.

At the last sitting of the Legislative Council in Trinidad of which we have reports, there was passed an "Ordinance to regulate the carrying on of the Asphalt Industry." In many varying drafts the "Asphalt Ordinance" has been before the Council since 1901. It was introduced with a view to putting an end to the constant litigation which resulted from the operations of rival diggers of land asphalt. In 1902 a Commission was sent out by the Colonial Office to collect evidence, and to investigate the whole question, and the present Ordinance may be considered as the outcome of the Commissioners' report. It provides for the appointment of an Inspector of Mines, under whose authority and control digging operations will be conducted, and by elaborate regulations aims at controlling the asphalt industry so as to allow the owner of pitch lands to win the asphalt on his own land without unduly depleting the lands of his neighbours, and at providing for the return to the

owner of asphalt, which, as a result of digging by his neighbour, may have passed on to that neighbour's land. The Pitch Lake is specially excepted from the operation of the Ordinance.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Cleanings and Reminiscences By Thomas Ellison. Liverpool: Henry Young & Sons. For the gift of this book to our library we have to thank Mr. C. M. Wostenholme. It consists of fifty-three chapters devoted to the writer's recollections of commercial life in Liverpool. The prosperity of Liverpool is wrapped up in cotton, and it is for this reason that the book will prove of unique interest to West Indian readers and more especially to those immediately connected with the revived cotton industry. On the very first page we are told how on June 3rd, 1757, there appeared in the *Liverpool Chronicle* an advertisement announcing that 28 bags of Jamaica cotton would be sold on Thursday, June 16th, at the Merchants' Coffee House, "in four lots." This is the first recorded mention of cotton in connection with Liverpool, though cotton probably arrived at Liverpool from the West Indies before that year. We shall hope to give some extracts from this interesting volume.

Some West Indian Securities.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The total receipts of this Company for 1905 from all sources show an increase over those of the previous year, those from passage money, freights, &c., amounting to £1,459,000, an increase of £263,000. The Court of Directors have added £35,000 to the Insurance Fund, making it £250,000. After charging £141,412 for depreciation (against £81,000 a year ago) there remains a balance of £17,076. The Court recommend a dividend of 5% (calculated from the dates for payment of the instalments) on the Preference Stock, the undivided original shares receiving an amount equivalent to that to which they would have been entitled in respect of the Preference portion of the capital had they been converted into stock. There will then remain £8,076 to be carried forward. The book value of the fleet works out at £13 12s. per ton, against £12 15s. a year ago. The policy of acquiring new steamers is being continued, and the "Amazon," 10,000 tons, sister ship to the "Aragon," is expected to sail for South America on June 15th, while the "Araguaya," a still larger ship, is expected to be delivered by the builders in September. Reference is made in the report to the Company having re-entered the Australian trade, and to the resumption of the services to the United States and Cuba.

Regarding the Mail Subsidy the Directors say:—"Notwithstanding the withdrawal of the West Indian mail subsidy on June 30th, the Company's Transatlantic steamers have continued to maintain a regular passenger service between the Mother Country and the principal West Indian Islands. The sum which is now being paid to the Company for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on this route is, in the opinion of the Court, wholly inadequate. In the absence of any arrangement with His Majesty's Government for connecting up all the various West Indian Islands with each other and with Great Britain a further revision of the itineraries of the West Indian Intercolonial services has been necessitated. The Court submitted a scheme to the Colonial Office whereby, for a moderate payment, all these Colonies would be regularly connected with the Company's Transatlantic steamers at Barbados or Trinidad in a manner which it is believed would be satisfactory to the Colonies: but as yet no decision has been announced."

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

In moving the adoption of the report at the 58th meeting on May 24th Mr. Walter D. Mansford, Chairman, said receipts showed an increase of £1,080 as compared with those for the corresponding period of the previous year. The board recommended the payment of 4s. per share on the first preference shares, being 2s. balance of arrears to June 30th last, and 2s. on account of dividend to December 31st last. There would then remain £1,042 to be carried forward. The directors had been strengthened by the election of Sir John C. Lamb, whose ability and long experience at the Post Office, and whose intimate knowledge of telegraphic affairs would be of great advantage to them. He then dealt at length with proposals submitted by the directors a year ago to the Colonial Office with reference to extending the cable system in the West Indies. The scheme put forward by them, if carried, would have involved the granting of an Imperial subsidy, but as, under the new national defence scheme, the late Government decided to withdraw the white infantry from the West Indies, and to discontinue the maintenance of St. Lucia as a naval station, the directors were informed that their proposal could not be entertained. The Colonial Office also informed the West India Committee to the same effect, adding that the Colonies must meet out of their own resources the cost of any improved telegraphic service. At the request of the West India Committee, the board subsequently submitted proposals to them for strengthening the West India cable communications. He explained in detail what these proposals were, and complained of the way in which the company had been treated by that committee. In spite of the letter from the Colonial Office of March 24th, 1905, in which the directors were informed that this company's proposal could not be accepted, because it involved a grant from the Imperial funds, it recently came to their knowledge that the Colonial Office were considering the question of entering into an arrangement with the Direct West India Cable Company to lay cables from Bermudas to Demerara, by way of Barbados and Trinidad, with a view to securing an all-British communication and lower rates. He need hardly point out how very injurious to the interests of this company the carrying out of such a project would be. It would not only have the effect of withdrawing some of their business, but it would also inevitably lead to the diversion of subsidies. In view of the serious position of affairs the board at once communicated, not only with the Colonial Office, but also with the Treasury, the War Office, the Post Office, and the Cable Landing and Rights Committee. They had done, and were still doing, everything in their power to resist the unjust attacks which were being made on this old-established company, which had now continuously carried out its work in the West Indies for thirty-six years. They had done their utmost to

keep the system in efficient working order, and, as a matter of fact, there was no interruption of communication throughout the whole of it at the present time. Mr. Henry Holmes seconded the motion, which, after a short discussion, was unanimously agreed to.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), May 24th. "Rain much wanted, crops suffering."
British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), May 22th. "Weather favourable for cultivation."
Trinidad (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), May 25th. "Fine, with occasional light showers."
Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended May 16th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "10th to 13th, fine, 14th to 15th, rainy." **KINGSTON**: "fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall)
 May 31st:—Mrs. E. Trimmingham, Miss Trimmingham, Mr. W. E. McClelland, Rev. J. T. Tunstall, Mrs. Tunstall, Mr. and Mrs. Edson Wilson, Mr. J. T. Lewin, Mr. E. Morgan, Mr. R. Charles, Mr. J. Harding, Mr. J. Burgoyne, Mr. H. Grierson, Mr. R. Monkman, Mr. Dudley C. da Costa, Mr. M. Graillet, Mme. Graillet, Mr. H. Payne, Dr. J. S. Ireland, Mr. H. S. Howard, Mr. and Miss Rodolfo, Mr. H. Neverman, Mr. and Mrs. G. Camacho, Mr. and Mrs. P. Maldonado, Mr. L. Salazar, Miss C. Salazar, Mr. and Mrs. C. Olden, Sergt. and Mrs. Truman, Mr. P. Papworth, Mr. S. W. Burridge, Mr. N. Coombs.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" Capt. W. R. Rowe.
 May 25th.—**Jamaica**:—Gen. and Mrs. Wilson Black, Mr. P. J. Browne, Mrs. H. and two Misses Flood-Daniel, Miss Pullerton, Mrs. Galloway, Capt. and Mrs. J. J. Hunter, Mr. T. N. Hugo, Mr. A. S. Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Harrell, Mrs. O. Jaanen, Mr. A. O. R. King, Mrs. and Miss Knox, Capt. J. K. McKenzie, Mr. J. Mercer, Miss Frances Muirhead, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. de Pass, Mr. E. E. Simpson, Mrs. G. G. Taylor, Miss E. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer, Mr. F. J. Pousset, Mr. W. H. Shaw.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Part of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
May 31	Demerara	Liverpool	James Nourse Ltd	"Ganges"	May 30, 6 p.m.
May 31	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted)	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"La Plata"	" 30, mid'n.
June 2	Jamaica	Avonmouth	L. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Henderson"	June 1, 6 p.m.
" 7	Barbados (for Demerara and W. I. Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Chancellor"	" 6, 6 p.m.
" 9	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Sunston"	" 8, noon.
" 14	The W. Indies (Northern Islands excepted)	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Trent"	" 13, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Part of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
June 1	The W. Indies	London	Direct Line	"Statia"
" 4	The W. Indies	Southampton	R. M. S. P. Co.	"Trent"
" 6	Jamaica	Avonmouth	L. D. W. I. M. S.	"Port Royal"

* Letters should be marked per S.S. "Ganges" and via Wallasey Dock, Birkenhead

Exports from British Guiana, Jamaica and Grenada.

British Guiana.	Sugar, tons.	Cocoa, lbs.	Rum, puns.	Molasses, casks.	Coconuts, casks.	Cattle Food, tons.	Gold, lbs.	Diamonds, carats.
Jan. 1 to May 8, '06	28,844	3300	7474	1302	24,338	2905	31,097	564
" " 2, '05	23,027	1950	4844	1052	221,280	2727	32,862	2374
Jamaica.			Rum, puns.	Coffee, casks.	Pimento, cwts.		Bananas, bunches.	Oranges, boxes.
Apr. 1 to Apr 28, '06	1717	4002	188,027	3809	644,755	7351	1,198,263	3,141,500
" " 29, '05	2291	3269	184,633	1922	303,850	4198	1,370,222	791,250
Grenada.			Cotton, bales.	Cotton Seed, bags.	SPICE.			
Oct. 1 to May 9, '06	—	12,856	862	4909	brk.	½ brk.	cashew.	bags.
" " 9, '05	—	51,779	791	3749	2823	373	215	112
					3174	407	303	153

Cuba and the Brussels Convention.

The effect of the proposed abrogation of the Brussels Convention as the result of the attitude of the present British Government, is being seriously considered in Cuba. The *Economist* of Havana in a leading article on the subject, points out the disastrous effect of the restoration of the state of things on all the cane sugar countries. Speaking of Cuba it urges the preparation "of all the necessary preliminaries for the future reciprocity treaty with the United States, whose market is the most important and most needed for the outlet of our products of all sorts, and will be much more needed by us, if the European sugar-producing countries should establish their former system of granting bounties." Cuba recognises how absolutely the British market will be handed over to Continental beet producers in the event of the Convention not being renewed, and the steps which were being taken to reduce the import duties in that country before the attitude of the British Government to the Convention was known, in order that Cuba might come into line with it, will be given up in favour of a further United States reciprocity treaty.

A Prosperous Banana Company.

The *Manchester Courier*, in a series of articles on Northern Industries, gave, on June 19th, an account of Elders & Fyffes, Ltd. Dealing with the circumstances which gave rise to the establishment of this firm, the *Courier* states that Mr. Chamberlain approached Sir Alfred Jones, of the Elder, Dempster & Co., persuading him to build and equip a special line of fast passenger mail steamers to ply between Bristol and Jamaica, and to bring bananas in bulk from the Colony to England. Sir Alfred spent half a million of money in inaugurating this service to the West Indies. The fleet, which originally consisted of four steamers—the "Port Royal," the "Port Antonio," the "Port Morant," and the "Port Maria"—is now increased to six by the addition of two much larger boats—the "Port Kingston" and the "Port Henderson. All are running and giving the completest satisfaction to everyone concerned. The inauguration of this service between the West Indies and England, however, seemed at first glance to be fraught with danger to the Canary Islands banana traffic, and the principal firms trading in the Canaries amalgamated together for the protection of their industry. This resulted in the formation of the firm of Elders and Fyffes in 1901, the combination being between the fruit-carrying department of Elder, Dempster & Co., and Fyffe, Hudson & Co., Ltd. Sir Alfred Jones was the first, and is the present, Chairman of the company. While the other Directors are Mr. A. H. Stockley, Mr. A. R. Ackerley, Mr. R. Atcherly, Mr. E. C. Barker, Mr. H. Wolfson, and Mr. I. M. Leacock. The company is a private one, and is capitalised at £450,000. Elders & Fyffes have now thirteen large steamers devoted entirely to the banana trade in the West Indies and Central America.

Rubber Contracts.

The following agreement respecting draft on all kinds of rubber has been signed by all the principal importers, merchants, &c., in London and Liverpool, and comes into force on and after July 1st, 1906:—

That in all contracts made by us or on our behalf, on or after July 1st, 1906, the draft upon all classes of rubber (excluding Balata and allied gums) shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ % (one-half per cent.) taken upon the gross sterling amount, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ % discount to be allowed on the sterling amount left after deduction of such draft. For instance:—

Total gross	5,440 lbs.				
" tare	969 "				
" nett	4,471 "	at	...	...	...
$\frac{1}{2}$ % draft on	...	...	...	1,155	0 2
					£ s. d.
					1,155 0 2
					5 15 6
					1,149 4 8
$2\frac{1}{2}$ % discount on	...	...	...	1,149	4 8
					28 14 7
					£1,120 10 1

This is to form an additional rule to the rubber contract rules as agreed by the London merchants and brokers and the Liverpool representatives on April 18th, 1901.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/April, 8 months.

	1905/6	1904/5.	1903/4.
Convention Europe	2,761,000	2,488,000	2,782,000 Tons

The movements of sugar under this head, as compared with last season, are in a measure satisfactory, but not so as regards 1903/4. Prices have been low enough, in all conscience, but they have failed to stimulate Consumption to any appreciable extent.

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st May, even dates.

	1906.	1905	1904.
Known world	3,500,000	2,570,000	3,030,000 Tons

The visible supply looms large, but considering the increase in the production this season compared with the previous one, it is satisfactory to find the figures are not worse. There can be little doubt but that the disturbed state of Russia has limited her exports and that statistical Europe has been drawn upon for supplies hitherto satisfied by that country. This seems a probable solution of the fact that more sugar is not still in sight.

F. O. Licht's Estimates of Beet Crops.

	1905/6.	1904/5	1903/4.
All Europe	6,970,000	4,700,000	6,880,000 Tons

The sowings of the next beet crop are now completed and the fields are said to present a good appearance, so that with favourable weather from now onwards a full crop may be expected, but scarcely equal in weight to that of the present phenomenal one. Although no reliable figures can now, or indeed at any future time, be given as to the exact quantity of land put under cultivation for the crop, the consensus of opinion favours some reduction, whilst indifferent weather, which is of more importance, may reduce the total output to something worth having. Looking at the general position of sugar, nothing less than 1,000,000 tons reduction in the coming European crops will suffice to lift prices out of the present low and unsatisfactory range to which they have fallen. This may well take place, but the effect of it cannot be realised until the crop is started next October, and in the meantime we can only deal with sugar as it now stands, and speculators who cause the rises have no heart to anticipate the uncertain future.

The closing quotations of 88% beet are—May, 7s. 11½d.; August, 8s. 2d.; October/December, 8s. 4½d., and May, 1907, 8s. 8½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Europe	2,840,000	1,990,000	2,540,000	2,520,000	2,630,000 Tons.
United States	300,000	270,000	200,000	280,000	140,000 ..
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	330,000	380,000	230,000	380,000	450,000 ..
Total	3,530,000	2,640,000	2,970,000	3,180,000	3,220,000 ..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 29th May:—	7s. 11½d.	11s. 11½d.	9s. 4½d.	8s. 2½d.	8s. 2d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The depressed and weak condition of the beet market has not been without its natural effect on yellow crystallised, and also fortnight's volume of business is more or less circumscribed, prices tending in buyers' favour. The value of average qualities now barely reaches 14s. 6d., which is the price quoted for "imitations." In grey crystals to Refiners, business has recently been done at 9s. 1½d. on floating terms for 96 test.

Molasses Sugar is fairly steady at 10s. 6d. for dark, up to 14s. 6d. for fine grocery. On floating terms 89 test is worth about 7s. 3d. to Refiners.

Muscovado.—Small transactions occur from time to time at 13s. up to 15s. for fair to fine grocery, but the business is of a retail character. In 50 test to Refiners a good business has again been done at 7s. 10½d., and since, at 7s. 9d. on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Imports	28,000	20,000	22,000	9000	26,000 Tons.
Deliveries	17,000	14,000	19,000	17,000	18,000 ..
Stocks	21,000	16,000	16,000	21,000	20,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ...	14s. 6d.	18s. 6d.	16s. 8d.	15s. 0d.	14s. 0d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	6000	8000	8400	9500
Demarara	9600	5800	—	9500
Total of all kinds	21,800	11,700	11,500	9100

Further business has been done in Demarara, chiefly at 9½d. to 10d., and the former is the value of fair rum. There is still a considerable quantity on hand for sale. Jamaica is steady at 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards are quoted at 8d. to 1s.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Trinidad	10,800	15,200	23,400	19,500
Grenada	7600	13,700	19,800	14,300
Total of all kinds	16,000	27,000	37,000	31,800

Supplies of British West India are much reduced, as will be seen by the figures printed above. The market is firm and prices have a hardening tendency. The present quotations are Trinidad fair collected, 36s.; Estate Marks, 56s. to 64s.; Grenada fair, 51s., and fermented 54s. to 56s. From other Islands, fair Native is worth 50s., and fermented 53s. to 55s.

Coffee.—Easier. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 40s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. The latest sales of West India include 8½'s at 9d., 9½'s at 1½d., 10's at 7½d., and 11's at 7d.

Mace.—Small lots of fair red sold at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 3d. **Ginger.**—Firm. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 58s. to 65s. **Pimento.**—About steady. Value of fair, 2½d. to 3½d.

Arrowroot.—Quiet. Prices unchanged.

Lime Juice.—Unaltered; value, 1½d. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, firmer, up to £60 15s. Hand Pressed, no change at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. Distilled Oil, steady, at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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IN perusing the old records of West Indian imports into the United Kingdom, it is impossible to avoid being struck by the change which has taken place in the nature and quantities of the agricultural products exported from the several possessions. This is especially noticeable in the case of what is now British Guiana. In the year 1800, from Demerara—and at that period the term was applied entirely to the county of that name—the shipments of sugar, cotton and coffee respectively were 3827 Hhds., 8673 lbs. and 52,657 bags, and in the following year had mounted up to 8696 tons, 8640 lbs. and 62,487 bags. It is to the large amount of coffee shipped that we especially wish to call attention. Berbice, which at that time was temporarily held by the British, was celebrated for its coffee even in those days. The solid fact is that coffee was an important, the most important item of cultivation of the Colony of Demerara in the years quoted, and that now, a century later, it has practically ceased to appear on the list of exports. Looking back at the early history of the Colonies, afterwards to be united under the name of British Guiana, it will be found that the bulk of the early cultivation was on the river banks, at some distance from the seashore, a position chosen partly on account of the natural drainage and partly to be out of the way of casual pirates and buccaneers. It was only when the alluvial front lands were "empoldered" that sugar was grown to any extent. This now brings us to an important question—Why has the coffee industry been given up? It cannot possibly be because coffee cannot be cultivated successfully in British Guiana. A country which has once produced an agricultural product can do so again, and we think the time has arrived when cultivations other than that of sugar should be more seriously taken into consideration. There is no doubt that economic considerations at the time played a considerable part of the dropping of other industries for sugar. The easy cultivation and quick returns of the latter, together with the relatively high price, no doubt had much to do with its substitution in the first instance, and the abolition of slavery and consequent introduction of the coolie immigration, a class of labour especially suited to the growth of the sugar cane where systematic and constant labour is involved, committed the planters further to the cultivation of sugar. The result is that at the present day British Guiana is looked upon as being essentially a sugar Colony, so far as agriculture is concerned, and as such will always be especially subject to the vicissitudes which are inseparable from a single industry especially that of sugar. We quite admit that sugar must necessarily play a dominant part in this Colony; but would it not be wise to put into serious practice the re-introduction of cotton and coffee? We know that sporadic efforts have been made from time to time by small capitalists to take up these cultivations, but these attempts have been made principally on the

site of old and abandoned cultivation; for instance on No. 1 canal on the Demerara river, where the old drainage has been allowed to lapse and a new empolder scheme rendered necessary by the complete change in the condition of the surrounding country by the Boerasirie water conservation proved to be worse than a failure. This by no means proves that the days of coffee and cotton cannot come again. Times are changed. The value of agriculture other than that of sugar is being recognised fully in the West Indies. The prosperous Colonies are those which have not all their eggs in one basket. British Guiana has an organised department of agriculture of its own, under able directorate, and we strongly urge that some systematic efforts be made to revive the old industries. Cotton we know has been declared a failure, but we are loath to believe that seriously supported endeavours would bear this out. We much fear that sugar has so dominated thought as to lead to the impression that nothing else is practicable in the way of cultivation. From the large amount of capital invested in the industry, from its firm status and especial suitability to the front lands, sugar will continue to hold a first position, but this position can and should be strengthened by the resuscitation of industries for which the Colony was celebrated. The sturdy Dutch Founders were agriculturists of the first water, and it cannot be wrong to revive the agricultural industries for which they found the Colony so adapted, and we sincerely trust in the near future to see coffee and cotton again figuring largely in the Colony's exports.

THOUGH perhaps it would be going too far to say that the Battle of the Bounties was won on the West Indian playing fields, it is certain that the love of manly sports, such as cricket, golf and polo, has contributed towards securing that resiliency of spirit which has enabled West Indians to come up smiling after so many years of depression. Anything therefore which tends to foster this feeling is deserving of the warmest support and encouragement. The second representative West Indian Cricket team to visit this country arrived at Southampton on June 3rd. We bid them a most hearty welcome and give utterance to the hope, which all our readers will endorse, that their tour will be successful in every respect. When the team comes to test conclusions with our first class counties it will be time enough to criticise it individually as well as collectively. Meanwhile it is sufficient to say that judging by the names of Mr. H. B. Gardiner Custin's men, they should prove a more formidable combination than that which visited us in 1902, *dace* Warner and *auspice*, as on the present occasion, the West Indian Club. On Saturday, June 9th, the team will be entertained to dinner at the Imperial Restaurant by the Club, and the first match is to take place at the Crystal Palace on Monday, June 11th, against London County. We hope that many of our West Indian friends will gather together on this auspicious occasion to cheer on their representatives. We are glad to be able to announce that we have made arrangements with a well known cricketer to supply us with a series of articles regarding the tour, which will, we hope, appear every week in the *West India Committee Circular*, which will also contain a complete record of each match.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, May 31st, the following were elected members of the West India Committee.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
THOMAS E. PETERS.	C. ALGERNON CAMPBELL.	SPENCER H. CURTIS.
COLONEL A. R. LOSCOMBE.	SIR AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING, S.C.M.G.	SPENCER H. CURTIS.
CARTER REV.	DR. G. B. MASON.	SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.
LASCELLES DE MERCADO & Co. (Trinidad).	SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK (K.C.M.G.).	CYRIL GURNEY.
ANDREW BARGRAY, Sons & Co., Ltd.	GEORGE CHRISTALL.	SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.

Full particulars regarding membership, and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane London, E.C.

Lord Milner.

The address to Lord Milner, expressing appreciation of his services in Africa, can be signed at the West India Committee Rooms, or any reader who finds a difficulty in personally signing may have his signature appended upon sending his name, address, and profession or occupation—and authorising, in writing, such signature—to the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Ramsgate Harbour.

At the present day it is not the custom to associate Ramsgate with a specially busy harbour, but it is evident that a century or more ago this now happy watering place was utilised by a considerable amount of shipping, as a harbour of refuge in bad weather in the Downs. In fact, when the receipts are looked upon in relation to the amount paid per ton for dues, it would appear as though a very large amount of merchantmen must have laid there from time to time. The harbour was constructed by Smeaton, between the years 1780-95. In the minutes of the meeting of June 15th, 1802, but a few years after the completion of the harbour, Mr. Beeston Long—

“Reported that he had inspected the Accounts of the Trustees of Ramsgate Harbour, from June, 1800, to 1801, by which it appeared that the Revenue from Tonnage of Ships, Coals, amounted to

Dividends	£12,133 13 11
Rent of Dock, Storehouses	2,625 0 0
	1,047 16 2
	<hr/>
	£15,806 10 1
	<hr/>
Expenses of Works	£11,105 10 11
Salaries, Incidental Expenses, etc.	4,099 10 1
Balance	601 9 1
	<hr/>
	£15,806 10 1

Tonnage on West India Shipping, from 1st January, 1790, to 1st January, 1791 :—

On Ships under 300 Tons @ 6d.	£1,144 0 6
“ above .. @ 2d.	735 3 10
	<hr/>
	£1,879 4 4
	<hr/>
From January, 1800, to January 1801 :—	
Under 300 Tons @ 3d.	£938 9 6
Above 300 Tons @ 1d.	627 14 10
	<hr/>
	1,566 4 4
Shipping from Captured Islands	515 10 7
	<hr/>
Tonnage Duty on British West India Shipping	£1,050 13 9

We do not gather from the minutes any further information as to the relationship of the West India Committee to the Ramsgate Harbour Authorities, but the fact of Mr. Long's reporting as to the financial position to the Committee shows that the latter had some official position in relation thereto.

Machines for Megass Drying.

The *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of May 30th, describes an apparatus for drying wet megass by the waste heat of the furnace flues invented by M. Huillard. The megass is removed by a carrier to the upper storey of a tower, divided into chambers by horizontal perforated plates, with special arrangements in an axial centre for the distribution and passing downwards of the megass, which ultimately falls into wagons at the base of the tower. Hot air from the furnace flues is made to travel upwards and is drawn out by special arrangements after having done its work. Each chamber is practically sealed save for the perforations in the dividing plates. Diffusion megass, after crushing in a three roller mill containing 78.80 per cent. water, is discharged from the drier with only 30.35 per cent. An apparatus evaporating 100 tons of water in twenty-four hours is run on an expenditure of fifty to fifty-five horse power. This would appear to be an admirable appliance for drying megass on a large scale for molasscut purposes.

Sugar in Queensland.

We are indebted to the *Mackay Daily Mercury* for the following figures of the working of non-Government factories in Queensland for the year 1905:—

	Marian North.	Eton.	Plane Creek.	Rarecourse.
Tons of cane crushed	38,337	28,668	40,075	31,135
„ sugar made	4,651	3,517	5,128	3,370
Cost of cane per ton	14/3½d.	14/1½d.	15/2½d.	15/1d.
Tons canes per ton sugar	8.24	8.15	7.81	9.24
Cost of sugar per ton, exclusive of interest and maintenance	£7 os. 11½d.	£8 12s. 11d.	£7 7s. 0d.	£9 2s. 9d.
Nett profit	£11,700	£7,742	£9,842	£5,048

In commenting upon the above, the *Mercury* says: "If the price was about 35s. per ton of sugar higher than in 1903, this was in no way due to the alteration in the Federal laws, but to the reduction in the European output of beet, which, by its reduction, eased the markets of the world and consequently staved off from Australia that competition which from time to time brings down the price to the refiners, and consequently the bonus paid by the latter to the manufacturers of raw sugar."

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The sixty-seventh annual meeting of this Company was held on Wednesday, May 30th, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., presiding.

The Chairman said that he was pleased to be again able to report that there had been an improvement in the Company's position, and the accounts now presented showed that the business had been steadily expanding. During the past year the receipts had increased by no less than £250,000, the total receipts being nearly £1,500,000. The working expenses had also been larger, owing to the greater number of voyages completed during the twelve months, but the gross profit was in excess of what it had been for several years. Out of the profit of the year proper provision had been made for depreciation of the fleet. He wished to remind the proprietors that the fleet still stood in the books at a figure considerably above its market value, but, by continuing the present policy, he hoped they would gradually write it down to its proper value without calling upon them to make a sacrifice of any portion of their capital. They now had forty-two vessels, a total gross tonnage of over 165,000 tons.

After referring to their South American route, the Chairman went on to say that as the proprietors were aware, the West Indian mail contract, which this Company had held from the British Government for over sixty years, terminated on June 30th last, and was not renewed. They continued to carry on the service unaltered for a time, so as to give their friends and supporters in the West Indian Colonies time to make fresh arrangements, but, as negotiations were not renewed for the mail contract, the Board decided to re-arrange the route on a commercial basis and make the terminus at New York. The extension of the voyage of their Transatlantic steamships to New York had been going on for only seven months, so it was too early yet to express a final opinion on the results obtained, but, as was anticipated, the route was proving to be much more of a commercial route than the old contract route, and if the British and Colonial Governments could see their way to pay the Company a reasonable poundage rate for carrying His Majesty's West Indian Mails across the Atlantic, he hoped and believed that it would be possible to carry on this main line portion of their West Indian service without a Mail contract, and thus make the important Colonies of Barbados, Trinidad, and Jamaica quite independent of the necessity of any Mail contract. Their inter-Colonial branch services, which for over sixty years had connected Demerara and the smaller West Indian Colonies with their Transatlantic steamers at Barbados or Trinidad, were upon an entirely different footing to the main line service, and there did not appear to be any prospect of the amount of trade between these Colonies ever being sufficient to support inter-Colonial passenger steamboats without Government assistance. These inter-Colonial passenger steamboats might, he thought, be fairly made the subject of local contracts in the same way as other local services which the Company had carried on for many years, and were still carrying on, in the West Indies. Since the termination of the Mail contract the Company carried on the inter-Colonial passenger service with two passenger steamboats till they found that the expenses were such that they did not feel justified in running them any longer without Government assistance, and, at the present moment, they had only one such steamboat running. Before reducing the inter-Colonial service, the Board laid all the facts before the Colonial Secretary, and submitted a scheme, on March 21st last, whereby for a moderate payment all the West Indian Colonies could be regularly connected with the Company's Transatlantic steamships at Barbados or Trinidad. As yet no decision had been announced by the

Government, and, whatever might be the outcome, he thought it would be agreed that the Directors had done their utmost to uphold the best traditions of this great Company, and that they had dealt with these difficult Colonial problems in a broad Imperial spirit.

The attacks made upon their trade in the West Indies had the effect of impressing the Board with the importance of having a wider field of operation, and they took advantage of an opportunity which presented itself of re-entering the Australian trade after an absence of nearly half a century. He would like to remark that, while he was aware that the King always took the deepest interest in everything that affected the welfare of British shipping, still, having regard to the great encouragement which foreign Governments were giving to their great steamship lines, he thought it was a question worthy of serious consideration, for all who had the welfare of this country at heart, whether British Governments did all in their power, or whether they should not do more to help the shipping companies in the commercial battles that they were waging with other countries—to help them so that they might again come to the assistance of the Empire in times of great Imperial troubles, as they had done in the past. (Hear, hear). He concluded by moving the adoption of the report. Sir James Fergusson seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously, and the proposed preference dividend of 5 per cent. was also approved.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

An Acceptable Concession.

Mr. Sydney Buxton announced on May 30th. that next year the postage rate of letters for any part of the British Empire would be 1d. for 1 oz. instead of for $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., as at present.

Colonial Interests in Parliament.

A Colonial Committee of Members of Parliament has been formed to safeguard and defend South African interests and to arrange for adequate and informative debates on all Colonial questions. Amongst those who have joined the Committee, of which Sir Gilbert Parker and Lord Helmsley are Chairman and Hon. Secretary respectively, are Lord Castlereagh, Lord Robert Cecil, Lord J. Joicey-Cecil, Lord Dalrymple, Lord Morpeth, Lord Turnour, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Mr. Hicks Beach, Mr. Gervase Beckett, Mr. Hay, Mr. Arthur Stanley, Sir William Bull, Sir W. Evans-Gordon, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Arkwright, Mr. Ashley, Capt. Balfour, Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Fell, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Hambro, Capt. Hervey, Mr. Stawley Hill, Mr. J. W. Hills, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. J. F. Mason, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Pike Pease, Mr. Rennant, Mr. F. E. Smith, and Mr. Stanley Wilson.

Consular Report.

How Bananas are Bought in the Canaries.

In the early months of 1905, owing to the keen competition among exporters, banana farmers in the Canaries obtained prices considerably above the actual market prices in the United Kingdom. In May, however, one of the largest houses doing business in the fruit introduced a new system of receiving and buying.

Contrary to expectations, the West Indian banana seems to have depreciated the larger sized bunches. It was always thought (and reasonably so) that the smaller Canary bunches would suffer through the importation of the West Indian fruit, and on that expectation growers were constantly advised to exercise the greatest care in cultivation with a view to producing a greater percentage of larger bunches. The unexpected depreciation of the larger bunches has made it necessary to re-organise the whole system of buying bananas in these Islands. The method in vogue hitherto was to pay for bunches according to the number of "hands" they contained. In view of results it would seem that this system has been entirely wrong. Bunches of bananas vary considerably, not only in size, but also in their development, hence two bunches, although containing equal number of hands, need not necessarily represent the same value, as one might be poorly developed and the other well developed and consequently of larger size. The result is that the buyer in the United Kingdom pays more for the better bunch, whereas in these Islands they are bought for the same money. The injustice of that system is apparent. Farmers who cultivated with care could not obtain better prices than those who merely watered their land and cut their fruit. It is well known that the Canary banana cannot be shipped to the United Kingdom naked, but that it must be packed very carefully in crates. Therefore the buyer in the United Kingdom will judge by the size of the crate and apparent weight of the fruit. The new system, referred to above as having been introduced, consists simply in paying the farmer according to the quality of his fruit and without reference to the number of "hands" contained in each bunch. The introduction of this new system met with great opposition, fostered by the

competitive firms, and it appeared as if the bold departure would leave the innovators without any fruit. This took place in the month of May, and the outcry against it was that it would leave the farmer in the dark as to the yield of his plantations, which would appear natural enough considering that the system was quite new to him. In addition to the new system, the firm referred to adopted a method of paying for the fruit in accordance with the prices obtained in the British markets, which, of course, entailed constant change of prices here. Previously the price was a fixed one, contracted for a certain number of months or even years. As already referred to above, the West Indian banana has depreciated the prices of the higher sized bunches, and therefore the buying of fruit had to be modified accordingly. The banana industry now seems to have entered into the phase of an ordinary business, with all its risks, and, contrary to predictions, it does not look as if it would disappear.

Letter to the Editor.

A Question of Grammar.

THE EDITOR.—THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I observe that the volcano in Martinique is very generally referred to in the Press as Mont Pelée. Is this correct? Should it not be Mont Pelé?

June 1st, 1906.

Yours Obediently,
CONSTANT READER.

[The word Mont being masculine, Mont Pelé is undoubtedly the correct appellation of the Mountain. This is the title given to it in the eighteenth century maps of Martinique. In France and in the Island itself it is always known as La Montagne Pelée, which is, of course, equally accurate. We can find no authority for "Mont Pelée." The adjective must, of course, agree with the noun. Thus we talk of Mont Blanc and not Mont Blanche.—ED.]

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Wed., May 30th.—Major E. Leder's "Spearmint" won the Derby.—Mr. Michael Davitt died.—General Meeting of the R.M.S.P. Co.—88 per cent. Best steadier, 7s. 11½d.
Thurs., May 31st.—Wedding of King Alfonso and Princess Ena.—Attempted assassination by an anarchist of the Bride and Bridegroom on their way from church.—Best steady, 8s. ½d.
Fri., June 1st.—Lord Derby's "Keystone II." won the Oaks.—Best steady, 8s.
Sat., June 2nd.—The captured perpetrator of the Madrid outrage destroyed himself.
Sun., June 3rd.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent" arrived at Southampton.
Mon., June 4th.—News of more serious fighting in Zululand.
Tues., June 5th.—Mr. Ellis W. Davies (R) returned to Parliament unopposed for Carnarvon South.—Best 8s. 0½d. quiet.
Wed., June 6th.—The R.M.S.P. Co. and the West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., Exhibit opened at the Show of Colonial Fruit at the Horticultural Hall.

The West Indian Cricketers.

The West Indian Cricket Team arrived at Southampton on Sunday night, June 3rd, and proceeded next morning to London, where they are now staying at the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate Street. Their names are: H. B. Gardiner Austin, O. H. Lane, C. P. Cumberbatch, A. E. Harragin, J. R. Parker, L. Constantine, Sydney Smith, P. A. Goodman, G. C. Leatmond, C. F. Morrison, G. Challenor, C. K. Bancroft, R. Ollivierre, and Burton. During the voyage the team selected their officers. Mr. H. B. Gardiner Austin was unanimously elected Captain, and Mr. P. A. Goodman Vice-Captain, and it was decided that these two officers, with Mr. A. E. Harragin, should form the selection committee to choose the side for each match. The team will be entertained to dinner at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, by the West Indian Club, on Saturday, June 9th, at 7 for 7.30 p.m. The first match will be begun on Monday, the 11th inst., at the Crystal Palace, against London County.

The Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

The sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, is to be held at the Grocers' Hall on July 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th next. The principal West Indian Colonies will be represented on this occasion: Jamaica, by Mr. William Gillespie (Mr. H. A. de Pass, who was

also selected, will be unable to attend); Barbados, by Mr. J. R. Bancroft and Mr. Robert Rutherford; British Guiana, by Sir Henry K. Davson; and Trinidad, by Mr. Gordon Gordon, the Hon. George Goodwill and Mr. L. J. Bernstein. Among the matters concerning the West Indies which are on the programme for discussion is a resolution which will be moved by Sir Henry Davson regarding the rum surtax. There is also a resolution brought forward by the Montreal Board of Trade calling on the Government to devise means whereby cable and telegraph news to and from all parts of the Empire shall be furnished entirely through Imperial channels. It is understood that this resolution will be cordially supported by the West Indian delegates.

The Death of Sir Charles Tennant.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Sir Charles Tennant, which took place on Monday, June 4th, at his residence, Broadoaks, Ryfleet. It will be remembered that we gave a portrait of this distinguished politician, who was a member of the West India Committee, in our issue of December 8th last. To his relatives we extend our most sincere sympathy.

The Homeward Mail.

Since we last went to Press we have received letters by various opportunities, including the Direct Line steamship "Crown of Navarre." The R.M.S.P. "Trent" arrived at Southampton late in the evening of June 3rd, having on board our respected deputy-chairman, Sir Henry K. Davson, who is, we are glad to say, in the best of health, the members of the West Indian Cricket Team, and Mrs. W. S. Robertson, Mr. Ivan Davson, Mrs. D. S. de Freitas, the Hon. Lady Bromley, Hon. K. DuBoulay, Mrs. C. J. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. C. de Lemos, Mr. and Mrs. A. Boveil, and Capt. W. H. Owen, R.N.R. Owing to the short time available, we have been compelled to condense the extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents, to whom we express apologies for doing so.

Antigua calls for a Mail Service.

Writing on May 18th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner gave the full text of a resolution passed at a special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, appealing to the Secretary of State to secure a continuance of the mail service with the least possible delay.

Sir Bickham Sweet Escott, in his opening address to the Legislative Council on May 8th, urged the necessity of balancing the Budget. On May 10th an Ordinance was passed to regulate emigration by requiring agents to be licensed and to conform to the rules made by the Governor.

Messrs. Henckell, DuBuisson and Co. have sent one of their managers to Louisiana to study labour saving appliances.

The weather was showery and unsettled, and the young crop looked very well. No sugar was being sold locally. Molasses remained at 18 cents., puncheon included.

The Continued Drought in Barbados.

The drought was still continuing in Barbados on May 12th, and though the sky had clouded up day after day they dispersed again without any appreciable fall of rain. The condition of the young crop was consequently a source of anxiety. Several more cane fires had occurred. The price of sugar was \$1.40 for Muscovado, \$1.85 for crystals, and 17 cents. per gallon for syrups. The *Agricultural Reporter* states that Jackman's estate had been sold by private treaty and that it was rumoured that it was to be 'split up' among present proprietors. Bawdens and River, which were bought out of Chancery a year ago, were offered for sale again.

An important Cotton Conference was held on May 4th under the auspices of the Agricultural Society, and Sir Daniel Morris delivered an address regarding the history and present requirements of the industry.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. H. J. Inniss, Secretary to the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society, which took place on May 10th at Hastings.

General Caulfield, the Officer commanding the troops in the West Indies, arrived in the Island on May 5th. On May 1st the Bill to extend the provisions of the Plantation in Aid Act for the period of a year was passed by the Legislative Council.

It was hoped, wrote the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne on May 20th, that now that Sir Frederic Hodgson and Sir Henry Jackson were in England, progress would be made in settling the cable question and also that of mail communication. The smaller Islands seemed at last aroused to their

danger, while Demerara has spoken out in a way which the Colonial Office can not possibly ignore. In Barbados, a Committee consisting of the Hon. W. K. Chandler and writer representing the Legislative Council, and Messrs. C. P. Clarke, H. G. Yearwood, W. H. Stoker, J. W. C. Catford, J. C. Lynch, and E. C. Jackman, representing the House of Assembly, was appointed to consider details, but there was no doubt that the Island was willing to revert to its old grant of £4000 per annum for a regular mail service.

Up to the date of writing, there was no material change in the weather. A few very light showers had fallen, but on those estates which had secured as much as an inch for a month to date, it had been made up of tiny items. The drought, therefore, was as severe as ever, and every day added to its ill effects. Crops were closing rapidly, and it became an anxious matter how to feed the stock. The cane tops were hardly green and would soon be exhausted, and it was impossible to plant any green provisions until rain had softened the soil. Already potatoes were at a high price, and higher prices still were certain. Nevertheless, the drought had not affected the yield of canes, and almost every estate had done more than was expected. The young canes, as a rule, were holding their own marvellously, but rains were anxiously looked for.

In letters from England it was frequently assumed that in the event of a fire, where canes were insured, practically no loss was incurred. The loss of the cane tops in the field and the cane top heaps stored up, deprived the stock of valuable food, and the loss of trash prevented the planter from sheltering young canes from the heat, and ultimately rain came and rotted them and diminished the "burnus" of the soil. It was calculated that after a bad fire an estate often did not recover the loss for four or five years.

The Estate Enterprise in Christ Church has been purchased by an English group for the purpose of cotton cultivation. Sir Daniel Morris was to leave for England on June 4th after visiting every one of the Islands.

Sugar Making Begins in British Guiana.

At a meeting of the Court of Policy on April 30th, the adjourned discussion on the East Coast Sea Defences Bill was resumed and the second reading agreed to with only one dissentient. In connection with the late riots the Town Council was sitting to adjudicate on the claims for damages, and the decision of the Supreme Court had been given on the application of Mr. Dargan for a rule to be made upon the decision of the City Magistrate not to issue a summons against Col. Lushington, the Chief of Police, for manslaughter. The rule *visi* was made absolute.

A successful race meeting has been held under the auspices of the D'Urban Race Club.

On May 19th, when Mr. A. Summerson closed his letter, a good many estates had started sugar making, and another week should see them all in full swing. The sugar market had not opened. The weather during the fortnight had been very favourable with good showers and sunshine generally.

Mr. S. T. Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, is expected to leave for the International Geological Congress in Mexico in July. He forwarded to us by the mail the following particulars of exports from the Colony for March and April:—

	March. 1906.	April. 1906.
Gold	10,188	8,099 ozs.
Diamonds	218½	— carats.
Timber: Greenheart, etc.	14,025	273 cub. ft.
Lumber	398	2,002 feet.
Charcoal	7,673	4,875 bags.
Shingles	239,000	138,000
Railway Sleepers	—	—
Wallaba and hardwood posts	300	351
Woods, Firewood	874	400 tons.
Gums, Locust, etc.	4,267	— lbs.
Balata	59,206	3,283 "
Rubber	280	302 "

Dominica Complains of the Mail Arrangements.

Mr. E. A. Agar, in a letter dated May 10th, stated that with the approaching lime crop, the uncertainty with regard to the Mails was serious; unless they had better communication with London, the crop must go to New York, and it was needless to point out that this was undesirable.

A Permanent Exhibition Committee had now been formed, and there was a prospect of a Government Grant in aid of this object. The members were: Dr. Nicholls, C.M.C., Chairman, Messrs. E. A. Agar, A. J. Brooks, the Curator, G. Downing, F. E. Everington, and A. C. Stillingford, a thoroughly sound Committee.

The emigration of labourers to Panama was becoming serious, and the Agricultural Society proposed approaching the Government with a view to checking it.

The weather was becoming more wet, and crop prospects were excellent.

On all sides indignation was expressed in Dominica at the severance of the Mail service, which had existed for so long without a break. As Dr. the Hon. H. A. Nicholls put it in forwarding a resolution passed by the Dominican Agricultural Society on May 18th: "The Home Government establish an Imperial Department of Agriculture to help us, and then stop our regular and rapid communication with England. In other words, they hold us up with one hand, and then knock us down with the other!" The resolution runs: "Be it resolved by the Dominican Branch of the West India Committee, whose members represent every important interest in the Island, that the Government be urged to move His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to make arrangements for the continuance of a regular Mail service between England and the Crown Colonies in the West Indies, so as to obviate the disastrous consequences that the cessation of the service will bring about by the consequent isolation of these Colonies from the Mother Country."

Mr. E. A. Agar wrote on May 19th that the Agricultural Society was warmly taking up the matter of the emigration of labourers to Panama. Were the labourers leaving to better themselves nothing could be said, but it was the universal opinion that this was not the case.

The weather had been wet with an extraordinary amount of wind. The lime crop had suffered some little damage, but experience showed that it would probably make no difference to the output.

Grenada and the Mail Service.

The Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada, feeling that dislocation of trade must result from the discontinuance of inter-Colonial communication and from the absence of regular steam service with the Mother Country, which would inevitably cause a serious diversion of trade from Great Britain to the United States, and generally be most injurious to the agricultural and commercial interests of the Colony, passed the following resolution at a general meeting on May 12th:

"RESOLVED—That a deputation of this Society do wait upon His Excellency the Governor to impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of at once telegraphing to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking that immediate steps be taken with a view to arranging for a regular fortnightly steam service between Great Britain and the West Indies, for which this Colony will be prepared to contribute a sum not exceeding £1000, the proportion paid by Grenada under the late contract, provided that a guarantee is given that the fresh rate of freight will not be raised during the term of such contract."

Mr. P. J. Dean, writing on May 21st, said that it was impossible to conceive that the Government would not do something to assist the Colonies in this all important matter, and developments were anxiously awaited.

Sir Daniel Morris arrived on May 16th and met the Experimental Committee of the Agricultural Society on the following day, and attended a meeting at Granville on the 18th, when important matters were discussed.

The Island was still without rain, and increasing damage was being done to the cocoa trees by its absence. The crop of cocoa stood at the time of writing at 9300 bags below those of last year.

At the meeting of the Agricultural Society on May 11th a paper on drainage was, we understand from Mr. C. Falconer Anton, read by Mr. W. Mallins Smith, and the possibility of raising funds by subscription was discussed. Subscription lists had been sent out.

A few refreshing showers had fallen during the last few days.

Cotton Exports from Montserrat.

Mr. Conrad Watson, writing on May 8th, reported that the rainy season had apparently commenced earlier than usual, and the past fortnight had been a wet one. Most of the cotton had been shipped, and the exports for crop (1905-6) would be about 125,000 lbs. lint.

It was rumoured that the next inter-Colonial steamer going south would be the last to call at the Island. After that, their means of communication would be very limited, and they would only get Mails direct from England once per month.

Lieut.-Colonel Davidson Houston arrived by the Mail of May 3rd.

A Bitter Complaint from Nevis.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on May 17th, it was resolved that the Government be "respectfully approached and earnestly solicited to re-consider the question of a Mail contract as the future well-being of the Colony greatly depended upon the facilities afforded by a regular system of Mail communication." It was felt that the absence of steam communication must tend

to disorganise trade and alienate capital and otherwise retard the prosperity of Nevis and the other Islands at a time when strenuous efforts were being made to develop the cotton industry.

The Hon. C. Arthur Shand wrote to us on May 17th that the sudden death of Sir Robert Bromley had caused a pronounced shock in the Island, which he was about to visit at his own request. Sir Robert had shown all along an intense desire to promote the welfare of the Presidency and its inhabitants, and his premature death was looked upon as a personal loss by all classes of the community.

Nice showers had fallen, but no general heavy rains, though some parts of the Island had been specially favoured.

St. Kitts and the late Sir Robert Bromley.

Mr. Charles A. Smith gives us some further particulars regarding the death of Sir Robert Bromley, which took place at Government House, on Sunday, May 13th. It appears that he had been suffering from a slight attack of fever and fell, fracturing his skull. The general public had been unaware of his indisposition, and therefore the shock of the news was startling in its suddenness. The funeral took place on the following day, and was largely attended by all classes, by whom the greatest regret was felt at the closing of a prominent career. Lady Bromley and family returned to England by the Mail, and she carried with her the deepest sympathy of the entire community at the terrible loss which had so suddenly fallen upon her. Mr. Wigley was again administering the Government.

Reaping was well advanced, and when crop was completed it was thought that it would exceed earlier anticipations, the yield having been excellent owing to the richness of the juice. Frequent showers kept up the growth of the young crop, which was very promising. The accumulation of sugar had been removed, and there was not likely to be any fear as to the lack of facilities for shipment for the remainder of the crop.

Complaints from St. Vincent regarding Shipping of Sugar.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. again complain of lack of facilities for shipping their sugar. On the last visit of the "Oceano," 30 out of a shipment of 180 barrels were returned on shore after being put alongside, although there were hundreds of tons of space. Again, application was made to the agent for room for 30 barrels of molasses and 150 barrels of sugar for the "Caribbee," but they were advised almost at the last minute that, though the ship would take the sugar, she could not take the molasses.

Fine showers had fallen during the last few days, and the planters were beginning to be able to work the soil, which they had been unable to touch for some months past.

It was difficult to realise what the position of the Island would be after the inter-Colonial service was withdrawn. Coming on top of the withdrawal of the telegraph company's subsidy it was felt that matters could not be much worse.

At the last meeting of the Agricultural Society a resolution was passed urging the Government to maintain the Imperial Department of Agriculture, on which the continued success and further improvement and extension of the cotton industry and agriculture generally in St. Vincent depended.

At the same meeting a Permanent Exhibition Committee was appointed of which the following gentlemen were elected members: His Honour the Administrator Chairman the Honourables C. J. Simmons and J. C. W. Hazell, Messrs. W. C. Proudfoot and P. F. Huggins, with the writer as Secretary. Funds had been placed at their disposal by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for sending on representative exhibits of the commercial products of the Island to the Canadian Exhibitions to be held in Halifax and Toronto in August and September next.

We are reminded by Mr. W. N. Sands that cotton now takes the second place in point of value in the exports of the Island, the estimated value for the year 1905-6 being £7674; arrowroot still came first with an export value of £20,441, and sugar third with only £3611, though this serious decrease was in some measure due to stocks being held back on account of low prices. Cocoa and cassava starch showed satisfactory progress, the value of exports amounting to £2422 and £1525 respectively.

An unfortunate accident occurred on Tuesday, May 15th, at "Diamond" estate, belonging to Mr. C. J. Simmons. A terrific explosion due, it is thought, to the ignition of spirit while certain defects in the pipes leading from the rum still to the receivers were being repaired, caused the destruction by fire of the sugar works and the loss of two lives. Mr. Hayward, manager of the estate, had a very narrow escape. The works were completely gutted, and a large quantity of produce, including 2500 gallons of rum and 300 barrels of sugar, were destroyed. The buildings were only partially insured. The two men killed were highly respected locally.

The weather continued favourable, but more rain still was wanted, especially on the windward coast, the rainfall not yet being sufficient for planting requirements.

Trinidad. Delegates for the Meetings of Chamber of Commerce.

It was learnt with satisfaction that so influential and appreciative an audience had gathered to hear Mr. Randolph Rust's lecture on the oil industry.

Mr. Edgar Tripp, in a letter dated May 21st, informed us that a draft ordinance for the re-organisation of the Agricultural Society had been submitted to the Special Committee, by whom it was being considered.

Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, the Hon. George Goodwille, and Mr. L. J. Bernstein had been appointed to represent the Chamber of Commerce at the meeting of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire. Mr. Goodwille would bring forward a resolution dealing with the 30 per cent. extra duty imposed by Venezuela upon all goods imported into the Republic from the West Indies.

It was to be hoped that the general outcry regarding the discontinuance of the mail service outside the main route would not pass unheeded.

The return of receipts and payments of the Colony for ten months ended January 31st disclosed, as against the corresponding months in the previous year, a decrease of receipts of £10,853, and increase in expenditure of £39,010.

The weather was everything that could be desired, alternate rain and sunshine. The sugar crop was nearly all in, and in quantity fully bore out expectations.

Notes of Interest.

R. M. S. P. The West End office of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was transferred on the 6th inst from 29, Cockspur Street to 32, Cockspur Street, the premises formerly occupied by the Cunard Steamship Company.

A Good Tip. The Indians of Bolivia, when they drink, require something that can be felt; the quality is of very little importance so long as the strength is up to the mark, and they frequently drink raw alcohol. It is supposed that the habit of constantly chewing coca enables them to imbibe what would soon kill other men.

Sugar in China. A sugar refinery, to deal with 200 tons of sugar daily, is about to be established at Tsingkao, an end being thus put to the monopoly hitherto held in Southern China by the two British refineries at Hong Kong. The Dutch Indies and the Philippines will thus be drawn upon for 80,000 tons of raw sugar annually.

Autres pays autres mœurs. The West India Committee, with the co-operation of the Imperial Institute and the West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., arranged a West Indian section at the Colonial Missionary Exhibition on May 9-11. That it was appreciated is shown by a letter received from the Rev. Ernest R. Weeks, the organiser of the Exhibition, in which he says: "The chief object we had in view has been abundantly attained, and we are especially grateful to all those who by so generously lending us valuable objects of interest helped to bring about this satisfactory result." The West Indies Court was of peculiar interest, and we venture to believe that this part of our Colonial Empire, with all its possibilities and resources, will have taken a place in the minds of all who visited the Exhibition which it never had before.

Improved Evaporators. We are glad to hear that the "Meyer and Arbuckle" attachment to ordinary standard multiple effects has proved an unqualified success at the Palmiste factory in Trinidad. The object of the attachment is to produce a high evaporation efficiency from the heating surface by practically converting the effect into a film evaporator. This is done by forcing the juice through a perforated pivot-suspended tube within each vessel, which, rotating by the force of the juice, "sprinkles" the surface of the tubes of the drum. In the Palmiste trial an evaporation of 11.04 lbs. of water per square foot of heating surface was obtained, as against 4.8 lbs. with the triple working under ordinary conditions. The great advantage of the "sprinkler" is that it can be attached to any ordinary evaporator. The makers are Messrs. George Fletcher and Company, of Derby.

Our Library.

West Indian Bulletin, Vol. vii., No. 1, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d., contains Report by Dr. Francis Watts on the "Agricultural Industries of Montserrat," and the "Cotton Industries in the Leeward Islands," which have been already referred to in these columns; a useful account of "Rubber Experiments in St. Lucia" by Mr. J. C. Moore, in which valuable directions are given as the result of experiments in tapping trees and

treatment of the latex, and "Notes on West Indian Insects," by Mr. Clark, of Boston, reprinted from *Psyché*. On "Cotton Stainers," by Mr. H. A. Ballou, in which the insects causing discolouration of cotton are enumerated and described at length.

The *Agricultural News*, Vol. v., No. 106, obtainable at the West India Committee House, price 1d. The leading articles in this issue deal with the Canadian Exhibition of 1906, with general directions to exhibitors as to ways and means of exhibiting. The number contains notes and articles of varied interest.

The *International Sugar Journal* for June. Mr. Lloyd-George's speech of March 27th comes in for able and distinctive criticism from the evident pen of a well known authority on the subject of Sugar Economics. Mr. T. H. P. Heriot resumes his articles on "Simple Methods of Chemical Control." The remainder of the articles are excerpts on matters of great interest in the technical sugar world.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.), June 5th, "We have just had an average rainfall of three inches."

Jamaica—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), June 1st (dated May 21st), "Heavy rains started last evening, 4.8 inches last twenty-four hours at Kingston, continuing." June 2nd (week ended May 23rd). **Port Antonio**—"15th fine; 16th to 22nd, heavy rain; 23rd, fine." **Kingston**—"17th to 19th, fine; 20th to 23rd, heavy rains."

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1st to May 15th.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1906.	1905.	
Sugar	24,864	24,007 tons.	28,000	23,007 tons	1,717	224 tons	342,813	227,290 bags & bbl.		
Molasses	35,135	20,803 puns.	1,302	1,852 casks.	—	—	(1326)	232 puns. 103 arcs. 324 bbls.		
Rum	—	—	7,637	4,893 puns.	168,007	185,633 galls.	—	346 puns		
Cattle Food	—	—	2,905	2,729 tons.	—	—	12,597,860	15,571,405 lbs.	43,442	52,750 bags.
Cocoa	—	—	3,390	1,920 lbs.	4,002	3,269 cwt.	3,022	11,240		
Coffee	—	—	—	—	3,809	3,022 "	—	12,773 "		
Cocoanuts	—	—	24,338	22,070	644,755	302,850	6,730,459	4,451,840		
Copra	—	—	—	—	—	—	5477	4693 bags	864	490 bales.
Cotton	—	—	—	—	7,422	17,000 lbs.	—	—	4999	3749 bags.
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	46,619	47,793 tons		
Asphalt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Oranges	—	—	—	—	3,141,500	792,250	—	—		
Handicrafts	—	—	—	—	4,198,863	1,320,222 bunches.	—	—		
Peppercorn	—	—	—	—	4,331	4,108 cwt.	—	—		
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Gold	—	—	31,072	32,850 ozs.	—	—	—	—		
Diamonds	—	—	564	2,374 carats	—	—	—	—		
									3100	3377 bbls.
									303	414
									232	433 casks.
									113	154 bags.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), June 4th: Mr. and Mrs. Sims, Mr. G. S. Morrison, Mr. Geo. Grant, Miss Stanning, Miss Scott, Mr. J. Patterson, Mr. A. Tucker, Capt. H. B. Goodricks, Mr. L. B. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson and infant, Mr. J. E. Young, Mr. W. R. Johnson, Mr. H. Lauria, Miss E. Lauria, Mr. and Mrs. Zeigle, Master F. Hall, Master Velado, Mr. G. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Araujo, Mr. Ureliano, Mrs. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Baker, Miss Bunting, Miss Blythe, Mr. and Mrs. Robbins, Miss E. Hedwell, Mr. and Mrs. Impett, Mr. Northcote, Mr. F. Ullen, Mr. A. G. Lafevre, Mr. and Mrs. Obergon, Mr. A. Steiner, Baron H. P. Von Rotenham, Mr. J. O. Grubel, Mr. M. S. Sanchez, Mr. and Mrs. Wallis, Mr. J. Hreh, Capt. Hamlyn, Mrs. Hradley, Mrs. W. S. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Alston, Miss Alston, Mr. and Mrs. Lambie, Mrs. C. Stollmeyer, Mr. F. Stoddart, Mrs. Homborsley, Mr. Harrugin, Mr. Learmond, Mr. Smith, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Ollivierre, Mr. Chamberbatch, Miss Hunt, Miss Halkett, Mr. W. Thompson, Mr. P. Goss, Mr. Hans E. Voss, Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mr. D. G. Stoube, Mr. and Mrs. Garraway, Mr. R. R. Anson, Rev. Canon Sloman, Dr. Von Winkler, Mr. A. Mackey, Mr. M. Gomez, Mr. H. Burton, Miss Martin, Sir Henry Davson and valet, Mr. Ivan B. Davson, Mr. E. J. Macquarrie, Mr. J. E. Parker, Mr. I. Barclay, Mr. L. A. Kents, Miss Jean Mackintosh, Mr. A. W. Duncan, Mrs. D. S. de Freitas, Mr. W. Goodman, Mr. A. H. R. Gale, Mr. T. H. de Gale, Mr. R. Ollivierre, Hon. Lady Bromley, Mr. H. A. Bromley, Mr. E. Du Boulay, Major R. T. Lawrence, Capt. and Mrs. Isaacks, Dr. and Mrs. Oliphant, Mr. G. W. Smith, Mrs. A. Hewley, Mrs. A. M. Lee, Master O. Baneroff, Mr. A. Quintino, Dr. and Mrs. Ireland, Mrs. Phillips, Miss Phillips, Mr. J. Morrison, Major Lumbo, Mr. Fitzherbert, Mr. A. T. Hammond, Miss W. Da Costa, Miss Chandler, Mrs. C. J. Clarke, Mr. C. B. Dunton, Mrs. McLeod, Miss Rapier, Miss A. Pottock, Mr. and Mrs. C. de Lemos, Mr. Harley, Mr. J. B. Baneroff, Mrs. J. Pascal, Mr. J. Quarless, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Pither, Mr. and Mrs. A. Howell, Capt. W. L. Owen, R.N.R., Mrs. Chandler, Miss Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce, Mr. Goodman, Mr. Austin, Mr. Challenger, Mr. Lango, Mr. and Mrs. A. Goodman, Mrs. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. A. Coeka, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Mr. E. Agard, Mr. Andre, Mr. and Mrs. Vidio, Mr. and Mrs. C. Weisser, Mr. A. Gomez, Mr. H. Vollmer, Mr. F. Vollmer, Mr. A. S. Urbaneja, Mr. B. Hernandez, Mr. and Mrs. Stalk, Mr. and Mrs. Schroier, Mr. C. Malincino.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS—per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), June 14th: Rev. Canon and Mrs. Elliot, Mr. A. Henkes, Mr. O. E. Saunders, Mr. L. F. Guevara, Mr. N. Inskipp, Mr. H. W. Hammond, Mr. A. Tietjen, Mr. J. T. Lewin, Mrs. Camacho.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), June 2nd: Mr. F. Fayah, Mr. B. O. Hesleton, Miss Hart, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. J. T. Marsh, Mrs. Holgate, Mr. Melbourne, Mr. G. Nicholson, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Mr. H. Redfern.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXIX.



Mr. Harold B. Gardiner Austin.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

June 12th, 1906

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

WHEN the exhibitions of Colonial fruit under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society were inaugurated in 1904, the Colonies most largely represented at the spacious hall at Vincent Square were the West Indies. Many awards fell to the lot of the West Indian exhibitors, and as the medals were actually presented in tangible form in contradistinction to the objectionable "diploma for award" system; as space was allotted free of all expense, and as the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company carried exhibits freight free, it was naturally hoped that more and more interest would be taken in these exhibitions. Unfortunately, the reverse has proved to be the case, and each succeeding display has been characterised by less fruit coming from the West Indies and a steadily increasing supply from other parts of the Empire. This has gone on to such an extent that at the last exhibition, of which we give a brief account on another page, not a single exhibit of fruit, preserves or vegetables was received direct from any West Indian

Colony, though South Africa and Australia eagerly seized upon the opportunity of displaying their produce, the former showing a splendid array of citrus fruit which, in spite of the distance of the

Transvaal and Natal, certainly excelled any which we have ever seen from the West Indies. South African limes, oranges and lemons—the latter of colossal size—were shown in profusion. Where was Jamaica? Where Trinidad? Where Dominica? Conspicuous by their absence. That this is not as it should be our readers will agree. The West Indies can produce citrus fruit as fine as, if not finer than, that from any part in the world; but if they are to keep to the front they must wake up lest the position which they now hold be wrested from them. It will never do for them to jog along as they are now doing and be content to leave the extension of their markets to chance. We are sorry to have to say that we have noticed a tendency in the West Indies to plunge into schemes and undertakings with a feverish enthusiasm which evaporates with equal rapidity. It is, however, difficult to trace the reason for this apathy. Possibly it may be said that the notice given of the recent Horticultural Exhibitions was unduly short, and that time and season have not been propitious for a suitable fruit supply. The next exhibition, however, will take place in December next and allow ample time for collection of exhibits. Space will be absolutely free, and thanks to the generosity of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, exhibits will again be carried freight free. With this information before them we can hardly believe that the West Indies will again be "behind as they were before." We cordially invite the support and assistance of our friends of the West Indian Press, who can do much to help towards reminding the newly-formed permanent Exhibition Committees, and the Agricultural and Commercial Societies of the West Indies to be up and doing. Of the Agricultural Societies who have co-operated so loyally with us in the past, we ask that they will work with the Exhibition Committees in endeavouring to secure for the West Indies representation on a scale commensurate with the importance of the West Indian Fruit Industry.

WE have received the report of the Jamaica Board of Agriculture on the experimental work of the Sugar Experiment Station for the year 1905, comprising the results of the manurial and seedling cane experiments, and of the fermentation investigations conducted by Mr. Cousins, the Island Chemist, and the Fermentation Chemist, Mr. Allan. The value of the observations is greatly enhanced by the common-sense practical manner in which they have been carried out, the manurial experiments having been conducted on the estates and under estates conditions, although the small area, only $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an acre for each plot, rendered deductions not quite so valuable as if a larger scale had been adopted, and prevented the quality of the juice ground by the estates' mill being determined for the individual plots, an important consideration. It would appear from these that as a general thing canes respond in the soils of Jamaica, as elsewhere, to nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia, and nitrate of soda, basic slag and potash, and the value of irrigation in those localities where the rainfall is deficient is well brought out. Useful analyses of soils are also given, which, as a rule, bring out strongly the fertility of Jamaica soils. The seedling cane experiments at Hope Gardens were promising well, and desirable Jamaica seedlings will shortly be given to the planters. B 208 had given 65.5 tons to the acre, but we must again advocate caution in estimating the future of any of these from the early records. Only two estates in 1904-5 had experimented with seedling canes, and these on a comparatively small scale, but Mr. Shore at Caymanas, had obtained 50 tons per acre from B 208, but for the current year numerous estates were carrying out observations. The most interesting part of the report deals with the rum experiments, comprising researches as to the best methods to be employed in setting wash, the nature of the yeast found in the fermentation, and the identification of the bacilli giving rise to the flavouring ethers. As regards the fermentation experiments, however, the scale on which these were made, using punchons for fermenting vessels, and a specially constructed 60 gallon still, although forming a good

basis for future work, is, we are afraid, calculated to give different and probably higher results than on an estates' distillery, and we shall be glad to hear how far the later observations, which are promised, agree with these. Thus, when Mr. Cousins gives the possibility of recovering 10% more than the 1 gallon of proof spirit per 5 degrees of attenuation, the minimum yield allowed by the British Revenue Department, it is not to be expected that in an estates' distilling a similar yield would be obtained. In British Guiana, with a good working patent still, 1.03 gallon is the best working figure that can be obtained, even under scientific supervision, and it is found in practice that a pot still gives considerably less, from 7 to 10%, than a patent still. The best results were obtained by Mr. Cousins with wash set so as to contain about 10% of sweets, a figure which would correspond in wash set without dunder to a density of 15° Brix., which, it may be remarked, Dr. Shier, the Agricultural Chemist, of Demerara, as far back as 1855, determined as being the most suitable figure for that Colony. Mr. Allan, in his estates' investigations on fermentation attached to the report, considers that the especially high flavour of some of the rums was due to the substitution of the rod-celled, or air-borne, yeast for the common oval variety which is adherent to the cane, the former permitting of alcoholic fermentation going on under conditions of acidity under which the latter could not exist, a most important consideration as regards the development of ethers. In Mr. Allan's report there is one remark which does not support the promise of Mr. Cousins as to increased returns. He states that with highly-flavoured rum the method of manufacture *must* be wasteful of material. He also remarks that a very large preponderance of the total ethers in rum is acetic ether, and that as this has but little or no flavour, the real aroma of rum must be due to other ethers, present in smaller quantity. This seems to point very definitely to a high proportion of ethers not necessarily meaning a highly flavoured rum. "High gravities," he says, "and incomplete attenuation are bound to be uneconomical," and although considerable saving of present wash may be made on the estates, we much fear that Mr. Cousins' anticipations, alluded to above, will become considerably modified, in other words that quality in this connection cannot go with quantity. The essence of making a high-flavoured rum is that fermentation should be slow and opportunity given for a certain latitude to yeast enemies, bacilli of certain descriptions to propagate, and this is naturally inimical to spirit production. Mr. Allan does not see how the greater extraction from modern sugar machinery can affect the quality of the rum. "Reboiling molasses," he says, "will lessen the amount of sugar to be fermented, and so decrease the quantity of the rum, but it cannot affect its quality." The absence of available skimmings in a modern factory, the successive reboilings, and the amount of lime used therein, as a matter of fact *do* affect the quality of the rum, as has been amply demonstrated elsewhere in the West Indies. We have not the space to give more than this very brief summary of Mr. Cousins' valuable contribution to the literature of sugar, of the work which promises to be of the greatest assistance to the Jamaica sugar industry. It is a pity, however, that the manner in which the report is printed and published is not worthy of the excellent matter which it represents.

Mr. Harold B. Gardiner Austin.

Mr. Harold B. Gardiner Austin, the captain of the West Indian Cricket Team, resides in Barbados, where he is the head of the firm of Gardiner, Austin & Co., which was established as Michael Cavan & Co., in 1797. He is Consul for Sweden and Norway, and agent for companies too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say, they are all of a first-class order. His father, the Hon. John Gardiner Austin, who died, regretted by all, in 1902, was one of the most popular men in Barbados, and one of the most useful members of the community politically. The son bids fair to follow in his father's footsteps; and we shall not be greatly surprised if in the not distant future he is found taking

an active part in controlling the destinies of the Island of which he is as proud as his father was before him. Mr. Harold Austin was captain of the Barbados cricket team which won the inter-colonial trophy at Trinidad with such *éclat* this year. When the last representative West Indian team visited this country, he was unable to take part in the matches, being absent fighting for his country with Paget's Horse; but on the present occasion he is expected to render good account of himself. As a speaker Mr. Austin showed his ability at the recent dinner given in his honour by the West Indian Club. His reputation for good fellowship is too well-known to require emphasising.

A Village near Ababaicony.

Our full page illustration is intended to give our readers some idea of a small village in British Guiana. A church, a schoolhouse, two or three run shops, which also retail what is necessary for the small food wants of their customers, and a few straggling wooden cottages constitute a picturesque if somewhat squalid spectacle, the effect of which is intensified by the coco-nut and plantain trees scattered irregularly about. These villages occur every few miles along the public roads.

The West India Committee.

The next election of candidates for Membership of the West India Committee will be held on Thursday next, June 14th, at three p.m. Forms of application and full particulars regarding Membership can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Shipping Freights.

Each year, in August, it was the custom of the West India Committee to fix the rates of freight from London to the sugar Colonies, and not only use the items interesting as a comparison with present rates, but also as affording an insight into old time life. We give a few of the freights taken from the minutes and dated August 27th, 1782, and August 28th, 1783, those for the latter date being in "Times of Peace."

	1782.		1783.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Barrels of beef and herrings each	8	0	5	0
„ gunpowder „	10	0	5	0
„ oil, containing 30 galls. „	15	0	7	6
„ beer (N.B. six to the ton) „	12	0	6	0
Botts and Vatts filled the 100 galls.	1	4	0	12
Bricks the 1000	2	0	0	1
Cheefe, in Casks the cwt.	4	0	2	0
Chairs (Mahogany, Walnut-tree, Cheery tree, &c.), the bundle containing 2	15	0	7	6
„ (ditto) with arms each	15	0	7	6
„ Sudan, in Cafes „	5	0	0	2
Chaises, two-wheeled, with Tops „	8	8	0	4
„ two-wheeled, without Tops or Kitterings „	6	6	0	3
Couches, uncafed „	1	16	0	18
Coaches, with Carriages and Wheels „	18	18	0	9
Chariots, with ditto and ditto „	14	14	0	7
Coals, loose the Chaldron	2	0	0	1
Fire-Engines from £2 to	10	0	0	0
Hogheads of fine goods, if very large	1	15	0	17
„ coals and lime	1	7	6	14
Hampers, the dozen bottles	4	0	0	2
Harrows the pair	10	0	0	5
Iron Ware, in Casks the cwt.	3	0	0	1

from £2 to 5 0 0 each



Photo by Misses E. K. K. K.

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A VILLAGE NEAR MAHAICONY,
BRITISH GUIANA.

Measured goods	the Foot	2 0	1 0
Oil of Vitriol, Aqua Fortis, and all other very strong spirits	the gall.	2 6	1 6
Puncheons of fine goods ... ..	... each	1 7 6	15 0
Ploughs, with wheels ... ..	... "	3 0 0	1 10 0
" without wheels ... ..	... "	2 0 0	1 0 0
Paffengers, the Ship's Part ... ..	...	6 0 0	6 0 0
Paint	the cwt.	4 0	2 0
Potatoes	"	3 0	1 6
Puncheon-Packs ... ..	... each	6 0	2 6
Soft Chaises, four-wheel, with carriages, &c.	"	14 14 0	7 7 0
Sofas, uncafed ... ..	... "	4 8 0	1 4 0
Staves for Sugar Hogheads	the 1000	7 0 0	3 10 0
" White Oak and Heading	"	6 10 0	3 5 0
" Hamburgh double	"	12 0 0	6 0 0
Tierces of Beef and Pork ... ..	... each	12 0	9 0
Waggons, with double Shafts and broad Wheels	"	16 0 0	8 0 0
" with narrow Wheels	"	12 0 0	6 0 0

It will be noticed that the war rates were practically double those of the peace rates, although the "Ship's part" of the passenger rate was the same. The catering was a matter of arrangement with the captain. The articles enumerated are strikingly illustrative of the conservatism of those days as regards mode of life. Coaches, Chariots, Sedan chairs, Post chaises, &c., all indicated the characteristic of the early British Colonist quite as much as the later, to "sing the songs of Zion in a strange land," and his desire to surround himself with the comforts of the homeland. Curiously enough a barrel of beer was charged a higher freight than one of gunpowder. The ploughs, harrows, &c., were evidently in use to a considerable extent, and it would be of considerable interest if any of our readers could give some information as to when and why hand tillage superseded these.

The Memorial to Sir Henry Norman.

Field-Marshal Lord Roberts announces that the memorial to the late Field-Marshal Sir Henry Wylie Norman, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., C.I.B., will take the following form: firstly, a gold medal, to be called the "Norman Medal," to be awarded at the end of each term at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, to the cadet who passes out first on the Indian Army List. The offer of this medal has been accepted by the Army Council, and dies are now being prepared by one of our leading medallists, and it is probable that the first award of the Norman Medal will be made at the end of the current Sandhurst term. Further, after providing for the establishment of the medal *in perpetuo*, it is hoped, that sufficient funds will still be available to allow of the erection of suitably inscribed tablets to Sir Henry Norman's memory in the crypt of St. Paul's, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and in the Cantonment Church at Delhi. Would it not be possible to secure a replica of the Memorial Tablet for Kingston Parish Church, Jamaica?

Our Cricketers at Dinner.

The West Indian Cricketers were duly pronounced to be "all jolly good fellows" in customary musical style on the night of Saturday last, the 9th inst. The occasion was a banquet given to them by the West Indian Club at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street. Sir Cavendish Boyle, the Vice-President of the Club, was in the chair, and among those present were: His Excellency Sir Henry Moore Jackson, Viscount Brackley, the Hon. F. Stanley Jackson, Sir William Russell, Bart., Colonel Sir J. Roper Parkington, and the following members of the team: Mr. H. B. Gardiner Austin (Capt.), Mr. C. K. Bancroft, Mr. T. Burton, Mr. G. Challenor, Mr. L. Constantine, Mr. C. P. Cumberbatch, Mr. P. A. Goodman, Mr. A. E. Harragin, Mr. C. H. Layne, Mr. G. C. Learmond, Mr. C. S. Morrison, Mr. R. Ollivierre, and Mr. J. E. Parker. Mr. J. Arnold, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. H. L. Bourke, Mr. H. G. Boyle, Mr. C. Burkenshaw, Mr. E. Carpenter, Mr. N. Cox, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. Lionel de Mercado, Captain A. P. Dix, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. R. P. Goffe, Mr. W. A. M. Goode (Hon. Sec. West Indian Club), Mr. Home Gordon, Mr. A. Hirsch, Mr. W. B. Isaacs, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, Mr. H. D. Leveson-Gower, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. R. H. Mallett (Manager of the Tour), Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. Nash, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. T. Platt, Mr. J. S.

Powell, Mr. H. F. Previte, Mr. C. Richardson, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. G. W. Simmons, Mr. W. P. Simon, Mr. F. A. Skeete, Mr. A. Somers-Cox, Mr. Oscar Thompson, Mr. W. J. Von Winkler, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, and Captain C. E. Wilson.

The customary loyal toasts having been honoured, the Chairman, in proposing the toast of "our guests," referred to the effect of sport in cementing the bond of union between Anglo-Saxon races in different parts of the world. He said he was sure the present team would, like their predecessors, prove that they could play the game in a grand and sportsmanlike manner, and that they would give a successful account of themselves through all the long list of matches which had been arranged for them. Such visits as these added fresh links to the chain of friendship and good-fellowship which bound the sons of Great Britain to the children of Greater Britain beyond the seas. Mr. H. B. G. Austin, in responding, urged their supporters and their English critics to reserve both praise and blame until the first three or four matches had been played. The team was chosen from five colonies, some of them a thousand miles away from the others, and the men had never played together. It was, however, the best team the West Indies could produce. He expressed a deep sense of gratitude to the West Indian Club for undertaking the arrangements of the tour and to the M.C.C. for the fixtures which they had made, and for the many courtesies they had shown him since the team arrived. He also wished to thank the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for transport facilities afforded them. They all felt complimented that the scores made against the West Indians would be included in the first-class averages, and he hoped that in the future they might perhaps be considered worthy of a "test" match.

Lord Brackley then proposed the toast "Our National Game" and warned the English cricketers that, judging by the experience which he gained during his recent tour in the West Indies, they would have a hard nut to crack in their present opponents. The Hon. F. S. Jackson responded in a humorous speech, in the course of which he said that to be a first-class cricketer had almost become synonymous with being a first-class journalist. He referred to his good fortune in winning the toss with the Australian cricketers, and wished the West Indian captain similar luck. The game of cricket had its greatest security in the fact that the interests of the game in this country and throughout the world, were most carefully watched by the M.C.C. Sir Henry Jackson proposed the health of the West Indian Club, and the Chairman having responded, a pleasant evening was brought to a close.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

BY P. A. GOODMAN.

In the early months of 1905 there toured the West Indies the fifth English cricket team, under the captaincy of Lord Brackley. Amongst the many well known cricketers of the combination was that popular soldier-cricketer, Captain E. G. Wynyard, who brought us a message from across the seas. He declared that from what he had seen of our cricket in the West we were quite up to first-class standard, and would surely give a good account of ourselves in England. He impressed on us the necessity of acting both early and speedily, and of not leaving all arrangements to the last moment and thus being unable to get suitable fixtures. It was, upon these representations, unanimously agreed by the cricket authorities of the various Colonies to put themselves in communication with the Sports' Committee of the West Indian Club, who made the arrangements for the first West Indian cricket team, asking them again to take such steps as were necessary to ensure a successful visit, and to communicate with the secretary of the M.C.C., Mr. F. E. Lacey, with the object of getting us fixtures with the various counties. All arrangements were speedily and satisfactorily made, and in January a West Indian team was selected. This team is without doubt the very best that the West Indies can produce and is, in our opinion, better at all points than the 1900 team. It had been settled that the team should leave by the mail of May 14th, but owing to the unavoidable changes in the time-table of the R.M.S.P. Co., it was not until the early hours of the morning of May 23rd that the good ship "Trent" set her bows seawards. We cannot omit to put on record here the magnanimity of the R.M.S.P. Co., which, besides making a considerable reduction in the fares, also contributed £5 to each Colony's contribution to the general funds. The voyage passed off much the same as all others. There were sports for some and cards, &c., for others. Captain Isaacke was very busy collecting shillings from individuals on the run of the ship, and Dr. Von Winkler proved himself a most persuasive auctioneer.

On Sunday, June 3rd, we reached Cherbourg and on the following morning Southampton. We were pleased to find that arrangements had been made for us to go straight up to London to practice at Lords, where every facility has been given us. Of this courtesy on the part of the M.C.C. we have taken full advantage; and, although we would have preferred a longer time for practice, yet

we have huddled to and worked for all we are worth. We opened the ball at the Crystal Palace against the London County on June 11th, and though the issue of our first match has been decided against us, we are by no means downhearted. In our next issue I shall endeavour to give a few critical notes of the play. Meanwhile it suffices to add that for the present we kneel at the feet of the gods and remember the motto, "Fortibus favet fortuna."

(To be continued).

London County v. The West Indians.

The West Indians opened their tour on June 11th at the Crystal Palace against an eleven got together by Dr. W. G. Grace, whose team won by 247 runs on June 12th. The scores were as follows:—

DR. W. G. GRACE'S XI.

First Innings.				Second Innings.			
Dr. W. G. Grace, c. Goodman, b. Smith ...	...	...	23	b. Layne ...	...	...	9
Marshall, c. Cumberbatch, b. Layne ...	...	...	51	c. Burton, b. Cumberbatch ...	...	...	4
Mr. L. S. Wells, c. Goodman, b. Cumberbatch ...	...	...	6	c. Goodman, b. Layne ...	...	...	11
Mr. A. E. Lawton, c. Burton, b. Goodman ...	...	...	105	b. Layne ...	...	...	4
Mr. R. H. D. Sewell, c. Learmond, b. Burton ...	...	...	96	c. Bancroft, b. Cumberbatch ...	...	...	13
Mr. P. G. Gale, c. Burton, b. Smith ...	...	...	9	b. Cumberbatch ...	...	...	1
Mr. J. H. Todd, b. Burton ...	...	...	24	b. Layne ...	...	...	10
Mr. C. B. Grace, st. Bancroft, b. Burton ...	...	...	5	c. Cumberbatch, b. Layne ...	...	...	36
Murch, c. sub., b. Burton ...	...	...	44	c. Bancroft, b. Goodman ...	...	...	53
Mr. R. M. Bell, b. Smith ...	...	...	5	not out ...	...	...	32
Mr. E. C. Kirk, not out ...	...	...	0	b. Layne ...	...	...	7
Extras ...	...	...	18	Extras ...	...	...	7
Total ...	...	...	345	Total ...	...	...	186

THE WEST INDIANS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.			
Mr. H. B. G. Austin, l.b.w., b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	0	c. Todd, b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	4
Mr. G. C. Learmond, c. Todd, b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	14	run out ...	...	...	11
Mr. O. H. Layne, run out ...	...	...	16	c. Lawton, b. Kirk ...	...	...	20
Mr. L. Constantine, b. Marshall ...	...	...	89	c. and b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	0
Mr. P. A. Goodman, c. Marshall, b. Kirk ...	...	...	0	l.w., b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	2
Mr. N. E. Harragin, c. Murch, b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	17	c. Gale, b. Wells ...	...	...	50
Mr. S. G. Smith, c. Murch, b. W. G. Grace ...	...	...	2	not out ...	...	...	30
Mr. C. P. Cumberbatch, b. Kirk ...	...	...	2	c. C. B. Grace, b. Kirk ...	...	...	3
Mr. G. Challenger, b. Marshall ...	...	...	1	b. C. W. Grace ...	...	...	4
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, run out ...	...	...	4	st. Murch, b. Wells ...	...	...	1
Mr. W. J. Barton, not out ...	...	...	1	c. C. B. Grace, b. Wells ...	...	...	5
Extras ...	...	...	10	Extras ...	...	...	9
Total ...	...	...	156	Total ...	...	...	128

The New Cotton.

We are indebted to the *Melbourne Times* for a description of the new variety of cotton called by its raiser, Dr. Thomatis, "Caravonica," and already described as the King of Cotton Trees. Dr. Thomatis crossed the Sea Island cotton of Mexico with that of Peru—varieties of different hemispheres, flowering at different seasons—and obtained issue larger and stronger than the parents, with a tendency to flower all the year round. This riotous behaviour he checked by destroying the blossoms which appeared in the rainy months from January to May, and encouraging and obtaining seed from those which appeared in the dry months suited to the ripening of cotton. Thus he obtained the docile acclimatised plant, which he calls the "Caravonica," from the estate near Cairns where it is grown, and for which he claims extraordinary merits. Within six months of sowing it bears a small crop when seven or eight feet high. When two years old it is full-grown, and in size much the same as an orange tree.

About nine hundred trees can be planted to the acre, and each tree produces from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of clean cotton lint, or from $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to $\frac{7}{8}$ lb. of cotton in the seed. The lint is worth from 10d. to 1s. per lb., and Dr. Thomatis claims the net profit to be from £30 to £40 per acre. This profit, he maintains,

is available after employing white labour for picking, and paying wages of 8s. per day. This glowing description of the Caravonica might, perhaps, be largely discounted by the natural enthusiasm of the discoverer for his discovery, but it is borne out by cool market opinions. Dr. Thomatis quotes the Associated Cotton Spinners in Italy, Hungary, and Germany as declaring the Caravonica "better than the best of American cottons" and that they "would buy all that can be grown at double current price." The leading Liverpool cotton brokers said, "that if grown largely, Caravonica cotton would open up a new area in cotton culture," and they valued it at 10d. per lb. The Minister of Agriculture for France pronounced it "a valuable substitute for wool." The "Caravonica is estimated to yield 1,300 lb. of ginned cotton to the acre," or three times as much as any other known variety, and of superior quality.

The Colonial Fruit Show.

It was a matter for great disappointment that not a *single* exhibitor in the West Indies availed himself of the offer of free freight to and free space at the show of Colonial fruit which was



Some West Indian Exhibits.

Though no exhibits were sent from the West Indies direct to the recent show of colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall, these Colonies were not altogether unrepresented thanks to the R.M.S.P. Co., the British West Indian Fruit Co. and the "W.I.P.A." part of whose exhibit is shown above.

a combined effort he made in the West Indian Colonies to send more fruit direct for the next show which is to be held on December 4th and 5th next? All that intending Exhibitors have to do is to select and pack their fruit with the greatest care and consign it by R.M.S.P. Co's steamer, *freight free*, to the Secretary, the West India Committee, the Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster. We will do the rest!

held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, on June 6th and 7th last. Due notice of this Exhibition was given to all the West Indian Colonies many months ago and their apathy was naturally the subject of considerable comment, more especially as such far distant parts of the Empire as Australia and New Zealand occupied a large portion of the hall. Natal also sent an exhibit, and the Transvaal Government made a show of citrus fruits including oranges, limes, lemons, shaddocks, grape fruit, mandarin oranges and citrons, which led one to the conclusion that the West Indies will have to look to their laurels and show a greater amount of keenness about such exhibitions if they are to retain their position in the home markets. It must not, however, be supposed that the West Indies were quite unrepresented. On the contrary, the British West Indian Fruit Company, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the West Indian Produce Association, did their best to make good the deficiency by making representative exhibits. The British West Indian Fruit Company showed principally bananas, which were all in excellent condition and did credit to the carrying powers of the second exhibitor named. Bunches of claret bananas, of course, attracted a large amount of attention. The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd., of 4, Fenchurch Buildings, showed oranges, grape fruit, limes and their varied West Indian produce now sold under the trade mark "Wipa." A special feature was made of fresh limes and lime marmalade, which was favourably reported upon. The Exhibition was very well attended and as regards the number of Colonies participating was certainly one of the best of the series which is proving very popular. Cannot

A Regimental Trophy.

The French Drum-Major's staff, which constituted one of the regimental trophies of the 1st West India Regiment, has an interesting bit of old time history attached to it. In March 1808, Marie-Galante, a small island to the south-east of Guadeloupe, then, as now, in the possession of the French, was captured by a British naval force. This was particularly annoying to the French on account of the proximity of the island to Guadeloupe, that a determined attempt was made to recover it, and in August a small force of 200 men landed with the view of conquering the island. This was anticipated by H.M.S. "Circe," who landed thirty men to man the small fort, who were successful in beating off the French, whose boats had been in the meantime seized by the "Circe," and who, in consequence, had to retreat to the interior of the island, where they were joined by 400 or 500 of the inhabitants.

News of the French landing having reached Barbados, General Beckwith, who was in command there, despatched Colonel Blackwell with three companies of the 1st West India Regiment to regain possession of the island. This force, reinforced by 140 marines and some sailors, attacked the enemy with such success that after several engagements they ultimately surrendered, and among the *spolia opima* was the Drum-Major's staff, which was retained by the West India Regiment. The staff was of ebony and silver, and bore the inscription, "*La République Française, une et indivisible, Battalion 26me,*" although the Empire had been proclaimed four years previously. The head was subsequently cut off and mounted as represented in the illustration attached.



The French Drum-Major's Staff.

We have to thank Col. A. R. Loscombe for the photograph from which this illustration is reproduced, and the note regarding the French Drum-Major's Staff in the possession of the Battalion of the West Indian Regiment which he recently commanded.

Consular Reports.

Orange Crop in Spain.

45,500,000 oranges were exported in 1905 against 21,000,000 in 1904 from the Spanish district of Cordoba. The frequent and heavy frosts of last winter have done considerable damage to the orange and olive trees, which will no doubt affect the fruit of the current year.

Pitch Imports into Russia.

8,550 tons of pitch for the manufacture of patent fuel, were imported into the Russian district of Rostov-on-Don from the United Kingdom, and it is reported that the quantity this year will in all probability reach 10,000 to 12,000 tons. Up to the present only one company imports this article, but other collieries are studying the question of briquette making and will also have to import the pitch.

Brandy Standard.

With regard to the essential properties of brandy it is considered doubtful if France will adopt a French standard of ethers. High authorities in Bordeaux and Cognac consider that, whilst the suggestion of eighty parts natural ether is near the right mark, it should be reduced to, say, seventy parts, as numerous analysis have found brandies of undisputable authenticity, especially old

brandies of high repute, containing this percentage. [Seventy parts of ethers is but slightly above those of Demerara rum, and a very long way short of Jamaica.—Ed.]

Agriculture in the Rhine Provinces.

Most farmers in the Rhine Provinces are holders of small lots, hence it becomes necessary for them to combine in order to be able to avail themselves of all the advantages which each single large farmer possesses. The Agricultural Society comprises over 700 sub-clubs and some 40,000 members; there is hardly any parish which has not got an agricultural club subordinated to the central Agricultural Society. There is also a Chamber of Agriculture which assists and supports the farmer in every possible way. One of the most beneficial institutions in the province are the Agricultural Schools, of which there are nearly forty, at which 600 pupils are every year taught their profession. During the



Photo by

An Agricultural Show in Dominica

F. Everington

Much interest is taken in Agricultural Shows in the West Indies. The above illustration, from a photograph, for which we are indebted to Mr. Francis Everington, is typical of the scene on such occasions. The Show here depicted was held on the Melville Hall Estate.

out the district. There are no very severe winters in the Rhenish Province: they are mild and somewhat rainy, but the soil is nothing like as fruitful as in the United Kingdom, where the average production of crops is much higher. But the British farmer has to fight universal competition, whereas the German is well protected. German farmers have recognised long ago that individually they are powerless, but combined they can bring power to bear on any particular bill, tariff, or burning or vital question of the day.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of helping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., June 6.—The Imperial Direct R.M.S. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica—86½ Doct. 7s. 11½d. ^{water}.
- Thurs., June 7.—Sir Edward Clarke, M.P., applied for the Chiltern Hundreds.—Doct. 7s. 11½d., steady.
- Fri., June 8.—Article on the Mail Question in the *Standard*—Doct. 8s. 0½d., firm.
- Sat., June 9.—The West Indian Cricketers entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club.—Doct. 8s. 0½d., quiet.
- Sun., June 10.—Mr. Saddon, the Premier of New Zealand, died suddenly.
- Mon., June 11.—Special article on "Insurance against storms and hurricanes in the West Indies Schuman" in the *Financial Supplement to the Times* (p. 201).—Doct. 8s. 0½d., steady.
- Tues., June 12.—The new chapel of St. Michael and St. George, in St. Paul's Cathedral, opened by the King.

Coming Events.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

Wed., June 13th.	—Cricket: West Indians v. London County at the Crystal Palace (last day).
" "	—Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association at the Colonial Office, 3.30 p.m.
Thurs., June 14th.	—Cricket: West Indians v. Essex, at Leyton. 3 days.
" "	—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.
Mon., June 18th.	—Cricket: West Indians v. Lord Brackley's team, at Lords.
Tues., June 19th.	—Paper on Oil Fields of Trinidad, by Mr. G. H. Cunningham Craig, at the Royal Colonial Institute, 4.30 p.m.
Thurs., June 21st.	—Cricket: West Indians v. Minor Counties, at Ealing. 3 days.
Mon., June 25th.	— " " v. Surrey, at the Oval. 3 days.
Wed., June 27th.	—Mr. Arthur a Heckett lectures on "Jamaica commercially, socially and politically," at the Royal Societies Club.
" "	—West Indian Club Dinner.
Fri., June 29th.	— " " v. Wiltshire, at Swindon. 2 days.
Mon., July 2nd.	— " " v. Hampshire, at Southampton. 3 days.
Mon., July 9th.	— " " v. South Wales, at Cardiff. 3 days.
Thurs., July 12th.	— " " v. Kent, at Catford. 3 days.
Mon., July 16th.	— " " v. M.C.C. and Ground, at Lords. 3 days.
Thurs., July 19th.	— " " v. Derbyshire, at Derby. 3 days.
Mon., July 23rd.	— " " v. All Scotland, at Edinburgh. 3 days.
Thurs., July 26th.	— " " v. An England XI., at Blackpool. 3 days.
Mon., July 30th.	— " " v. Northumberland and Durham, at Sunderland. 3 days.
Thurs., Aug. 2nd.	— " " v. Yorkshire, at Harrogate. 3 days.
Mon., Aug. 6th.	— " " v. Leicestershire, at Leicester. 3 days.
Fri., Aug. 10th.	— " " v. Norfolk, at Norwich. 2 days.
Mon., Aug. 13th.	— " " v. Nottinghamshire, at Nottingham. 3 days.
Thurs., Aug. 16th.	— " " v. Northamptonshire, at Northampton. 3 days.

Notes of Interest.

CABLE TROUBLE. The Dominica-Guadeloupe cable of the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., was interrupted on the 9th inst., cutting off Dominica from cable communication.

NOT PULEX. The variety of mosquito called *Culex sollicitans* will breed in no other place than salt water. To get rid of this mosquito it is necessary to drain the salt water, swamp lands along the coast where the mosquito prevails.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended June 7th, 233 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.50d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13½d. per lb.; fine, 14½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 9d. to 19d.

CATTLE FOOD. Steps are being taken by the *Syndicat des Fabricants de Sucre* to obtain from the Government facilities for the preparation of cattle food from sugar denatured with the refuse of grain and beans, either in bond or in factories under the control of the excise, and a decree to this effect is expected to be published shortly.

A CLOSE SHAVE. The R.M.S.P. Co. "Trent" had a narrow escape from fire on Sunday morning last. One of the London and North Western Railway Company's sheds, over 200 feet long by 160 feet wide, filled with general cargo for export to the West Indies, was completely destroyed by fire, but the "Trent," though severely scorched, providentially escaped serious damage.

A 12 ROLL MILL. A twelve-roll mill has been installed at the Narcisa factory of the North American Sugar Company. Originally this factory had two six-roll mills with Kragewski cutter, and this year the installation has been arranged so as to work as a twelve-roll mill with maceration before the fourth set, the juice from the fourth crushing going to the third and the juice from the third to the second mill. A mean extraction of 80.39% has been obtained, with 3.15% dilution, as compared with 74.41% for the previous year.

BRAVE BOYS. The sailing ship, Port Jackson, with 100 boys from the "Warspite" on board, collided with a Hamburg steamer on May 31st last. Mr. A. J. West, the well-known cinematographer, who has recently made a trip to the West Indies, with a view of including these among his admirable exhibitions, was on board. The collision was of a most serious nature, and the discipline and general behaviour of the boys under the trying circumstances may well be compared to that of the troops on board the ill-fated "Birkenhead," though, happily, it was unattended by loss of life. Mr. West was fortunate enough to obtain a number of "snap shots" of the scenes and incidents immediately after the collision.

A DARK DEED. With the arrival of the West Indian cricketers comes the usual crop of anecdotes, based on the sayings and doings of the swarthy portion of the team. The pardonable astonishment of a first visitor to these shores at the number of white people about, the fixed determination of another not to budge from the emergency exit of a music hall, owing to an overwhelming dread of premature cremation, sink into insignificance compared with the diabolic deed of stopping an express train as the result of a sudden and uncontrollable impulse to send an urgent telegram. The unhappy malefactor is now, in consequence of this act, in constant fear of arrest and punishment. We sincerely trust that the energy which he displayed in dealing with a critical situation will be shown also in the cricket field.

RUBBER + COCOA. It has been found in Venezuela that rubber can be used as a shade tree for cocoa, without in any way diminishing the yield of the latter. At General Fonseca's estate at Ocumare no diminution in the number of pods shaded by *Castilloa elastica* has been noticed, nor any lowering in the quality of the bean. On this estate there are upwards of 80,000 castilloas of all ages. The rubber trees are planted out from nurseries, and at the age of four or five years these outgrow the cocoa trees and commence to give shade to them. As further growth takes place, the other shade trees are killed out by "ring barking" them. It would appear from the above that the value of the nitrogen forming *bois immortelle*, the shade tree usually associated with cocoa in the West Indies, does not depend so much upon its manurial value as has been generally supposed.

RUBBER CURING. Considerable trouble is experienced in treating the latex or rubber juice from *Castilloa* in a tropical country. Boiling fails to secure complete coagulation, drying by steam is expensive, and all methods of evaporation yield a rubber of inferior quality. The *India Rubber World* gives a satisfactory method by treatment with smoke and steam. It is found that if smoke be driven with the steam into the latex, as the boiling point is reached the rubber completely coagulates in a few minutes of boiling. The coagulated mass is then lifted out, sliced thin and hanged over poles to dry. Rubber so coagulated has been kept six months without sign of viscosity or shortness of grain. It is supposed that the acetic acid produced by the destructive distillation of the wood, supplies the necessary coagulative impetus. A wood that gives off a dense smoke is, therefore, essential.

TESTING COTTON SEED. It is well known that in some cases a considerable proportion of cotton seed fails to germinate after sowing. This failure, says the *Agricultural Journal of India*, is generally due to the sucking of the seeds by some of the cotton pests. A simple method of separating sound from unsound cotton seed has been found in the course of experiments to determine the proportion of seed injured by the Red Cotton Bug. An effective process is to mix equal parts of fine sifted cow dung and earth with sufficient water to make a paste; this paste is slowly poured over the seeds whilst a man rubs the seeds in the paste. The seeds are then gently separated and dried for two or three hours in a shady place. When dry they are thrown into water; the sound ones sink, and the unsound ones float on the surface and are removed. Examination of the seeds shows that this process is a reliable one.

THE R.M.S.P. A number of distinguished guests were entertained by the Royal Mail Steam "AMAZON." Packet Company on board their new twin screw mail steamer "Amazon," on Saturday, June 9th. The party proceeded from Waterloo to Southampton in a special train which ran alongside, and were received at the gangway of the vessel by Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., Chairman of the Company, and Mrs. Philipps. A short cruise was then made to the Needles and back, everyone expressing himself delighted with this latest addition to the R.M.S.P. Company's fleet. The "Amazon" will leave for South America on her maiden voyage on the 15th inst. The "Araguaya" a steamer even larger than the "Amazon," was successfully launched at Belfast on June 6th, the christening ceremony being gracefully performed by the Countess of Aberdeen in the presence of a large number of visitors.

IMPORTANT TO OUR READERS. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates to fill up. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2 6 each or post free 3 . Bound copies of "The List of Members" to match the *West India Committee Circular*, will be forwarded to any address *post free*, 1s. 6d. each.

Some Homeward Mails.

The Imperial Direct R.M.S. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth on June 6th, having on board among her passengers Mr. E. R. Browne, Mr. H. A. Cooper, Mr. B. Edwards, Dr. Kenny and Mr. J. E. Sherlock. The Hon. Oscar Marescaux and Mr. C. H. Ward were booked to leave Jamaica on Thursday, June 7th. We extract the following items of news from letters received from Mr. J. L. Ashenheim and Mr. W. T. James, our Hon. Correspondents in Jamaica and Bermuda respectively:—

The Tobacco Trust and Jamaica Cigars.

In a letter dated May 23rd, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim informed us that the Montpelier Cigar Factory had been absorbed by the Jamaica Tobacco Co., a branch of the British American Tobacco Trust. The terms of the deal were not made known. It was stated that Mr. Sydney Delisser, was to remain local president of the new business, which would be known as the Jamaica Tobacco Co.

The question of the appointment of a Commercial Agent to represent Jamaica had practically been dropped by the Board of Agriculture.

Regular May rains were falling in earnest when the mail left, though no serious damage arising from them had been reported. It was stated that Savannah la-Mar, had not had ten consecutive dry days since January, but there was every prospect of a large pimento crop, though the rains had played havoc with the sugar crop, which had been greatly delayed and would be seriously reduced.

It was currently reported that a movement was on foot to create a kind of trust or control for the pimento grown in Jamaica, with the idea of manipulating its shipment and selling the product to the best advantage in foreign markets. It was said that the organisation in the course of formation would be represented in New York and London by agents whose duty it would be to assist producers in the Island to regulate the selling price. All, of course, would depend on the co-operation of growers in Jamaica.

A New Hotel for Bermuda.

Bermuda is becoming more and more every year a pleasant and fashionable tourist resort, and the need of more and better hotel accommodation is being felt. Mr. W. T. James, our Hon. Correspondent in the Colony, writing on May 23rd, said that the Corporation of the City of Hamilton, who at present own the popular Hamilton Hotel, now leased to an American firm, had undertaken to build a new up-to-date hotel with about 225 rooms, to cost, exclusive of land, about fifty to sixty thousand pounds. An Act has passed the Legislature, whereby the Colony guarantees the Corporation's debentures to the extent of £70,000. The Hotel will take two years to build. In the near future Bermuda hopes to attract English as well as American tourists.

The season has been a most disastrous one for farmers, following directly on the previous season, when there was a good crop but no means of disposing of it, and thousands of boxes of onions were "dumped." It therefore pressed particularly hard this year with a crop at least one-third below the average, and the price so low in the New York market, that onions shipped in May would not realize 1/- per crate. Under these conditions many small farmers must discontinue planting, and as merchants were not likely to make further advances, it was probable that the acreage in onions next year would be greatly diminished.

The reduction of the Army and Navy was another serious matter for Bermuda, and its effects were showing themselves everywhere. Trade had fallen off, imports were reduced, and the Public Revenue suffered. Duties on imports would probably have to be increased at an early date, or other taxation imposed in order to meet the expenses of the Government. At present there was a credit balance, but this would soon disappear under present conditions. To meet the agricultural depression and to substitute some other industry for that of onion growing, the Board of Agriculture was experimenting in the cultivation of tobacco. Sumatra leaf was being grown in considerable quantities under the able management of Mr. J. H. Harris, Superintendent of the Public Gardens. Mr. Harris was sanguine of success, and it is to be hoped that in the near future the growth of this article may prove a valuable industry.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The British Guiana Directory, 1906. *Daily Chronicle Office, Georgetown, Demerara.* It is a pity that the other West Indian Colonies are not so well provided for in the matter of works of reference as British Guiana, Jamaica and Grenada are. Every time we dip into the Directory under review we are struck with admiration at the masterly manner

in which it is compiled and at its general appearance, which leaves nothing to be desired. The present issue contains several new features, and the index has been still further improved by additional entries which greatly facilitate reference.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr EDWARD R. JONES has been appointed Treasurer of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

Mr R. A. CARTER, M.D., C.M., Government Medical Officer, has returned to British Guiana and resumed his duties.

Dr. C. F. KNOX has taken over the duties of Surgeon-General of Trinidad, on the departure on leave of Dr. J. A. De Wolf.

Mr. A. P. P. MACKEY, Financial Representative, British Guiana, has been granted five months leave of absence from May 19th last.

Hon. EDWARD DRAYTON, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General, Grenada, has returned to the Colony and resumed his duties.

The Ven. Archdeacon T. H. BINDLEY, D.D., has resigned his appointment as a Trustee of the Public Library, Barbados, from May 10th.

During the absence on leave of His Honour Mr. Justice ROULEBOUR, Mr. M. J. Berkeley is acting as Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, Trinidad.

Mr. JOHN G. W. HAZELL and Mr. JOHN G. PORTER have been appointed to be Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council of St. Vincent.

During the absence on leave of Mr. O'CONNOR DE CORDOVA, Mr. G. D. Robertson has been appointed to act as Registrar of the Supreme Court, Jamaica.

Mr. L. A. WHARTON, K.C., has been appointed to act as Solicitor-General of Trinidad and Tobago during the absence on leave of the Hon. R. A. S. Warner, K.C.

Mr. E. R. ANSON, Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for three months from May 16th, during which time Mr. E. A. Bugle will act in his place.

Hon. ARCHIBALD G. BELL, M. Inst. C.E., Colonial Civil Engineer, has been re-appointed a Commissioner, British Guiana, under the provisions of the Mahaica Canal Ordinance, 1888.

Hon. C. M. BROWNE, C.M.G., Unofficial Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Grenada, has been granted six months leave of absence, during which time Mr. Alfred Hayward will act in his place.

The Hon. C. B. HAMILTON, C.M.G., Receiver-General of British Guiana, leaves the Colony for England on the 21st inst. on nine months' leave of absence, during which Mr. P. Hemery, the Assistant Receiver-General, will discharge the duties of Chief of the Department.

Sir WALTER L. LEWIS, Chief Justice of British Honduras, having left the Colony on three months' leave of absence, the Hon. F. M. Maxwell, K.C., the Attorney-General, becomes Acting Chief Justice, and Mr. Colin Rces Davies the Registrar-General, takes over the duties of Acting Attorney-General.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 7th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." (Messrs. Thomas Daniel & Co., Ltd.), June 7th. "The rain is now pouring down in good earnest." (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 12th. "Weather all that can be desired." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), June 7th. "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 9th. "Weather favourable for cultivation." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), June 11th. "Fine and favourable for growing crops." **Trinidad** (Messrs. C. Tennant, Sons & Co.), June 9th. "Wet season fairly set in." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended May 30th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "fine." **KINGSTON**: "fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), June 14th:—Rev. Canon and Mrs. Elliott, Mr. A. Henkes, Mr. P. E. Saunders, Mr. L. F. Guevara, Mr. N. Inskipp, Mr. H. W. Hammond, Mr. A. Fietjen, Mr. J. T. Lewis, Mrs. Comacho, Miss Duran, Mr. A. Pessive, Mrs. I. von Blow, Mr. C. M. J. Carassa, Mr. and Mrs. I. Pulido, Mr. C. H. Townend, Mr. H. Lillen, Mr. C. Moir, Mr. H. H. Evans, Mr. J. Squires.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), June 6th:—**Jamaica**—Capt. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Browne, Mr. H. A. Cooper, Mr. B. Edwards, Miss F. Findlay, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Griffiths, Miss V. Garsia, Mrs. B. Irving, Dr. Kenny, Mrs. J. L. MacKenzie, Mr. J. S. Powell, Miss Ronaldson, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mr. C. Satow, Mrs. and Miss Sturridge, Miss N. Sewell, Mr. W. A. Thwaites, Miss D. Thwaites, Mr. and Mrs. Totesaw, Mr. D. Watson, Mr. T. Wishart, Mr. F. Haq, Mr. J. Beveridge, Miss Hale.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
June 14	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted) ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	June 13, mid'n.
" 15	Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Jamaica ...	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Stata"	" 15, 6 p.m.
" 15	Demerara, Trinidad and Barbados and all British Islands ...	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Crown of Navarre"	" 14, 6 p.m.
" 16	Barbados and Trinidad ...	Liverpool ...	Leyland Line	"Albanian"	" 15, 6 p.m.
" 16	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	L.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 15, 6 p.m.
" 22	Demerara ...	Liverpool ...	The Liverpool Line	"Frednes"	" 21, 6 p.m.
" 22	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara ...	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Dec"	" 22, noon.
" 28	The W. Indies (Northern Islands excepted) ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"	" 27, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
June 18	The West Indies ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"
" 18	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth...	L.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"
July 2	The West Indies ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwts.	Coconuts	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to May 12, '06	3,168	8,042	263,201	6,302	884,045	11,794	1,950,251	4,158,076
" " " 13, '05	3,152	4,808	325,412	2,438	700,160	6,904	2,057,015	930,700

Some West Indian Securities.

We shall be glad to include other "West Indian Securities," officially quoted, in the following list at the request of any of our readers in the West Indies.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	102 104
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3½ " " 1925-42 ...	100	3½ %	99 101
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " 1935 ...	100	4 %	108 110
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	101 103
1,098,907	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " 1934 ...	100	4 %	109 111
85,479.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " 1919-44 ...	100	4 %	103 105
422,593.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " 1917-42 ...	100	4 %	102 104
600,000.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44 ...	100	3 %	83 90
100,000	20	Colonial Bank ...	£5	7 %	6 6½
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ...	90	5% on prof.	57 59ad.
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4½ %	90 93
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd., ...	5	—	8½
46,874	5	" " " " 5 % Non-Cum. Pref. ...	5	—	27-8½
347,500.	Stock.	" " " " 4 % 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4 %	83-85
345,000	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb. ...	100	6 %	101 104
165,000	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock ...	100	—	19-22
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7 % Preference ...	100	4 %	99 102
34,250	10	" " " " 4 % Extension Preference... ..	10	4s.	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " " Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4 %	90 93
70,000.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4½% Reg. Debs. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4½ %	101 103
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd. ...	£2 10 0	6 %	—
42,300.	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4½% 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red. ...	100	4½ %	101 103
70,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. ...	5	5 %	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary ...	10	—	16 17
34,563	10	" " " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref. ...	10	5s.	6-7
4,069	10	" " " " " 2nd " ...	10	—	5-6
80,000.	100	" " " " " 5% Deb ...	100	5%	101-104
5000	1	West Indian Produce Association, Ltd. ...	£1	—	—

The Bank Rate remains at 4 per cent. (changed on May 3rd, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 88½.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The Market gives one the impression that it is steadying itself on a pivot of somewhere about 8s. basis 88, and well it may do so, seeing that taken in a broad sense, sugar is at least £1 per ton below the natural cost of production, accompanied as such cost must always be with reasonable profit and renewals of machinery. Unfortunately at times like the present, with the over-production and accumulation of stocks, cost of manufacture is outside the calculation. Here is the sugar and it has got to be got rid of. Sentiment, that all powerful force both in rises and falls, seems to be pointing to the Market having reached a final limit of decline. It is to be hoped sentiment is right. There must, of course, come a time when either a stand is made or the turning point is reached. It seems not unreasonable to think that the stand may be now with us, but the advance that so many of us are hoping for may well be a question of time. The determining feature undoubtedly is the weather from now till October, when the next season's beet crop commences. Up to the present all has gone well, and the prospects are for a good round out-turn, less probably than the 7,000,000 tons of this season, but not materially so. Dealing with a large figure like this, 10 per cent. one way or the other is all important. Anyone can prophesy what the crop will be, but no one, obviously, knows, and as it is on this point that the immediate future of the Market rests, it must be clear to all minds that an absolutely certain advance in prices must remain a question of grave doubt.

The closing quotations of 88% beet are—June, 8s. 0½d.; August, 8s. 2½d.; October/December, 8s. 5½d., and May, 1907, 8s. 8½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	2,720,000	1,930,000	2,430,000	2,450,000	2,560,000	Tons
United States	350,000	250,000	220,000	320,000	120,000	..
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	290,000	370,000	220,000	380,000	450,000	..
Total	3,360,000	2,550,000	2,920,000	3,150,000	3,130,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 13th June:—	8s. 0½d.	11s. 11d.	8s. 1½d.	8s. 0½d.	8s. 3d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar. There has been a better demand for yellow crystallised of late, and considerable sales have been made on the basis of 14s. 6d. for average qualities. The general working range is from 14s. 3d. to 15s., with retail lots of choice up to, say, 16s. At the moment Refiners are offering 9s. 3d. on floating terms for 96 centrifugals.

Molasses Sugar is about steady, spot values ranging from 10s. for low dark, up to 14s. 6d. for fine grocery, duty paid. For 8g test in bond, 7s. 3d. remains the quotation on floating terms. Peruvians are selling at 7s. on these terms.

Muscovado.—Spot business is small at prices ranging from 12s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. To Refiners, large sales of 8g test have again been made at 7s. 9d. to 7s. 9½d. on floating terms in bond, and this sugar attracts attention whenever it is offered.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	34,000	26,000	27,000	14,000	36,000	Tons
Deliveries	19,000	17,000	22,000	20,000	20,000	..
Stocks	24,000	19,000	17,000	23,000	28,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ...	14s. 6d.	18s. 6d.	18s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	13s. 9d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.		
Jamaica	6000	8000	9200	—	9300	Puns
Demerara	8100	5200	10,700	—	7700	..
Total of all kinds	20,200	21,100	27,900	—	27,800	..
Board of Trade Returns for 5 months:		1905.	1904.	1903.		
Home Consumption	1,744,000	1,663,000	1,768,000	1,637,000	Galls.	
Stocks 31st May	7,298,000	8,199,000	9,873,000	9,739,000	..	

According to the Board of Trade Returns stocks are steadily diminishing, but Home Consumption remains more or less stationary. Jamaica remains in good demand with a minimum quotation of 2s. 1d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Demerara has become quiet after the late business, and there is a good quantity on hand still, for which 9½d. is required but which does not seem attractive to buyers. Leewards and other proof kinds range from about 8d. to 1s.

Cocoa. Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	10,200	16,000	24,200	19,600	Bags.
Grenada	7400	13,200	19,000	13,700	..
Total of all kinds	63,700	74,800	92,800	84,900	..
Board of Trade Returns for 5 months:		1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	10,950	9985	14,402	12,306	Tons
Home Consumption	9391	8503	9096	8716	..
Stocks 31st May	3925	4786	6485	5873	..

The position in London is getting a strong one, as will be seen by the Board of Trade Returns printed above, and the recent advance in prices seems fully justified. During the fortnight business has been interrupted by the Whitsuntide holidays, but prices have a hardening tendency and present quotations of West India cocoa are: Trinidad fair collected, 57s.; Estate Marks, 57s. to 63s.; Grenada fair, 52s.; fermented 55s. to 57s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 51s., and fermented 54s. to 57s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 38s. to 40s.

Nutmegs, Mace, and Ginger.—Owing to the Whitsuntide recess public sales have been suspended. These articles are steady in tone at unchanged prices. **Pimento.**—Is a shade firmer at 2½d. to 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Steady, with moderate sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent up to 2d.

Line Juice.—Quiet, at 1d. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, slow; value, £20 15s. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. Distilled Oil, firmer, at 2s. to 2s. 1d.

The . . .
West India Committee Circular

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FROM time to time we have had to draw the attention of our readers to the attitude of the Canadian refiners towards the West Indian planters in connection with the Canadian preferential sugar tariff. It will be remembered that when the tariff first came into operation, the refiners, taking advantage of the strong position occupied by them by reason of the sugar consumption of Canada being less than the West Indian production, gave practically none of the preference under the tariff to the sellers. Later on, under the pressure of a firmer attitude of the latter and the opening up of a market for refining sugar on the Clyde, with consequent competition in the refiners' own markets with Scotch refined sugar, a more equitable proportion of the benefit of the tariff was given, and we were in hopes that the Canadian refiners were prepared to march with the West Indian planter in carrying out the provision of the preference in the spirit in which it was granted by the Canadian Government. We were, we are afraid, premature in this. We have now received strong complaints from the Northern Islands that the refiners make a share in the preference conditional on the sugar being carried in Pickford and Black's steamers. In the Canadian tariff no stipulation as to shipping occurs, and as the line in question is the only one trading between the West Indies and Canada this action on the part of the refiners looks very like an attempt at creating a monopoly, and affords another instance of the unsatisfactory nature of their attitude in connection with the preferential tariff. As we have said before, everything points to the desirability of the West Indian sugar growers establishing a refinery of their own in Canada and thus obtaining for themselves the benefit of the preference, at present either denied them, or grudgingly and in part given, or under conditions which nullify any advantage that might otherwise be reaped by the sellers. Such a refinery would work under the most advantageous conditions. It could be supplied with Demerara sugar in the winter months and Island sugar in the spring and summer, could have its own line of steamers and be practically owned by the West Indian planters, and its establishment would be a step towards the true reciprocity between Canada and the West Indies which it was the object of the Canadian Government to further when the preferential tariff was granted. The West Indian growers do not insist upon the whole of the loaf and are quite prepared to share it with the refiners; but when a scanty crust is offered them under stringent terms, they would be justified in taking the matter in their own hands in the way we have indicated. It would be a pity, however, if the Canadian refiners remained so blind to their own interests as to compel the planters to take such a step when amicable relations could so easily come about were the true principles of give and take acted upon.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, June 14th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following were elected members of the West India Committee.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconded.
CHARLES T. BRUCE.	SIR E. NOEL WALKER, K.C.M.G.	CHARLES S. PARKER.
J. A. CAMERON MCCALMAN.	SIR E. NOEL WALKER, K.C.M.G.	SPENCER H. CURTIS.
ALFRED E. A. HARRAGIN (Trinidad).	H. B. GARDINER AUSTIN.	R. RUTHERFORD.
HON. DAVID G. GARRAWAY (British Guiana).	SIR HENRY K. DAVSON.	W. GILLESPIE.
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR CAUVENISH BOYLES, K.C.M.G. (Mauritius).	SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK, K.C.M.G.	SIR HENRY K. DAVSON.

Full particulars regarding membership, and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

BY P. A. GOODMAN.

London County v. The West Indians.

It has already been recorded in the *West India Committee Circular* that the West Indians opened their tour on Monday, June 11th, against a fairly strong team captained by W. G. Grace. At the request, however, of a persistent editor I must proceed to give a few notes regarding the play. On the same day six years previously the last West Indian team which came over to the Mother Country were similarly engaged, and now, as then, the West Indian skipper, following in the footsteps of his predecessor, lost the toss, and the L.C.C. captain elected to occupy the wickets. W.G., as usual, came in first, but was dismissed for 23. We almost regret that we did not have the pleasure of seeing him make more runs, but we saw quite enough to be able to gather what a wonderful cricketer he is, and what he must have been in his younger days. We were greatly impressed by the fine, free, stand up style of Marshall, a young Queenslander, who is qualifying for Surrey, and of whom big things may soon be recorded.

Undoubtedly the feature of the day's play was the brilliant cricket of A. E. Lawton and E. H. D. Sewell. The former hit with hurricane force, while the latter played correct and finished cricket. These two made 201 between them, and although both of them should have been out earlier, yet they showed us what really first class cricket is like. The bowling of Sidney Smith, our left hander, on whom we principally relied, was disappointing in the highest degree, and our batting was equally so. That wily old bird, W. G., diddled us out in a most astonishing manner, but we opine that we do not stand alone in this experience. The one redeeming feature of our miserable batting display was the brilliant innings of Constantine, who made the ball travel at a fearful pace along the carpet whenever he did launch out. He justly deserved the *Daily Mirror* prize which was awarded to him.

Our bowling improved in the second innings, both Layne and Cumberbatch doing exceedingly well for about the first fifteen overs. They were rewarded by securing seven wickets for 55. As to batting, with the exception of Harragin, we again failed in the second innings, when being set 374 to win we could only succeed in raising 128, out of which Harragin hit very hard for 50, driving W.G. no fewer than six times out of the ground. In this, our first match, there was abject failure both with bat and ball. We were somewhat disappointed at the poor attendance of spectators, but realised that until we had shown the British public what we can do in the direction of first class cricket, we cannot expect much interest to be shown in our matches.

Essex v. The West Indians.

On the following Thursday, the 14th, we played Essex at Leyton, and once again was the toss lost and the field had to be taken in chilly weather. This time our bowling had some backbone in it, and Smith and Layne bowled quite well at the beginning of the match, Smith getting the ball to leave the ground quickly and doing some really good work.

Three Essex wickets were down for 37, and amongst them was Perrin. McGahey was sent back for a well played 26, just when he looked like laying the foundation of a very large innings. Reese, a left-hander, came next and played a good innings of 70 with the exception of a chance in the slips at 48. After he left the innings soon came to an end with the total at 226.

Ollivierre and Learmond, the first pair, played sound and careful cricket, especially the former, who in his 43 found the boundary no fewer than eight times. Their partnership ended in Learmond being very foolishly run out. Layne played bright and forceful cricket, and although he gave a few chances in his 106, yet his performance was a very meritorious one.

H. B. G. Austin, our captain, however, played the soundest and most stylish game of his side, and lost his wicket purely through exhaustion. Harragin's 51 was characterised by some splendid hitting, and after he left the innings soon came to an end.

In the second innings of Essex Perrin and McGahey came together and treated us to some superb cricket before being parted, the former making 106 without the semblance of a chance. Although at the close of play on Friday Essex had made 212 with eight wickets in hand, yet nine wickets were down for a total of 297. Then Buckenham and Mead got together and took the score to 395 before the former was clean bowled by Smith for a well played 47.

The rains of Friday night somewhat impaired the wicket, which never recovered throughout Saturday's play, and was distinctly against us.

Our second innings was on the whole tame with the exception of Sidney Smith, who played magnificently for 46 not out, and we could only put together 136 runs. Thus we lost after a keen match by 111 runs. Although we were beaten, yet we played sufficiently well to retrieve our miserable display at the Crystal Palace, and can only hope that our next match will be characterised by even a more marked improvement.

ESSEX.				THE WEST INDIANS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. J. W. H. T. Douglas, b Smith	0	b Ollivierre	19	Mr. G. C. Lennox, run out	15	b Mead	1
Carpenter, b Smith	9	b Smith	22	Mr. R. Ollivierre, l-b, w	b	Douglas	45
Mr. F. Perrin, c Constantine, b Layne	16	c Constantine, b Smith	106	Layne, c Perrin, b Reeves	43	c Freeman, b Mead	15
Mr. C. McGahey, b Canadian	26	b Cumberbatch	82	Mr. L. Constantine, b Reeves	106	b Buckenham	11
Mr. D. Reese, b Ollivierre	70	c Layne, b Smith	20	Mr. H. B. G. Austin, b Buckenham	74	c Kortright, b Buckenham	16
Reeves, b Smith	20	c Constantine, b Cumberbatch	25	Mr. A. E. Harragin, c Kortright, b Douglas	51	b Buckenham	9
E. J. Ferris, b Layne	22	c Bancroft, b Parker	0	Mr. C. K. Bancroft, c Naylor, b Buckenham	25	b Douglas	6
Mr. C. I. Kortright, b Parker	41	c Smith, b Cumberbatch	0	Mr. A. Goodman, b Buckenham	1	c Carpenter, b Reeves	0
Buckenham, not out	7	b Smith	45	Mr. S. Smith, not out	10	not out	46
Naylor, c Lennox, b Parker	0	c Constantine, b Cumberbatch	2	Cumberbatch, b Buckenham	0	b Douglas	0
Mead, c Lennox, b Ollivierre	7	not out	51	Mr. J. E. Parker, c Naylor, b Buckenham	3	b Buckenham	3
Byes, 6; l-b, 6; w, 1; n-b, 1	14	Byes, 0; l-b, 3; w, 1	25	Byes, 10; l-b, 1	11	Bye, r; l-b, 1	5
Total	226	Total	395	Total	370	Total	136

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.			
Bowler	o	m	r	Bowler	o	m	r	Bowler	o	m	r	Bowler	o	m	r
Smith	20	1	23	Smith	35	5	108	Buckenham	26	3	78	Buckenham	18	5	47
Layne	17	2	56	Layne	25	1	81	Mead	23	4	72	Mead	14	3	17
Cumberbatch	5	2	31	Cumberbatch	13	2	39	Kortright	19	3	61	Douglas	9	2	41
Goodman	10	1	36	Goodman	4	0	17	Douglas	18	6	64	Reeves	2	0	13
Parker	5	0	28	Parker	22	4	63	McGahey	9	1	33				
Ollivierre	3	7	5	Ollivierre	6	0	17	Reeves	11	0	37				
				Constantine	0	0	12								

As we go to press the match between the West Indians and Lord Brackley's West Indian Eleven is proceeding at Lord's. A full account of it will be given in our next issue.

The Sustaining Power of Cane Sugar.

We have often had occasion to refer to the remarkable sustaining powers of cane sugar, and it will be remembered that Sir Martin Conway, in his book "The Ascent of Aconcagua," stated that he found Demerara sugar "the finest heat-producing, muscle-nourishing food in the world." For men taking violent exercises, such as soldiers on active service or athletes in training, a plentiful supply of sugar was, he said, far better than large meat rations. A quarter of a pound per day per man was his allowance on the mountain side, and he was inclined to think that this might be increased to nearly half a pound with advantage, cane sugar, of course, being selected for this purpose. This testimony as to the alimentary value of sugar finds striking confirmation in the account of the first crossing of Mount Cook, contributed by Mr. Malcolm Ross to the May number of the *Alpine Journal*. On this expedition, which proved a wonderful feat of endurance, brown sugar formed an important part of the rations. Indeed, Mr. Ross says that upon it he "existed almost entirely on all our climbs."

One Hundred Years Ago.

The abolition of the Slave Trade.

In 1776 began the agitation for the abolition of the slave trade, in which Clarkson and Wilberforce played a prominent part. The question was constantly before Parliament from time to time until the slave trade was finally abolished in 1807. In 1803 the revolution in the French Island of San Domingo, with all its attendant horrors, had occurred, and early in 1804 the Abolition Bill passed the House of Commons. The West India Merchants viewed the situation with great alarm.

Increased by the consideration that the Moment when a recent Revolution (originating in improvident and inconsistent Counsels of the Mother Country and attended with circum-

stances that must agitate the Minds of the Negroes of the neighbouring islands has desolated and ruined the once flourishing Colony of St. Domingo, is peculiarly ill adapted for the enacting of a Law, which the Negroes may well construe to be a prelude to emancipation and to imply a doubt of the validity of that Tenure under which their subordination is at present exacted and maintained."

It was therefore decided to petition the House of Lords for permission to be heard at the Bar of the House against the Bill, and the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV., undertook the presentation of the Petition, to whom the thanks of the Committee were given as recorded in the minutes of July 4th, 1804.

"RESOLVED:

That the Thanks of this Committee be given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, for the trouble he has taken in presenting the Petition of the West India Merchants and Mortgagees, against a Bill brought into the House of Lords for the abolition of the Slave Trade, and for the able, steady and zealous support which His Royal Highness has upon that, and many other occasions, afforded to the West India Interest, more especially upon a Question which implicates, in a direct manner, not only the most important Interests, but the very existence of the Colonies."

At a meeting of the Committee on the 11th September, 1804, Mr. Beeston Long stated that the Bill for the abolition of the slave trade had been thrown out by the Lords, and that he had received the following reply from His Royal Highness:—

BUSBY HOUSE, Friday night.

SIR,—I have this evening been favoured with your Letter of yesterday, enclosing the Resolution of the Committee of West India Merchants. I am to request you will assure these Gentlemen of the high sense I feel for their approbation of my Parliamentary Conduct on a late occasion, and that I shall at all times be both ready and happy to use my endeavours to support the Interests of the West India Colonies, and particularly to oppose the Abolition of that Trade in which the Colonies have hitherto been induced by repeated Acts of Parliament to look for their support.

I cannot conclude this Letter without returning you my sincere thanks for the polite manner in which you have made known to me this very flattering mark of approbation of the West India Merchants.

Ever believe me, Sir,

Yours unalterably,

WILLIAM."

The Bill subsequently passed both Houses in 1807.

The Order of St. Michael and St. George.

As we last went to press, an impressive ceremony was being observed at St. Paul's Cathedral, where the King, as Sovereign of the Order, and the Prince of Wales, as Master, and many distinguished knights and members were present at the dedication of the Chapel of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. A stately procession was formed, which proceeded first to the Chapel, where the Bishop of London offered a dedicatory prayer, and then moved to the high altar, where the remainder of the service was held. Though the Order has always had a Prelate—the present holder of that position being Bishop Montgomery—it has not had a chapel, and it is due to the initiative of the Archdeacon of London that this omission has been made good. What used to be known as the Wellington Chapel has been adapted for the purpose, and thanks to many handsome gifts which have been received the result has been in every way satisfactory. The Order of St. Michael and St. George was founded in 1818 in commemoration of the British protectorate of the Ionian Islands, but after the repudiation of this protectorate the Order was placed on a new basis, and was extended to provide for such of "the natural born subjects of the Crown of the United Kingdom as may have held or shall hold high and confidential offices within Her Majesty's Colonial possessions, and in reward for services rendered to the Crown in relation to foreign affairs in the Empire."

Roumanian Bounty.

Consular Report.

An arrangement has been made by the Government with the five sugar refineries now working in Roumania, under which the bounty on manufactured sugar is reduced from 16 c. to 11 c. the kilo. (1 fr. of 100 c. = 9½d.). This will effect a saving to the Government of £40,000 per annum for the period of eight years, at the completion of which the bounties come to an end. *Per contra* the tax on exportation instead of being 11 c. the kilo., will be reduced to 9 c. for the first 5,000,000 kilos (5000 metric tons) exported in each year. In return for the sacrifices made by the refineries, the State engages for the next eight years not to accord any bounty for sugar, or any other advantages to any new factory, and it also engages, for a period of twelve years, *i.e.*, till the expiration of the term for which the new Treaties of Commerce last, not to lower the present import duties (35 fr. per 100 kilos. = 14s. 3d. per cwt.) on foreign sugar.

The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" arrived at Southampton at two p.m., on June 18th. She was met at Barbados by the "Eden," which performed her last voyage from Demerara under present arrangement, and will proceed to St. Thomas, where she will be laid up. The small coasting steamer "Yare" brought the letters from Dominica to Barbados.

Among the passengers by the "Orinoco" were Sir Daniel Morris, who has returned home for a well deserved holiday, Mr. R. G. Duncan, the Chairman of the Planters' Association of British Guiana, who has made a complete recovery from his recent accident, the Hon. and Mrs. Mark Kerr, Hon. G. Goodwille, Hon. S. Henderson, Capt. J. B. Saunders, and Mr. James Inniss.

Labour Conditions in Antigua.

The emigration of labourers from Antigua to Panama was, wrote the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner on May 31st, having an unsettling effect on the labour market. There had been an unusual number of strikes and demands for higher wages, which were, unfortunately, impossible while sugar kept at so low a price. At the time of writing, the labourers were settling down again, especially as the news of those who went to Panama was not encouraging.

The local Legislature, Federal Legislature, and the Agricultural and Commercial Society had all drawn the attention of the Government to the serious position of the Colony owing to the want of a regular Mail service; they had addressed an urgent appeal to the Secretary of State through the Governor on the subject. The Federal Council met on May 25th, but no measures of great importance were submitted, except perhaps one amending the title by Registration Act so as to make the bringing of land under this Act optional and not compulsory.

The weather continued showery. The young cane crop looked very well on the whole, and a continuance of the same weather would lead to a large area of early planted cotton, especially with sugar at such a low price.

A Story of Heroism from Barbados.

Writing on June 1st, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne said that the Joint Committee of the town branches of the Legislature appointed to consider the Mail question had not yet met. Meanwhile the Mails and parcels for the Northern Islands received by the "Atrato," which arrived in Barbados on Tuesday, May 29th, were lying at the Post Office waiting for the next Pickford & Black steamer, a state of affairs which naturally caused the greatest indignation among all those concerned. It was probable that the fitting of every vessel with cold storage would be made a condition of any grant for a Mail service made by Barbados, but the banana industry, which was so flourishing, had already been so thoroughly crushed that it would take many voyages with excellent fittings and strict punctuality before confidence in it could be revived. It was still felt that it would be best for the Company to buy the fruit on the wharves and then make their own shipping arrangements.

A few cases of fever had occurred at Speightstown which were attributed to returned labourers from Panama.

An accident, fatal to three men, occurred at Hampton Estate in St. Philip's, on Monday, May 28th, which was worthy of special record as it showed that the population were capable of deeds of heroism. A man (Crnigg), was sent down by a rope to clean out a well about 90 ft. deep, which was always done about that time of year. On reaching the bottom, he sent up two buckets of stuff, but no more appearing after some interval, fears began to be entertained. Another man, named Haynes, was then lowered down, but he also made no sign. A third man then volunteered to go down, but after descending some way he shouted to be drawn up, saying he had seen two men at the bottom apparently dead. He was hauled up, when another man, Joe Eastmond, volunteered to go down. He did so, but he also found the fumes too oppressive and cried to be hauled up. He must, however, have been already overcome, for before he reached the top, he had fallen to the bottom. On hearing the sad news, Mr. A. Cameron, the Attorney for Hampton, started by special train for the estate, taking with him Mr. Ashby, a skilled diver, with all his apparatus, hoping to counteract the foul air. After descending some twenty or thirty feet, Mr. Ashby requested to be hauled up. Next morning, experiments were made by lowering fowls, and when, by their condition, it appeared that the noxious gases were being dissipated, a pig was sent down which returned in perfectly good health. A man named Robert Sargent then volunteered, and with complete success. The bodies of the three men were brought to the surface, and at an inquest later in the day the verdict was death by misadventure through asphyxiation caused by noxious gas. The community signified its appreciation of the heroism shown by these men, who knowingly imperilled their lives in the hope of rescuing a comrade, by subscribing largely to a fund for the benefit of the families of those who were killed. This little story might well compare with the many deeds of bravery performed by Welshmen and others on behalf of entombed miners.

At the time of writing the drought still continued, though there were indications of rain, and at night on Sunday, May 27th, rain came down heavily for a few minutes. Crops were finished on most of the steam estates and showed good returns. A few belated windmills would

be going on for some time longer. On estates which were finished, work was at a standstill, as it was impossible to plant anything till rain fell. It was probable that the planters would find the spring of ratoons would not justify their being retained in many places, and great increase in the planting of cotton would be the result. Potatoes and green food were scarce and dear, and planters would be obliged to purchase vacuum pan molasses to sprinkle over the cane tops for food for stock. The heat was terribly severe, and the mortality among palm trees, evergreens and shrubs was increasing. Sugar was quoted \$1.40. [It is gratifying to know that since this letter was written, heavy rains have been falling in Barbados.—Ed.]

The Short Orlanding in British Guiana.

Empire Day was celebrated in Georgetown on May 24th. Demonstrations by children attending schools in the City being the chief feature in the day's observance.

The preliminary trial of Major de Rinzy for manslaughter in connection with the riots of December was proceeding at the City Police Court, and up to the time of the departure of the Mail had occupied four days. An application for a summons against Col. Lushington on a similar charge had been heard, decision being reserved.

The weather during the fortnight had been fine with occasional light showers until the 1st, when there was a heavy fall in Demerara and Essequibo. Mr. Summerson stated in his letter of June 2nd that rains were badly wanted in Berbice. The estates were all at work for the short grinding, and the results were turning out much below estimates. Very little sugar had been sold locally, and the quotation of \$1.65 to \$1.70 was only nominal.

A Hopeful Outlook for Dominica.

The fortnight in Dominica had been extremely dry except for one day's rain. Mr. E. A. Agar, writing on June 2nd, informed us that the Administrator arrived in the Colony from Antigua on that day. With the high price of lime juice and the improving tone of the cocoa markets, prospects for the Island were favourable.

A Quiet Time in Jamaica.

The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" arrived at Avonmouth on June 19th, and we have just received letters as we go to press. Since last letters received, matters had been quiet in Jamaica, and agricultural prospects were unchanged. Mr. A. W. a'Beckett was given a luncheon on board the "Port Kingston" on Tuesday, June 5th. A list of passengers by this steamer will be found on page 304, and we shall deal further with Jamaica matters in our next issue.

A Set-Back for Cotton in St. Vincent

On June 4th, Mr. W. N. Sands wrote that an unfortunate set-back had been experienced in the matter of cotton seed for export, owing to the low germinating power of most of the best marks, and as a result, all export orders had had to be cancelled. The matter was being investigated by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and so far as at present seen, it was thought to be in some measure due to insufficient drying of the seed cotton before ginning, but other possible helping causes were being gone into; at any rate, planters in the Island would have to sow their seed much thicker than in previous years in order to get a good growth of cotton. Planters in other islands would, the writer felt sure, be disappointed in not being able to obtain seed of their 20d. cotton. The weather conditions were not favourable to all planting operations, and to the growing crops.

Cocoa Prospects in Trinidad.

Both socially and politically matters were extremely quiet in Trinidad. The Hon. G. T. Fenwick, writing on June 4th, informed us that the Local Government Committee had issued its report dealing with Local Road Boards. It recommended the addition to the Boards of the Warden and the Medical Officer of the district. Power to deal with the water supply and sanitation might be obtained on special application, with the approval of the Governor. After an interval of two years, the Extension of Railways Committee had resumed its deliberations.

Of the six different lines suggested by the Maintenance Engineer, four had been judged necessary, for the present at any rate; the two still under discussion were the line from Tabaquite to Rio Claro Rest House on the road to Mayaro, and the line from San Fernando through the Oropouche district to Siparia, with a possible branch in the direction of Moruga.

During the first part of the fortnight they had heavy rains, interfering much with the sugar reaping, but a few fine days later enabled the factories to make a fair finish. The figures were not yet available, but the crop would certainly prove an excellent one. The Usine closed with 16,080 tons, which was considerably in advance of previous records. The heavy rains had greatly benefited the cocoa cultivation, but it was too early yet to say to what extent they had saved the June crop. It was fast being harvested, and deliveries were therefore on a very liberal scale, and lower prices were anticipated when present short sellers had covered their requirements. The falling of deliveries for last month as compared with the same period last year was about 8000 bags. At that moment there was a strong demand for all grades. Fine Estates were quoted at 54/-, Mixed Estates at 53/-, and Ordinary at 52/- per fifty kilos C. and F. Havre; but business to a large extent at these prices was not possible. The Venezuela market was again characterised by an extremely strong demand at continually rising prices.

The quality of the cocoa coming to hand was not of a very satisfactory nature, and those lots which were good had realised very high prices. Reports from the mainland were very discouraging, and greater firmness in the prices of this quality for some time to come were looked for. Shipments of Cocoa:—

Totals at last report		63,984	Trinidad	18,323	Venezuela	
April	27th.—" Westphalia "	1,050	"	2	"	Europe.
"	30th.—" Oceano "	100	"	10	"	Canada.
"	" —" Stella "	18	"	—	"	Europe.
"	" —" Marcus "	1,784	"	104	"	New York.
"	" —" La Plata "	624	"	50	"	Europe.
"	" —" Prins Willem IV. "	652	"	—	"	New York.
May	2nd.—" France "	1,395	"	616	"	Europe.
"	4th.—" Crown of Navarre "	50	"	—	"	"
"	5th.—" Prins Willem I. "	876	"	425	"	"
"	7th.—" Cairnack "	93	"	—	"	"
"	9th.—" Maraval "	2,196	"	237	"	New York.
"	12th.—" Bolivia "	604	"	550	"	Europe.
"	15th.—" Prins Willem III. "	311	"	—	"	New York.
"	17th.—" Prins Maurits "	1,450	"	—	"	Europe.
"	18th.—" Centro America "	75	"	—	"	"
"	19th.—" Grenada "	2,216	"	474	"	New York.
"	22nd.—" Trent "	2,029	"	—	"	Europe.
"	24th.—" Serrano "	45	"	—	"	"
"	25th.—" Sardinia "	1,350	"	600	"	"
"	31st.—" Salybia "	610	"	—	"	"
"	" —" Atrato "	185	"	—	"	New York.
"	" —" Prins der Nederlanden "	1,800	"	—	"	Europe.
		83,473	Trinidad.	21,421	Venezuela.	

Notes of Interest.

Cable. The Guadaloupe-Dominica cable, which was reported interrupted on the 9th inst., was duly restored on the 12th.

Advt. p. ii. The attention of our readers is called to the list of persons seeking appointments in the West Indies, which forms a new feature on page ii. of our advertisement columns in alternate issues. A capable estate manager, accountants, overseers and an analyst and botanist are included in the list.

Cotton Loans. We are glad to be able to state that it has been decided on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture to renew cotton loans in Antigua for another year in order to encourage small growers. Excellent progress has been made in the Island with cotton, and in Montserrat also prospects are distinctly good. In St. Vincent planters are very hopeful as to the future of cotton.

German Marmalade. The marmalade factory of Fr. Meyers Sohn at Tangerwade, Germany, has been bought by Messrs. James Keiller and Company, the well known English jam manufacturers. Should the Convention fall through and cartels be re-established, a contingency which, it is to be hoped, will not arise, it would be an interesting point to see how far the rise in price would compensate in Messrs. Keiller's venture, for the inevitable diminution in the consumption.

An Offer to Students. Sir Alfred Jones, who recently offered a free passage to Members of Parliament to Jamaica and back, has now made a tempting proposal to the undergraduates of our principal Universities. Briefly, he will take a limited number to Jamaica, put them up in an hotel and bring them home again for the inclusive charge of £10. The much advertised "Week in lovely Lucerne for £5" sinks into insignificance compared with the magnanimous offer of a "Week in jocund Jamaica for £10."

A Good Cause. Lady Lubbock gave an At Home at her residence, 65, Earl's Court Square, on Friday, June 15th, when a collection was made in aid of St. Clement's Church, Naparima, Trinidad, which is at the present time much in need of funds. The meeting was addressed by Sir Neville Lubbock and the Vicar of St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, and Jamaica folk-lore stories were told in her characteristically amusing style by Miss Smith. We shall be glad to receive and forward to Lady Lubbock any subscriptions towards the good cause for which she is working.

A Wedding. On June 14th a wedding was solemnised at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, by the Rev. Canon Baggallay, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Burge, head master of Winchester School, and the Rev. Canon Heasley, between Charles Sandbach Parker and Harriette Dorothy, youngest daughter of Edmund Gustavus Bloomfield Meade-Waldo, of Stonewall Park, Edeu-bridge, Kent. We extend our most cordial congratulations to Mr. Parker, who is a member of the Executive of the West India Committee, and who has for many years been so honourably connected with the Colony of Demerara.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Tues., June 12th—Beet steady, 8/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
- Wed., June 13th—Lord Elgin presided over the Annual Meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association—Prime Minister unveiled statue to Sir William Harcourt in the House of Commons.—Beet steady, 8/2.
- Thurs., June 14th—Mr. Alfred Lyttelton's address to the Electors of St. George's, Hanover Square, published in *The Times*.—Beet steady, 8/2 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- Fri., June 15th—The Duke of Westminster presided over the Annual Meeting of the Imperial South Africa Association.—Mr. Alfred Lyttelton was returned to Parliament unopposed for St. George's, Hanover Square.—Beet Steady, 8/3 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- Sat., June 16th—Beet easier, 8/3 $\frac{1}{2}$.
- Sun., June 17th—Hospital Sunday.
- Mon., June 18th—Hon. T. C. Agar-Robartes, Liberal M.P. for Bodmin, unseated on petition.—Beet 8/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ quiet
- Tues., June 19th—A Memorial Service for the late Mr. Seddon at St. Paul's Cathedral. Beet, 8/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ steady
- Wed., June 20th—Beet (Morning Call)

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados—(Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaville), June 18th. "Rains have continued since our last cable."
British Guiana—(Messrs. Baskar Bros., McCune & Co.), June 15th. "Weather favourable for cultivation."
Jamaica—(The West India Cable Co., Ltd.), June 16th. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation."
Jamaica—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 6th. Port Antonio—"31st to 2nd, fine; 3rd to 6th, rainy." Kingston—"Rainy."

The Arrivals.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), June 18th: Capt. and Mrs. J. B. Saunders, Miss Miles, Hon. and Mrs. Goodwin, Miss Field, Hon. S. Henderson, Mr. A. Thorp, Mr. C. F. Stallmeyer, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. J. Wilson, Miss Warner, Miss Avery, Major E. B. Walker, Mr. A. B. Thompson, Mr. A. W. Bartlett, Mr. M. Durran, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. H. D. Soudamere, Hon. and Mrs. R. G. Duncan, Mr. and Mrs. F. Fowler, Mr. R. Driver, Dr. Bobbier, Mr. J. I. Chapman, Lady Ismay, Mr. A. M. Gilchrist, Mr. C. W. Booth, Mr. H. Vythuis, Mr. W. O. Hutchings, Mr. W. Cuddeford, Mrs. E. C. and Miss D. Jackson, Miss L. Man, Mr. and Mrs. G. Walton, Mr. W. Clarke, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Kaye, Hon. Sir Daniel and Mrs. Morris, Hon. and Mrs. Mark Kerr, Miss Shankland, Miss B. Darnell, Miss M. Rucker, Mrs. Boyle, Miss Gaskin, Mrs. Reidman, Hon. E. A. Foster, Mr. J. Innis, Mrs. Benson, Miss Mackay, Mr. J. Gordiro.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS—per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), June 18th: Mr. Y. Wilkin, Mr. F. Privette, Mr. E. Vidaguez, Mrs. Ross, Mr. A. Struck, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Guloson, Mrs. Quick, Baron de Siam, Mr. and Mrs. H. Lynch.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. Owen Jones), June 16th: **Jamaica**—Miss Gardener, Mr. A. Hollands, Mr. Kniveton, Mr. D. L. Kerr, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. C. G. D., Messrs. Miss G. Pearson, Miss D. W. Ebocks, Mr. D. Basil Thomas, Capt. S. Mantschian.

ARRIVAL BOOKINGS—per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Captain J. G. Farson), June 20th: **Jamaica**—Mr. F. H. Browne, Mr. A. J. Walker, Rev. and Mrs. J. Davidson.

HOME ARRIVALS.—Per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Captain J. G. Farson), June 19th: **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Reekott, Mrs. Bantcher, Mrs. V. O. Bell, Miss R. Bourke, Mrs. and Miss Gullfield, Mr. W. H. Lockman, Miss Doyle DoPass, Mrs. Cron-Ewing, Mrs. W. Forwood, Mrs. E. Gardner, Mrs. and Miss Hastings, Major and Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. A. Henderson, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. W. J. Heath, Miss E. Heath, Captain Hingley, Mrs. Hughes, Dr. A. K. and Mrs. Ireland, Mrs. R. H. Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Jordan, Miss A. G. Johnston, Mrs. A. L. Janssen, Mrs. W. H. Kerr, Mr. V. D. and Mrs. Lake, Hon. Dr. J. B. Lyle, Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Mr. J. Morrison, Hon. O. Marescaux, Colonel E. D. Malcolm, C.B., Mrs. J. P. Martin, Mrs. J. A. Montague, Mrs. MacMahon, Mr. N. Matuk, Mrs. R. H. Otto, Mr. J. H. and Mrs. Phillips, Lieut. Price, Lieut. Priday, Mrs. Royston, Mrs. Roberts, Miss Shaw, Mr. C. Sadler, Mr. E. F. Spake, Miss D. Tuckett, Colonel Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Mr. C. H. Ward, Mrs. Watson.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1st to May 31st.	1905.	Jan. 1st to May 31st.	1905.	April 1st to May 31st.	1905.	Jan. 1st to June 30th.	1905.	Oct. 1st to June 4th.	1905.
Sugar	27,440	14,549 tons.	18,018	23,371 tons.	4,391	3,625 tons.	1906. 1905. 374,317 267,374 bags & brls. 1342 2322 puns. 1021 trcs. 1			
Melasses	43,262	29,316 puns.	4,372	4,652 cskts.						
Rum			7,706	5,064 puns.	339,052	343,374 gals.				
Cattle Feed			2,456	2,723 tons.						
Cocoa			3,200	4,350 lbs.	8,777	5,223 cwts.	13,916,920	16,216,485 lbs.	47,157	53,893 bags.
Coffee					1,000,295	760,980 "	16,160	11,772 "		
Cocoanuts							5,129,000	4,620,040 "		
Copra							7280	4695 bags.		
Cotton					11,676	17,599 lbs.				
Cotton Seed										
Asphalt										
Oranges									973	646 bales.
Bananas					1,471,176	1,062,000	57,490	51,103 tons.	3519	4278 bags.
Pimento					7,329,476	2,318,860 bunches.				
Spice					12,404	8,536 cwts.				
Gold										
Diamonds			16,216	25,430 cts.						
			768	2,443 carats.						

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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ERRATA ON PAGE 312.

Owing to a printer's error the scores in the match between the West Indians and Surrey County C.C. are given incorrectly. They should be, Surrey, 306 and 47 for no wicket; West Indians, 121 and 231.

June 26th, 1906

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8642 CENTRAL.



Lieut.-Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G.

SCARCELY a day passes without one or more callers visiting the West India Committee Rooms with a request for information about the West Indian Colonies, and our post bag generally contains similar enquiries. On every occasion the same routine has to be gone through. It has to be explained how greatly circumstances vary in different Colonies, both commercially and from the agricultural standpoint, and that, while in some there is ample need for settlers, in Barbados every square inch of the soil is fully taken up. This information is given in "The West Indies General Information for Intending Settlers," a small handbook issued by the Emigrant's Information Office, which can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms for the sum of 6d. To this we generally refer enquirers in the first instance, and when the preliminary information has been acquired, a second interview usually follows if the would-be settler or emigrant is in earnest. It is then that such further particulars as are vouchsafed in "Tobago Hints to Settlers,"

which has just been published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, comes in really useful. It is compiled by Mr. James Todd Rousseau, the Magistrate and Warden of the Island, and while we do not

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXX.



Lieut.-Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEEING LANE, LONDON,

June 26th, 1906

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

SCARCELY a day passes without one or more callers visiting the West India Committee Rooms with a request for information about the West Indian Colonies, and our post bag generally contains similar enquiries. On every occasion the same routine has to be gone through. It has to be explained how greatly circumstances vary in different Colonies, both commercially and from the agricultural standpoint, and that, while in some there is ample need for settlers, in Barbados every square inch of the soil is fully taken up. This information is given in "The West Indies General Information for Intending Settlers," a small handbook issued by the Emigrant's Information Office, which can be obtained at the West India Committee Rooms for the sum of 6d. To this we generally refer enquirers in the first instance, and when the preliminary information has been acquired, a second interview usually follows if the would-be settler or emigrant is in earnest. It is then that such further particulars as are vouchsafed in "Tobago Hints to Settlers,"

which has just been published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, comes in really useful. It is compiled by Mr. James Todd Rosseau, the Magistrate and Warden of the Island, and while we do not

say that it is quite perfect in every respect, it gives, besides the usual particulars as to climate, means of communication, &c., detailed information as to the cost of bringing 100 acres of forest land into full-bearing in cacao, and the amount of capital required. Now, speaking as we do from actual experience, we have no hesitation in saying that this is exactly what is wanted. But then comes the question of price, and here, we think, there is room for improvement, or, we should say, a reduction. Such pamphlets should most certainly, in our opinion, be distributed entirely free of charge. We have often threshed this matter out with the officials at the Emigration Office, but while they appear to be sympathetic, they have to account, we believe, for every copy disposed of. *Hinc illae lacrymae.* It may be said that if a settler can pay his fare to the West Indies he can pay 6d. for a pamphlet. But this is not quite the point. It is a case of first catch your prospective settler. The Canadian Emigration offices realise this to the full extent, and distribute literature far and wide absolutely free of charge, with results which speak for themselves. Of course Canada appeals to a different class of settlers; the West Indies being only suited for persons with a moderate amount of capital. But the principle is the same. Cannot something on similar lines be attempted for the West Indies? We commend it to the serious consideration of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, whether they might not immediately undertake the publication of a series of pamphlets of information regarding each one of the Islands of the West Indies for distribution free of charge. In order to provide the necessary means it should be possible for the pamphlets to be bound and sold in one single volume, while each Colony might be got to vote a small sum of £50 or £100, or upwards, according to the state of the Exchequer and the general desire for publicity, for the free circulation of their integral guides. As a distributing medium the West India Committee gladly offer their services, and it is to be hoped that the West Indian Colonies will avail themselves of them to the full extent.

THE Honduras railway question continues to agitate the community of that Colony, and the feeling against the substituted scheme of the Colonial Office is growing in force daily. When we last dealt with the matter in our columns, the amount which had been estimated for the short agricultural railway proposed on this side was £50,000, which, by the way, has since mounted to £86,000. When the last mail left the matter had again been brought up in the Legislative Council, which, while approving of the suggestion of the Secretary of State that £100,000 should be raised to be "expended advantageously in the development of the Colony," and expressing an opinion that a portion of the loan might be devoted to the Stann Creek railway, added the rider that "In particular this Committee would welcome any well-considered and properly financed scheme for a railway from Belize to the western frontier of the Colony," the latter clause being objected to by the Government, but voted for unanimously by the unofficial members. A public meeting had also been held and a resolution passed, the text of which we give elsewhere, strongly urging the adoption of the scheme on which the Colonists had set their heart, an outline of which we gave in a previous article. Nothing has since transpired to weaken the Colonial aspect of the case. A short line purely for agricultural purposes in a country where the agricultural labourer is practically non-existent, 50% of the population of the Colony residing in Belize the capital and port, is surely beginning at the wrong end. In theory, the primary development of a Colony by agriculture is sound; but circumstances alter cases, and in this instance there can be no question that the development of the Colony in its present condition of population would be best served by fostering an industry which depends upon natural wealth which already exists. When the position of British Honduras has been thus strengthened, and labour and capital attracted, the time would then arise for the furthering and establishing of agricultural industries pure and simple. The position of the Colony is unique. Belize is a port, the only port of any size on that part of the South

American coast: inside the Colony are the prosperous States of Guatemala, whose natural outlet is through British Honduras, and Southern Mexico, while in between are forests of valuable mahogany and other woods with every probability of enormous mineral wealth. The railway which the Colonists advocate, and on which the modest sum of £35,000 only would have to be expended by the Colony, would unite the port of Belize with these interior States, and open up an immediate source of wealth along its seventy mile route. On the one hand the Government propose an isolated line of twelve miles in length with the idea of establishing a banana industry where there is nobody to grow them and which nobody wants, at a cost to the Colony of £86,000; on the other, the colonists want a link with a neighbouring state, a communication to a store of natural wealth, and a means of further strengthening the position of Belize as a capital and port, which can be had for an official expenditure of £35,000, and which is in accord with the wishes of the Colony. It matters not whether private or Crown lands are thus opened up, the interests of the Colony as a whole demand that its wealth should not lie idle, whether it be public or private, and we sincerely trust that in this matter the Home Government will recognise the position of things and accede to the wishes of the Colonists. The Government Scheme can then be added as a subsidiary scheme.

As our readers are aware, an Anglo-Cuban Commercial Treaty has been in course of negotiation for some time past, and has been on the point of ratification. It was felt that our mercantile relations with that important Island were being seriously prejudiced by the rapidly tightening grasp of the United States, and the formation of the treaty was looked upon as a step towards safeguarding British interests. One effect of the Anglo-Cuban Treaty, as originally drafted, would have been to prevent a further increase in the preferential treatment granted to the United States under the existing reciprocal arrangements between that country and Cuba, and thus to secure the position of British trade with that Island as it now stands. The committee of the Cuban Senate, however, have now recommended the ratification of the compact with certain amendments, being anxious to leave the way clear for new reciprocal arrangements with the United States. What these amendments really are is not at present known. It is enough that they are inimical to British interests. The West India Committee have endeavoured to obtain from the Foreign Office a copy of the Treaty with the proposed amendments, but as these were under consideration by the Cuban Senate the desired information could not be furnished. Should these amendments be accepted by the Senate, it is more than likely that Cuba will have an opportunity to negotiate a new reciprocity treaty with the United States, which would be sure to be a serious blow to our shipping trade with Cuba. The matter is receiving the urgent attention of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, and a letter has been addressed to SIR EDWARD GREY, in which the seriousness of the position is stated, and in which the latter is asked to receive a deputation on the subject. One great branch of trade which would be attacked would be the rice industry, which at present, in British Indian rice, amounts to 60,000 tons per annum. "This trade has for the last few years been the object of continuous hostility on the part of the United States, and if the attempt of those States to import into Cuba Indian rice milled in the United States, at reduced duties, be unopposed, the direct British trade will be extinguished." In another column in the present issue, quoting the *Economist* of Havana, we point out that the change of front of the Cuban Senate was evidently due to the expected action of the British Government in withdrawing from the Convention, and thus practically closing the British market to cane sugars, and we have in the projected amendments to the Anglo-Cuban treaty another instance of the far-reaching and prejudicial effect withdrawal from the Convention would have upon British trade generally. Abroad, there does not appear to be the slightest doubt as to the economic mistake of this proposed action of Great

Britain, and this move of the Cuban Senate is valuable as giving a practical example of what may be expected should the British Government persist in their determination.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G.

Lieut.-Colonel Hon. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., is one of the most prominent residents in Jamaica, with the agriculture and commerce of which Island he has for many years been closely identified. He is a nominated member of the Legislative Council, and has also a seat in the Privy Council of the Colony. With the late Mr. George Levy he founded the Royal Jamaica Society of Agriculture and Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, of which he is President, 22 years ago, and he is also Senior Vice-President of the more recently formed Jamaica Agricultural Society. He owns large sugar estates, which are characterised by the up-to-date methods adopted on them, though it is perhaps in connection with that valued product, Jamaica rum, that his name is more closely associated. He is also owner of coffee plantations. As Custos of Kingston, he is in close touch with the people of the city, by whom he is greatly respected. His public spirited action in 1904, when he contributed the handsome sum of £100 towards the expenses of the Jamaica Court at the Colonial Exhibition, it appearing at that time that the Legislature would not vote the necessary funds, will be within the recollection of our readers.

The Heart of the Empire.

The view of the Government buildings in London, which forms the subject of our full page illustration in the present issue, was taken from the bridge which spans the ornamental water in St. James's Park. Hitherto we have confined ourselves to reproducing pictures of West Indian scenery, but we propose in future to intersperse them with views of buildings and scenery of Imperial interest for the benefit of those of our readers on the other side who do not have an opportunity of seeing them in actual reality. The block of buildings in our illustration comprises the Foreign Office in the north-west corner, the Colonial Office in the north-east, the Home Office in the south-east, and the India Office in the south-west. They were built in the Italian style from design by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1868, and were completed in 1873. They may well be called the heart of the Empire, as it is here that the appointments of the officials who govern our Colonies are made, and it is from here that they receive their mandates.

The West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will be held to-morrow, June 28th. Candidates' forms and full particulars regarding Membership can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The Future of Beet.

Professor von Lippman, of Halle, whom we have had occasion *before* to quote as illustrating the views of prominent beet manufacturers as to the future fight between cane and beet, has, according to the "German Sugar Industry, stated that "a contest is always regrettable, but when once it is recognised as inevitable it is essential to prepare for it with energy. Matters of great future importance are the increase in home consumption, in the first place by the lowering of the consumption tax, and then the suppression of very low quotations on the white sugar market, the action of makers who sell below the general market price being calculated to present a danger in point of view of the future of the customs' tax. A cartel under the old form is not advisable, but it is indispensable that the industry should be organised. The sugar industry depends on every side on cartels, from the cartel in coal to that in the wool-wool used in packing cubes, and in consequence the German sugar industry should straightway unite all its forces." It is evident that the Continental beet people are quite alive to the position in which the withdrawal from the Convention will put them in comparison with cane.

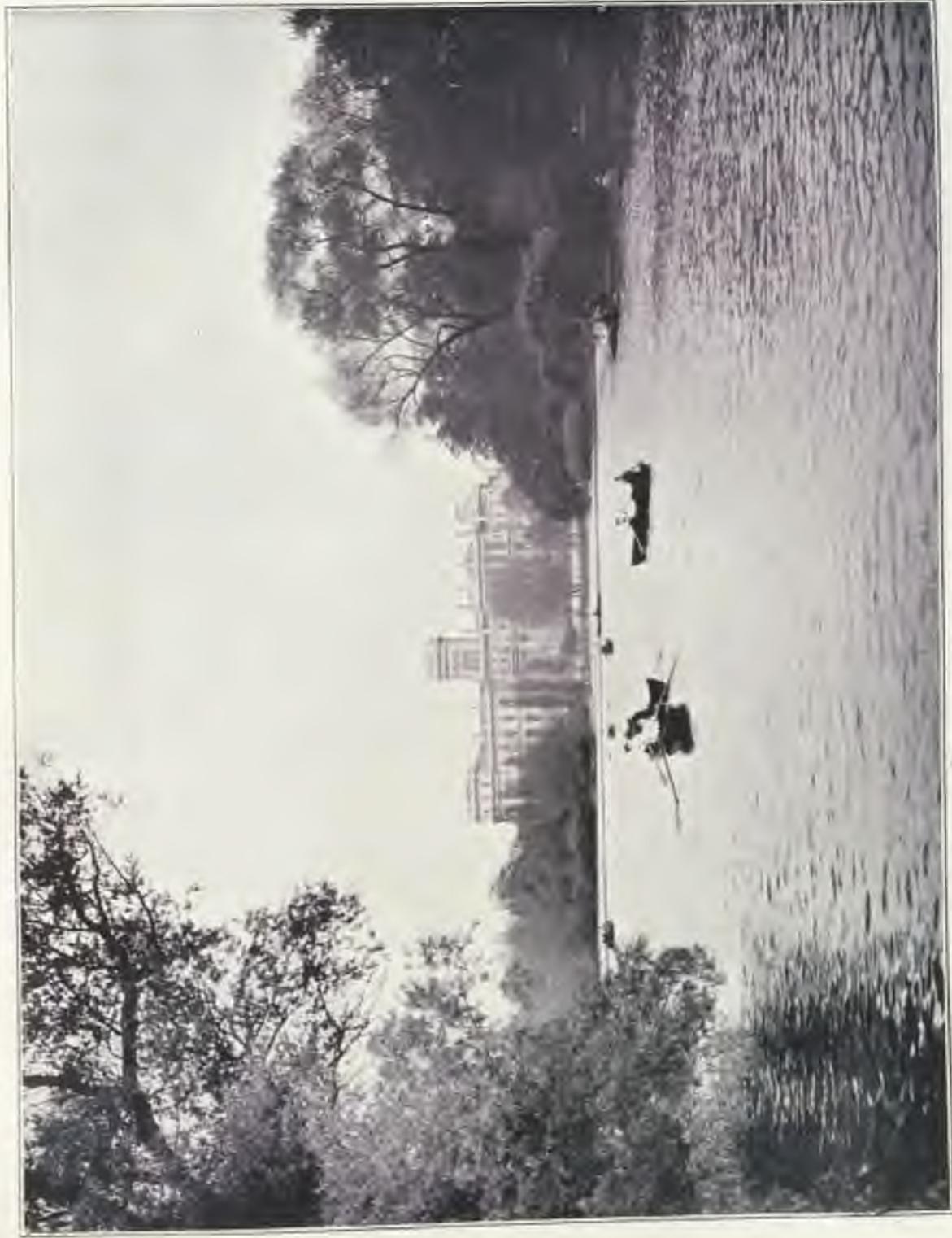


Photo by Algernon E. Ingham.

THE HEART OF EMPIRE.
THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN LONDON.

6 runs only. Challenor and Layne came to the rescue of their side and added 73 for the third wicket. The former played very good cricket, although he seemed to be in difficulties more than once. The sixth wicket fell at 100 runs, and matters looked very gloomy when the two Trinidadians, Smith and Harragin, saved the situation for their side. Both batsmen played bright and attractive cricket, Harragin's driving was powerful and frequent; and in his innings of 86 he hit one 5, nine 4's, and ten 2's, being smartly stumped by Brackley off the lob bowler. Smith played sound cricket, his drives on the off, wide of extra-cover, being very pretty to watch. This partnership realised 149 in an hour and twenty minutes, the innings closing for 298. Lord Brackley's team were thus left 244 to get to win and they began so disastrously that a speedy termination of the match seemed probable. Morrison bowled splendidly and had Brackley, Foley and Edden all out for 9 runs, while Simpson-Hayward was badly missed off him at cover at 26. The fourth wicket fell at 38 and Cole was very nearly clean bowled by Ollivierre first ball. He subsequently survived a very confident appeal for stumped, and he and Somerset were not out at the close of play with the total at 81. They added 28 before Somerset was bowled by Layne. Cole, who attempted a second run had his wicket shied down by Harragin from the long field, but the runner collided with the umpire and thus obscured his line of vision. He was eventually bowled by Layne for a lucky 59. Captain Wynyard was playing very cautiously, and if he had been caught at mid-off at 42 there might have been a different story to tell. He was in the end 70 not out and won the match for his side with two wickets in hand. This match fluctuated in a most extraordinary manner.

WEST INDIANS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. C. Learmond, c Edden, b Prichard ...	4	b Burn ...	4
Mr. R. Ollivierre, c Hayward, b Thompson ...	47	b Burn ...	4
Mr. C. Challenor, st Somerset, b Hayward ...	19	b Hayward ...	47
Layne, l.b.w, b Hayward ...	4	c Brackley, b Thompson ...	21
Mr. L. Constantine, b Hayward ...	16	b Hayward ...	12
Mr. H. B. G. Austin, c and b Hayward ...	11	c Edden, b Thompson ...	7
Mr. A. E. Harragin, b Thompson ...	0	st Brackley, b Hayward ...	86
Mr. S. G. Smith, c Burn, b Hayward ...	30	b Thompson ...	76
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, b Hayward ...	11	c Hayward, b Thompson ...	5
Mr. C. S. Morrison, not out ...	10	c Edden, b Hayward ...	11
Barton, b Hayward ...	0	not out ...	9
Extras ...	12	Extras ...	15
Total ...	158	Total ...	298

LORD BRACKLEY'S TEAM.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Lord Brackley, b Smith ...	22	c Smith, b Morrison ...	3
Capt. E. G. Wynyard, c Burton, b Morrison ...	76	not out ...	70
Mr. C. P. Foley, c Bancroft, b Burton ...	20	b Morrison ...	3
Mr. C. H. N. Edden, b Burton ...	17	c Austin, b Morrison ...	2
Thompson, c Austin, b Morrison ...	22	b Smith ...	24
Mr. A. F. Somerset, c Harragin, b Burton ...	27	b Layne ...	34
Mr. G. H. Simpson-Hayward, b Morrison ...	15	b Ollivierre ...	17
Mr. T. G. O. Cole, c Burton, b Morrison ...	11	b Layne ...	19
Mr. Hesketh Prichard, c Bancroft, b Morrison ...	0	l.b.w, b Layne ...	4
Mr. G. H. Drummond, c Ollivierre, b Barton ...	2	not out ...	9
Mr. R. C. W. Burn, not out ...	0	Extras ...	26
Extras ...	1	Total ...	246
Total ...	243	Total ...	246

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.			
B.	O.	M.	R.	B.	O.	M.	R.	B.	O.	M.	R.	B.	O.	M.	R.
Burn	7	3	27	0	Burn	10	3	25	2	Smith	18.5	4	26	4	
Prichard	6	1	19	1	Prichard	16	1	64	0	Barton	17	2	22	1	
Thompson	17	3	63	2	Thompson	26	2	112	4	Mottiford	10	5	17	1	
Hayward	16.5	1	37	7	Hayward	18.5	2	71	4	Layne	16	1	28	1	
										Ollivierre	9	0	24	1	

The Minor Counties v. The West Indians.

This match was played at Ealing in lovely weather against a side selected from the teams taking part in minor county cricket. It did not prove a particularly attractive fixture through lack of advertisement, I am told; and at no time during the 2½ days of cricket were there more than 400 people present.

Once more the West Indians were in luck and got first knock on a good hard wicket. Things, however, did not go too well with them at first, three wickets being down to White's bowling for 42 runs off similar shots in the slips. Constantine then joined Smith, and the pair added 67 runs before the latter was caught off Warrilow, a very promising googly bowler. Constantine made some magnificent pulls in his innings of 40, which was brought to a close by his interposing his leg between ball and wicket. Harragin came next, and although he gave two easy chances in the country off Warrilow, he treated the spectators to some powerful driving, securing 68 out of 94 in a fraction over the hour. The innings closed for 204.

The Minor Counties like their opponents began badly with half their side down for 79 runs. Smith, who was bowling superbly, was responsible for 4 of them, 2 in the slips and 2 behind the wickets, where Ollivierre proved a useful second string. Morrison also bowled well, but with little luck. At this stage Coleman joined Golding and the two added 40. The former hit brilliantly while the latter played sound and steady cricket. The only other man to get double figures was Worman, and the innings came to a close at 6 o'clock, 14 short of their opponents.

Before drawing of stumps on the first day the Colonials lost one wicket for 34 runs, Challenor

A Hundred Years Ago.

A Rum Surtax.

In the year 1823 the condition of the rum market had been a serious matter for West Indian, particularly Jamaica, planters. America, during the long interruption of intercourse with the West Indies, had acquired the habit of making her own spirit, while the extraordinary demand for rum during the war had ceased when peace was declared, and the price of rum was reduced much below the cost of its manufacture and shipping. In these circumstances, on March 23rd, 1824, the Chairman reported that a deputation had waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer and stated the case to him, and that he had requested that a circumstantial statement should be sent him. It was represented that the duty levied on British spirit was 10s. 6d. per gallon, while that upon British plantation rum imported into the United Kingdom was 11s. 7½d. per gallon, and as the duty upon British spirit was attached upon a strength of 7% over proof, that upon rum was at the proof strength, which had the effect of bringing up the difference of duty to 1s. 11d. per gallon. There were also warehouse and Customs' restrictions which operated adversely to the rum importer. It was consequently submitted to the Government:—

"That Rum ought not, in any part of the Empire, to be burthened with a higher Duty than is imposed upon Home made Spirits in each such part respectively; since, as a product of British Industry and Capital, it has in comparison with those articles an equal, and as instrumental in the promotion of British Navigation, a superior claim to legislative Encouragement; and since, if any preference were due to an article manufactured in one part of the Empire over a similar article manufactured in some distinct part of it (a principle difficult to establish) the charges to which Rum is necessarily subjected by the distance at which it is made, consisting of Freight and other expences, all centering in Great Britain, are amply sufficient to secure such preference to Home-made Spirits."

A memorandum of points proposed to be conceded, was subsequently transmitted from the Government to the West India Committee through Mr. Charles Ellis, the principle being to take off from the permanent Excise duty on rum 1s. 1½d. per gallon, thus reducing the preference from 1s. 11d. to 9½d. per gallon. We sincerely trust that the present Government will emulate the action of their predecessors of 1823 and see their way to reduce the present surtax on rum to a legitimate figure, and thus place the Colonial on a trade level with the home distiller.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

BY P. A. GOODMAN.

Lord Brackley's West Indian Team v. The West Indians.

It was an excellent idea that Lord Brackley's Team, which visited the West Indies early in 1906, should try conclusions with the West Indian combination now touring England. For although Brackley's team played and won two matches against "All West Indies" during his tour, yet there was dissatisfaction, inasmuch, as it was alleged that by no means the best team was, on either occasion, got together to represent the Indies.

For the first time the spin of the coin was in favour of the touring team, and they took first innings on a pitch somewhat soft and easy. All went well until the fall of the second wicket at 69, towards which total Ollivierre contributed a splendid 41 in fifty minutes. He made some beautiful off-drives and hits to leg, despatching every slightly under-pitched ball on the middle stump to the square-leg boundary. At this stage of the game Simpson-Hayward, the lob-bowler, took the ball, and so well did he bowl, that, although the second wicket had fallen for 69, the whole side was out half-an-hour after luncheon for the poor score of 158; his analysis being 7 wickets for 37 runs. The only stand that was made after he came on was the partnership of Smith and Bancroft, which realised 21 runs.

Capt. Wynyard, who went in first with his captain, played a grand and instructive game, his glides and on-drives being marvels of timing and placing. He made 50 out of the first 62 in forty minutes. Both batsmen were dismissed at the same total, viz., 98, the famous soldier-cricketer being responsible for a dashing 76 put together in sixty-five minutes, and Lord Brackley for a careful 22.

All the other batsmen rendered good service; and when stumps were drawn a few minutes before time, Lord Brackley's team were 42 on with 3 wickets in hand. C. P. Foley made some delightful cuts in his innings of 20. On Tuesday morning 15 balls sufficed to get rid of the three remaining batsmen for 13 runs. The West Indians were thus left to face a deficit of 35.

They did not begin their task too well, for Burn clean bowled both Learmood and Ollivierre for

The Governor of Trinidad.

SIR HENRY M. JACKSON, K.C.M.G., Governor of Trinidad, attended a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on Wednesday, June 20th, which was attended by several gentlemen closely interested in the Colony. Sir Nevile Lubbock presided, and among those present were:—Sir Henry K. Davison, Deputy-Chairman, Mr. G. R. Alston, Mr. Lionel G. Arbutnot, Mr. E. H. Cunningham-Craig, Mr. George Cristall, Mr. H. H. Dobree, Mr. W. Gillespie, Mr. E. Wilson Jones, Mr. A. M. Low, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. H. F. Pevité, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. F. A. Skeete, Mr. W. A. Tennant, Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., Dr. J. Urich, Hon. Dr. James de Wolfe, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

SIR NEVILLE LUBBOCK said that the West India Committee attached a great deal of importance to meeting the Governors from time to time when they were in this country, and he thanked Sir Henry for coming that afternoon. He was glad that on the present occasion there were no serious riots or any troubles of that sort complained of in Trinidad, but, of course, a very important question still remained. It was not very long since the troops were withdrawn from the West Indies, and he hoped that everything possible had been done to ensure safety of life and property in Trinidad. Voluntary effort was not to be wholly depended upon, and most, if not all, felt that there should be some paid troops on whom they could rely. Then there was the question of the telegraphic service. The general feeling was that they would never have a very satisfactory service with the present company, which was closely allied with the Cuba Submarine Company, with the result that they had to pay rather exorbitantly for messages over their cable. A line *via* Bermuda, and an all-British one, seemed to be the most advantageous, and they had always had some hope that this country would give more than merely verbal sympathy with a cable of that description. With regard to the mail service, it was understood that negotiations were now going on at the Colonial Office which were likely to result in some arrangement being come to shortly.

He need not, he said, refer specially to the oil industry, except so far as to say that they all wished it well, and recognised that if it could be worked profitably, it would be of great advantage to Trinidad. Then as to the question of cane-farming; this appeared to be one that must be settled on the spot. He could not help thinking himself, in spite of the opposition to it that the fact that one-third of the crop was now being grown by cane farmers showed there must be something solid and substantial in the movement.

The Immigration "Back Passage" Fund.

He wished to say a word about immigration, because the price of sugar having been low for some time past, planters had found the greatly enhanced price of immigration to be a very serious question. One reason for the increase was that those who imported coolies had to pay for their back passages to India, while not more than 10% of the coolies ever returned to that country. Moreover, it was unfair from another point of view; there was no doubt that those who employed labour even if they did not import coolies, benefited just as much as those who actually imported them, and yet paid practically nothing, whereas those who had most of the work to do were paying a vast deal more than their proportion of the cost. If the cost could be fairly proportioned among all employers of labour, the charges might be much reduced. The planters had been unable to ascertain the amount of the fund accumulated by the money paid in this way, as there seemed to be no notification of it whatever in the Blue Books. It was a fund which had been contributed by the planters, and in the event of its not being used for the repatriation of the coolies, it should be returned to those who gave it. It should be strictly applied to coolie immigration and back passages and no other charges; it was a trust fund, and, therefore, he thought that it should appear in the Blue Books.

In conclusion, he said that he would like to say how very much they all appreciated what Sir



Off to Market.

We are indebted to the new monthly paper, *Over Seas*, for this picture, which is typical of a roadside scene in Tobago. In the background can be seen the familiar woman in white, bearing her burden on her head.

and Layne being the not outs. On the last morning Layne was quickly got rid of for a well-played 25, but Challenger remained until 86 was hoisted, his share being a steady 44 in seventy minutes. Smith and Constantine adopted dashing tactics and increased the score by 63 before the latter batsman was for the second time in this match given out l-b-w. Smith, who had been badly missed at mid-off, continued to play a lively game, and in this he was ably seconded by Harragin. Several bowling changes were made, but to no avail; and it was not until 130 had been added in seventy minutes that Smith was caught at cover, but 7 short of the coveted century. He made some magnificent drives on the off side, and in his innings of two hours ten minutes found the boundary on ten occasions. Harragin was sixth out at 237, having hit nine 4's in his 63 in seventy-five minutes. Learmond and Morrison added 30 and the total reached 336. The Colonials thus left their opponents 351 to get to win.

The Minor Counties started none too well, for three men were quickly out for 11 runs. Afterwards Golding, Warrilow and Phillips improved the situation, and at the drawing of stumps five wickets were down for 102 runs. The overnight not-outs, Golding and Coleman, resumed on Saturday morning, but with 6 added Coleman, who had been badly missed on Friday afternoon at deep square-leg, was well taken in the country by Constantine. Golding played correctly and steadily, and was last man out for a sound 49 out of a total of 135. The West Indians thus won for the first time by the substantial margin of 215.

In this match Smith for the first time bowled up to form, capturing altogether 9 wickets at a cost of about 15 runs each. Morrison also bowled well getting the ball to swerve over and over again on Friday afternoon, but having the bad luck to see them beat the batsmen and just take the varnish off the leg-stump on more than one occasion.

On the whole the Colonials showed good all round form for the first time, in this match.

WEST INDIANS.				MINOR COUNTIES.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. R. Ollivierre, c. Worman, b. White ...	17	b. Warrilow ...	10	Mr. G. G. M. Bennett, c. Morrison, b. Smith ...	16	c. Goodinan, b. Smith ...	1
Mr. G. Challenger, c. Worman, b. White ...	15	c. Luce, b. Warrilow ...	44	Mr. F. S. Warrilow, c. Ollivierre, b. Smith ...	11	c. Learmond, b. Luce ...	4
Layne, c. Coleman, b. White ...	9	c. and b. White ...	25	Mr. E. N. Bird, c. Ollivierre, b. Smith ...	10	c. Morrison, b. Smith ...	3
Mr. L. Constantine, l-b-w., b. Warrilow ...	49	l-b-w., b. F. G. Phillips ...	41	Mr. E. S. Phillips, c. Cumberbatch, b. Smith ...	8	run out ...	4
Mr. S. E. Smith, c. E. S. Phillips, b. Warrilow ...	68	c. White, b. Warrilow ...	93	Golding, c. Ollivierre, b. Layne ...	5	b. Morrison ...	16
Mr. A. E. Harragin, b. Coleman ...	68	b. Coleman ...	63	Coleman, b. Layne ...	51	b. Morrison ...	49
Mr. P. A. Goodman, c. White, b. Coleman ...	8	l-b-w., b. Coleman ...	21	Mr. J. G. Phillips, c. Smith, b. Layne ...	62	c. Constantine, b. Smith ...	11
Mr. G. C. Learmond, b. Coleman ...	2	c. F. G. Phillips, b. White ...	21	Mr. P. J. de Paravicini, c. Constantine, b. Layne ...	1	not out ...	4
Mr. C. S. Morrison, run out ...	2	not out ...	0	Mr. J. N. Worman, not out ...	41	c. Ollivierre, b. Morrison ...	2
Cumberbatch, not out ...	16	b. White ...	0	Mr. J. Luce, b. Morrison ...	19	c. Ollivierre, b. Smith ...	2
Mr. J. E. Parker, l-b-w., b. Warrilow ...	0	b. F. G. Phillips ...	0	Extras ...	16	Extras ...	0
Extras ...	5	Extras ...	26	Total ...	100	Total ...	135
Total ...	309	Total ...	336				

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
Smith	21	4	86	4	Smith	14	3	46	3	White	28	3	106	1	
Morrison	11	1	39	1	Morrison	26.3	6	89	3	Worman	20	6	19	1	
Cumberbatch	5	1	18	1	Layne	2	0	11	1	Warrilow	21	2	47	1	
Layne	9	1	38	1	Parker	2	1	27	0	F. G. Phillips	22	2	16	1	
										Coleman	19	2	38	1	

The match between the West Indians and Surrey County C.C., which has just been concluded as we go to press, resulted in a victory for Surrey by 10 wickets. The scores being:—Surrey: First Innings, 306; Second Innings, 31—Total, 377. The West Indians: First Innings, 121; Second Innings, 231—Total, 352.

(To be continued).

The Honduras Railway Question.

At a public meeting held at Riverside Hall, Belize, on May 18th, the following resolution was passed:—

That in view of the fact that the seaport towns of the neighbouring republics are being rapidly opened up to trade and commerce by the building of railways and harbours and other improvements, and there is every prospect that ere long, unless something be done, Belize may lose for ever the eminent position she holds of becoming the distributing centre for the frontier provinces of Mexico and Guatemala as well as some of their seaports, we, the inhabitants of Belize do earnestly request that a concession to build the frontier railway be granted at once, and that the concessionaires be allowed to proceed to lay down the line without delay.

something else. The question has been raised whether the solution does not lie in wireless telegraphy. Wireless telegraphy is, it is true, still more or less in the trial stage, but it has at all events got to this pitch, that we know beyond any possibility of doubt that we can get certain results, and we know pretty well for what price we can get them. We could probably establish wireless telegraphy between the West Indies and Jamaica for a considerably less capital outlay than two years' subsidy to a cable. That would then be in our own hands, we should benefit by whatever improvements came, and in the meantime whatever profits arose from the business would go to the interest on our capital; the question is before us now whether we might not resort to this, and the answer must depend to a certain extent on the Treasury. If they will help us, we will take the more expensive system. If not, after assuring ourselves that it will give us the results needed for the Colonies, we would be forced to adopt the cheaper alternative. All messages would be transmitted in this way, whether private, commercial or official, and no message need cost as much as 4s. per word. We are assured by the best experts that there is no difficulty.

Negotiations for a Mail Service.

I am sorry to say that I am absolutely ignorant of any negotiations whatever as regards the mail service. I heard incidentally only yesterday that negotiations were going on. In fact, I was asked to be present at an interview with the Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company at the Colonial Office, but I was obliged to be present at another meeting at the same time. This afternoon I am hoping to go and see Mr. Owen Philipps. I am assured that whatever negotiations are conducted will be submitted to those interested, but I have no information on the subject.

Then I am sure that there is a great deal in cane-farming, and I believe in it thoroughly myself. I have seen it elsewhere and seen it carried out successfully. I may say frankly that I am confident cane-farming will not be carried out successfully by only small cane farmers. The larger the cane farmer, the more successful. In the Pacific it is carried out to a very large extent, and in Fiji one estate is 6,000 acres, while several come up to 2,000 acres. They are conducted simply to grow the canes for the factories, and import their labour for it. I read in the report of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in Sydney, which has never paid less than 10% on its debentures, that nine-tenths of the cane with which they dealt at their factories in Queensland were grown by farmers. I believe it can also be carried on successfully in Trinidad, and I will do what I can to help very gladly indeed.

I am sorry that I am not in a position to give you any information as to how the immigration funds are managed. It is certainly news to me to hear that any fund which is subscribed to by the proprietors is dealt with without their knowing how it is treated or without being referred to in the Blue Books. If this is so, it will certainly be remedied. I will see that in future it is shown, and whatever money has been subscribed by proprietors will be fully accounted for. The whole question of immigration and labour was submitted to a rather large committee in Trinidad under the very able leadership of the Collector of Customs. They gave in a very useful and very practical report, and that



Photo by

Algernon E. Aspinall.

The Avenue of Palms at Codrington.

Many of the cabbage-palms or palmistes (*Ocrodaxa oleracea*) which surround Codrington College are reported to be upwards of one hundred years old. These trees form a conspicuous feature of West Indian scenery, but nowhere are they so fine as in Barbados. Their immense height can be gauged by a comparison with the figures at their base, one of which, by the way, will be recognised as a treasurer of the West India Committee.

Henry had done for Trinidad. (Hear, hear). They had been struck with the unquestionably obvious desire he had shown to promote the interests of the Colony in every way.

Sir HENRY JACKSON:—I could wish that I had had a little notice of the points which were to be brought up at this meeting, because I would then be able to speak more precisely on them. I am very glad indeed in any case to have the opportunity of meeting the proprietors, those who are most interested in Trinidad. I feel even more than Sir Neville Lubbock that it is a very great benefit for the Governor of a Colony to be in touch with those interested in it, who have had long experience there, and with proprietors not only in the Island, but out of it.

Sir Neville asked me if I were satisfied that all had been done that could be done to provide for the maintenance of law and order in the Colony. Well, I am obliged to answer in the negative. It has not been done, but it is being considered, and will, I hope, be done before long. It has not yet been done, and the reason of that I may say is that the proposals are still under consideration of the Colonial Defence Committee. It was urged upon us to try something else than paid troops, and proposals for that have been submitted, and if they are approved I hope to be in a position to give effect to them directly I get back to Trinidad. I hope that the feeling in Trinidad at present is such as to put any risk of disturbances out of the question for some time to come, but I know the West Indies well, and I know that one is never secure. I will certainly never rest until I feel that order is secure, and I believe that we can make it so. If the arrangements proposed are not sufficient we shall have to resort to a paid body of white men. That is expensive, and I do not wish to charge the revenue of the Colony more than is absolutely necessary. You may be sure that the matter is not being allowed to rest.



Photo by

Codrington College, Barbados.

Algernon E. Aspinall

This view of the College differs from that which has already appeared in the *Circular*, as it shows the College only and not the principal's residence. Founded by Christopher Codrington, the Governor-General of the Leeward Islands in 1710, for the maintenance of professors and scholars "to study the practice of Physic and Chirurgery as well as Divinity," Codrington College has turned out many notable divines.

Of course, I am not at liberty to tell all the proposals submitted to them, but the question of a separate cable from Bermuda to Barbados has been one of those put before them. The difficulty is one entirely of money. As Sir Neville Lubbock remarked, the Treasury is very hard to persuade to contribute. Some months ago a letter was sent out to all the Colonial Governors in which they were definitely warned that any improvement of telegraphic communication with the West Indies must be met from the funds of the Colonies entirely, and that His Majesty's Government were not prepared to contribute in any way. If they adhere to that, it puts us in a very difficult position. I do not feel that in the state of the sugar industry, which I regret to say must still be looked upon as more or less precarious, the Colonies should pledge themselves to heavy subsidies for a period of not less than twenty years. Many of the Colonies could not afford to join, and I think that the subsidies for the larger Colonies would be very heavy, especially in the case of the failure of any of the industries upon which they depend. We would prefer, no doubt, an independent cable. There is nothing so secure or so suitable for commercial purposes, but if we cannot afford it we must find

The Question of Cable Communication.

The next point was the question of telegraphic communication. I think you all know that there is a Departmental Committee now sitting at the Colonial Office to settle this question, or rather, to make recommendations to the Secretary of State. I am a member of it myself, and so is Sir Frederic Hodgson. There are also representatives of the Admiralty, the Colonial Office, and the Post Office.

scale. Perhaps the chief reason is that the oil-fields are mostly virgin forest, which is very little known and seldom explored by anyone. Of the wells that have been drilled all but one have yielded oil of good quality, though no well has been drilled within half-a-mile of the most advantageous place in any district." Having detailed the industrial value of the oils and many interesting particulars as to the possibilities of the industry, he summed up by saying we have in Trinidad an oil-field of at least 500 square miles, at a conservative estimate, and it has never been adequately tested in any part. Over a large part of this area a production of oil can be confidently expected. Much of the ground has been carefully examined, the geological structure proved, and the outcrops of the oil-bearing strata mapped. It only remains to make the actual experimental borings. "We can place the derricks so as to strike the oil-rocks at any depth that may be considered most convenient, but we cannot tell how much oil will be obtained. In this connection I am tempted to prophesy; I do not expect a Bakú in Trinidad; I do not expect to see such enormous productions from single wells. Fountains of oil we may have, as we have evidence of great gaseous pressure; but I believe that baling wells, giving a steady production, will be more probably the rule in Trinidad. That the oil-fields will be successful the evidence I have gathered during the last two-and-a-half years will not allow me to doubt, but how important the industry may become is a matter upon which it would be vain to speculate at present."

Consular Reports.

Jamaica & Demerara Rum abroad.

Jamaica rum, large quantities of which were shipped direct from Jamaica, fetched higher prices in Hamburg than in the previous year and this upward tendency was even more marked in the case of Demerara rum.

Mexican Sugar for British Consumers.

The export of refined sugar from Mexico rose from 16,213 metric tons valued at \$2,594,178 in 1903-4, to 38,701 metric tons valued at \$5,717,446 in 1904-5. No less than 85% of the sugar came to the United Kingdom.

Hevea Rubber planted in Samoa.

The Samoa Caoutchouc Company, Berlin, capital £75,000 and upwards, has commenced operations on a large tract of ground at Saluafata, twelve miles from Apia, and has planted out many thousand seeds of Hevea. Rubber cultivation being an entirely new thing in Samoa, it is impossible to make a positive and certain forecast regarding it, but in the opinion of some it offers greater advantages than cacao or cocoa-nut planting.

Kirk's Sugar Cane Pest in Hawaii.

A few years ago a sugar cane pest (*Perkinsella Saccharida Kirk*) made its appearance in the sugar cane fields of Hawaii, introduced, it is supposed, from Australia. It is stated that this pest caused a monetary loss of upwards of \$3,000,000 to the sugar interests of Hawaii in 1904. Professors Perkins and Kochele were engaged to go to Australia and search for the natural enemies of the "cane leaf hopper." These were discovered and a few successfully introduced and established. One of the most important is a minute fly which destroys the eggs of the "leaf hopper" by inserting its ovipositor in the leaf hopper egg and depositing therein an egg, which soon hatches into a small blind footless grub, which changes to a pupa and fly, and in the later stage it cuts its way out and is soon ready to continue the good work.

Some Homeward Mails.

The continued irregularity of mail arrangements continues to be the subject of protests from British Guiana and the Northern Islands, which are still cut off from regular communication with the Mother Country except by occasional opportunity. Our readers will have seen in the press the message received from Reuter's correspondent at Georgetown, in which it is stated that a public meeting, presided over by the mayor, was held in Georgetown, on June 19th. A resolution was proposed by Mr. Laing, managing director of the British Guiana Bank, to the effect that the discontinuance of the mail service was causing the greatest inconvenience and that a regular and efficient service was essential, and urging that the Government should arrange a fresh contract either with the Royal Mail or with some other shipping company. Mr. Laing, referring to the serious losses already sustained, animadverted upon the fact that the Imperial Government were willing to grant a

subsidy to a line of their own choice, but treated the Colonies like naughty children because they preferred the Royal Mail line. Mr. John Duke Smith said that, if no further response was made by the Home Government, the position would become strained so far as sympathy with dear old England was concerned. The Legislature should refuse, as it had the power to do, to vote supplies unless a proper service were agreed to. The resolution was unanimously adopted, and a copy of it will be forwarded to Lord Elgin. Meanwhile we are pleased to learn that the matter is engaging the personal attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; but until the West Indies have regular fortnightly means of communications with the Mother Country as they had before, the present state of unrest and irritability bordering on exasperation must continue. Further advices have come to hand from Jamaica and Nevis, and we give as usual a few extracts from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents.

The Proposed Jamaica Rum Standard.

Writing on June 8th, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim said that regular rains were falling without their being any sign of an immediate break.

The decision of the Governor not to prescribe a standard for Jamaica rum was in accordance with the wishes of the Northside Sugar Planters' Association, though the Island Chemist was in favour of standardisation.

Mr. A. W. Douet, presided over a meeting of Pimento growers on May 26th, when Mr. H. F. Kerr, urged growers and dealers to combine with a view to keeping up the price of the commodity. Many letters promising support were read, and twenty-one gentlemen agreed to become members of a proposed syndicate.

A noticeable feature of the exports was a large increase in logwood exported as compared with the previous year. Exports were again becoming favourable.

It was stated that from July 1st, the Government would keep their account with the Bank of Nova Scotia instead with the Colonial Bank, though no reason was given for the change.

A New Cotton Gin tried in Nevis.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, in a letter dated May 31st, transhipped from the S.S. "Oruro," said that there was a gentleman in the Island testing, with, it was said satisfactory, results, a new kind of cotton gin which he had invented, and which he claimed would gin the cotton immediately after being picked. Should such a gin prove a success, it would metamorphose the industry, as the present system in Nevis of cleaning and whipping by hand ran away with a lot of labour as well as money.

The weather had been dry, and the country generally wanted good showers. The output of cotton had been most disappointing, and last year's export was hardly likely to be attained.

The continuance of the existing chaos as regards mail communication was terrible to contemplate. No one in the Island knew when the next mail was coming in and when one was going out, and the state of affairs was distracting to a degree.

Empire Day passed off almost unnoticed, owing to the depression consequent upon the sad and sudden death of the late Administrator.

Letter to the Editor.

Empire Day and the Union Jack.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—It may interest your readers to know that the success which attended the Empire Day movement this year was far greater than even its most sanguine supporters ever expected. From returns received it is probable that some four millions of children have come under the influence of the movement, and that an equal number of adults took part throughout the British Dominions, actively or as spectators, in the demonstrations on Empire Day.

As your readers must by this time be aware the celebration of Empire Day on or near May 24th is intended to be but the outward sign of the awakening of the peoples who constitute the British Empire to the serious responsibilities and duties which lie at their door. The Union Jack is the national flag of the Empire and the outward sign of its majesty and might, but it should also be a reminder of civic responsibility to all British subjects, and as such should occupy a prominent position within and without every school house. In the United States and in our Colonies this reminder of civic duty is provided by the educational authorities at the public expense. At present this is not the case at home. Some day the educational value of the national flag may be considered as equal, say, to that of the school piano, but until this time arrives may I express a hope that your readers will not forget the requirements of our national schools in this respect, and will, either by individual private effort or by organised local subscription, raise funds in each parish sufficient to provide the local schools with a suitable flagstaff and large-sized Union Jack?

I should like also to see the condition attached to the gift that on national holidays and anniversaries such as Empire Day, St. George's, St. Andrew's, St. Patrick's, and St. David's Days, the flag should be saluted by both boys and girls.—Yours, &c.,

83, Lancaster Gate.

June 20th

SEATH.

[By way of setting a good example, the West India Committee flag (the red ensign charged

with the familiar badge of the Committee) will in future be flown on the festivals specified by Lord Meath.—Ed.]

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Agricultural News. Vol. V., No. 197, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, post free 13d. The value of the cultivation of rubber and its suitability to the West Indian Islands and British Guiana is pointed out in the leading article. The address of Sir Daniel Morris at the recent Conference of Cotton Growers in Barbados and a paper by Mr. J. R. Bovell, are reproduced, which give much valuable information as to the cotton industry. Professor d'Albuquerque contributes a valuable paper on the use of cotton seed and cotton cake meal as a feeding stuff on West Indian plantations, which should attract the attention of all planters who include cotton cultivation on their estates. Particulars are also given in this issue as to shipping arrangements, with directions for packing, &c., in connection with the Canadian Exhibitions, 1906.

Tobago, Hints to Settlers Obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, post free 7d. This pamphlet, which is the 41st of the series, gives information to intending settlers in this fertile Island and forms a useful guide for colonisers in the direction of mode of life, desirable cultivation, capital required, &c. The information contained in it was prepared by Mr. James Todd Kosseau, the Warden of the Island, who was assisted by Captain Short, the Chairman and Mr. Harry Smith, the Secretary of the Tobago Planters' Association. In cocoa cultivation a capital of £3,000 is shown to be capable of yielding £1,000 a year in seventeen years in conjunction with rubber. The pamphlet is illustrated by numerous photographs by Mr. Noel B. Walker and Messrs. Seville & Evans, giving a good idea of the scenery and cultivation.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. Bank Rate at $3\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed June 21st, 1906), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ %) 87 $\frac{1}{2}$.

“CÆLUM NON ANIMUM.” Some of the machinery of the dismantled factory belonging to the Peter's Hall estate in Demerara is being erected at Buckley's, in St. George's Parish, Barbados. It will be remembered that the former estate has recently been incorporated with Plm. Diamond.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended June 21st, 572 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.60d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; fine, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 8d. to 15d.

ONLY SARCASM! Over 20,000 tons of sugar were imported into the United Kingdom from foreign countries during the month of May as compared with the corresponding month last year. What a crying shame it is that the Brussels' Convention should be allowed to go on, and thus flood the market with foreign sugar.

DENATURED ALCOHOL. Mr. John W. Veche, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue of the United States, has been directed by the President to go to Europe and examine the tax system in force there, preliminary to the preparation of departmental rules and regulations controlling its use in that country under the Free Alcohol Bill which became law on June 1st.

YELLOW PERIL. A Chinese syndicate has set up a plant for lighting Chinkuang by electricity. It has not at present proved an unqualified success, as the management of the syndicate does not impress the public with its reliability. The plant erected by the syndicate has German dynamos and Chinese boilers. We should be glad to hear more of Chinese boilers.—Ed.]

METRIC SYSTEM. The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has received a letter from the Board of Trade to the effect that new weights of 20 lbs., 10 lbs. and 5 lbs. as moved for by the Chamber were legalised by order of Council on April 11th. These weights form aliquot parts of a cental, of 100 lbs. and their introduction is a distinct step towards the adoption of the metric system.

TROPICAL TOMATOES. The Cuba Central Agricultural Station has published an excellent pamphlet on "Tomato Culture." Full directions are given as to soil, treatment and cultivation generally. We regret that space does not permit of our reproducing the article, which we commend to such of our readers as may contemplate growing tomatoes in the West Indies, for which the more northern Islands are especially suited.

PINEAPPLE WINE. Instead of leaving the excessive crop of pineapples to decay on the ground, it is wise to make them into pineapple wine. This is simply done by chopping the pineapples, pouring

boiling water over them at the rate of one quart to a large pineapple. Let the mixture steep until cold, then sweeten to taste and bottle. The cork must be tied down and the bottle placed on its side; if in a warm place it will be ripe in twenty-four hours. A little ginger improves the flavour.

ASPHALT. Among the various forms of paving in which experiments are being made by the London County Council on the Thames Embankment is a section of compressed Trinidad asphalt. The object of the engineers of the London County Council is to get a smooth pavement which does not require to be laid on a base of portland cement concrete. In this case the Trinidad Lake Asphalt Paving Company is laying the asphalt surface on a base of bituminous concrete, and it is confidently expected that this form of construction, which is peculiar to this Company, will be successful under the special conditions prevailing on the Thames Embankment.

IMPORTANT TO OUR READERS. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquires for the candidates to fill up. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circulars*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2 6 each or post free 3/-. Bound copies of "The List of Members" to match the *West India Committee Circular*, will be forwarded to any address *post free*, 1s. 6d. each.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed. June 20.—Lord Elgin presided over the annual dinner of the Corn Law Club.—68% Beet, 8s. 2½d, quiet.
 Thurs. June 21.—German Journalists entertained in London.—Bank of England rate reduced to 3½ per cent. Funeral of Mr. Seldon in New Zealand.—Beet, 8s. 2½d., dull.
 Fri. June 22.—The *Times* published a message from Reuters' Georgetown correspondent regarding the indignation felt in British Guiana at the cessation of the Mail Service.—Beet, 8s. 2d, quiet.
 Sat. June 23.—Remarkable electric tramway accident at Highgate.—Three men charged at the Thames Police Court with harbouring saccarins (*The Times*, p. 4).—Beet, 8s. 2d, quiet.
 Sun. June 24.—The West Indian Cricketers entertained by a motor expedition to Lipbrook.
 Mon. June 25.—Mr. J. Chamberlain the guest of the 1900 Club.—The West Indian Cricketers entertained at a Banquet by the Surrey County C.C. at the Oval.—Hearing of the "What is Whisky" appeal concluded, no judgment being given as the Bench were equally divided.—Beet, 8s. 2d, quiet.
 Tues. June 26.—Letter from Mr. Henniber Heaton, M.P., to the Postmaster-General on "A World wide Penny Post," published in the *Times*.—Beet.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. W. CENDEFORD, Auditor of the Windward Islands, has arrived in England from Grenada on leave of absence.
 Mr. W. J. LAWRENCE, Superintendent of Public Works, St. Vincent, has been granted six months' leave of absence.

Mr. WILLIAM J. SLACK has been appointed to act provisionally as an un-official Member of the Legislative Council, British Honduras.

The Hon. W. D. ANSONLECK, Treasurer and Collector of Customs of Antigua, has been appointed Chairman of the Quarantine Board of that Colony.

Mr. K. S. ROWBOTTOM has been appointed to act as Stipendiary Magistrate of the County of Caroni, Trinidad during the absence on leave of Mr. H. A. Harrison.

The Hon. MARK KRIST, Treasurer of St. Lucia, has arrived in England on leave of absence. Mr. H. H. Mitchell Chief Clerk of the Department, becomes Acting Treasurer.

Hon. W. H. PORTER, Treasurer of the Presidency of Dominica, has been appointed an official Member of the Legislative Council of Dominica, *vice* Mr. Leslie Jarvis, resigned.

Mr. H. D. PHILLIPS, formerly District Commissioner of Toledo, British Honduras, assumed the duties of District Commissioner of Stann Creek on his return to the Colony from leave of absence.

Hon. A. R. USHER, our Hon. Correspondent in British Honduras, has been granted leave of absence for three months from his duties in connection with the British Honduras Volunteer Force.

Hon. CARLOS MELHADO and Hon. SYDNEY G. WOODS have been granted leave of absence from their duties as Members of the Legislative Council, British Honduras, for two months and twelve months respectively.

During the absence from the West Indies of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, Professor d'Albuquerque will act on his behalf and attend to matters of business in connection with the Agricultural Department.

Consequent upon the dissolution of the union between Sweden and Norway, Mr. EDGAR TRIPP has resigned the Consulate of the former Kingdom in Trinidad, and Mr. ELLIS GERRI will assume temporarily the duties of Consul for Sweden.

Sir WALTER LLEWELLYN LEWIS, Chief Justice, British Honduras, has been granted three months' leave of absence, during which time the Hon. F. M. Maxwell, K.C., Attorney-General, will act as Chief Justice, and Mr. Colin Rees Davies as Attorney-General.

The appointment of Immigration Agent-General in British Guiana, rendered vacant by the death of the Hon. A. H. Alexander has been offered to and accepted by Mr. R. Dorr, the Senior Immigration Agent of that Colony, who has been connected with the Department for twenty-three years. He has acted on several occasions as Sub-Immigration Agent, and holds a first-class certificate in Hindustani.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), June 21st. "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), June 26th. "Weather favourable for cultivation, heavy showers alternately with hot sunshine." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 13th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "7th to 10th, rainy; 11th to 12th, cloudy; 13th, fine." **KIXOSTOX**: "7th to 11th, heavy rains; 12th, cloudy; 13th, fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—**OUTWARD BOOKINGS** per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), **June 28th**:—Mr. Y. Wilkin, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. F. Privette, Mr. E. Ydiaguez, Mr. and Mrs. Luloaga, Mrs. Quick, Mrs. Ross, Baron de Slane, Mr. A. Struck, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Lynch, Mr. C. Navas, Mr. E. Grison, Mr. Yarr, Dr. and Mrs. Greenidge, Mr. F. Adams, Dr. J. Hazard, Mr. and Mrs. Brochel, Mr. Penbaraul, Mr. L. Guevara, Mr. J. Lewin, Mr. F. Grey, M. T. Philip, Mr. Melin, Mr. C. Martinez, Mr. C. C. Monkton, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. J. Eaden, Mr. C. Foster, Mr. H. Calder, Mr. and Mrs. Castellon, Mr. M. Castellon, Mr. A. Lehmann, Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, Miss Hodgkinson, Mr. C. Craig, Mr. R. F. Thomas, Mrs. Vargas, Dr. and Mrs. Cardenas, Mr. E. Wilson Jones, Mrs. E. McKinnon, Mr. J. Matharan.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
June 28	The W. Indies (Northern and Demerara excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Orinoco"	June 27, midn't.
.. 28	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Nicaraguan"	.. 27, 6 p.m.
.. 30	Jamaica and Bermuda	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	.. 29, 6 p.m.
July 6	Demerara, Trinidad & Barbados	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Crown of Granada"	July 5, 6 p.m.
.. 7	Barbados (for Demerara and W. India Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Wanderer"	6, 6 p.m.
.. 13	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Serrana"	.. 13, noon.
.. 19	The W. Indies (Northern Islands excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Tagus"	.. 18, midn't.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
July 2	The W. Indies (Northern Islands excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Tagus"
.. 4	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"
.. 16	The W. Indies (Northern Islands excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Atrato"

Exports of Produce from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwts.	Cocoanuts	Cotton lbs.	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to May 26, '06	4,390	13,442	374,322	7,487	1,087,745	11,676	11,060	2,687,793	4,727,226
.. .. 27, '05	3,749	7,104	383,434	3,568	804,410	17,599	11,778	2,733,990	1,295,900

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/May, 9 months.

	1905/6	1904/5	1903/4
Convention Europe	3,137,000	2,803,000	3,118,000 Tons

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st June, even dates.

	1906.	1905	1904.
Known world	3,056,000	2,267,000	2,708,000 Tons.

Considering the great increase in production this season as compared with 1904/5 which roughly approximates 2,500,000 tons, beet and cane united, it is somewhat remarkable that the visible supply after nine months of the year have passed should only show a surplus of some 800,000 tons, and that in the face of the small increase in Consumption in Convention Europe of, say 330,000 tons during the nine months. All sorts of theories are set up to account for this disappearance of sugar, if the figures can be relied upon, but assuming the figures to be correct it is a matter of satisfaction that we find ourselves relieved of a weight of sugar that once and for a long time looked overwhelming, and the road should now be clear to point at 8s., basis 88, as a minimum price, whilst a small improvement thereon does not seem unreasonable, if from now to September the figures still improve. To attempt to gauge the next beet crop, four months ahead, is simply ridiculous, and for the market to be influenced in these early days by variation in temperature is a caricature. Reliable authorities describe the crop as progressing satisfactorily, but with a moderate curtailment in sowings, some diminution in output may fairly be reckoned upon, and the future prices of sugar may become susceptible of an improvement worth having.

The moment's quotations of 88% beet are:—June, 8s. 2½d.; August, 8s. 3½d.; October/December, 8s. 5½d. January/March, 1907, 8s. 7½d., and May, 8s. 9½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	2,470,000	1,730,000	2,250,000	2,240,000	2,370,000	Tons
United States	350,000	230,000	220,000	320,000	130,000	"
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	270,000	360,000	190,000	370,000	430,000	..
Total	3,090,000	2,320,000	2,660,000	2,930,000	2,930,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 26th June:—	8s. 2½d.	11s. 8d.	9s. 4d.	7s. 8½d.	6s. 0d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—After further considerable sales of yellow crystallised at slightly improved prices, the tone of the Market has become for the moment quieter. The recent sales have been chiefly from 14s. 6d. to 15s., and the value of average qualities is now 14s. 9d. In 96% centrifugals to Refiners, a good business has been done at 9s. 3½d. to 9s. 4½d. on floating terms, and possibly a shade over could now be obtained.

Molasses Sugar.—Unchanged. Spot quotations ranging from 10s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid.

Muscovado.—Small sales of grocery occur from time to time at 13s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. For 89 test to Refiners, 8s. on floating terms has been paid and buyers seem willing to pay a little more in order to secure a decent quantity of this useful sugar.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	37,000	28,000	29,000	16,000	40,000	Tons
Deliveries	22,000	19,000	24,000	21,000	21,000	..
Stocks	24,000	19,000	18,000	23,000	31,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ...	14s. 9d.	13s. 3d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	13s. 3d.	

Run.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	6500	8700	9800	—	9300 Pans.
Demerara	7200	5000	10,500	—	7700 ..
Total of all kinds	13,700	13,700	20,300	—	17,000 ..

The Market keeps steady, and Jamaica meets a good demand from 2s. 1d. upwards, according to quality. In Demerara there is little or nothing doing, 9½d. remaining the quotation for fair Marks, and there is a considerable quantity imported months ago still unsold. Leewards and other proof kinds are nominally worth from 8d. to 1s. 1d.

Cocoa. Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	10,000	17,000	25,000	20,000	Bags.
Grenada	9600	16,700	18,000	14,200	..
Total of all kinds	19,600	33,700	43,000	34,200	..

A quieter tone prevails, and prices are generally 1s. lower, especially for Grenada which recently had an important rise. The weather having become hot may possibly account in a measure for this reaction. Present quotations are Trinidad fair collected, 57s.; Estate Marks, 57s. to 63s.; Grenada fair, 51s., fermented, 54s. to 56s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 50s., and fermented, 53s. to 56s.

Coffee.—Firm. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Large sales of West India including 50's at 2s. 4d., 60's at 1s. 11d., 68's at 1s. 2d., 74's at 10½d., 81's at 10d., 92's at 8½d., 98's at 7½d., 112's at 6½d., 126's at 6d., 150's at 5d., and in shell from 3½d. to 4½d. **Mace.**—Free sales, fair to good pale, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d., pale and reddish, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d., fair to good red, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. with broken at 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. **Unger.**—Unchanged. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 58s. to 65s. **Pimento.**—Steady at 2½d. to 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Quiet, and prices maintained with moderate sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2d.

Lime Juice.—Unchanged, at 11d. to 11s. 3d. Concentrated, steady, value, £20 10s. Hand Pressed, quiet value, 2s. 6d. Distilled Oil, steady, at 2s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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THE Colonies principally affected by the suspension of the mail service consequent upon the abandonment of the mail contract last year, are British Guiana, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis. Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados fall under a different category, being provided for, though both Trinidad and Barbados complain of the irregularity of communication resulting from the present arrangements, and each suffers in so far as intercourse with the neighbouring Colonies is concerned. In British Guiana and each of the Windward and Leeward Islands the strongest representations have been made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the inconvenience which is already being experienced. What the Colonies want, and what they are willing to pay for, is regular fortnightly communication with the Mother Country and with each other, and nothing short of this is likely to satisfy them. At a recent meeting at the West India Committee Rooms, Sir Henry Jackson, the Governor of Trinidad, indicated that on this occasion the Colonies would be allowed to have a voice in the matter, and if the commerce of the West Indies is not to suffer, it is devoutly to be hoped that they will soon be permitted to do so. In several of the Colonies, British Guiana for example, a note of bitterness has been struck which the authorities at home will recognise as a premonition of the tense feeling which already prevails and is likely to be accentuated if a satisfactory settlement is not soon arrived at. It must serve moreover as a reminder to Lord Elgin of the storm which burst over the head of his predecessor when the wishes of the Colonies were ignored and the present tangle was originated. The intimation that the matter is engaging the personal attention of Lord Elgin and Mr. Sydney Buxton is undoubtedly a subject for satisfaction, but this will be tempered with no inconsiderable degree of irritation if some definite announcement is not made in the near future.

A Lecture on Cotton.

We have pleasure in announcing that Sir Daniel Morris, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, will deliver an address on "The Present Position and Prospects of the Sea Island Cotton Industry in the West Indies," at the West India Committee Rooms, at 4 p.m., on Thursday, July 19th. Tickets, the number of which must necessarily be limited, can now be obtained from the Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

New Members of the West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, June 28th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee.

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
H. C. FIELD	COLONEL F. C. TROLLOPE	T. W. WILKINSON.
S. G. WOODS (British Honduras)	C. T. HUNTER	W. MITCHELL THOMSON, M.P.
JOHN URICH (Trinidad)	HON. DR. JAMES DE WOLFE	RANDOLPH RUST.
LEE LUM (Trinidad)	RANDOLPH RUST	ARTHUR N. LUBBOCK.
ARTHUR à BECKET	W. P. B. SHEPHEARD	COLONEL F. C. TROLLOPE.
GEORGE B. ALLEN	SIR HENRY K. DAVSON	EDWARD R. DAVSON.
ROBERT WILSON	ARTHUR N. LUBBOCK	C. ALGERNON CAMPBELL.
COLONEL S. SANDBACH	C. ALGERNON CAMPBELL	CHARLES S. PARKER.

Full particulars regarding membership, and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Birthday Honours.

Among the recipients of honours on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday, which was officially recognised on June 28th, were Mr. Hugh Clarence Bourne, M.A., Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, who was appointed a C.M.G.; and Mr. David Gloster Garraway, Controller of the Customs Department of British Guiana; Mr. Alfred Henry Miles, Collector-General of the Revenue Department of Jamaica; Mr. Allan Frith Smith, Colonial Postmaster of Bermuda, and Mr. William Henry Whyham, District Magistrate of Antigua, who become Companions of the Imperial Service Order. To all these gentlemen we offer our sincere congratulations.

A French View of the Confectioners' Grievance.

A letter from the Confectioners' Alliance to the President of the Board of Trade in reply to one sent in by the Refiners' Association on the subject of the Brussels Convention, is sensibly commented upon by the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* in their issue of the 27th inst., as follows: "We can well understand that the British confectioners protest against the consumption tax on sugar, and we sincerely wish with them that the English consumer may soon be freed from this charge. But we have sought in vain in the letters of the President of the Alliance of British Confectioners an evident proof of the decadence of this industry under the régime of the Brussels Convention. That the labour employed in the English confectionery industry may have become less numerous is possible; but it is in no way sure that this diminution is not the consequence of improvement in machinery, of a change in manufacturing processes, and of the increasing concentration of work in view of the reduction of general expenditure. We may presume that in this respect the British confectionery industry is undergoing an evolution analogous to that to which Mr. Rowntree alludes on the subject of the refining interest. But herein, it cannot be overlooked, is an economic phenomenon entirely independent of the effects of the Brussels Sugar Convention."

In Defence of our Sugar Industry.

M. Georges Durcau, in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, reviews the position of the Java sugar industry and gives interesting figures in connection with it. In the last ten years the output has risen from 534,390 tons to 1,039,188 tons, and in addition to this doubling of crop, the proportion of first sugars to second has increased, the quantity of second remaining stationary. The net production for 1905 was nearly two tons per acre; 10.77 per cent. was recovered from the cane in 1905. The cost of production varied from £6 10s. to £8 10s. per ton. In the east of Java new factories have been and are being erected, but the Government has refused to sanction extensions in other parts lest there should be a deficiency of water for the rice industry, which is essential for the sustenance of the native population.

The *Produce Markets Review*, in reproducing a summary of the article, takes, we are sorry to say, the opportunity of indulging in certain misleading statements regarding the West Indian sugar industry. "In the meantime," the writer says, speaking of the relation of first to second sugar in Java, "it will be noticed with regret that our own West Indian Colonies are only just commencing to improve their production of sugar, three-fourths of their crop consisting still of products made on antiquated and wasteful processes 350 years old." As a matter of fact, over 70 per cent. of the West

Indian sugar is produced on the most modern principles. Again, in speaking of the size of the factories, he refers to "the many tiny plantations in our own West Indies." As a matter of fact, a common output in British Guiana is 300 tons per week, working by day only, several factories running far in excess of this figure, while the Trinidad output is on a similar scale, one factory, indeed, turning out 900 to 1,000 tons a week. Possibly the *Review* may have omitted British Guiana from its calculations, although the sugar industry of this Colony is always, by common consent, considered as part and parcel of the West Indian sugar industry; but even then the statements complained of are incorrect.

One Hundred Years Ago.

An Unknown Sugar Process.

The two classes of sugar imported into the United Kingdom from the West Indies were the ordinary muscovado and a high class sugar produced by the process of "claying," or the percolation of water through a layer of clay into the pots in which the sugar was struck, whereby the molasses was washed out of it, and a more or less white sugar obtained. The latter, or "clayed" sugar, was subject to a higher import duty than the brown variety. When the trade to the East Indies was thrown open, a ratio of duty was fixed upon sugar imported from them. This was intended to protect the West India sugar Colonies, but no reference was made to the principle of apportioning the duty to the degree of refinement. A large proportion of this sugar underwent a process stated not to be by the use of clay, but which had a similar effect in extracting the molasses and dirt, and this sugar was coming in at the same rate of duty as the inferior quality. Representations were accordingly made to the President of the Board of Trade by the West India Committee, and a report by experts forwarded on December 10th, 1822, stated:—

"The sugar from the East Indies, which has undergone the preparation there used, is also of various Grain and Colour; some of it has been brought into a state so fit for domestic purposes as Grocery, that a Refiner can make no profitable use of it. Other kinds have been equally improved, but yet the Grain has been preserved; and, indeed, in some cases, the process has been carried so far that such Sugar might fairly be subject to a much higher duty than what attaches equally upon all West India Clayed."

It is not known what the process was, but it will be noticed that the grain of the sugar was preserved, while its purity was increased. Perhaps some of our readers can throw some light on the matter. What refining process was used in the East Indies other than "claying" at the date of the complaint? In perusing the minutes of this period, it is impossible to avoid being struck with the modernising of diction and spelling which had taken place in the preceding twenty years, and which seemed suddenly to start with the beginning of the century.

Hurricane Insurance.

With reference to the arrangements for the insurance of estates in the West Indies against storms and hurricanes, it will be remembered that Messrs. Henry Head and Company quoted an inclusive premium of 30s. per cent. on buildings and cultivation, to pay the excess of 5 per cent. on the amount insured in the event of a claim. Under this scheme, therefore, the planters were their own insurers to the extent of 5 per cent. Many of them have objected to these terms, and have expressed their willingness to pay a higher premium if underwriters would agree to pay claims in full, and we are pleased to say that the underwriters have now been induced to give alternative quotations as follows:—

Barbados and the Windward and Leeward Islands.

(a) *Buildings.* Where cultivation is insured with buildings the rate will be 30s. per cent. in the case of wooden buildings, and 20s. per cent. in the case of stone buildings. For this premium underwriters will pay any claim, subject to deduction, on the following scale:—

Value insured.	Deduction from Claim.
Up to £1,000	5 per cent. on the amount insured.
Over 1,000 and not exceeding £2,000	4 " " "
" 2,000 " " 3,000	3 " " "
" 3,000 " " 10,000	2 " " "
" 10,000	1 " " "

Thus, while the damage done to buildings on an estate of the value of £1000 would have to amount to £50 before the planter could make any claim, in the case of those on an estate valued at £3000 it would be sufficient if it amounted to £90, and so on.

(b) *Cocoa and Limes.* Underwriters are prepared to take cocoa and limes either at the premium originally proposed, viz., 30s. per cent., to pay the excess of 5 per cent. on the total amount insured, or at a premium of 40s. per cent. (returning 5s. per cent. for no claim), paying in full any claim subject to its amounting to 5 per cent. of the total value of the estate insured. It will be remembered that this was the percentage fixed upon as being the fair test of a hurricane. They are also prepared to allow planters to put any reasonable value upon their trees for the purposes of insurance at their option, and, should it be desired, they would allow a portion of an estate to be insured alone, provided such portion could be clearly defined.

(c) *Cotton.* A special insurance has been arranged for this during the hurricane months alone, viz., July, August, September and October. The value for the purposes of insurance is to be taken at £10 per acre. The premium will be 20s. per cent. to return 5s. per cent. for no claim. In the event of damage by a hurricane amounting to such a loss of the plants as to necessitate re-planting, the loss to be paid by underwriters will be as follows:—

Per acre	July.	August.	September.	October.
.. .. .	37/6	42/6	45/-	60/-

The damage to be assessed per acre and not to be appraised until fourteen days after the occurrence. A planter, therefore, having ten acres of cotton under cultivation would pay 20s per annum, receiving 5s. at the expiration of the hurricane months if no claim was made, and if his cotton was damaged in July he would receive £18 15s., in August, £21 5s., in September, £22 10s., and in October, £30.

The Arrangements for Jamaica.

Underwriters will take cocoa in this Island on the same terms as the other Islands, except where bananas are planted with it, in which case they are only prepared to take it at a premium of 30s. per cent. to pay the excess of 5 per cent. of any claim.

Coco-nuts. The rate for these will be 50s. per cent. (returning 5s. per cent. for no claim), for which underwriters will pay any claim in full subject to its amounting to 5 per cent. of the total sum insured. They will also allow planters to put any reasonable valuation upon their trees for the purposes of insurance.

Messrs. Henry Head and Company intimate that they will gladly obtain special quotations for coffee and other products, but underwriters are not disposed to quote an inclusive rate for this and other forms of cultivation owing to the varying conditions under which they are grown, and to the risk being a more serious one on some estates than others.

Except in the case of growing cotton, for which the above special arrangements have been made, underwriters will under no circumstances take cultivation without the buildings.

The West Indian Club.

At the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on June 27th were His Honour Judge Lucie-Smith, Senior Puisne Judge of British Guiana; Mr. G. Aubrey Goodman, K.C., Solicitor-General, Barbados, and Mr. Henry Kirke, M.A., B.C.I. formerly a Puisne Judge of British Guiana, were the guests of the Club. Their Honours Judge Vickers, Puisne Judge of Jamaica, and Judge Roulledge, first Puisne Judge of Trinidad, Mr. Alfred Kingdon, K.C., and Mr. H. Bertram Cox, C.B., B.C.L., M.A., Legal Assistant Under-Secretary, Colonial Office, were unfortunately prevented by absence from town and other engagements from accepting the invitation.

Several members of the Club belonging to one or other of the two branches of the legal profession and their private friends assembled to do honour to these distinguished legal guests, among those present being: Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, M.A. (Lincoln's Inn), who presided, and the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G., Mr. Edward Manson (Middle Temple), Hon. Secretary of the Society of Comparative Legislation; Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall (Inner Temple), Mr. Noel Griffith (Middle Temple), Mr. A. E. Messor, B.A., Mr. F. T. M. Teesdale, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, M.A., Mr. H. H. Etheridge, General Emilio Seran, Minister Plenipotentiary of Ecuador; Don Federico Witting, Financial Agent to the Government of Costa Rica; Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Dr. R. M. Johnson, Mr. W. L. Johnson, Dr. C. H. Phillipps, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. F. G. Rayment, Dr. Shave, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Dr. E. Sturridge, Dr. E. B. White, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. J. H. Phillipps, Mr. E. Alberga and Mr. D. G. Garraway, I.S.O.

The speeches in connection with the loyal and other special toasts of the evening, were full of interest, and contained many kindly references to the West Indies and British Guiana. The members and their guests seemed fully to enjoy this opportunity of meeting one another, which the hospitality of the Club had been the means of providing.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

By P. A. GOODMAN.

The West Indians v. Surrey.

Fine weather prevailed for the two days during which the match lasted, and after lunch on the first day, June 25th, some four or five thousand spectators were present. The Surrey captain on winning the toss, elected to bat. J. E. Raphael and Tom Hayward were the first batting pair, the attack being entrusted to Smith and Burton. The first wicket fell at 56, when Hayward skied one off Layne, and was taken at cover. His innings of 34 was faultless, and, though for him quite small, it was enough to show us what a wonderful batsman he is. Hayes came next, and in his usual free style rattled up 54 before he was taken at extra cover off Smith, having being missed by the same fieldsmen the previous ball.

Up to luncheon matters had fared badly for the Colonials, only two wickets being down for 174. After lunch, Lord Dalmeny played one on and Raphael was run out by a smart bit of fielding on the part of Layne. He had batted for two hours and twenty minutes, and in his innings of 77 exhibited considerable caution after being badly missed at first slip when 8 runs. Although the remaining batsmen made some useful scores, their cricket was nothing out of the common, and the venture finally closed for 306. The comparatively cheap dismissal of the latter Surrey batsmen was wholly due to the efforts of Layne, whose analysis was 7 for 76, six of these being captured after lunch at a cost of 32 only.

The Colonials opened their innings very badly, Ollivierre being dismissed by a remarkably good catch by Smith, standing rather wide at mid-on, and Layne being cleverly run out by the Surrey skipper, when he was well set. Four wickets were down for 47 runs, when a useful stand was made by Smith and Harragin. This was brought to an end by Smith being clean bowled by his Surrey namesake, and Harragin soon followed him for a good 23—the top score of the innings. Of the others Constantine alone reached double figures, and when stumps were drawn 8 wickets were down for 103. The remaining batsmen were quickly disposed of next morning for an additional 18 runs. Smith, the Surrey bowler, bowled well and got most of the wickets.

Being 185 runs behind, the Colonials were called upon to follow on, and, although Challenger and Ollivierre obtained 37 before a wicket fell, four were down for the addition of but 20 runs. Both of these batsmen were out to the first ball after a change, the former being clean bowled by Spring and the latter l.b.w. to Hayes. Layne was, as in the first innings, run out, and on Smith's dismissal, Harragin and Austin increased the score by 90 runs before lunch by quite first class cricket. On the resumption of play, all chances of pulling the match out of the fire were dispelled by the rapid downfall of three wickets. Austin was run out at 147 for a well played 40, and Harragin was caught at second slip for a brilliant 57, which included ten 4s, most of them being beautiful late cuts. The eighth wicket fell before an innings defeat had been averted, then Burton joined Constantine. The pair added 48 for the ninth wicket in less than half an hour, a run out again severing the partnership. Constantine hit with wonderful power and crispness, and was the last man out for a magnificent 47, made at a most critical time.

Surrey was set 46 to get to win, and this task they accomplished without the loss of a wicket, although Raphael offered an easy chance to cover when about a dozen runs. The West Indians thus lost by 10 wickets. The most noteworthy feature of this match was the utter inability on the part of the Colonials to judge a run. They lost no fewer than five good wickets through this lamentable failing, and it is to be hoped that this demoralising shortcoming will be speedily rectified. Another remarkable feature too is their impetuosity, their love to have a go at every ball on the off side no matter how many slips there may be. They must remember that they are playing three day matches and not half day ones as they do in the Colonies, and I feel sure that better results will reward their efforts.

SURREY.		WEST INDIANS.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.	First Innings.	Second Innings.
Hayward, c Ollivierre b Layne .. 24		R. A. Ollivierre, c Smith, b Rusbyby .. 11	l.b.w., b Hayes .. 24
J. E. Raphael, run out .. 77	not out .. 99	G. Challenger, b Smith .. 3	b Spring .. 28
Hayes, c Constantine b Smith .. 54		Layne, run out .. 21	run out .. 7
Lord Dalmeny (capt.), b Parker .. 21		S. G. Snelsh, b Smith .. 11	b Hayes .. 7
Baker, c Parker b Layne .. 23		A. E. Harragin, b Spring .. 23	c Hayward, b Moulder .. 17
Geatly, c Ollivierre .. 23		H. B. G. Austin (capt.), c Dalmeny, b Rusbyby .. 4	run out .. 40
Stedman, b Layne .. 22	not out .. 22	L. Constantine, b Smith .. 12	b Spring .. 47
Spring, b Layne .. 22		C. K. Bancroft, c Hayward, b Rusbyby .. 7	b Moulder .. 0
Moulder, l.b.w., b Layne .. 22		C. S. Morrison, run out .. 2	l.b.w., b Moulder .. 12
Smith, c Harragin, b Layne .. 5		Barton, not out .. 7	run out .. 10
Rusbyby, not out .. 1		J. E. Parker, st. Stedman, b Smith .. 4	not out .. 10
Byes (c; b; c; b; c; b; c) .. 12		Byes, c; l.b.; x; w; x .. 4	Byes, x; w; x; l.b.; x .. 4
Total 306	Total (no wkt. .. 47	Total 191	Total 93

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.							
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.				
Smith	21	1	80	1	Layne	5	0	19	0	Rushby	13	0	49	3	Smith	18	6	38	0
Barton	12	0	39	0	Morrison	4	0	24	0	Smith	12.4	7	53	4	Rushby	14	1	59	0
Layne	22.5	4	76	7	Barton	3	0	4	0	Hayes	10	1	39	7	Spring	13.4	2	50	0
Morrison	8	1	33	0						Spring	13.4	2	50	0	Moulder	1.4	4	41	0
Parker	18	1	23	1										Moulder	1.4	4	41	0	

Smith bowled one no-ball.

Rushby bowled a wide.

Moulder bowled one no-ball.

Umpires—V. A. Titchmarsh and W. Richards.

The West Indians v. Wiltshire.

Owing to heavy rain this match did not start till 3 p.m. on June 29th. The spin of the coin being against us we were called on to take the field, and Wiltshire on a wicket rendered extremely easy by the heavy rains compiled 235, none of our bowlers except Smith doing themselves justice. The total, however, would not have been so large, had an easy chance of Newman's to extra cover been accepted. He subsequently added 68 to his score and was well supported by Stevens and Warrilow. The innings came to an end just before the drawing of stumps.

We began our innings on the following morning in a very disastrous manner by losing four wickets for three runs. The wicket was drying quickly, and the bowlers receiving every assistance from it did as they liked with the ball. Goodman and Smith then became associated and added 86 before the latter was well taken at point for a well played 52. Two runs later Goodman was also given his quietus. No one else did much with the exception of Austin, who played a splendid innings of 33 not out, and the innings closed at 149.

In their second innings our opponents had a taste of the wicket on which we had again and again been stuck up, and fared even worse than we had, making only 81.

Ollivierre going on rather late in the innings captured four wickets for five runs in four overs. Once more a chance from Overton was missed and caused their score to be some dozen runs more than it would otherwise have been. With 160 left us to win in two hours we started our second venture with the hope of making the runs in the time. Disaster attended our efforts in this direction, for Ollivierre, Harragin, Challenor and Learmond were all out for about twenty runs. The wicket was as bad as ever, and though Austin and Smith and subsequently Layne tried hard to avert defeat and secure a draw, we were all out within five minutes of time for 81.

WILTSHIRE.				WEST INDIANS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. J. E. Stevens, b Smith	45	c Layne, b Smith	33	Mr. R. Ollivierre, st. Luce, b Overton	1	b Smart	10
Mr. H. M. Butterworth, b Ollivierre, b S. Smith	19	b Cumberbatch	3	Mr. R. Challenor, l.b.w., b Overton	2	c Pugh, b Smart	10
Newman, c Learmond, b Barton	24	c Layne, b Smith	2	Mr. G. C. Learmond, c and b Overton	0	b Smart	10
Mr. J. Pugh, b S. Smith	0	c Austin, b Smith	14	Mr. A. Goodman, b Warrilow	27	b Overton	10
Mr. E. S. Warrilow, l.b.w., b S. Smith	33	b Smith	0	Mr. S. Smith, c Stevens, b Miller	52	c Butterworth, b Smith	48
Overton, c Cameron, b Barton	36	b Ollivierre	17	Mr. A. E. Harragin, l.b.w., b Overton	8	c Pugh, b Overton	10
Mr. R. Reynolds, l.b.w., b S. Smith	2	b Ollivierre	21	Mr. H. G. B. Austin, not out	33	l.b.w., b Smart	10
Smith, c Austin, b S. Smith	5	c and b Cumberbatch	0	Layne, b Smith	1	l.b.w., b Smith	10
Mr. A. M. Miller, b S. Smith	4	b Ollivierre	3	Mr. D. R. Cameron, run out	9	l.b.w., b Smith	10
Mr. T. Luce, not out	2	not out	8	Barton, c Pugh, b Overton	3	st. Luce, b Smart	10
Smart, c Learmond, b S. Smith	0	b Ollivierre	0	Cumberbatch, st. Luce, b Smart	3	not out	10
Byes, etc.	11	Byes, etc.	2	Byes, etc.	19	Byes, etc.	11
Total	235	Total	81	Total	160	Total	81

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.							
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.				
S. Smith	17.3	1	50	7	Smith	18	6	46	4	Overton	21	7	58	3	Overton	0	26	10	
Barton	15	0	30	0	Cumberbatch	15	4	30	2	Smart	21	2	36	4	Smart	42	1	15	0
Cumberbatch	0	0	24	0	Ollivierre	2.4	0	5	4	Warrilow	4.1	1	11	1	Smith	6.2	1	15	1
Layne	0	0	15	0						Miller	0	0	0	0					
Cameron	0	0	15	0															
Goodman	0	0	15	0															

Consular Reports.

Martinique's Exports.

The shipments of centrifugal sugar in 1905 amounted to 30,067 tons, valued at £466,101 being an increase of 6132 tons in quantity and £181,778 in value, as compared with the shipments made in 1904. In 1905 there were exported 2,014,338 gallons of rum, valued at £136,647, an excess over the exports in 1904 of 505,063 gallons in quantity and an increase of £38,798 in value. Exports of cocoa in 1905 amounted to 1,033,183 lbs., valued at £23,919, as against 701,628 lbs., valued at £17,101 in the preceding year. The exports of molasses in 1905 were 297 tons, as against 338 tons in 1904. On the other hand there were imported, all from Guadeloupe, in 1905, 1111 tons.

Baden and its Tobacco.

The year 1904, in consequence of great heat in July and August, yielded a ripe but very strong tobacco which nobody in Baden dared touch. Dealers and manufacturers would also have nothing to say to this tobacco, which instead of being bought up in October was for the most part left hanging in the drying houses till February. This proved its salvation. For, exposed to the winter's frost and winds, the leaf benefited most materially, and became much sweeter and milder. Eventually it was brought to market by the peasants in thoroughly sound condition and sold at moderate prices, and after fermentation, especially the second ferment, turned out a really quite superior crop, a sweet, freely burning, useful cigar leaf of excellent colour. It was at once readily accepted, and fetched prices very satisfactory to dealers.

Exports of Spanish Citrus Fruits.

Shipments of oranges and lemons from Cartagena during the year were as follows:—

	Boxes.
United Kingdom	137,804
Germany	101,807
France	5,370
Belgium	8,684
Total	253,845

Besides these boxes there were 14,943 bundles of mandarin oranges despatched to the United Kingdom and 13,895 bundles to Germany (10 boxes of 25 oranges in each make a bundle).

Beet Sugar Production in Russia.

The campaign of 1905-06, with 277 factories in operation, showed a production of 875,717 tons of sugar, or 36,989 tons more than was produced by the previous campaign of 1904-05. The stock of sugar on hand from previous campaign equals 172,968 tons, comprising 32,073 tons of the inviolable reserve, 112,344 tons of finished sugar, and 28,551 tons of products calculated as white crystals, the latter two forming what is known as the "free reserve." There will thus be an available supply of 1,048,685 tons, which is 80,347 tons under the "normal profitable production" stipulated by the Government as the quantity for the campaign of 1905-06. The actual yielding area was 1,324,540 acres, which gave a yield of roots of 7,780,287 tons or 117½ cwts. to the acre. There was an increase in area of 141,224 acres and in yield of roots of 391,545 tons when compared with 1904, and although the area in 1905 was still under that of 1903 by 23,015 acres, yet the yield of roots was 192,304 tons more than in that year.

Madeira and Demerara Molasses.

The position of the sugar cane industry in Madeira presents an interesting study to the political economist, for he will find there a product of the soil, the cultivation of which, though forming one of the two principal industries of the Island for over four centuries, can now only be carried on profitably by the help of enormous protective duties, equivalent to 150 to 200 per cent. *ad valorem*, coupled with an arrangement by which the sugar manufacturer binds himself to pay exaggeratedly high prices for the whole cane crop of each year, in return for the exclusive privilege of importing molasses from Demerara, etc., at a very low rate of duty. The price of cane was already about 400 per cent. higher than in the West Indies, and under this arrangement it was further raised by 10 per cent.; it is therefore scarcely surprising that even with the present high import duties sugar cannot be manufactured at a profit, and the manufacturer must recoup himself in other directions, *i.e.*, by the sale of the neutral spirit which he distils from his cane, and from the imported molasses to the wine shipper who requires it for his wine.

The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S.P. "Tagus" arrived at Southampton at 8.45 on Sunday, July 1st, but was not docked until the following morning. It is a pity that when the steamer arrives on Sunday evening, the Post Office cannot make arrangements for dealing with the letters until the next day. Among the passengers by the "Tagus" were the Ven. Archdeacon Bindley, D.D., Principal of Codrington College, Barbados; Mr. James Peet, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon-Gordon and Mr. R. Henderson, of Trinidad, and Mr. Carl F. Weiting, of British Guiana. Abundant evidence of the state of feeling regarding the suspension of the Mail service to British Guiana and the Windward and Leeward Islands, to which reference

is made in a leading article in the present issue, is to be found in the letters and newspapers received by this opportunity. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Treasure Seekers in Antigua.

Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, in a letter dated June 13th, complained of the very unsatisfactory state of the Mail arrangements, which were necessarily making correspondence irregular. The inconvenience must be felt by the Government as well as the planting community, and their influence, coupled with the petitions which had been sent in, might have some effect in getting a regular carriage of Mails established.

It was satisfactory to note that the recent high prices obtained for Antigua cotton were having the effect of bringing land seekers to the Colony. There was a considerable area of land in the Island at present not in cultivation, capable of producing high priced cotton; no doubt a continuance of present prices would have the effect of bringing this land into productive order once more, to the benefit of all classes of the community and of the Revenue also.

Crop was now generally drawing to a close. The saving clause had been the relatively high price obtained for Antigua muscovado molasses this year; sugar without molasses had been below the cost of production on most estates.

There had really been no usual dry season. The weather had been a continuation of showers for the past three months, and whilst this weather had generally produced a very luxuriant young crop, it had seriously interfered with sugar making and impoverished the juice a good deal.

Barbados recuperating after the Drought.

Writing on June 15th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne reported that the outward Mail, the "La Plata," which arrived a day before her time, brought also the usual letters and parcels for British Guiana. All these, as well as those for the Northern Islands, had to be stored at the Post Office, awaiting the first chance steamer. This must be the first time that such a thing had occurred for over sixty years, and it was hardly to be believed that the Colony would put up with such a retrograde movement.

Sir Gilbert and Lady Carter had left for the United States, and Mr. Knaggs had been sworn in as Acting Governor. Mr. E. T. Granum would act as Colonial Secretary.

There had been no local events of importance during the fortnight. The great bulk of the sugar had been sold. The price in the local market was quoted at \$1.45 for muscovado, \$1.85 for dark crystals, while there was no quotation for molasses.

During the week from June 6th to 13th, the Island had undergone an entire transformation. From a parched and arid wilderness, the young canes alone keeping green and these rapidly yellowing, it became a perfect garden. Flowers burst out everywhere, trees put forth their leaves, shrubs recovered, and canes began to grow visibly. Rain began on the night of the 5th, and in the next twenty-four hours from one to two inches had fallen over the whole Island. This was followed day by day with splendid showers, so that at the end of seven days every estate had marked from six to eight inches, some even more. On that day, again (the 15th), a very heavy rain had fallen, chiefly the winter thought, in Bridgetown. The rain could not have fallen more beautifully; it was gentle, yet determined, and the result had been that the land was now thoroughly soaked, and there had been no wash. As might be imagined, the opportunity was immediately seized by the industrious planters and population. Cane fields were supplied, cotton sown, potatoes, woolly pyrol, impee, corn, yams, and every kind of fodder planted. Already results were apparent, for the earth was only thirsting for the rain. It was a mercy for which they could not be sufficiently thankful, for all vegetation seemed to be at the verge of death. The crop was now over, except on a few windmill estates, whose difficulties were, of course, increased by the rain. The canes were sprouting and rooting, and the juice was becoming so impure that it would polarise very low, and in some places would not make sugar at all. It was to be hoped that the lesson would be carried home. Though the rains had had such marvellous effect on the young canes, there were many places where the drought was too deep, and here ratoons would be dug up and that it would be large enough to fulfil all that would be required of it.

On June 17th, Mr. Alleyne added that splendid showers had continued to date, and many estates had registered more than ten inches for the fortnight.

British Guiana without a Mail.

In a letter dated June 14th, Mr. A. Summerson stated that Mr. B. Howell Jones and Mr. Delafons had been elected members of the Council of the Planters' Association *vice* Messrs. Duncan and Mackey absent from the Colony, and Mr. Jones had been appointed Chairman for the balance of the current year.

There was very little doing in the sugar market; a small parcel was sold on the previous day at a fraction over \$1.70.

At a meeting of the Agricultural Society on Thursday, June 14th, the following resolution with regard to the Mail service was adopted unanimously:—

Whereas much inconvenience to the public and to the commerce and trade of the colony generally results from the present cessation of regular Mail connection with the United Kingdom; *Be it resolved*—That the members of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society in general meeting assembled protest against this unsatisfactory state of matters, and desire to impress upon the home Government the great importance of securing a regular Mail service between the Colony and the United Kingdom. And further that His Excellency the Acting Governor be asked to be good enough to forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to His Majesty's Postmaster-General.

The weather had been showery and favourable for cultivation, which had responded, and there was every prospect, given a further spell of good weather, of a fair crop in October-December next. The labour supply was expected to be equal to requirements.

The Dominica Lime Crop.

Writing on June 16th, Mr. E. A. Agar reported that the cable was interrupted about mid-day on the 9th and repaired on the 12th.

A Planters' Association had been formed with Mr. H. A. Frampton as Chairman, and the writer as Hon. Secretary, with the object of promoting free discussion on agricultural matters among planters only. Hon. A. D. Lockhart, and Messrs. J. Cox Fillon, A. C. Shillingford, P. F. Cox, George Carew, and G. L. Penrice, with the Chairman and Hon. Secretary were appointed to draft the rules.

The weather continued to be all that could be wished, plenty of rain with enough sunshine. The lime crop, which promised to be splendid, would shortly be coming in.

Grenada and the Canadian Exhibition.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton informed us in his letter of June 12th, that the Permanent Exhibition Committee had decided that Grenada should occupy a place at the Canadian Exhibitions.

The Archbishop of Trinidad, who left in the previous week, had been spending a couple of weeks or more in the Island on a pastoral visit. There was a public meeting in the market square on Whit Monday, at which His Grace spoke on the education question.

Our Hon. Correspondent forwarded to us a copy of a resolution which was proposed by the Hon. G. S. Seton-Browne, seconded by Mr. David Slinger, and passed unanimously at a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada on Friday, May 11th, regarding the suspension of the Mail service. The resolution is as follows:—

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company having decided to discontinue the Inter-Colonial steamer after that due to leave Grenada on June 4th next, this meeting is unanimously of opinion that the dislocation of trade that must result from such discontinuance of Inter-Colonial communication and from the absence of regular steam service with the Mother Country will inevitably cause a serious deviation of trade from Great Britain to the United States of America, and generally be most injurious to both the Agricultural and Commercial interests of the Colony.

Resolved—That a deputation of this Society do wait upon His Excellency the Governor to impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of at once telegraphing to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking that immediate steps be taken with a view to arranging for a regular fortnightly steam service between Great Britain and the West Indies for which this Colony will be prepared to contribute a sum not exceeding £1000, the proportion paid by Grenada under the late contract, provided a guarantee is given that the present rate of freight will not be raised during the term of such contract.

The deputation referred to waited on the Governor on the same day, and were cordially received. He promised to telegraph to the Secretary of State, and this was duly done.

On the 22nd and 23rd the Legislative Council met to discuss the new Education Ordinance. Mrs. H. E. McEwen, of Saus Souci in St. Andrew, was enrolled a member of the Agricultural Society at the General Meeting on May 11th. Mr. John Munro, of Victoria, St. Mark, and Mr. R. H. G. Wells, of Mirabeau, St. Andrew, were also elected.

The dry weather had come to an end, and there had been some days of heavy rain.

Cotton Planting progressing in Nevis.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, writing on June 13th, said that the present conditions with regard to the Mails were absolutely heartrending, and they could only pray that relief might soon be afforded them.

Nevis had not suffered so much as other Islands from the exodus of labourers to the canal zone, and the latest accounts of the conditions which prevailed at the Isthmus were not calculated to offer inducements to immigrants. In Antigua a bill has been passed penalising unauthorised agents, and it would really be a good move to extend its operations over the whole of the Colony.

Since last advices they had had glorious rains, about 6.7 inches for the month, so the land was in lovely condition for planting cotton, and the start off this year would be very different to that of 1905. As two large sugar estates were being planted in cotton instead of sugar, the acreage would be high for 1907, and it was hoped that the lessons learnt this season might lead planters to adopt every precaution so as to ensure the best possible results.

St. Kitts and shipping facilities for Sugar.

In a letter dated June 1st, Mr. Chas. A. Smith reported that the weather during May was satisfactory; the young crops were coming on as finely as could be wished and the sugar crop being reaped was exceeding all expectations. Owing to this, the reaping season would run on for a much longer period than usual. Cotton planting had begun. The first consignment of St. Vincent seed from the Imperial Department of Agriculture was not up to the mark, and in consequence, as it was planted as a catch crop, valuable time had been lost.

A movement was on foot to raise a memorial to the late Sir Robert Bromley by public subscription, and an influential Committee had been appointed to deal with the matter.

Mr. Manchester was recovering from his long illness, though at a critical time he suffered a sad bereavement by the loss of his wife.

The suggestion that shippers were to blame in the matter of the lack of space for St. Kitts sugar in the steamers of Messrs. Pickford and Black was resented in the Island, and it was pointed out that since shipping to Halifax became general, on no single occasion during crop had shippers in St. Kitts had a sufficiency of space allotted to them, and in many cases, as the steamer agents in the Island could testify, sugar already carted had been left on the beach, and it was said that it would be a difficult matter for Messrs. Pickford and Black to point to an instance in which during the crop season any of their steamers went on without a full load, as might be inferred from Mr. Black's remarks published in a recent *Circular*. Where engagements in other Islands might have been forfeited, any deficiency could always be made good from the stock on hand in St. Kitts curing houses, if a couple of hours' notice were given. It was held, therefore, that Mr. Black's remarks were misleading to the extent of permitting an idea to get abroad that the steamers of their line went on with less than a full load, where ordinary precautions were taken to obtain one. While it was felt that Messrs. Pickford and Black had done their best for the Island as the last port of call in the past, the members of the community were hurt at blame being attached to them in a matter where they had always been ready and willing, if opportunity were given, of providing the needed complement to supply the deficiencies of other Islands.

[The remarks of Mr. Black to which our friends in St. Kitts take exception, appeared in the *West India Committee Circular* No. 182, p. 127. It is only fair to Mr. Black to say that he had not an opportunity of correcting a proof, and he did not, moreover, specifically refer to St. Kitts.—Ed.]

St. Vincent enjoys rain.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., writing on June 16th, said that the change of weather during the past two weeks had been very beneficial to cultivation generally. They had been making much of it, to get in a good acreage in cotton, which product seemed likely to be the staple one of St. Vincent in the future.

A better outlook for Trinidad cocoa.

When the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., wrote on June 18th, the Railway Extension Committee was pursuing its enquiries, and had visited the Poole and Siparia Districts. The new Bankruptcy Ordinance was completed.

It was pleasing to learn that some satisfactory arrangement was likely to be arrived at which would serve Demerara and the Northern Islands. For some time now the service to and from Trinidad had been very regular, and the general public seemed satisfied with it.

Rains, mostly moderate, but occasionally heavy, had fallen every day of the fortnight, and all descriptions of cultivation had greatly benefited thereby. The spring of canes for 1907 was most promising, and the prospects for the December cocoa crop had in consequence much improved. During the past fortnight considerable deliveries had been made, but owing to the strong demand, prices had again hardened. Fine Estates were quoted at 54/-, Mixed Estates at 53/-, and Ordinary at 52/- per 50 kilos, C. & F. Havre, but these quotations must be considered as nominal, no business having been possible at the same. The strong demand for Venezuelans indicated in Mr. Fenwick's last letter still continued, and with a slight improvement in the qualities, prices had again risen. Arrivals from the Mainland had not been on a large scale, and the damage to the crop was even more serious than at first anticipated.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Totals of last report		83,473 bags, Trinidad	21,421 bags, Venezuela		
June	1st.—S.S. "St. Germain"	700	209		
"	2nd.—S.S. "Matanzas"	3,557	202		Europe.
"	5th.—S.S. "Grinoco"	690			New York.
"	8th.—S.S. "Caroni"	350			Europe.
"	11th.—S.S. "Prins Fred. Hend."	69			
"	15th.—S.S. "Maraval"		82		
"	15th.—S.S. "Prins Willem IV."	2,099	288		New York.
"	15th.—S.S. "Savan"	935	474		
"	15th.—S.S. "La Mata"	33			Europe.
"		700			
Totals to date		92,006 bags, Trinidad	22,676 bags, Venezuela.		

Our Library.

Tropical Life, Vol. II., No. 5.—The June number devotes a leading article to "The advantages of Trinidad oil as fuel in the sugar house," in which, quoting Professor Coates, of Louisiana, it is shown that petroleum possesses many advantages over coal. Six barrels or one ton of 2000 lbs. of oil would be equal to 18 tons of coal. It is claimed on its behalf that it costs less to handle and can be fed mechanically, and much higher efficiency can be got out of it than in the case of coal. The advantage of a Trinidad supply to the West Indies is pointed out, especially for sugar estates, but as the latter burn nothing but megass or at the most a small quantity of coal, the use would hardly come in to a large extent with them. There are, however, a variety of other uses to which it could be applied as fuel. The issue contains articles on the Witch-broom Disease in Surinam, by Dr. Van Hall; Rubber in Samoa, and a variety of other interesting matter in connection with tropical agriculture.

Notes of Interest.

Bim v. Pat. The *Globe* draws attention to the fact that on one occasion the Barbados Legislature passed an Alien Immigration Ordinance in which Irishmen were specifically included to be excluded.

"Carib, London." For the convenience of members of the West India Committee visiting this country, arrangements have been made by which they can have their cables addressed to them c/o Carib, London, in either the 4th or 5th edition of the A.B.C. Code.

Trinidad Oil Fields. Mr. E. H. Cunningham-Craig, who returned to Trinidad by the R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" on June 28th, will remain in the Colony until next May, when he will resume his duties under the Board of Education in Scotland. It is to be regretted that, owing to the demand on his services in this country, he will be unable to complete the survey of the Trinidad oil fields.

Smuggled Saccharine. The two mineral water manufacturers and the traveller prosecuted at the Thames Police Court for alleged "harbouring" of saccharine, were discharged on June 28th, but immediately rearrested, with a view to proceedings being taken against them in the High Court. It was stated that a quantity of saccharine was found hidden in wooden discs, which passed the Customs as "table tops."

Cherchez les Femmes. It is not generally known that the first beet sugar in the United States was made in Utah as far back as 1857. The Mormons seemed to have been especially interested in securing their own sugar supply, and Elder John Taylor was sent to Europe in 1850 to study beet manufacture. Brigham Young established a small factory for making syrup, sugar crystallised from which was quite palatable.

Evaporation. MM. Prache and Bouillon have invented a system of single evaporation in which the temperature of the vapour from evaporation is raised by compression in a Sautter Harle rotatory compressor, and the vapour therefrom used over again. It is doubtful whether any advantage would be derived from this compared with the converse system by multiple evaporation, in which the necessary difference of temperature is obtained by lowering the boiling point of the liquid instead of raising the temperature of the heating medium. The constant exposure of syrups to temperatures gradually getting higher instead of lower as concentration goes on, would be against the process so far as sugar is concerned. On the other hand, the fact of the evaporation being single is in its favour.

If the Cap Fits. We regret to say that there are still a certain number of members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year, due on *January 1st last*. We can only believe that this is due to an oversight. By a resolution of the Executive, it has been decided that the *West India Committee Circular* shall not be sent to members over six months in arrears of their subscription, and such members as have not yet forwarded their subscriptions are hereby informed that this rule must be rigidly adhered to, and that after a reasonable time has elapsed to permit of a reply to this request for the subscriptions due being received from the Colonies, the *Circular* will be no longer sent to those in arrears. We hope that members will endeavour to facilitate the work of our Hon. Treasurers and be prompt in payment.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana—(Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co.), July 2nd. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 30th. "PORT ANTONIO—14th and 17th, Rainy, others Fine. KINGSTON—14th to 18th, Heavy rains, 19th and 20th Fine."

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Tues., June 26th—88% Beet, 8/2½ steady.
- Wed., June 27th—Mr. Arthur à Beckett lectured in Jamaica at the Royal Societies Club.—Mr. Justice Lucie Smith entertained by the West Indian Club.—Beet 8/2½ quiet.
- Thur., June 28th—Conversations of the Royal Colonial Institute.—Beet 8/2½ quiet.
- Fri., June 29th—The King's Birthday celebrated.—Beet 8/2½ steady.
- Sat., June 30th—Mr. J. Chamberlain spoke on Colonial Preference at Sandon Heath (see *Times*, July 2nd).—Beet (Morning Call) 8/2½ steady.
- Sun., July 1st—Dominion Day.—The American Boat Express wrecked at Salisbury.—Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P. and Señor Manuel Garcia died.
- Mon., July 2nd—The R.M.S.P. "Tagus" arrived at Southampton.—The *Times* gave particulars of the proposed British Empire Club.—Beet 8/3½ steady.
- Tues., July 3rd—Deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Postmaster-General on the subject of Anglo-American Penny Postage.—Beet 8/4½ steady.
- Wed., July 4th—The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica.—Cricket: The West Indians v. Hampshire: Hampshire won by six wickets.—Beet (Afternoon Call) 8/4½ steady.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. C. F. Laws), July 1st: Capt. and Mrs. Benson, Dr. and Mrs. R. J. Carlisle, Miss L. F. Wickham, Mrs. Murray, Miss Macfarlane, Mr. F. G. Adair, Mr. and Mrs. H. Leonard, Mr. H. B. Way, Mr. O. Brenklow, Mr. E. F. Flower, Mr. C. H. Molens, Mr. and Mrs. V. Albert, Miss Lietti, Mr. G. W. Reemer, Mr. J. Brook, Mr. E. Rosenquist, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. F. Restrepo, Mr. and Mrs. Robledo, Miss Rosa Gutierrez, Mr. Julio Gutierrez, Mr. Jorge Gutierrez, Mr. E. Gutierrez, Mr. and Mrs. S. Guarin, Mr. G. Guarin, Mr. P. Santamaria, Mr. L. E. Villegas, Mr. E. Lemare, Mr. R. Jaramillo A. Mr. D. Jaramillo A. Mr. Aurelio Correa O. Mrs. M. de Pulido, Mr. H. L. Boulton, Dr. and Mrs. O. Lima, Mr. A. Pam, Mr. V. Lowenstein, Mrs. M. de Cuffin, Mr. J. L. Gorrondona, Mr. J. Pimentel, Mr. A. Pimentel, Mr. A. V. Pimentel, Mrs. J. Glendonning, Mrs. J. Haynes, Mrs. H. Caracciolo, Mr. J. Peet, Rev. G. A. and Mrs. Taitt, Mr. E. B. Connell, Miss Archibald, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Miss Nugent, Mr. E. C. Coryat, Mrs. W. M. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon-Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bowen, Mrs. Carey, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer, Dr. and Miss Gravely, Mr. H. S. Smith, Mrs. Casalta, Miss Llewellyn, Miss G. Llewellyn, Mrs. Arbuckle, Mr. and Mrs. R. Henderson, Mr. Selway, Miss Harragin, Miss K. Bushe, Miss H. Owen, Miss L. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy, Mr. W. Stewart, Rev. H. R. Davies, Mr. A. Thomson, Mr. F. W. Hutson, Mr. C. P. Wieting, Miss L. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. E. Henderson, Miss Nicholls, Mr. O. G. Carter, Miss Holt, Miss Mather, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. G. Collymore, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Collymore, Mr. H. A. Collymore, Ven. Archdeacon Hindley, D.D., Mr. F. Smith, Miss L. H. Doyle, Rev. J. Sumner, Mr. C. A. Bartlett, Mrs. E. C. Croner, Mr. A. Runak, Mr. G. Nicholson, Mr. E. Verstappen.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS—per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. H. D. Doughty), July 10th: Mr. E. Drescher, Miss Ramsay, Mr. Abbott, Mr. A. Russell, Mr. J. R. Bancroft, Mrs. Ross, Mr. E. R. Blundstone, Mr. H. Leotaud, Mr. J. Russell, Mr. W. Thomson, Mr. Teran, Mrs. P. Koca.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), June 30th: **Jamaica**—Mr. and Mrs. W. Anderson, Mr. V. Armstrong, Mr. J. L. Beaumont, Mr. F. Brantwood, Miss S. L. Cover, Mr. H. A. Cooper, Mr. S. A. G. Cox, Mr. P. Clarke, Mr. J. R. Coggan, Mr. K. V. Colville, Miss G. Dunn, Miss J. Eakin, Capt. S. H. Hingley, Mrs. W. Hinchings, Mr. A. H. Hart, Miss Hadden, Mr. R. MacIver, Mr. J. L. Jeffrey, Mr. E. Johnston, Mrs. F. H. Larnder, Mr. J. B. G. Lynch, Mr. C. B. S. Montries, Mr. E. A. Macneé, Mr. W. Madge, Mr. P. G. Masters, Mrs. and Miss Morcom, Mr. G. Moore, Mr. E. B. Muff, Mr. J. Powell, Mrs. C. Phang, Mr. J. H. Peggs, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Phillips, Mr. R. Raw, Mr. Shaw, Mr. E. D. Taylor, Mr. E. Verley. **Bermuda**—Hon. Lieut. and Mrs. Browne, Capt. J. A. F. Cuffe, Rev. J. Davidson, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. A. J. Walker, Mr. J. Short, Mr. J. Westwood, Mr. G. Wood.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1st to June 15th.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	Jan. 1st to June 18th.	1905.	1906.
Sugar	32,627	28,209 tons.	31,293	24,347 tons.	4,399	3,740 tons.	415,410	270,266 bags & bbls.	—	—
Molasses	47,746	30,434 tons.	1,303	1,852 casks.	—	—	1,539	2,839 puns.	—	—
Rum	—	—	7,922	5,642 puns.	374,922	283,434 galls.	—	—	—	—
Cattle, Hogs & Molasses	—	—	3,191	2,794 tons.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa	—	—	3,360	7,800 lbs.	13,448	7,104 cwts.	15,158,000	79,363,935 lbs.	49,350	57,427 bags.
Coffee	—	—	—	7,447	—	3,568 "	76,160	11,930 "	—	—
Cocoanuts	—	—	50,538	137,072	1,189,245	501,430 "	5,938,355	4,779,140 "	—	—
Copra	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,325	5,150 bags.	—	—
Cotton	—	—	—	—	21,676	17,569 lbs.	—	—	—	—
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asp. dt.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	988	646 bales.
Oranges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,692	4,426 bags.
Pineapples	—	—	—	—	4,727,206	1,725,000	61,442	24,208 tons.	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	2,087,907	2,720,099 bunches.	—	—	—	—
Gold	—	—	—	—	12,899	17,728 cwts.	—	—	—	—
Diamonds	—	—	40,396	30,327 ozs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	783	2,211 carats.	—	—	—	—	—	—
									3,207	2,225 bbls.
									360	473 b-bls.
									200	471 cases.
									111	165 bags.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXI.



Hon. Robert Stewart Aucher Warner, K.C.

The West India Committee Rooms.

15 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

July 11th, 1906

Telegrams: "CABLE LONDON." Telephone: 6062 CENTRAL.

At the meetings of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire now being held in London, the Georgetown, British Guiana, Chamber will move a resolution pledging the Congress to ask the Imperial Government to assist the Colonies in providing an all-British and reliable means of cable communication with and between our West Indian Colonies. There is no doubt such a resolution will have the fullest support of the delegates of the other West Indian Colonies represented which have for years past complained of the constant interruptions in communication, the heavy message rates in force, and the wretched quality of the press news supplied. The interruptions have been exasperating, leading as they have done to no inconsiderable loss to planters and merchants; especially when they have occurred, as they have done so often, in crop time. The high message rates have proved an effective check to commerce, amounting as they do to as much as 7s. for messages between the Mother Country and British Guiana, and

5s. 1d. in the case of Trinidad, though Jamaica, through her all-British cable, enjoys the comparatively low rate of 3s. per word, and a message can be sent from London to Havana for 1s. 8d. The

press news, moreover, to which our friends in the West Indies have been treated, is a constant source of reproach. On February 22nd last, Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL said that the Secretary of State was aware of the desirability of improving telegraphic communication in the British West Indies, and from what we gather from the remarks made by Sir HENRY JACKSON at the recent meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, matters are now again at a critical stage. It appears that a Departmental Committee, of which the Governor of Trinidad and Sir FREDERIC HONGSON are members, and on which there are also representatives of the Admiralty, the Colonial Office and the Post Office, has been sitting. They are believed to have completed their labours, and the question now appears to have resolved itself into one of pounds, shillings and pence. If the Treasury will assist financially, the scheme to be adopted will probably be the laying of a cable from Bermuda to Barbados, and the linking up of the other West Indian Colonies in such a manner as will give them direct all-British communication with the Mother Country through Halifax. If, however, the Treasury remains obdurate and will not help financially, other means must be devised for improving matters, and it is understood that an attempt will be made to connect Jamaica with the other West Indian Colonies by wireless telegraphy. If this can be satisfactorily accomplished, the Colonies will thus secure all-British communication. But *can* it be successfully accomplished? That is the question, and with the information at present before us we must admit that we are not very confident that it can. Wireless telegraphy is at present in its infancy. It has not yet been put to practical commercial use over long distances, and we may, therefore, be excused for feeling some degree of scepticism on this point. We may, however, rest assured that the Colonial Office will not allow anything to be done hastily, and though the establishment of a wireless system for a less capital outlay than two years subsidy to a cable may sound attractive on the face of it, they will, we feel sure, realise what hopeless confusion might arise in the event of the establishment and subsequent breakdown of such a system. While we are strongly in favour of the linking up of those Colonies which are close together, such as Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Montserrat with one another by wireless telegraphy, it is well that a note of warning regarding a larger scheme should be sounded. We are quite open to conviction; but so far we are by no means convinced that "wireless" can be used for business purposes over long distances. If it could be so used, one might well ask why the Pacific cable was laid so recently at enormous expense? No, we must still adhere to our opinion that the most practical way of improving the present condition of affairs is to lay a cable from Bermuda to Barbados, and we do not yet feel that the resources of finance have been exhausted in the endeavour to provide funds for this purpose. If the Treasury cannot assist with money, might not an Imperial guarantee of the Colonial Government subsidies be given. This, as was suggested in the report of the sub-committee of the West India Committee, would facilitate raising the money at a low rate of interest for the provision of the necessary cables. We imagine that for a reliable and cheap service most, if not all, of our West Indian Colonies would be quite prepared to pay the subsidies which were paid by them before they were cut down as a protest against the deterioration of the service. The suggestions of the sub-committee of the West India Committee were based on a proposed subsidy for twenty years, but if it is felt that this period is held to be too long, inasmuch as before its termination wireless telegraphy might be perfected for long distances, the Treasury might at least pay the extra cost involved by a shorter contract, considering how much use is made of the cables by the Colonial Office and Colonial Governments, and the utility of an all-British cable in time of war.

IN the *Barbados Agricultural Reporter* of May 28th, Mr. E. C. JACKMAN, commenting on our criticism of his article in relation to central factories in Barbados in our issue of April 25th last,

again points to the exceptional conditions, due to small but special markets, which bring abnormally high value to her products, notably molasses, an argument which has so often been brought forward by planters against the installation of central factories in Barbados. Although it is true that the high price which the Barbados planters have of late years obtained for their molasses has introduced a factor into the question which on the face of it takes away from the value to their industry of central factories, what security is there of the continuance of the market? Though the rapidly diminishing supplies of muscovado molasses point to the probability of continued high prices, a collapse is not beyond the bounds of possibility. This Mr. JACKMAN recognises. "If the molasses market were to break permanently, some improved process of manufacture would be absolutely necessary." The whole question turns upon whether the Barbados planters prefer to wait for this before they strengthen their position. There is another point in Mr. Jackman's letter also which calls for comment, and that is the price he states that the canes cost the planter. He says "the cost of growing is generally between 12s. to 13s. per ton." We are loath to believe that this is the case, but if it is, it is all the more reason for the erection of central factories. In the event of the failure of the molasses market, it would be impossible for estates to go on making sugar on a paying basis with such an initial cost of canes, while there would be a fair profit, at normal prices, with a central factory, even under these conditions. Anything like a return of the old time profits must not be looked for. It seems to us that there is nothing between the windmill, with a mixed cultivation so as to safeguard against the chances of a special market for sugar and molasses, and the central factory. Cotton, bananas, and other so-called "minor industries" would, in the former case, do much to minimise any sugar danger. On the other hand, however, it must not be overlooked that the profits on them will inevitably come down to the dead level represented by full production. These are all points which have to be carefully considered. They constitute factors in the agriculture of such an Island as Barbados which require special consideration; but which even then cannot, however, escape the general economic law of concentration in relation to competition.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S birthday was celebrated on Saturday last with a degree of popular enthusiasm which tells its own tale. The high esteem in which he is held in the city of his adoption was shown in a striking manner in Birmingham, and one does not require to call to mind the reception which is always accorded to his name whenever it is mentioned at any gathering of His Majesty's subjects from Greater Britain, to realise that he is equally respected and esteemed in our Colonies. Everyone will, we think, admit that the condition of the West Indies has undergone a decided improvement since the visit of the Royal Commission of 1897, for the appointment of which Mr. Chamberlain was responsible. Moreover, it will not be forgotten that he was a member of the Government which decided that the foreign sugar bounties should be abolished, and equality of opportunity restored to British sugar producers in British markets. The Colonies with which we are concerned, have, therefore, special reason to be grateful to this great statesman. During Mr. Chamberlain's tenure of office as Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Colonial Office, from being a comparatively minor department of State, was raised to a level of importance which it had never reached before. Under his administration, the lethargy, which used to characterise it, gave place to a state of activity which has become a tradition of the Department, and will, we sincerely hope, continue for many years to come. During the present week the festivities are being continued, and we are not, therefore, too late in adding, as we do, ours, to the innumerable expressions of congratulation which are reaching the right honourable gentleman from every part of the Empire, and from Public and Press at home, irrespective of parties.

Hon. Robert Stewart Ancher Warner, K.C.

It is hard to believe that the subject of the portrait which appears on the first page of this issue was born as far back as 1859. But we have Mr. Warner's authority for saying that that was indeed the year in which the future Solicitor-General first saw the light. The son of Charles William Warner, C.B., Attorney-General of Trinidad for many years and a personal friend of Froude, he was educated at Queen's Royal College in Port-of-Spain, and subsequently Oriel, the Oxford College which had also the honour of imparting a liberal education to his brother "Plum." He was called to the Bar, as a Member of the Inner Temple, in 1882. He married a daughter of Sir William Robinson, a former Governor of Trinidad, where he owns cocoa estates, and is a founder of the newly-formed Trinidad Cocoa Planters' Association. As a cricketer he is no less distinguished than as a lawyer, and "Auchie," as he is popularly called, is a Vice-President of the Queen's Park Cricket Club, and has done an immense amount of good to the cricket of the Colony. But more than that, he was unanimously selected as captain of the first West Indian Cricket Team which visited this country in 1902, a position which he showed himself well qualified to hold. He is also keen on golf, and a thorough good sportsman.

Over the Housetops in Roseau.

Our full-page illustration is from a photograph taken from a housetop of housetops in Roseau, Dominica. The houses for the most part are built of wood on a stone or concrete foundation, and the roofs, which form a conspicuous feature of the picture, are covered with "shingles," or tile shaped pieces of wood. The streets, which are paved with cobble-stones, have gutters running down the middle to carry off the rain water. It was in Roseau that Père Labat, at the close of the seventeenth century, met Madame Ouvernard, the pure-blooded Carib Queen of the Island, who was then 100 years old, and presented her with two bottles of brandy.

The Lecture on Cotton.

Tickets for the lecture to be delivered by Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, on "The present position and prospects of the Sea Island Cotton Industry in the West Indies," at 4 p.m., on Thursday, July 19th, can now be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will be held to-morrow, July 12th. Candidates' forms and full particulars regarding Membership can be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The Continuance of the Sugar Convention.

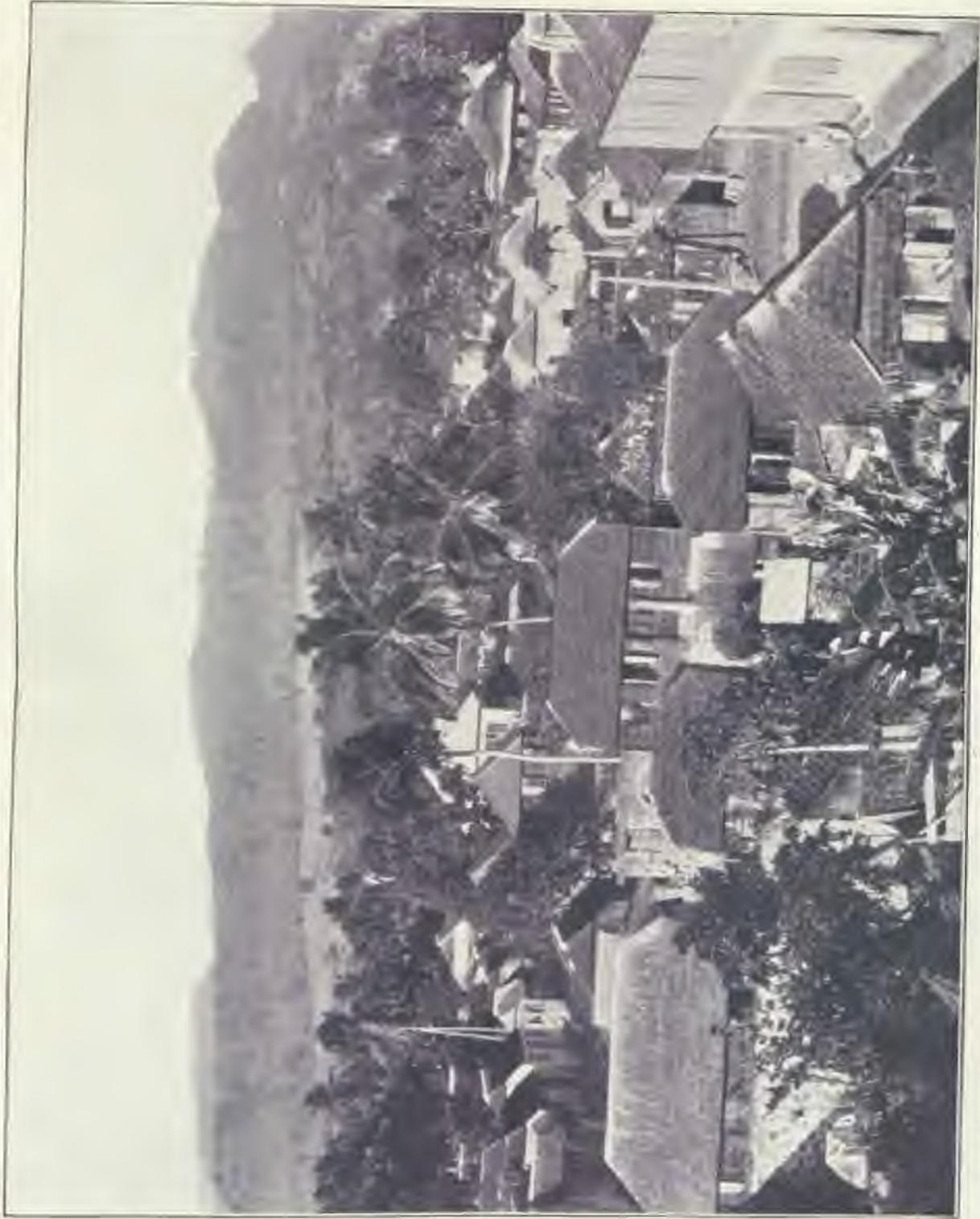
The following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the Earl of Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on June 7th:—

MY LORD,

We have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, Jamaica, expressing the great alarm with which they have learnt that the Imperial Government have decided to denounce the Brussels Convention, and requesting the West India Committee to ask the Colonial Office if His Majesty's Government would, in the circumstances, be willing to permit the Colony to endeavour to negotiate a reciprocal commercial treaty with the United States of America, to take effect in September, 1908.

It appears that this action is based on certain statements made by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman on March 27th, though my Committee are not aware that His Majesty's Government have actually announced their intention to withdraw from the Brussels Sugar Convention on September 1st, 1908.

Should it be decided to withdraw, it cannot be doubted that the result will almost certainly



By Mrs. A. M. B. A. A. A.

OVER THE HOUSE-TOPS OF ROSEAU,
DOMINICA.

be a renewal of cartel bounties in Austria and Germany. In this case, not only will the sugar industry of the West Indies and other parts of the world be jeopardised, but a serious blow will also be struck at the jam and confectionery industries of the United Kingdom, who are so largely dependent upon a continued supply of cheap sugar, and we hope that this point will not be lost sight of.

We may remind your Lordship that it has been carefully estimated that the failure of the sugar industry in the West Indies would probably involve His Majesty's Government in an outlay of not less than £1,000,000 per annum in order to carry on even the simplest form of Government.

As there seems to be much uncertainty as to the policy of His Majesty's Government, we venture respectfully to suggest that in the event of it being decided not to renew the Convention, they should seriously consider the desirability of allowing the West Indian Colonies to enter into such reciprocal arrangements with the United States of America as may be found possible.

We have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servants,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*

ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

The following is a copy of the resolution referred to:—

That this Association has learned with great alarm of the intention of the Imperial Government to denounce as soon as practicable the Treaty known as the Brussels Sugar Convention.

That a return to the old system of bounties and cartels on Continental beet sugar would again put the price of sugar in all the markets of the world below the cost of production, thus ruining the cane sugar industry of the British West Indies, throwing out of employment thousands of the labouring population of these Colonies, which would constitute a grave danger to the peace of these countries, and gravely imperilling large amounts of British capital which have since 1903 been invested in that industry.

Resolved:—That in view of the abrogation of the Brussels Treaty, the West India Committee be respectfully requested to enquire of the Colonial Office if His Majesty's Government would be willing to permit this Colony to endeavour to negotiate a reciprocal commercial treaty with the United States of America, whereby the American Government would, after September 1908, admit the sugars of this Island into the United States on preferential terms as to duties in exchange for similar treatment granted by this Colony to the products of the United States of America.

That in the event of the abrogation of this Treaty and the return to Continental bounties and cartels, this Association sees nothing before it but the absolute ruin of the sugar industry of the British West Indies if they fail to get their sugars into the United States of America on favoured terms.

To the above letter a reply has been sent to the West India Committee that these representations have received Lord Elgin's careful attention, but that his Lordship is not at present in a position to state what course will be taken by His Majesty's Government in regard to the Brussels Convention.

The Permanent Sugar Commission.

The report of Sir Henry Bergne on the proceedings of the Spring Session of the Permanent Commission under the Sugar Bounties Convention, has been presented to Parliament.* The principal question under discussion was as to whether Brazilian sugar should be penalised. His Majesty's Government had caused close inquiries to be made into the Brazilian system, and a report was submitted to the Permanent Bureau by the British Consul at Rio de Janeiro and reported upon by the Permanent Bureau, whose views coincided with those presented in a note from the British Delegates. These were to the effect that the existing system in Brazil did not in fact result in a bounty of any kind. This opinion, as has already been reported, was accepted by the Commission, who decided that there was no occasion to countervail Brazilian sugar, though the Permanent Bureau was instructed to keep itself informed as to the situation. The Netherland Delegate raised the question

* Commercial No. 5 (1906) [Cd. 3004].

as to whether in the case of sugars sent from Java to the Suez Canal for orders, such a mention of destination was sufficient to comply with the requirements as to certificates of origin, in which the country of origin or from whence the sugar comes and the country of destination have to be mentioned. It was held that such a description was sufficient compliance with the requirements laid down, but the Commission reserved the right in case any abuses should be brought to its notice, to decide whether any special measures of control were necessary. The Netherland Delegate then raised the question of the participation of the State in the capital of sugar factories, explaining that this question related specially to a scheme for raising funds for a factory in Surinam. The Commission decided that it could only pronounce an opinion upon the special case submitted, and not upon a general question of principle. In regard to the particular scheme in question, the Commission was of opinion that participation of the Government or of the Mother Country was not consistent with the Convention. This concluded the business of the Session and the Commission adjourned, having fixed its next ordinary Session for Monday, December 10th, 1906. Sir Edward Grey, in acknowledging the receipt of Sir Henry Bergne's report, informed him that His Majesty's Government approved his proceedings as therein reported.

The Cotton Industry.

Sir Daniel Morris delivered a lecture on the 4th inst. at Liverpool, before the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, on agriculture in the West Indies; but as the subject was a wide one, he confined his attention to the conditions and prospects of cotton growing. The reason why Sea Island cotton had been selected was that the plant was originally a native of the West Indies, and in 1903 he spent a short time in the Sea Islands, off South Carolina, and he saw that the industry was one that exactly suited the conditions in the West Indies. Therefore, he had £500 worth of the seed sent to the West Indies, and distributed it, and this laid the foundation of the present industry. That was in 1903. As showing the growth of the industry, he might say that in 1902 the value of the lint and seed was just under £10,000, in 1903 it was nearly £12,000, in 1904 nearly £32,000, in 1905 over £63,000, and during the quarter ended March 31st, 1906, it was nearly £42,000, or two-thirds of the whole in 1905—(applause)—the total to that date being about £160,000. As regarded the prospects of the industry, they were satisfied that they must depend entirely on the demand for the cotton, and it was quite possible that the price might go down—they were satisfied that it might go down to 1s. per lb. Still, the outlook was fairly satisfactory, for they hoped by improved methods to increase considerably the yield per acre. The demand for Sea Island cotton was increasing, even in America, and the quantity produced in America was not likely to be increased much, because the area of cultivation was restricted—the cotton must have sea air. The climate of the West Indies exactly suited, and they had a fairly large population to carry on the industry. They could produce the cotton cheaper than it could be produced in the Sea Islands, and it was not improbable that in the future Lancashire might come to depend upon the West Indies for its Sea Island Cotton. Though they were growing Sea Island cotton, they were also carrying out experiments with other cotton, so that if too much of one variety was grown they had others to fall back upon, even Egyptian cotton. Their efforts were so organised that he felt sure the industry would be a permanent one, and would be to the advantage not only of the people of the West Indies, but to the spinners of this country, who will not then have to depend upon the United States alone.

On July 5th the Commissioner for Agriculture and the Members of the West Indian Section of the British Cotton Growing Association were entertained at dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, by Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, when a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Agriculture in Porto Rico.

The Official Registrar of Porto Rico, speaking of the sugar industry of that Island, says that new centrals have been built, others are in course of construction, and all the old factories are installing modern machinery. The introduction of improved agricultural implements into the Island during the last few years has permitted the more rapid exploitation of great areas of land at a considerably less rate of expense than was formerly possible. The use of artificial manures has become more prevalent, and has amply repaid those who have made use of them.

The manufacture of sugar, says the Registrar, can be undertaken profitably only by capitalists and on a large scale with modern machinery. "A net profit of \$75 to \$100 is a fair profit per acre." We should think so, indeed. Coffee, which has already formed one of the three principal staples of the Island, is attracting much interest in the United States, and there is a steady increase in the exports to that country.

The higher price being paid for tobacco has encouraged the growers, and the 1906 crop promises to be a large one. Tobacco grown under cheese cloths continues to give good results. This method of planting is gradually extending, and proves very profitable if carried on on a large scale. The cultivation and curing of tobacco in Porto Rico is spoken of as being very inferior, but the farmers are improving in this. In citrus fruits, cultivation is steadily increasing, and stands at between 7,000 and 8,000 acres, 70% of which is in oranges, 25% in grape fruit, and 5% in lemons. The rate from Porto Rico to New York for a box of oranges is 28 cents., but the size of the box is not given. The best results are obtained from oranges and grape fruit budded on to the native rough lemon stock. Pineapples are largely grown on the orange plantations. The cotton industry is being revived, and over 6,000 acres are now in cultivation. Sea Island cotton can be grown in Porto Rico, averaging a yield of 1,200 to 1,700 pounds per acre.

Canned Pineapples.

"A canner can can all the things he can can, but a canner can't can a can, can he?" Thus, the *Westminster Gazette*; but the *Agricultural News* of June 16th tells us that the canny West Indian can, or should be able to, can pineapples, and a canning establishment for Antigua is suggested. In order that a factory of suitable size could be operated successfully a considerable area would have to be planted in pineapples. Indeed, large canneries use from 25,000 to 50,000 pineapples per day. In 1904 448,000 cases of preserved pines, valued at nearly £521,000, were exported from the Straits Settlements, where labour is cheap. About ten years ago canning factories were established at Nassau and Eleuthera, in the Bahamas. In 1897, 20,000 cases of preserved pineapples were exported, and in 1902 the figure rose to 47,892 cases valued at £9,515 and the canning industry has largely superseded the export of fresh fruit. The pineapple used is the Red Spanish, a medium sized to small fruit of somewhat variable shape and of a reddish-yellow colour. The process of canning is simple. First of all, the rind is removed by hand, then the core is extracted and the fruit is cut in discs, which are fitted into tins of corresponding size. Syrup, composed of one part of sugar to thirty-three parts of water, is added. The tin is soldered and placed for some time in a steam-heated tank, the tin is then removed and a hole is punched in the top to let out the steam, after which the tins are re-soldered and again plunged into hot water.

A Hundred Years Ago.

The origin of the Vacuum Pan.

In 1811 the West India Committee had occasion to secure the assistance of an expert to carry out experiments in connection with the denaturation of sugar for cattle food purposes, and a Mr. Edward Howard, a friend of Dr. Wollaston, the celebrated chemist, was engaged for the purpose. As to the special work for which he was engaged, we may mention that Mr. Howard reported that as the result of his experiments he had come to the conclusion that treatment with quassia and assafetida would be quite sufficient to prevent sugar being used for human domestic purposes or for distillation! However, this brought Mr. Howard in contact with the Committee, and at a meeting on February 13th, 1812, the Chairman reported:—

"That he had received a communication from Mr. Howard of a discovery he had made in refining sugar by a new and speedy Process; and that being desirous of receiving the sanction and encouragement of the West India body in prosecuting his Experiments, the Chairman had agreed to indemnify Mr. Howard for such Expences as might be necessary for preventing his being precluded from obtaining a Patent, by the opposition of a Frenchman, who was at that time applying for one."

The Frenchman mentioned was a M. Constant, and at the meeting of the following March, Mr. Howard's solicitors' bill for opposing the application, was authorised to be paid. On May 12th a letter appears from Mr. Howard to the effect that he had secured the patent for his process, and was prepared to treat with the Committee.

"The principal objects, which I hope to be able to effect, are, a considerable, if not an entire saving of the drainage from Sugars, during their passage from the West Indies to this and other countries; and a more effectual purification of Cane juice.

"As to the advantages, which may accrue in consequence of any suggestions I may make, I leave entirely to the consideration of the West India Body, what participation I should be intitled to. I have not made the usual endeavour to extend my patent to His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations abroad."

A Committee was appointed to confer with Mr. Howard. In May, 1814, a letter was read from Mr. Howard to the effect that he had improved his process beyond his expectations and anticipated great things from it. He says:—

"I speak with this degree of confidence, not only from the great number of experiments I have made upon Sugar, but because I have been fortunate enough to raise Shoots in a Hot-house, from the Roots of those Canes which you may remember Sir Simon Clarke was so good as to procure for me from Jamaica, and have been able to crystallise the whole of the juice they yielded, though it may well be considered to have been of a degenerate quality compared with any grown in a natural climate. In short the general result of my experiments lead me to conclude that there is no such thing as melafises or treacle contained in Cane juice, and that it is merely the produce of too great heat hitherto employed in the evaporation.

"I hope in a few weeks to be able to show you a Sugar house in full work upon my plan, which will enable you to judge of the practicability of my ideas upon a large scale. In the meantime I wish to submit to your consideration the propriety of applying for a Patent, or a Confirmation of that granted to me here, in the West Indies. Be so good as to favor me with a Line, saying when and where it will be convenient for you to see me."

The Committee appointed in connection with this matter in 1812 were convened for the purpose of conferring with Mr. Howard. What happened as the immediate result of the visit of the Committee, and, we presume, their report, is not known. What we do know is what this invention of Mr. Howard's became to the sugar industry, not only Colonial but Home; although Mr. Howard's anticipation of doing entirely away with molasses has not been realised. The vacuum pan, however, had to wait for the introduction of centrifugals before becoming the essential factor in sugar manufacture.

Exhibition Matters.

Thanks to the assistance given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the proposals put forward by the West India Committee for the formation of Permanent Exhibition Committees have now been adopted in nearly all the West Indian Colonies. It has been pointed out that such a Committee has existed for some years past in Jamaica, but for the sake of reference we include that Colony in the list given below of all the Committees at present appointed, of the members of which we have the names.

Barbados	...	...	Hon. F. J. Clarke, M.C.P. (Chairman), Hon. F. M. Alleyne, Mr. V. Hünschell, Mr. Elliott Sealy, M.C.P., Mr. C. J. Greenidge, M.C.P., Mr. S. S. Robinson, M.C.P., Mr. J. R. Bovell, F.L.S., &c., Mr. F. A. C. Collymore, Mr. G. S. Evelyn and Mr. E. I. Hollused.
Jamaica	...	...	Hon. Lt.-Col. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Pringle, C.M.G., Hon. W. Fawcett, Hon. L. J. Bertram, Hon. H. Clarence Bourne, Hon. R. P. Simmonds, Mr. F. Cundall and Mr. R. A. Walford, of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and Mr. Simon Seaman, Mr. F. X. Leon, Mr. E. A. H. Haggart, Mr. R. S. Gamble, Mr. C. E. deMercedo and Capt. Constantine, of the Merchants' Exchange, with Mr. John Barclay and Mr. J. L. Ashenheirn as Secretaries.
Dominica	...	...	Hon. H. A. Alford Nicholls, C.M.G. (Chairman), Mr. E. A. Agar, Mr. A. J. Brooks, Mr. G. Downing, Mr. Joseph Jones and Mr. A. C. Shillingford.
Grenada	...	...	Hon. C. M. Browne, C.M.G., (Chairman), Mr. P. J. Dean, Hon. D. S. deFreitas, Hon. F. Gurnay, Hon. C. S. Seton-Browne, Mr. E. M. deFreitas, Mr. L. R. Mitchell and Mr. C. Falconer-Anton, Secretary.
St. Vincent	...	...	His Hon. the Administrator (Chairman), Hon. C. J. Simmons, Hon. J. C. W. Hansel, Mr. W. C. Proudfoot, Mr. P. F. Haggins and Mr. W. N. Sands, Secretary.

There are also Exhibition Committees in British Guiana, St. Kitts and St. Lucia.

West Indians go Motoring.

Through the kindness of Mr. Hirsch, Mr. U. Stratton and Mr. Thomson, the West Indian cricketers enjoyed an expedition in motor-cars on Sunday. A start was made from the Manchester Hotel, whence a procession of two Daimler cars, one Austin car and one Siddeley car moved off at 11.30 a.m. The route taken was along the Portsmouth road, but we will not disclose the time of arrival at the charming little Hampshire village of Liphook, lest a posthumous prosecution by the police for furious driving might result. Suffice it to say, the cricketers had no complaint to make on the score of speed, though the warnings of the scouts of the Automobile Association, who were distinguished by yellow badges on their arms, indicated the presence of innumerable spies and traps. After partaking of lunch at the Blue Anchor, an old posting inn which has been visited by many of the crowned heads of Europe, the party returned by way of Farnham and the Hoe's Back, all declaring themselves delighted with the outing. In our illustration are depicted Mr. H. B. G. Austin, the captain of the team, and Mrs. Austin, seated appropriately enough in the Austin car, which on this occasion made its first public appearance on the high road.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

BY T. A. GOODMAN.

The West Indians v. Hampshire.

Beautiful weather prevailed during the course of this match, which began on July 2nd at Southampton. The West Indian captain, having won the toss, elected to bat. Morrison, one of the first pair, was soon returned to view the match from the pavilion, being brilliantly caught by Hill at first slip. Ollivierre at once opened his shoulders and drove Langford twice in succession to the pavilion rails. That bowler, however, soon had his revenge by clean bowling Ollivierre with a full toss which swerved a full foot from the leg and hit the middle peg. Constantine, who came next, shared a similar fate soon after, and three wickets were down for about 30 runs. Goodman and Smith then came together, after Challenor, who had played very stylish cricket, had been dismissed—clean bowled—by Shutt for 33. These two batsmen settled down and at lunch time were still undefeated, the score then being 114. On resuming Smith was caught in the slips by Mead who had missed him at 21. Goodman soon followed, being well taken low down at point. These two had added 80 in just over an hour; and when they left very little resistance was offered by the succeeding batsmen, and the innings closed for the moderate score of 166.

Langford, with the wind blowing right across the wicket, swerved in a remarkable manner and captured eight wickets for 82 runs, two being obtained with full tosses swerving in from the leg side. Hill and Bowell opened the Hampshire innings to the bowling of Smith and Ollivierre. Hill played admirable cricket for 37, his cutting and on-driving being very powerful and masterly. When he left the score stood at 72. Mead came next only to see his partner sent back from a smart catch behind the wickets for a careful 34. With Llewellyn in the scoring was fast and furious, and the two left-handers showed admirable cricket characterised by masterly placing on the on-side. When stumps were drawn the total was 264 for three. Llewellyn had made a splendid 60, and Mead was 85 not out.

Next morning, scoring was very slow, and the remaining seven wickets went down for an additional 85. Mead took his score to 132 before he was taken in the slips. Of the other batsmen Gunner alone scored. The West Indians in their second attempt made a bad start, Challenor, Constantine and Bancroft being all out for 40 odd runs. Once more Smith and Goodman became associated. The former was well set and hastening towards his 50 by a series of brilliant cuts, while Goodman after playing himself in also began to lay about him. The partnership, which had realised 71 in just under an hour, was ended by Goodman being retired caught in the slips. Just about this time the light was very bad. A thunderstorm was threatening and a slight shower came on. When Ollivierre joined Smith some lively cricket was seen. He smote with terrific power, and in his 67 were included one 5 and twelve 4's. Meanwhile Smith had reached his 100; and of its kind was as good as any century we have ever seen. During the whole of his brilliant innings he had not given a chance and had played all the bowlers with ease.

The innings closed for 293, thus leaving Hampshire 111 to get to win. Langford and Stone



Photo by

Algernon E. Aspinall.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. G. Austin.

The popular captain of the West Indian Cricket Team and his wife were among those who took part in the recent motor excursion to Liphook. Mr and Mrs Austin are here shown in the 25.30 h.p. "Austin" car, which on this occasion made its first appearance in public.

together scored 6 in the ten minutes left for play. Next morning both Langford and Stone were soon caught in the slips with the score about 20. Hill and Bowell added about 15 before the latter also was taken in the slips off Smith, who was bowling splendidly. Soon after Llewellyn was out to a catch in the slips, letting in Mead at 51. He and Hill played cautiously, and when the winning hit was made were still together. Hill made 47 and Mead 26. Had we made a larger score in our first innings we would have had a very even match. The scores were as follows.—

WEST INDIANS.				HAMPSHIRE.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. Challoner, b Shurt	39	c Badcock, d Langford	4	A. J. L. Hill, b Morrison	36	not out	—
Mr. C. S. Morrison, c Hill, b Langford	0	not out	—	Bowell, c Bancroft, b Morrison	34	c Olliviere, b Smith	—
Mr. R. Olliviere, b Langford	13	b Badcock	69	Llewellyn, c Bancroft, b Smith	60	c Goodman, b Smith	—
Mr. L. Constantine, b Langford	0	c and b Langford	6	Mead, c Goodman, b Cumberbatch	132	not out	—
Mr. P. Goodman, c Badcock, b Langford	28	c Howell, b Badcock	27	Stone, c Olliviere, b Smith	14	c Cumberbatch, b Smith	—
Mr. H. G. B. Austin, b Shurt	0	c Hill, b Telfree	24	L. H. Gunner, c Austin, b Smith	32	—	—
Mr. S. Smith, c Mead, b Langford	48	c Hill, b Badcock	200	Rev. W. V. Tephson, b Olliviere	6	c Goodman, b Smith	—
Mr. A. E. Harragin, b Langford	15	c Llewellyn, b Badcock	18	E. J. Telfree, lbw, b Morrison	6	—	—
Dr. Cameron, c Badcock, b Langford	5	b Telfree	—	Badcock, lbw, b Cumberbatch	21	—	—
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, not out	10	b Langford	—	Shurt, not out	0	—	—
Cumberbatch, c Bowell, b Langford	3	run-out	—	Extras	13	Extras	—
Extras	2	Extras	13				
Total	166	Total	393	Total	340	Total (4 wickets)	400

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

O.	R.	M.	W.	O.	R.	M.	W.	O.	R.	M.	W.
Langford	25.5	2	3	Langford	15	2	66	Smith	4	127	7
Shurt	19	4	11	Shurt	6	1	19	Olliviere	26	3	85
Telfree	3	0	11	Mead	6	7	13	Morrison	23	8	44
Mead	5	2	7	Hill	7	0	39	Cumberbatch	2	42	3
Badcock	5	0	10	Badcock	18.1	2	92	Cameron	3	0	18
Hill	3	0	1	Llewellyn	4	1	38	Goodman	4	0	16
				Telfree	4	3	13				

Badcock bowled a wide. Badcock bowled 2 wides and a no-ball.

Smith bowled two wides.

A full report of the match which is proceeding at Cardiff, as we go to press, between South Wales and the West Indians will be given in the next issue of the *West India Committee Circular*.

Consular Reports.

Venezuela & the R.M.S.P. Co.

The port of La Guaira has now been brought several days nearer to the United Kingdom by the improved itinerary of the Royal Mail steamers, which run between Southampton and New York, touching at Barbados, Trinidad, La Guaira, &c., en route. The scheme possesses great advantages to Europeans in this district, and has been productive of a largely increased trade in passengers and cargo to the Royal Mail Company as well, who have, amongst other things, benefited by the constant stream of West Indian labour to Panama, and by the tourist traffic from New York to the south.

German Steamship subsidies.

"The German Empire subsidises only two steamship lines, namely:—(1) The line to Eastern Asia and Australia with 5,590,000 marks and (2) the East Africa Line with 1,350,000 marks. The total sum of subsidies then amounts to 6,940,000 marks. In 1904 the traffic returns on these two lines were as follows:—(1) East Asia and Australia Line carried 300,449 tons, valued at 157,800,000 marks, against 313,814 tons, valued at 345,000,000 marks in 1903. (2) The German East Africa Line carried goods amounting to 134,411 tons, valued at 70,000,000 marks, against 126,117 tons, valued at 24,700,000 marks in 1903."

Sugar and Cotton in far Peru.

Sugar forms one of the staple articles of export from Peru. The quantity exported in 1905 was 134,000 tons, valued at about £1,500,000. Owing to drought there has been a deficiency in the crop. In fact, the prospects of the sugar growers are not encouraging. There will be little to stimulate a further expansion of the acreage under sugar cultivation until vast irrigation works are undertaken by the Government. Besides irrigation, new machinery is stated in the Consul's report to be indispensable. When these essential requirements have been met extensive sugar cultivation can be undertaken in Peru, provided, of course, that the state of the market in future warrants renewed efforts on the part

of those engaged in this most important industry. The cotton crop for 1905 is estimated to have consisted of about 125,000 bales. This is also an article which could be produced on a very large scale if sufficient water could be obtained.

Sugar and Sisal in New Orleans.

Sisal grass, a substitute for hemp, is grown in Yucatan, and comes to New Orleans from Mexican ports. It has become one of the chief materials used in the United States for making rope and other cordage. It is an article of trade largely monopolised by New Orleans, from which port it is forwarded to Chicago and other northern and western manufacturing centres. 13,379 tons, value £377,260, were imported in 1905 as against 29,652 tons, value £760,247, in the year 1904. Sisal grass is on the free list and pays no duty on arrival in the United States. The importation of sugar is second only to coffee in importance. Together with molasses the value imported in 1905 amounted to £1,434,666 as against £1,916,251 in the year 1904. There was a large increase in the amount of beetroot sugar imported during the year under notice, £190,619 as against £12,143 that reached this port in 1904. Nearly all of the beetroot sugar is of German origin. The New Orleans refineries dealt with most of the Cuban output. It is only a question of time when the whole of the Cuban sugar crop will be received at this port and be distributed throughout the south and west.

The Sugar Beet Industry in Colorado.

Below is a summary of the position for the years 1904 and 1905—

	1904.	1905.
Acres planted	50,300	85,032
Sugar beets	556,000	929,447
Sugar in beets	15	15
Output of sugar	111,200,000	185,880,400
Gross value of Sugar	£1,112,000	£1,487,115
Price paid for beets at factory	£1	£1
Factories	9	12
Capital invested	£1,700,000	£2,650,000
Paid to factory labour	£140,000	£210,000

The price realised for sugar in 1904 was 5 c. per lb. and in 1905 4 c. per lb. In seven years the value of the beet sugar production of Colorado has increased from £20,000 to £1,487,115.

America's Prosperous West Indian Island.

Under the American flag the imports and exports of Porto Rico continue to show rapid expansion. Thus the total volume of trade, which in 1903 was valued at £2,855,968, rose in 1905 to £4,292,690. The most notable fact of the year 1905 was the great advance made in the sugar industry, which, thanks to the free market of the United States, is attracting capital. The moderate boom of last year is being rapidly improved upon, and undoubtedly will continue until every acre fit for cane cultivation is so occupied. Two new central factories came into work during the year. Both were financed exclusively with local capital between owners of the land and merchants. Five more will be ready for the next crop, while various *boni fide* projects are in hand for other factories. To feed all these schemes every acre suitable in the vicinity of the localities chosen is already engaged and arrangements are rapidly being completed to make the more distant places available for cane supply by connecting them with the factories by means of light railways or branches of the existing railroad system. Good sugar land now is worth anything from £20 per acre, from which a planter can expect a return of from £15 to £20 per acre, but the sugar manufacture itself can only be profitably undertaken by capitalists. In Ponce, owing to the high price of sugar, lands suitable for cane growing rose rapidly in value, and some sales were made as high as £50 per acre. The average sugar production of the Island is about two tons to the acre, which yield is capable of much improvement through the use of fertilisers and practice of modern methods of cultivation and extraction. The crop exported for the year, including molasses, was valued at £2,760,417, an advance on last year of £743,161. Up to date at least 7,000 acres are under systematic citrus cultivation more or less advanced towards the remunerative stage. About 70 % of this acreage is planted in oranges of many varieties, 25 % in grape fruit and the remaining 5 % in lemons. None of the groves have yet arrived at a proper test age, but sundry shipments of oranges have already been made from them, and the prices obtained in New York in competition with Floridan and Californian fruit promise well for the future. The favourable reception accorded to the 1904 crop of cotton was responsible for an increased acreage of planting in 1905, but the results have been discouraging.

Some Homeward Mails.

Since we last went to press, we have received letters and papers from Jamaica by the R.M.S. "Port Henderson." The rains in the Island had ceased, and the weather was bright. Mr. J. C. Nolan had returned to the Island, and, according to the *Daily Telegraph*, several important schemes in connection with rum were about to be formulated. An At Home was given on the "Port Henderson" on June 19th to celebrate her first visit to the Colony. Headway was being made with Colonel Pinnock's proposals for establishing a ham-curing factory, and a circular letter had been addressed to the owners of pigs, asking them how far they would be prepared to help.

Coolies in Jamaica.

The report of Mr. F. L. Pearce, Protector of Immigrants, was published as a supplement to the *Gazette*, on June 14th. From this it appears that 812 souls, equal to 789 statute adults, were landed in Jamaica from the steamer "Indus," and the "Erne" sailed on June 27th, 1905, with 680 souls, equal to 593 statute adults, returning to India, taking with them Treasury bills to the value of £5,940 11s. 5d. and jewellery and gold and silver valued at £1,320 7s. The largest individual remittance was £343 14s. 1d. During the first nine months of 1905 wages were good, but latterly they had been considerably affected by the damage done to banana plantations by heavy winds. The experiment of offering the immigrants a grant of ten acres of land instead of a return passage to India, did not prove successful so far as the immigration fund was concerned, and the offer had been discontinued.

The disbandment of the West India Sub-mining Company of the R.E. was begun at Port Royal on June 13th. A branch Agricultural Society had been formed at Hampton, Trelawney.

News from British Honduras.

The Hon. A. R. Usher, writing from Belize on June 22nd, informed us that the Mexican authorities had stopped firing boats from the Colony passing through the Mexican Channel at the mouth of the Rio Hondo, and news was anxiously awaited as to whether they purposed remitting the fines that had been illegally imposed or not.

Crops were all doing well, but they had not had sufficient rain yet to give floods to enable mahogany to be floated down the several rivers.

Increased Cotton Area in St. Kitts.

In a letter dated June 18th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson informed us that the weather during the fortnight had been very much against reaping, as rain fell every day of the month up to the 15th, totalling from 5 to 8 ins. At the same time there was no damage done by washes, and the young sugar crop was looking first-rate. For some reason the St. Vincent cotton seed distributed by the Imperial Department of Agriculture had practically failed entirely to germinate, but seed from Barbados which had since been distributed in its place, was growing vigorously, and the acreage for the year would show a very considerable increase.

At a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, a committee was appointed to arrange for the collection and despatch of samples of local products to the forthcoming Canadian exhibitions.

Letter to the Editor.

The Memorial to Sir Robert Herbert.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—You are probably aware that steps are being taken to perpetuate the memory of the late Sir Robert Herbert, who was permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies for over twenty years.

At a meeting of the General Committee formed for the furtherance of this object, which was held at the Colonial Office on March 23rd last, under the presidency of Lord Elgin, and at which several former Secretaries of State for the Colonies were present, a Sub-Committee was appointed to invite and receive subscriptions.

It is as Chairman of this Sub-Committee that I write to ask you whether you would be willing to subscribe to an object which does not need to be specially recommended to any who were personally acquainted with Sir Robert Herbert, and who know the great value of his services to the Empire.

The present idea is to devote a portion of the money subscribed to the erection of a statue or bust in the Colonial Office. The utilisation of the surplus will depend upon its amount, but the Sub-Committee would like to be in a position to recommend the establishment of a Scholarship or Exhibition for Colonial Students at Oxford University.

If you are willing to contribute to these objects, please be so good as to send your donation to Mr. W. R. Malcolm, of Coutts Bank (440, Strand, London, W.C.), who has kindly consented to act as Honorary Treasurer of the Fund. It was decided at the meeting of the General Committee, that the donations of individual subscribers should be limited to a maximum of £10.

Colonial Office, London, S.W.
June 5th, 1906.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

AMPTHILL.

(We gladly publish Lord Ampthill's appeal and shall be pleased to receive and forward to the

proper quarter any subscriptions from our readers towards the memorial to a distinguished Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.—ED.]

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The International Sugar Journal. Vol. VIII, No. 91. In an editorial note it is pointed out how little headway seems to have been made in the United Kingdom in the agitation for a duty-free alcohol for industrial purposes and attention is called to the fact that the cheapest source of alcohol—low grade molasses—is liable to a duty which precludes the competition between alcohol made from it and petrol. Particulars as to a new process of casting bearings by the Mirless Watson Company, Limited, whereby longer life, less friction, and greater economy are claimed are given. Mr. Louis Pellet contributes an article on the influence of heat on the polarising power of levulose in neutral and acid solutions, and Mr. T. H. P. Heriot continues his article on simple methods of chemical control.

Relating to the Sugar Industry in Peru. By Professor Thomas F. Sedgwick, Trujillo, Peru; Messrs. Haya, Verjel & Cia. The author of this small work, which is intended to present a general idea of the conditions of the sugar industry in Peru, with comprehensive data regarding the Hacienda Cartavio, was for two-and-a-half years engaged in making scientific investigations and establishing chemical control at that factory. The report is based on his observations of various estates in different localities in Peru, and it is particularly worthy of note, not only for the valuable information which it contains, but also from the fact that it is the first publication printed in English in the city of Trujillo. The Cartavio estate is one of the foremost Peruvian estates, and it compares favourably with the finest estates in the best sugar-growing countries. The conditions in Peru are most favourable to sugar-cane growing, and to a high production of sugar. The greatest needs at present for the industry are the development of water supplies and the introduction of the most up-to-date milling methods and machinery.

The soils of the sugar lands are naturally rich in plant food, and capable under proper treatment of great productiveness; they are generally deep, well-drained, and approach as nearly the conditions of an ideal soil as can be found. As regards the estates, the tendency, as elsewhere, is towards concentration, a few of the larger estates possessing an acreage of upwards of 15,000 acres, half of which would be in cultivation. Cane-farming has been adopted to some extent, various arrangements as between grower and manufacturer being in force. In some instances the cane-grower delivers his cane at the factory, and takes as his pay 35% of the sugar and alcohol. In others, the factories cut, transport, grind, and manufacture the cane, and receive 50% to 54% of the sugar and alcohol for their share. Another arrangement is for the factory to buy the cane on the basis of a sliding scale, which is controlled by the degree Beaumé of the juice and by the prevailing market price of sugar in Liverpool.

The old-time factories made *chunaca*, a description of concrete. The modern factories work with dry double crushing, and the megass, with a few exceptions, is still carried to the furnaces in carts, and fed therein by hand. A few multitubular boilers are in use, and the upright or standard triple effect is the most popular. The masecuite arrangements are either of tank or car. Some of the estates are equipped with stilleries and Coffey stills; two grades of spirit, the one strong and the other weaker, sold as rum, are made.

The labourers are mainly aboriginal, but of late a few Japanese have been introduced. The estates find homes and rations. The larger estates make up a settlement of from two to three thousand souls, and a physician and hospital are provided gratis to the labourers, with schooling for the children. Circuses and travelling theatres are encouraged.

The character of the land enables all descriptions of mechanical treatment of the soil to be carried out, and interesting illustrations are given from which a good idea of the cultivation can be obtained. As a rule the canes run on from plants to fourth or seventh ratoons. The manure used is chiefly the native guano; a few planters use lime and gypsum, and there are small importations of potash. Irrigation, which is a great feature in cultivation, is done by canals led to the land from the rivers, being carried to the sections by smaller ditches. The amount of water required for irrigation is comparatively small on account of the character of the soil and the existence of underground water so near the surface. On the Cartavio estate the canes were watered—as plants from thirteen to twenty-four times, as ratoons from eight to twelve times. The water supply is regulated by the Government. The kinds of canes which have thus far been observed are the whitish yellow, the greenish yellow, and the red or red purple, the latter being only grown on alkali soils. Peruvian canes appear to be dry and sweet, containing over 15% of sugar, and 15% of fibre. The purity of the juice is high, 89 to 90. Forty tons per acre is on the average grown. Varieties from Hawaii and Demerara have been introduced, but these show no improvement on the cane of the country.

Professor Sedgwick mentions the Peruvian guano as being nearly a perfect fertiliser, especially if mixed with potassium sulphate, for Peruvian soils, a typical manure containing 5% nitrogen, 6% potash, and 3% phosphoric acid. A useful account is given of how less important manures than guano can be obtained, such as dried blood, cotton seed meal, &c., and it is pointed out that along the coast of the Chicama valley are miles of shallow layers of soil containing a small proportion of potassium nitrate, while a chapter is devoted to the guano supply of Peru.

The cane-borer—the variety is not mentioned—is practically the only pest met with in Peru, the presence of fungus being only noticed in canes that were grown on wet soil and had fallen down. Upwards of ten pages are devoted to the alkali soils and their treatment. These are soils containing an excess of salts of sodium, magnesium, calcium and often potassium. These soils are usually found in the lower levels, and are unfitted for growing canes. The only way in which these lands can be reclaimed is by flood and drainage.

The balance of the work is devoted to the manufacture, which does not call for particular comment, and details of several factories are given with directions for simple control, with especial reference to the Cartavio estate together with useful general data. Altogether Professor Sedgwick has given an extremely interesting and valuable contribution to sugar literature.

Notes of Interest.

JAMAICA COMMAND. Col. Marshall, late of the West India Regiment, has been appointed Brigadier-General commanding the troops in Jamaica.

A BARBADIAN COX W. K. Chandler, son of Dr. W. K. Chandler, the Master in Chancery of Barbados, was cox of the Trinity Hall eight which rowed in the final for the Grand at Henley Regatta.

YET ANOTHER SUGAR. An American chemist in the City of Mexico says that sugar of the very finest grade can be made from the juice of the maguey plant. A company has been formed to try the experiment.

RUSSIAN SUGAR. The normal quantity of sugar which can be placed on the home market on payment of the ordinary excise duty of 1 rouble 75 copecks in bond (1.22d. per pound) has been legally fixed for the season 1906-7 at 70,000,000 pounds (1,128,210 tons).

ERUPTION FUND. In the statement of the liabilities and assets of St. Vincent, given in the Government Gazette, dated June 7th last, the amount of the Eruption Fund, 1902, figures under the heads Permanent Investment £25,000 and Restoration and Improvement Current Account £5,109 1s. 4d.

BANANAFER. A new fruit steamer, the "Reventazon," is just leaving for her first trip to the West Indies. She belongs to Messrs. Elders & Pyffes, and is specially constructed for the banana trade, being able to carry over 65,000 bunches of bananas in addition to large consignments of other fruits.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended July 5th, 233 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.55d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13½d. per lb.; fine, 14½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 9d. to 15d.

AN ICE CENTENARY. The first shipment of ice for the West Indies was made from Boston in 1806, 130 tons being exported. Half the cargo was lost, but the success of the experiment warranted its continuance, and in 1853 the export amounted to 146,000 tons. The ice came from the Wenham Lake, the purity of whose waters yielded ice of splendid quality.—*The Globe*.

DENATURED SUGAR. In 1904-5, 92 tons of denatured sugar was used in breweries in France and 5 tons for cattle food, as against 372 tons and 592 tons respectively in the first nine months of 1905-6. In Germany 574 tons were consumed as cattle food in 1904-5, as against 1,107 tons in 1903-4 and 2,120 tons in 1902-3. As sugar is now low in price, however, efforts are being made by the German fabricants to push the cattle food consumption.

CANADIAN PREFERENCE. The leading daily papers on July 4th published a statement emanating from Ottawa that as the result of preferential duties, the entire crop of Trinidad sugars had been purchased by the Canadian and British refiners, none going to the United States. This, of course, only referred to refining sugar, the yellow sugar, amounting to practically half of the crop, coming to the United Kingdom as heretofore, for grocery purposes. Advices from Halifax, however, are to the effect that the Canadian refiners decline to give preferential terms even for any small quantity coming forward after June 30th.

THE MAIL QUESTION. Commenting upon our recent remarks regarding the West Indian mail arrangements, the *Globe* of July 7th said:—"Seeing the number and the scattered nature of the British West Indian possessions, it is doubtless difficult to arrange a perfect postal service, and it may be inevitable that there is a deficit. These, however, are minor points. The colonists will contribute according to their means; the British Government must add its quota, if necessary. Because some of the West Indian plantations have fallen on evil days it is no reason that they should be penalised by the inefficient administration of the Mother State of the Empire to which they belong. But penalised they are, so long as they are cut off from the outer world; and it is impossible that they should have any return of prosperity while the means of receiving and sending the ordinary correspondence of the day are dependent on the occasional call of what may be no more than a tramp steamer."

OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR READERS. The register of applicants for appointment as overseers and other positions connected with West Indian estates can be seen by Members at the West India Committee Rooms. Full particulars regarding the applicants are now given, together with two testimonials from each. Members receiving applications from those desiring appointments may refer the applicants to the West India Committee, who will supply a form of enquiries for the candidates

to fill up. For Members desirous of having their *Circulars* bound, handsome lettered cases can be obtained from the Secretary, price 2/- post free. Members can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- by sending them to the West India Committee Rooms. We also have a few patent spring back cases for filing *The West India Committee Circular*, which can be obtained from the Secretary for 2/6 each or post free 3/-. Bound copies of "The List of Members" to match the *West India Committee Circular*, will be forwarded to any address *post free*, 1s. 6d. each.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Thurs., July 5th—Sir E. Grey made an important statement in the House of Commons regarding the state of Egypt.—88 % Beet, 8s. 4½d., steady.
- Fri., July 6th—Letter in the *Times* from Archdeacon Bindley on "The West Indian Intercolonial Mail Service"—Beet, 8s. 5d., steady.
- Sat., July 7th—The Chamberlain birthday celebrations were begun at Birmingham.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 4½d., quiet.
- Sun., July 8th—Mr. J. Chamberlain's Birthday.
- Mon., July 9th—Mr. Chamberlain addressed a meeting of 10,000 people at Bingley Hall, Birmingham.—Annual meeting of the British Empire League at the Mansion House.—Beet, 8s. 4½d., quiet.
- Tues., July 10th—Lord Elgin opened the Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in London.—Beet, 8s. 4½d., quiet.

Coming Events.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

- Wed., July 11th.—
- Thurs., July 12th.—
- Fri., July 13th.—
- Meetings of the Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at the Grocers' Hall, 10 a.m.
- Thurs., July 12th.—Cricket: West Indians v. Kent, at Catford. 3 days.
- Mon., July 16th.—" " " v. M.C.C. and Ground, at Lords. 3 days.
- Tues., July 17th.—The Half-yearly General Meeting of the West Indian Club, 2 p.m.
- Thurs., July 19th.—Lecture on Cotton by Sir Daniel Morris, West India Committee Rooms, 4 p.m.
- " " —Cricket: West Indians v. Derbyshire, at Derby. 3 days.
- Mon., July 23rd.—" " " v. All Scotland, at Edinburgh. 3 days.
- Thurs., July 26th.—" " " v. An England XI., at Blackpool. 3 days.
- Mon., July 30th.—" " " v. Northumberland and Durham, at Sunderland. 3 days.
- Thurs., Aug. 2nd.—" " " v. Yorkshire, at Harrogate. 3 days.
- Mon., Aug. 6th.—" " " v. Leicestershire, at Leicester. 3 days.
- Fri., Aug. 10th.—" " " v. Norfolk, at Norwich. 2 days.
- Mon., Aug. 13th.—" " " v. Nottinghamshire, at Nottingham. 3 days.
- Thurs., Aug. 16th.—" " " v. Northamptonshire, at Northampton. 3 days.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. C. P. CLARKE is acting as Solicitor-General of Barbados during the absence on leave of Mr. G. A. Goodman, K.C.

Sir GILBERT CARTER, K.C.M.G., Governor of Barbados, has left the Colony on leave of absence, and is travelling to England by way of the United States.

Hon. MARK KERR, Treasurer, St. Lucia, has been granted three months' leave of absence, during which time Mr. H. H. Mitchell will act in his place.

Mr. GERALD SMITH, Audit Clerk, Grenada, has become Acting Auditor of the Windward Islands in consequence of the absence on leave of Mr. W. Caddelford.

Mr. T. L. ROXBURGH, Assistant Colonial Secretary of Jamaica, is acting as Colonial Secretary during the absence on leave of the Hon. H. C. Bourne, who has proceeded to New York.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. GEORGE GOODWILL and the Hon. S. HENDERSON, Trinidad, Mr. Adam Smith and Mr. William G. Kay will act as Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. R. DUFF, who was recently appointed Immigration Agent-General in British Guiana, has been made a Member of the Executive Council of that Colony in the room of the late Hon. A. H. Alexander.

Lieut.-Colonel A. B. R. KAYE, Inspector-General of Police and Superintendent of the Fire Brigade, Barbados, has been granted six months leave of absence, during which period Major R. B. Todd will take over the duties of his office.

The Hon. S. W. KNIGHT has assumed the administration of the Government of Barbados, during the absence on leave of His Excellency Sir G. T. Carter, K.C.M.G., and has appointed Mr. J. P. Howell to be his Private Secretary. The Hon. R. T. GRAMMOND, M.L.C., will act as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. S. S. Phillips as Auditor-General.

During the absence from the Colony on leave of the Hon. GEORGE GOODWILL, Mr. James Wilson (Tertius) will act as a Commissioner for the Town of Port of Spain. Mr. Adam Smith has been appointed a Commissioner in the place of the late Mr. Leon Agostini.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 5th. "Weather all that can be desired."
British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), July 5th. "Weather rather too wet." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), July 7th. "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), July 9th. "Weather too wet on East Coast, favourable in Essequibo." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended June 27th. PORT ANTONIO: "21st, fine; 22nd and 23rd, rainy; 24th to 27th, fine." KINGSTON: "fine."

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.					
Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
July 12	Kingston, Jamaica	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Texan"	July 11, 6 p.m.
" 13	Berbice, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent	*Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Serrana"	" 13, noon.
" 13	Barbados, Demerara, Grenada, and Trinidad	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Serrana"	" 13, noon.
" 14	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	"Hryssel"	" 13, 6 p.m.
" 14	Jamaica... ..	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"	" 13, 6 p.m.
" 19	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	" 18, midn't.

Homeward Mails.				
Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
July 16	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"
" 18	Jamaica	Avonmouth...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"

* Letters to be addressed per S.S. "Serrana," via Dartmouth.

† " " " via Dartmouth.

‡ In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The position of sugar is improving, and prices are slowly creeping up. The liquidation of the August speculation is steadily proceeding, and up to now Refiners have mainly absorbed the offerings. So far as one can see at present, there is certainly less to be feared from these realisations than has been the case for some months past, and once this is over we shall feel substantial relief and experience a return of confidence on the part of the Trade, which should lead to extended buying. There is no fresh speculation in the air, which is perhaps as well, for the sugar markets of the world want a rest from the uncertainties created by this class of operation. The most interesting feature is the progress of the growing beet crops, now nearly half way through their course. So far, all seems to have gone well, but there is a long period of time from now to harvest, during which much may happen. It is waste of time and brain power to discuss for the next two months what the crop is likely to be. This may, however, be said, that undoubtedly there is some reduction in sowings, and that the unusually favourable out-turn of last year may well not be realised during the present. Looking on sugar broadly, the prospects appear decidedly more favourable than they did six months, or even three months ago, and this, if realised, will be welcome to every body. The price of 8s. 6d. for 88%, when we get there, is no good to any one, and it is to be hoped next season will establish a higher figure.

The moment's quotations of 88% beet are:—July, 8s. 4½d.; August, 8s. 4½d.; October/December, 8s. 6½d.; January/March, 1907, 8s. 8½d., and May, 8s. 10½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	2,470,000	1,730,000	2,200,000	2,250,000	2,380,000	
United States	340,000	230,000	210,000	320,000	140,000	"
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	240,000	420,000	120,000	390,000	440,000	"
Total	3,050,000	2,380,000	2,780,000	2,960,000	2,960,000	
Quotations of 88% Beet, 26th June:—	8s. 4½d.	10s. 5d.	9s. 8d.	7s. 10½d.	5s. 10½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There has been a good business doing again in yellow crystallised, chiefly from 12s. 6d. to 15s., with better grades at 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d., but in smaller lots and the value of average qualities remains fully 14s. 9d. Refiners have paid 9s. 6d. for 90 test centrifugals on floating conditions, which remains the nominal value.

Molasses Sugar.—Quiet quotations on the spot range from 10s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid, and for 89 test on floating terms about 7s. 3d. in bond.

Muscovado.—On the spot, trade is quiet, quotations ranging from 13s. to 14s. 6d. for grocery kinds. Refiners have secured a fair quantity of 89 test at 8s. 1½d. on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906.	1905	1904.	1903	1902.	Tons.
Imports	40,000	29,000	31,000	18,000	46,000	
Deliveries	24,000	21,000	26,000	23,000	23,000	"
Stocks	25,000	18,000	19,000	23,000	35,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ...	14s. 9d.	17s. 6d.	16s. 0d.	15s. 0d.	13s. 0d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Home Consumption	1,949,000	1,853,000	1,971,000
Stocks 30th June	7,179,000	8,195,000	9,227,000
Stocks in London:			
Jamaica	7600	8900	9900
Demerara	6700	5100	9800
Total of all kinds	20,400	22,500	28,000

More business has been doing in Demerara and with the exception of a few hundred puns, the Importers' old stock is now all sold, the prices realised being 9½d. upwards, according to quality. Jamaica is in good demand from 2s. 1d. onwards. Leewards and foreign kinds are worth 8d. to 1s. 1d., proof. Stocks are getting reasonable as will be seen by the table of figures given above.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 6 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Imports	13,240	12,824	16,865
Home Consumption	10,905	10,296	11,319
Stocks 30th June	4400	5571	6409
Stocks in London:			
Trinidad	10,900	18,200	25,400
Grenada	8700	17,800	18,400
Total of all kinds	68,700	80,700	96,100

The tone of the market remains dull, and with the exception of Trinidad which is scarce, prices show a further decline of 1s. to 2s., closing, however, steadily. The present quotations are Trinidad fair collected 57s., Estate Marks 57s. to 63s., Grenada, fair, 50s., fermented 53s. to 55s. From other Islands fair Native is worth about 48s., and fermented 57s. to 54s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—In good demand with large sales of West India including 80's at 10½d., 95's at 7½d., 110's at 6½d., 130's at 6d. and in shell, 4½d. **Mace.**—Steady. Fair pale sold at 1s. 6d., fair red 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. and broken, 2½d. to 2½d. **Ginger.**—Steady. Good sunnion to low middling Jamaica, 35s. to 65s. **Pimento.**—Unchanged at

Arrowroot.—Steady, with small sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2d

Lime Juice.—No alteration, value 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, firmer at £20 15s. Hand Pressed, value 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, unchanged, at 2s. 6d.

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THE sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire was held in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Grocers on the 10th, 11th and 12th inst. The Congress consisted of upwards of 200 Chambers of Commerce, which were represented by some 800 delegates; and if any illustration were required of the homogeneity of the Empire's commerce, it was to be found in the impressive scene of last week, when Britons from opposite sides of the globe listened with sympathy to each other's stories, and endeavoured to shape their individual needs and different wants to the advancement of the common weal. Lord Elgin, as Colonial Secretary, opened the proceedings with a speech welcoming the delegates to London, and immediately afterwards, the Congress, under the chairmanship of Mr. Blackwell, President of the London Chamber, settled down to a discussion of the fiscal question. The nine resolutions on the question were combined into one, which was ably introduced by the Canadian delegates; indeed, their oratorical power was one of the features of the Congress. The discussion lasted a day and a half, the chief opposition coming from the Lancashire Chambers, supported by some of those from India. In the end, however, a resolution in favour of Imperial preference was carried by 105 Chambers against 41, twenty-one remaining neutral, including that of London.

The Chamber then tackled the remaining eighty resolutions energetically and with expedition, and many were passed which were of interest to the West Indies. There were, however, only three put down by West Indian Chambers, two of these coming from Georgetown and one from Trinidad. In the absence of Sir Henry Davson, Mr. Edward R. Davson, as junior delegate for the Georgetown Chamber, brought forward the following resolution:—

Having regard to the constant interruptions of cable communication with and between our West Indian Colonies and to the extreme importance of an all-British Cable, be it resolved that the Imperial Government be asked to assist the Colonies in providing an all-British and reliable means of cable communication through Canada, with and between our West Indian Colonies.

Space forbids our reproducing the speeches, but the position was explained by Mr. Davson under two heads, the commercial and the strategical. We give an extract from the latter portion as given in the report of the proceedings, since it sums up the case as frequently urged in these columns. After referring to the completion of the Panama Canal and the change of the centre of international strategy to the Pacific, Mr. Davson said: "When this occurs, the West India Islands will once again become the keys of the Empire, as they were in the days of Nelson. In the meantime, it has pleased the Home Government to take away the troops which used to garrison the Islands, to take away the fleet which patrolled the Caribbean waters, to take away the mail contract, which was our only regular means of communication with the homeland, and to leave us dependent on this one unreliable cable as our sole means of keeping in touch with the solitary cruiser which is all that is left to us in

these waters as an emblem of Britain's power, and as a protection against danger, both from within and without. I shall not speak of the dangers from within, for it is a subject I do not wish to enlarge upon here; but if the time should come—and no man can say that it will not come—when a hostile power should wish to seize the Islands, thanks to our complacency in leaving our cable in foreign hands, there is every probability that you at home would not hear of the event until many weeks had passed. That, to my thinking, is a very grave and dangerous position, and one, moreover, which is not consonant with the dignity and prestige of British Colonies." And again, after touching on the manner of effecting an improvement: "The West Indies have just emerged from a time of stress and storm into what, I hope, is the light of prosperity. But they have done so with straitened means and depleted exchequers, and it is a hard thing, an impossible thing, to expect them to defray the whole cost of a scheme which, while it will benefit them commercially, is also one of Imperial concern. We do not, therefore, think it unfair to ask the Mother Country, which has effected such vast economies through the withdrawal of the troops and the other matters I have referred to, to give us some reasonable financial assistance for a limited number of years." We are glad to say that these words were not without effect, and after the resolution had been seconded in a few well chosen words by Mr. William Gordon Gordon, President of the Trinidad Chamber, it was carried with acclamation. Later in the day the following resolution on the rum surtax was submitted by Mr. Davson:—

Whereas the surtax of 4d. per gallon imposed by the British Government on spirits manufactured in the British Colonies is felt to be a distinct injustice, inasmuch as it is excessive compensation for any loss sustained by the home distiller as a result of the operation of the Excise regulations of the United Kingdom and thus forms a distinct protection to the home distillers as against the Colonial producer; Be it Resolved: that this Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire desires that the necessary steps be taken to bring about an impartial inquiry into the cost of Excise restrictions of the home distiller, with a view to the proper adjustment of the surtax in question.

The line adopted was that the inquiry which had been held as to the distilling regulations in the West Indies should be extended to the home trade, and thus determine whether the grievance of the Colonists was well founded or not. As Mr. Davson put it: "We are not to-day asking you for preference for Colonial over foreign spirits, we are not even asking for free trade with the home country, but what we do ask is that if it should be thought fit to protect the home distillers, that protection should only be what is quite just and equitable. Times are changed. The corn tax, for which three farthings rebate is allowed, was abolished in 1869; rectifying in bond was not customary when the twopence-halfpenny duty rebate on rectified spirits was granted, and we believe that you will find that three-halfpence is a more equitable figure than the present fourpence. We ask you, therefore, to approve of the extension to the home trade of the inquiry which was begun in the West Indies, and whatever be the result, whether our claims be just or not, you will thus remove from the minds of Colonists the feeling that they are being shut out from the markets of the Mother Country through an exaggerated protection of the home trade." The resolution was duly seconded and, we are glad to say, carried unanimously. The next West Indian resolution was proposed by the Hon. George Goodwille, on behalf of the Trinidad Chamber, as follows:—

Whereas the Republic of Venezuela has for many years past imposed a surtax of 30 per cent. on all goods shipped from the British West Indies to that country, in contravention of existing treaties, which surtax has had and still continues to have the effect of seriously hampering legitimate trade and of placing those Colonies, especially Trinidad, at a great disadvantage as compared with competing markets; and whereas this matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Colonial Office and Foreign Office, without any redress being obtained, be it Resolved that this Congress commends this matter to the careful attention of His Majesty's Government, and prays that such steps may be taken as may do away with the injustice complained of and place the British Colonies in the West Indies on the same footing as countries abroad.

This also was adopted unanimously, and it will therefore be seen that the interests of the West Indies were well represented at the meetings. What we have to hope for now is that active measures will be taken to give effect to the resolutions, and we are assured that the permanent organisation of the Congress will immediately make the necessary representations to the Government with this object in view. In conclusion we must not omit to mention that on Friday, July 13th, Sir Henry K. Davson and Mr. W. Gordon Gordon had the honour of being received by the King with delegates from other parts of the Empire, an honour which will be greatly appreciated in our West Indian Colonies.

The West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, July 12th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
R. L. McLAREN.	Lieut.-Col. F. C. Trollope.	T. J. Wilkinson.
D. KEITH NIGHTINGALE.	T. J. Wilkinson.	R. Rutherford.
CHARLES MACKINTOSH, LL.D.	Duncan Mackintosh.	E. L. Marshall.
J. W. A. MAGINLEY (Antigua).	E. L. Marshall.	Cyril Gurney.

Mr. A. D. C. Adamson was elected Hon. Correspondent for St. Kitts in the place of Mr. Charles A. Smith, who has resigned. Full particulars regarding membership, and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15 Seething Lane, London, E.C.

The West Indians' Tour.

By P. A. GOODMAN.

The West Indians v. South Wales.

The West Indians were again lucky in winning the toss at Cardiff on July 9th, and they did not hesitate to take first knock on what seemed a perfect wicket. The first pair, Challoner and Bancroft, experienced great difficulty in dealing with Steeples' deliveries, and gave two chances each before they were disposed of with the total at 18. Austin was almost immediately bowled, and Goodman was returned l.b.w., 4 wickets being down for 23 in half an hour. Steeples made them bump up in a way which would have been impossible on a true wicket during the first three quarters of an hour's play. Smith and Constantine then became associated, and took the score to 149 before the latter was bowled by Stedman for a splendid 65. His driving and pulling were remarkably good, and he hit no fewer than eleven boundaries. Ollivierre then joined Smith, who had just reached his 50 and was playing in his usual safe, yet brilliant style. There were 159 runs on the board when the adjournment for lunch was made. After luncheon Ollivierre took matters in his own hands, and, batting with wonderful power, hit the ball seven times to the boundary in ten minutes, scoring 40 runs while Smith scored 2. Amongst his ponderous drives was one right into the middle of the football ground. Smith followed suit, and scored freely all round the wicket, his off drives being both well placed and also well timed. Ollivierre, in attempting to hook one, put it up and was caught by Nash. His innings was most refreshing, and when he left sixth man out, the score stood at 259. Soon after, Smith completed his 100 without a chance, and then began to set about him, being in the end 140 not out. He is the first West Indian to score two individual centuries in England in two consecutive innings, and has thus set up a record. The innings closed at 326. E. S. Phillips and Silverlock opened for Wales. Neither seemed at home, and after many lucky shots through the slips the latter was eventually caught there by Ollivierre at 33. Phillips was soon after bowled by Smith for 24. Riches and Bancroft became partners and took the score up to 65 before the latter played on one from Cumberbatch. Thackeray was caught first ball in the slips, and 6 wickets were down for 93 at the drawing of stumps. Next morning the four remaining batsmen were all disposed of for an addition of 9 runs.

The West Indians' Captain quite rightly determined to have another knock, and although criticised by the local papers for doing so, there can be no doubt that he followed the course which any English captain would have adopted. In their second innings the West Indians made 176. The highest score was 28, and four other batsmen got into the twenties. Creber bowled remarkably well, keeping a perfect length throughout, and capturing 8 wickets for the splendid analysis of 53. South Wales being left in a minority of 401, never once looked like making even a good show, and they were all out in under two hours for 120. Thackeray alone played well. His hitting was most refreshing and clean, and he was eventually smartly thrown out from cover by Dr. Cameron. This match was undoubtedly Smith's, for in addition to making 140 not out and 17, he took 5 wickets for 28 in the first innings, and 4 for 30 odd in the second. Cumberbatch also bowled well in both innings. The scores are given on next page.

WEST INDIANS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
G. Challenger, c Bancroft, b Steeples ..	20	st Diver, b Creber ..	34
C. K. Bancroft, c Phillips, b Creber ..	3	c Phillips, b Stemples ..	3
H. C. B. Austin, b Creber ..	0	c Bancroft, b Creber ..	3
S. Smith, not out ..	60	c Nash, b Creber ..	27
P. A. Goodman, l.b.w., b Steeples ..	0	c Diver, b Creber ..	25
L. Constantine, b Stedman ..	65	c Stedman, b Creber ..	4
R. Ollivierre, c and b Nash ..	75	c Stedman, b Creber ..	27
Dr. Cameron, c Thackeray, b Nash ..	8	c Riches, b Creber ..	28
C. S. Morrison, c Riches, b Nash ..	0	c Diver, b Steeples ..	8
C. B. Cumberbatch, b Nash ..	0	not out ..	22
J. E. Parker, run out ..	6	b Creber ..	1
Byes, 6; l.b., 2; w., 1	9	Byes, 10; l.b., 1	14
Total ..	394	Total ..	176

SOUTH WALES.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Silverlock, c Ollivierre, b Morrison ..	8	st Bancroft, b Smith ..	9
E. S. Phillips, b Smith ..	24	c Challenger, b Smith ..	6
N. V. H. Kidson, c Cumberbatch, b Ollivierre ..	18	c Challenger, b Cumberbatch ..	6
Bancroft, b Cumberbatch ..	17	b Cumberbatch ..	14
I. H. Braia, l.b.w., b Smith ..	5	b Smith ..	9
Diver, not out ..	16	c Bancroft, b Morrison ..	9
A. G. Thackeray, c Goodman, b Cumberbatch ..	0	run out ..	59
Creber, b Smith ..	0	c Smith, b Morrison ..	7
F. Stedman, c Austin, b Smith ..	0	c Cameron, b Cumberbatch ..	7
Nash, c Bancroft, b Ollivierre ..	0	b Smith ..	4
Stemples, b Smith ..	1	not out ..	4
Byes, 4; w., 1	5	Byes ..	3
Total ..	100	Total ..	111

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.			
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Stemples ..	18	4	21	Stemples ..	17	3	29
Creber ..	30	4	61	Creber ..	27	4	32
Stedman ..	12	0	19	Stedman ..	9	2	16
Nash ..	18	2	41	Nash ..	9	9	34
Silverlock ..	4	0	14				

Creber bowled a wide.

First Innings.				Second Innings.			
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Morrison ..	10	0	31	Morrison ..	11	2	19
Smith ..	17	1	28	Smith ..	15	3	36
Ollivierre ..	13	2	33	Cumberbatch ..	11	1	50
Cumberbatch ..	5	3	1	Parker ..	4	0	18

Cumberbatch bowled a wide.

Umpires—Marlow and Richards.

The West Indians v. Kent.

No account of this match having reached us from our correspondent, we extract the following from the *Sporting Life*—

The home county did their visitors the honour of turning out almost full strength at Catford on July 12th, only Fielder, for whom Lord Harris came in, being absent of the regular side. The noble lord, who was last actively engaged in first class cricket on the occasion of Frank Suggs' benefit match at Old Trafford, Manchester, in 1897, is, of course, West Indian born, and thus made a peculiarly suitable reappearance.

From the initial over the Kent batsmen were completely on top of the bowling. If there was any sting it was killed by Alec Hearne, who stayed 100 minutes for 52. Day, Woolley, and, in a minor degree, Hush, were the most prolific run getters, but in point of superb cricket Woolley's innings stood out by itself. When Day, who hit up his score in ninety minutes, was in, run-getting was tremendously fast, but it was extraordinary while the latest Tonbridge product was on show. During three-quarters of an hour 122 were added, and of these Woolley, chiefly by lovely driving, claimed 77. Hush, who batted an hour, had the luck to be missed thrice, but executed a number of strokes all round the wicket. Day and Woolley both sent the ball to the boundary fourteen times, and Hush ten. Of the West Indian bowlers only Ollivierre caused any trouble, and his seven wickets cost 144 runs. Before stumps were drawn for the day the West Indians scored 15 for no wicket.

On resuming, runs were made with considerable freedom, but although several batsmen made respectable scores, none beyond Bancroft played a noteworthy innings. The latter showed capable hitting powers, combined with excellent defence, and ran up 53 in ninety minutes. The innings lasted two hours and three-quarters, and closed for 248.

Following on, and requiring 224 to avert an inning's defeat, the West Indians lost their first wicket at 8, but then Austin and Harragin withstood the bowling so well that they carried the total to 87 before the visitors' captain was caught and bowled by Fairservice. Soon afterwards Harragin, who made a number of fine drives, left, and although Smith, Ollivierre and Constantine made praiseworthy efforts to cause Kent to bat again, the remaining batsmen failed.

KENT.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
A. Hearne, c Constantine, b Ollivierre ..	27	Mr. C. H. B. Maslin, c Constantine, b Ollivierre ..	36
Humphreys, c Cumberbatch, b Goodman ..	39	Lord Harris, b Ollivierre ..	61
Mr. A. P. Day, c and b Ollivierre ..	69	Hush, c Harragin, b Smith ..	11
Mr. K. L. Hutchings, b Ollivierre ..	18	Fairservice, not out ..	2
Seymour, b Ollivierre ..	35	Blythe, b Ollivierre ..	23
Woolley, c Cumberbatch, b Goodman ..	77	Byes, 22; l.b., 7; w., 2	31
Total ..	277	Total ..	271

WEST INDIANS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
C. K. Bancroft, c Maslin, b Blythe ..	53	c Day, b Hutchings ..	8
G. Levenson, c Hutchings, b Blythe ..	13	not out ..	14
H. B. Austin, c Fairservice, b Blythe ..	14	c and b Fairservice ..	34
S. Smith, b Hutchings ..	20	c Day, b Fairservice ..	29
P. A. Goodman, b Blythe ..	30	b Blythe ..	5
R. Ollivierre, c sub, b Blythe ..	17	c sub, b Blythe ..	34
L. Constantine, b Blythe ..	0	b Hutchings ..	30
G. Challenger, run out ..	44	c Hush, b Hutchings ..	8
A. E. Harragin, st Hush, b Blythe ..	31	c Seymour, b Fairservice ..	54
C. Cumberbatch, c Hush, b Hutchings ..	14	c Hush, b Hutchings ..	0
Smith, not out ..	21	Extras ..	0
C. S. Morrison, not out ..	0	b Blythe ..	0
Retras ..	0	Extras ..	0
Total ..	248	Total ..	209

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.							
	O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
Smith	21	3	82	1	Morrison bowled two no-balls, and	Blythe ..	36	13	86	7	Blythe ..	22.2	6	42	3
Morrison	14	2	57	0	Comberbatch and Ollivierre each	Fairservice ..	12	2	36	0	Fairservice ..	27	2	26	1
Gordonson	19	2	70	2	bowled one wide.	Hutchings	20	3	79	2	Hutchings	25	4	73	2
Comberbatch	16	2	40	0		Humphreys	6	1	25	0	Humphreys	5	0	25	0
Ollivierre	33.2	2	144	7											

The Homeward Mail.

A continuance of favourable weather was being enjoyed in the West Indies when the R.M.S.P. "Atrato" left Barbados at noon on July 4th. She arrived at Southampton at 12.15 p.m. on Monday, July 16th, and the mails were delivered in London by first post on the following morning. Among the homeward passengers were His Grace the Archbishop of Port of Spain, Mr. H. E. Murray, Mr. Cecil Morris, Mr. M. J. Turel, and Mr. B. G. White. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Peasantry and Cotton in Antigua.

The Hon. A. St. G. Spooner reports that during the fortnight ended June 28th, drier weather was experienced. This enabled those estates that had not yet finished crop to make a drive and get through before the juice got any weaker. The young cane crop generally looked very promising, but even promising crops would not raise the Island from its depressed condition as long as sugar remained at present prices.

Messrs. Cole and Railton, two gentlemen interested in cotton planting, had just arranged to purchase Colebrooke's Estate for this purpose; no doubt a continuance of present cotton prices would see many other unworked lands going into cultivation again, and some of the lands on sugar estates that would otherwise have been planted in cane, would also probably be added to the cotton area. It was doubtful whether the one ginning factory in the Island would be able to handle the cotton likely to be produced in the coming crop. A local syndicate was clearing the Government land at "Piccadilly" out of the dense bush in which it had lain for many years, and was putting in about fifty acres of cotton. The pity was that the peasants would not take up cotton growing; there was such a large area in the Island quite suitable for it which could really only be worked by peasants, but whilst these folk would readily plant cane and haul it for miles to a sugar factory, they did not favour cotton growing.

The Rendal's factory had bought over 4000 tons of peasant grown cane so far for the crop, and Gunthorpe's factory over 1000 tons. The former cane had come from no fewer than 40 different properties, and from an area at least eight or nine miles wide. The transport difficulties encountered by the growers were often very great, the cane being packed down from most inaccessible places on donkeys' backs and loaded at the roads on to small carts, which hauled it over what were often very bad hilly roads to the factory. With all these difficulties, the peasant preferred growing cane to anything else except ground provisions. Owing to the enterprise of Messrs. Henckell DuBuisson & Co., a Louisiana expert had arrived in the Island, who would experiment with the methods of cane cultivation practised there on the lands in Antigua. Anything that would enable the planters to substitute mechanical for manual work in cultivating and weeding the land would be a real blessing to many in the Island.

Perfect Weather in Barbados.

The report of the Joint Committee, of which the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne was Chairman, recommending that the Legislature should grant a subsidy not exceeding £4000 per annum towards a mail company performing certain conditions, had been adopted, and a resolution was passed by the House of Assembly embodying its terms, which would no doubt go forward to the Secretary of State by the mail. Mr. Alleyne, writing on June 30th, said it was to be hoped that the expectation of a speedy and definite decision on the question of the mail service would be realised.

The annual ploughing match and exhibition of stock of the Agricultural Society took place at Applewhaite's in St. Thomas on June 27th. The teams of oxen and show of mules were certainly a marked improvement over those of a few years back, and it was evident that animals were now more carefully selected and better attended to. The Attorney, Mr. Gay C. Edghill, welcomed the company in the spacious boiling-house, which has replaced the one burnt down in 1904. The prizes were given away by His Excellency the Acting Governor, the Hon. S. W. Knaggs. The exhibits for the Toronto Exhibition were to go forward in July, and a handbook and a catalogue had been prepared.

June had been a perfect month. Since the 5th, showers had been falling almost continuously, and were still doing so on the last day, at the time of writing. They had not been so heavy in the latter half of the month, but fully ample, and the land was now thoroughly soaked. In some parts of St. Lucy and in Scotland as much as 5 ins. fell in a very few hours, and those, of course, caused wash, but with these exceptions there had been nothing to regret. The general rainfall had been from 10 to 12 ins. for the month, and as there had been also sunny hours between

the rains, the vegetation was coming on with marvellous rapidity. The plant canes were healthy and vigorous, and the ratoons much improved. Cotton and all kinds of provisions and green dressings had made a good start. The few unfortunate windmills which had not yet finished crop were having a bad time of it. It had been impossible to dry the megass, and wood and coal had had to be largely resorted to. Even so, on many days the rain prevented sugar being made, and canes might be seen actually rooting in the yard. Besides this, the juice was naturally very impure, and would either not make sugar at all, or cause it to polarise very low.

On July 1st, Mr. Alleyne added that the bulk of their produce had now been sold. The price of muscovado sugar was quoted at \$1.50 for 89° test, dark crystals \$1.00 for 96° test, centrifugalised muscovado \$1.90 in bags and \$2 in brls. Molasses 14 cents.

No tea from British Guiana.

The Demerara Board of Agriculture having decided to issue a monthly publication devoted to the work of that Department as well as of the Department of Lands and Mines, and the combined Court were to be approached to advance a grant to meet the necessary expenditure. At the same meeting Professor Harrison mentioned that the tea experiments had totally failed.

The hearing of the charge against Colonel Lushington, the Chief of Police, for manslaughter in connection with the riots of last December, was concluded, and decision reserved.

Dominica's Produce Protection Act.

In a letter dated June 30th, Mr. E. A. Agar stated that the new Produce Protection Act was to come into force on July 2nd. Its provisions were rather complicated, and likely to be onerous in certain cases, but on the whole it should afford real protection to both growers and purchasers of produce. Judging by the number of applications sent in for "Sellers' Licences," the peasants appeared to have grasped the situation amazingly well, and, in the abstract, at any rate, entirely approved of the measure. The past fortnight had been wet and seasonable.

The Death of Dr. Orgias of Grenada.

We are informed by Mr. C. Falconer Anton that one of the subjects on the agenda for the last meeting of the Legislative Council, was a petition from the Roman Catholics with reference to the Education Ordinance, but the result had not yet been heard.

Dr. Paulm Orgias, M.D., whose title of Colonial Surgeon ceased on his retirement from the service, died the previous night at about 10 o'clock. He had arrived at the good old age of about 77. He was to be given an official funeral, which would take place at 4 o'clock that afternoon. Rumour stated that His Excellency the Governor would pay St. Vincent and St. Lucia a farewell visit, leaving Grenada about July 7th, but returning to take his final departure from that colony. There were no complaints to make as far as rain was concerned, and everything was looking beautifully green. It had been decided to hold an exhibition in the parish of St. Andrew, and a local committee was working up details. The date, as far as was known, has not yet been fixed.

The S.S. "Maraval," which ran ashore when coming into port on her last voyage from Trinidad, had arrived safely at New York. The Superintendent of Public Works was a passenger by her for England via the United States and Canada.

Cotton v. Sugar in Montserrat.

Mr. Conrad Watson, writing on June 25th, reported that good showers had fallen nearly every day for the past fortnight, and everyone seemed to be planting a small patch of cotton.

Owing to the low prices obtained by peasant proprietors for their sugar, a number of them had turned their attention to cotton, and the acreage under cultivation would exceed that of the last crop. His Excellency the Governor was expected at the island about June 27th.

The freedom from crime in Nevis.

The Circuit Court had just been held in Nevis before the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote on June 27th and got through all its work (criminal) in one day, which indicated a freedom from crime of magnitude that spoke well for the conduct of the inhabitants, who were certainly a law-abiding and peaceful community. Strange to say, had as things were there, Nevis had not suffered nearly as much by emigration as many of the other islands, this being due mainly to the number of peasant proprietors who had a direct interest in the land. From all accounts Antigua had contributed proportionately the largest quota towards the band of emigrants making for Panama.

A Permanent Exhibition Committee had been appointed at the last meeting of their Society, and hoped to send in some exhibits to Toronto.

The weather during June had been all that could be desired, and cotton planting had been proceeded with satisfactorily, but it was absolutely essential for the proper development of this industry that the uncertainty at present attached to shipping should be done away with, and the sooner the better for all concerned. The stars in their courses had certainly fought against these unfortunate islands, and it was about time that they were given a clear course and no favour.

Agricultural loans in Trinidad.

When the Hon. G. T. Fenwick wrote on July 2nd, a draft Ordinance, intended to secure advances of agricultural produce, had just been made public. The objects and reasons of this Ordinance are set forth at the end of the draft, which came forward by the mail, and can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. It would probably be read a first time at the next meeting.

The weather continued exactly as last reported, and the spring of canes for 1907 progressed well. Cocoa planters complained of the high winds which had accompanied the heavy rains, and reported that in consequence the young fruit with flowers which promised for December, had disappeared. Deliveries from the country had been on a fairly liberal scale, and owing to the strong demand, had been absorbed at previous quotations. Fine Estates were quoted at 54s., Mixed Estates at 53s., and Ordinary at 52s. per 50 kilos, c. and f., Havre, for delivery during the last two months of the year. The Venezuelan market continued very firm, but supplies had been on a more liberal scale.

Totals of last report	SHIPMENTS.	
June 18th.—S.S. "Venezuela"	92,006 bags, Trinidad	22,676 bags, Venezuela
" 19th.—S.S. "Tagns"	25 " "	" " " " Europe.
" 23rd.—S.S. "Grenada"	1,310 " "	" " " " "
" 23rd.—S.S. "Ocama"	3,265 " "	300 " " " " New York.
" 25th.—S.S. "Prins Willem V."	850 " "	80 " " " " Canada.
" 25th.—S.S. "Bolivia"	1,975 " "	" " " " " " New York.
" 28th.—S.S. "Trent"	150 " "	" " " " " " Europe.
" 28th.—S.S. "Prins Willem II."	733 " "	850 " " " " " " New York.
Totals to date	99,714 bags Trinidad	23,246 bags Venezuela.

Our Library.

The *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society*, Vol. X., No. 6.—The issue of this publication for June contains the account of a special meeting of the Board of Management to discuss hurricane insurance with Mr. Head. Mr. R. J. Taylor-Domville contributes valuable instructions relative to turning down English tick and insect eating birds and adapting them to tropical climates. Colonel Pincock draws attention to the value of milk production in conjunction with cattle raising, and Mr. Cradwick continues his notes on cocoa raising, while the pages generally are full of matters of agricultural interest of all descriptions.

Notes of Interest.

CUBAN IMMIGRATION. It is stated that the Cuban Congress has approved a Bill authorising the expenditure of \$1,000,000 (£200,000) to encourage immigration. Eight per cent. of this sum is to be used in bringing families from Europe and the Canary Islands, and the balance in bringing labourers from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Northern Italy.

WEST INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES. The West Indian delegates at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire were: Barbados: Mr. J. R. Bancroft and Mr. R. Rutherford; Jamaica: Mr. E. A. de Pass, Mr. William Gillespie, and Hon. W. Fawcett; Trinidad: Mr. W. Gordon Gordon, Hon. George Goodwille, Hon. W. S. Robertson, and Mr. L. J. Bernstein.

A COMPLIMENT. The Government of Madras, being anxious to improve the quality of the tobacco grown in the Presidency, have had under consideration the desirability of employing a curer from Jamaica. As, however, it was felt that the curing must depend so much on local conditions, the matter was postponed. It is a compliment to the Jamaica tobacco industry that a Jamaican and not a Cuban was to be chosen.

GERMAN COMBINE. The syndicate of German Sugar Refiners has recently held a meeting in Berlin with a view to constituting a selling combine. The scheme of agreement has been adopted in all essential points, says the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, and the Society has been authorised to make arrangements with each of the refineries. The Convention has not for its end the utilisation of the Customs surtax; it aims at assuring fixed prices and at putting an end to the competition which at this moment causes such trouble in the whole sugar market.

COTTON REPORT. Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland, in their weekly report on the Sea Island cotton market, dated July 10th, state that a fair business has been done in West Indian Sea Island descriptions at rather easier prices. There continues to be a fair demand for cotton at 12d. to 14d., but above that figure there is practically no inquiry, except for a few bales of superfine cotton occasionally at 17d. to 20d. Qualities say "good" to "fine" only interest buyers when obtainable at 14d. to 15d., and they think this may continue, the reason being that consumers only require substitutes for Florida and inferior Island cotton at about this price, and for crop lots of Island, 17d. and over. Many of the recent arrivals show want of stamina in the fibre, evidently the result of drought. The sales include Nevis: 13d. to 14d., Barbados: 14d. to 15d., Antigua: 14½d. to 17½d., St. Thomas: 13½d. to 14½d., and St. Vincent (stained): 7½d. to 9d.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., July 11th.—Resolution in favour of mutual preference within the Empire carried at the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.—At a meeting at the Mansion House a resolution in favour of holding a Franco-British Exhibition in London in 1908 was carried.—The New Australian Mail Contract awarded to Sir James Laing and Sons, of Sunderland (present holders, Orient-Royal Mail Line).—88% Beet, 8s. 4½d., dull.
- Thurs., July 12th.—Wireless telegraphy established between Victoria and Tasmania (120 miles).—Mr. Haldane expounded his Army reorganisation scheme in the House of Commons.—Beet 8s. 4½d., steady.
- Fri., July 13th.—Lord Elgin presided over a dinner to the delegates of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.—Beet, 8s. 4½d., quiet.
- Sat., July 14th.—Sir West Ridgeway and the Members of his Commission returned to London.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 4½d., steady.
- Sun., July 15th.—Honduras declared war against Guatemala.
- Mon., July 16th.—Mr. Alfred Heat died.—The West Indian Cricket team entertained at dinner by the M.C.C., the Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., presiding.—Beet, 8s. 4½d., quiet.
- Tues., July 17th.—The M.C.C. beat the West Indians by six wickets.—Beet, 8s. 4½d., steady.
- Wed., July 18th.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 4½d., steady.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 13th, "Weather is too wet." (Messrs. Henry K. Dawson and Co.), July 14th, "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." Jamaica—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) week ended July 4th. Port Antonio—June 28th to July 1st, fine; July 2nd and 3rd, rainy; 4th, fine." Kingston—"Fair."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Hoby), July 16th: His Grace the Archbishop of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Mr. H. A. Allen, Mrs. Heaulderk, Mr. W. S. Barnardo, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, Mr. J. M. Brewis Hon. E. Bateson, Mr. C. Bird, Mr. and Miss Dias, Mr. and Mrs. G. Keele, Mr. P. W. Fairweather, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fletcher, Mr. A. A. Ferriter, Mr. J. Gallespie, Miss V. Hargreave, Hon. C. B. Hamilton, Mr. E. Hargreaves, Judge Hewick, Miss Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. W. D. Lawley, Mr. A. C. McCullum, Mr. H. E. Murray, Mr. M. Mulden, Mr. Cecil Morris, Dr. A. H. McJannery, Mr. and Mrs. Nash, His Honour Sir R. Northcote, Rev. Father O'Bryne, Mrs. Pocklington, Miss Pocklington, Mr. H. R. Pittam, Mr. C. Pensonby, Mr. R. L. Prada, Miss L. Renwick, Mrs. and Miss Reis, Mr. J. A. Rapsey, Sir T. C. Rayner, Mr. H. Seed, Mr. W. Saliba, Mr. H. Speight, Mr. A. W. Smith, Rev. Father Stack, Capt. L. G. Tebbis, Mr. M. J. Taurel, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Tomlinson, Rev. Brother Wilson, Mr. B. G. White, Mr. J. W. Wallen, Miss M. Williams, Mr. J. W. Warren, Miss B. Dagen, Mr. J. M. Harbe, Mrs. and Miss Lee, Mr. H. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. J. Northrop, Mr. G. Pimental, Mr. J. Quarles, Mr. J. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Mr. Drenner, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Mr. E. F. South, Mr. M. C. Calcraft, Mr. B. S. Parrott, Mr. H. Almond, Mr. J. B. Thelwall, Mrs. Pascal, Mrs. Storer, Roy W. K. Jolley, Mr. W. P. Walker, Mr. M. de la Torre, Mr. and Mrs. Casarais, Mr. R. T. Cozens, Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Schmoher, Mr. G. Harmath.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. Boby), July 16th: Mr. Drescher, Miss Ramsay, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Russell, Mr. J. R. Buren, Mrs. Ross, Mr. H. A. Bunting, Mr. E. R. Blundstone, Mr. Teran, Mrs. P. Ross, Dr. L. Fadden, Mr. M. Cooper, Mr. J. Russell, Mr. R. Meira, Mr. J. Meira, Mr. and Mrs. S. Gomez, Mr. W. Thomson, Mr. J. Quarles, Mr. J. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Patterson, Mr. Drenner, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Mr. E. F. South, Mr. M. C. Calcraft, Mr. B. S. Parrott, Mr. H. Almond, Mr. J. B. Thelwall, Mrs. Pascal, Mrs. Storer, Roy W. K. Jolley, Mr. W. P. Walker, Mr. M. de la Torre, Mr. and Mrs. Casarais, Mr. R. T. Cozens, Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Schmoher, Mr. G. Harmath.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Paul Henderson" (Capt. W. H. Isaacs), July 14th: Mr. H. Bond, Mr. T. W. Clarke, Mr. Forrest, Mr. W. G. Prosser, Mr. W. G. Hutchings, Mr. W. H. MacMahon, Mr. G. O'By, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. de Pass, Miss R. de Pass, Mr. and Mrs. L. South, Mr. A. M. Sherlock, Mr. A. Siebold, Mr. R. Smallbones, Mrs. Turner, Mr. W. A. Thwaites, Mr. J. G. Watson, Mr. G. White, Mr. S. M. Binger, Mr. J. H. Bradshaw.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Guyana.	
	Jan. 1st to June 30th.	1905.	Jan. 1st to June 30th.	1905.	April 1st to June 10th.	1906.	Jan. 1st to July 2nd.	1905.	Oct. 1st to June 10th.	1906.
Sugar	35,987	23,295 tons.	36,000	21,738 tons.	509	4,375 tons.	1906. 453,002	1905. 272,174 bags & lbs.	1906.	1905.
Melasses	21,203	33,225 tons.	1,930	1,652 cskts.	—	—	{ 1,597	{ 2,857 puns.	—	—
Rum	—	—	4,499	6,267 puns.	475,179	506,040 galls.	{ 145	{ 125 lbs.	—	—
Cattle Feed & Molasses	—	—	—	—	—	—	{ 60	{ 163 puns.	—	—
Cocoa	—	—	3,530	2,932 tons.	—	—	77	346 puns.	—	—
Coffee	—	—	3,300	11,380 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoanuts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cocoa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphalt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oranges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bananas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pimento	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gold	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diamonds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			11,361	44,304 cskts.						
			788	3,337 carats.						

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXII



Sir James Shaw Hay, K.C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

July 24th, 1906

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 0562 CENTRAL.

OUR present issue being the two-hundredth of the new series of the *West India Committee Circular*, which, in its original form, was first published in 1886—twenty years ago,—we may be excused for saying a few words about ourselves in connection with the many advertisements which now adorn our pages. It is nearly three years since the development of this journal was first contributed to by the addition of advertisement pages, and from the four pages of August 17th, 1903, this portion of our publication has already increased to eighteen. Thanks to the great advance which has taken place in the methods of reproduction, through the development of the half-tone process, advertisements are rendered artistic, and anyone who turns over our pages will, we think, agree that many of them are particularly attractive from this point of view. As regards ourselves and our advertisers, the advantages are mutual. The makers of sugar and cotton machinery, and of the various articles indispensable to factories, and

the purveyors of manures and fertilisers now so largely used in the West Indies, have the articles which they supply brought prominently before the notice of the very people most likely to be

interested, at a tithe of the price which it would cost them to circularise them individually, while on the other hand the addition of this department has enabled the scope of the *West India Committee Circular* to be developed to such an extent that it has now reached to, and is largely quoted in all parts of the world, including, for example, America, Canada, India, Mauritius, Queensland, Fiji, and Egypt, in connection with the technical and especial interests which it represents. For this and for the reason that our readers are now undoubtedly showing, as we hope they will continue to do, a preference for the firms advertising in our columns, the *Circular* as an advertising medium is unequalled. It is regarded no longer in the light of one of those ordinary periodicals of an evanescent type whose circulation includes wholesale free distribution and the consignment of bundles of copies to the waste paper basket; but, as one of the character of a trade journal in whose pages planter and merchant will find exactly what they want. In the course of a year nearly 100,000 copies of the *West India Committee Circular* are issued, and prospective advertisers only have to realise what it would cost them in postage alone to circulate an equal number of letters from their own offices to understand what advantages are to be derived from taking a space in our columns! We can safely say that no manufacturer who deals in any commodity in use in the West Indies should be out of the advertising pages. The West Indies are going ahead, and with the revival of old and the establishment of new industries there is a steady expansion of the wants which manufacturers on this side like to supply, and of hotels, estates for sale and produce which our friends in the West Indies are anxious to bring before the notice of those at home. There would be no need for buyers in these Colonies to go to other countries for goods as they do now, if they only knew where they could get them from the Mother Country. This information is, in a multiplicity of instances, not before them, and it is in making it more generally known that we may claim through our advertisement pages to be doing a good work. As for our readers, they already support us loyally by patronising our advertisers in a spirit which is quite co-operative, the result being that they are now almost getting something for nothing. They receive instead of, as of old, a four-page leaflet, a weekly journal which, as members of the West India Committee, they receive at considerably below the cost of printing, publishing and postage.

The development of the proposals for controlling the market for Jamaica rum will be watched with considerable interest, not only by the parties mainly concerned, but, inasmuch as if they are successful an endeavour will, doubtless, be made to apply the principle to other West Indian produce, also by our readers generally. Though it is too early as yet to attempt to forecast what measure of success is likely to be attained, the details of the scheme which we are now able to expound will, doubtless, be welcome. It appears that a company entitled the Colonial Traders' Association is to be formed, with a working capital of £150,000. This company will make agreements with planters to purchase their rum, and to pay cash for it by way of advances, or upon delivery, at the usual shipping port in Jamaica at the price (upon the basis of the average for the last ten years), for which the planter's rum produced on his estate was sold in Great Britain or other countries to which it was exported, without any deduction whatever for wharfage and boatage, and $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ discount for cash. Or, it will agree to pay an increase of 6d. per gallon on the average price obtained for 1904-5 crop whenever the rum has been sold in the Island, and also to advance periodically to the planters, if required, on agricultural lien or for good security up to 70% of the value of the rum crop at the rate of 6% per annum. The planter, in consideration of these payments, will agree to maintain his cultivation for a period of ten years, to manufacture his rum in a pot still, and to increase his acreage under cultivation if practicable, and undertake to sell to the company all the rum manufactured from year to year. He will, moreover,

pledge himself not to transfer his estate without first giving the company the refusal, and, as far as legally possible, the agreement will bind his successors. Any dispute regarding the quality, colour or strength of the rum will be settled by two London brokers, one appointed by the planter and the other by the company. Such appear to be the main outlines of the plan, in connection with which, a gentleman, described in the local press as a "wealthy capitalist" and whose name we are not as yet permitted to divulge, returned to Jamaica with MR. J. C. NOLAN, the special Commissioner for the protection of Jamaica rum. He arrived in the Island on June 15th and began a tour of the western parishes, where it was intended to hold a series of Conferences with the planters. The attitude of the trade at home does not seem favourable, but for ourselves, we venture to express no opinion regarding the proposals. The movement is a purely voluntary one, and it will be for the Jamaica planters themselves to decide whether they will support it and whether it will be to their ultimate advantage to do so or not.

We are informed to-day, as we go to press, on very good authority, that the Crown Agents, acting upon the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, have invited tenders for wireless stations at Jamaica, Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara, and for the establishment of wireless communication between Georgetown, British Guiana, and either Port-of-Spain or Barbados, and, further, to provide and direct apparatus for establishing communication between any two of the smaller Islands at a distance of, say, not exceeding 150 miles, and further to establish communication between Trinidad and Jamaica. We should like very much to know whether the Imperial Government or the Colonies are expected to defray the cost of this experiment. We say experiment advisedly, for such it must indeed be considered. Otherwise, it is inconceivable that over 62,000 miles of cable would have been laid in the past few years if wireless was really suitable for commercial and strategic purposes over long distances. We have already expressed our views on this latter point in a previous *Circular* (No. 198, p. 335), and having regard to the very strong resolution adopted by the Chambers of Commerce for the Empire calling upon the Government to provide an all-British means of cable communication through Canada with and between our West Indian Colonies, we cannot help feeling disappointed at the Crown Agents taking this step, which seems to us to indicate a policy of tinkering instead of grappling with a question which so closely concerns the commerce of the Colonies.

Sir James Shaw Hay, K.C.M.G.

Since he retired from the Government of Trinidad in 1901, Sir James Shaw Hay has, as a member of the West India Committee, continued to identify himself with West Indian affairs. It is right and proper therefore that he should find a place in our portrait gallery of celebrities. Like that of many another West Indian Governor his earlier career was a military one. He joined the old 80th (Princess Victoria's) Regiment in 1858, and served with it in India through the latter part of the Mutiny and until 1865. He was promoted Captain and Adjutant of the Glasgow Highlanders in 1868. Seven years later he was appointed Inspector General of the Gold Coast Constabulary, in which capacity he conducted several valuable exploring expeditions into the interior. In 1878 he became Assistant Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast, and in 1881 was transferred to Mauritius as Inspector-General of Police. In 1885 he was made Administrator of the Gambia, and he administered the Government of the West African Settlements from 1886 to 1887. He served in the Yonnie expedition, 1887-8, for which he received the medal and clasps. When the Gambia was separated from Sierra Leone he became Governor of the latter Colony. He succeeded Sir Walter Sendall as Governor of Barbados in 1891, where he remained until his retirement, after a double term of office, in 1901. He was made C.M.G. in 1887, and K.C.M.G. in 1889. The Colony of Barbados has reason to be very grateful to Sir James Hay for the Government acquisition of the water supply and its extension throughout the Island; for his sagacious and prompt measures after the disastrous hurricane in 1898; and for his piloting the Colony successfully through a period of severe financial depression.

The Golden Gulf of Paria.

Trinidad hopes in time to have her harbour, alongside the quays of which vessels of large draught will be able to lie. Meanwhile, passengers from the ocean steamers are taken ashore in a launch, while cargo is landed in vessels such as that depicted in our full-page illustration. Port of Spain which nestles at the foot of the superb range of mountains seen in the background lies on the shore of the Gulf of Paria, a practically land-locked sea with narrow straits north and south, known respectively as "Boca del Dragone," the Dragon's Mouth, and "Boca del Sierpe," the Serpent's Mouth, at the south, through which Columbus entered. The waters are muddy and in striking contrast to the azure waters of the Caribbean, but they are, however, none the less beautiful for that. For this reason, like those of Italy's River Arno, the waters appear golden.

The West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will be held to-morrow, July 26th. Candidates' forms and full particulars regarding Membership can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Eleven candidates now await election.

Cotton in Jamaica.

Mr. John Barclay writing on the prospects of cotton in Jamaica says:—"Although we have been so unfortunate as to get rather a set back in making a start in cotton cultivation, owing to the attack of caterpillars, judging from all previous experience of these pests they come in number, only perhaps at intervals of several years, about four or five, and as the other West Indian Islands are doing so very well, we do not think we should be too disheartened. It is just the crop that we have looked for to be grown in those rather dry districts where, unlike the rest of Jamaica, there is not much choice in the matter of industries. In Vere there are only sugar and stock, cotton will make an excellent rotation with sugar. In the plains of St. Elizabeth there is little cultivation at all, except food crops, and a good export crop is badly wanted. The first attempts there showed that a high quality of cotton could be produced even at some elevation, one of the best samples in Jamaica, for instance, was grown at Mountainside. As showing some of the success in other islands, we give the instance of an estate of a gentleman in Nevis (who also has property in Jamaica), and who has given up sugar there. There are forty-nine acres under cultivation, and out of that, one fourteen acre field will produce 300 lbs. of lint per acre, and the total acreage on the average, 200 lb. of lint. Judging from the valuation set on the samples sent home, the returns will be handsome—these samples being valued at 1s. 1½d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 4½d., and 1s. 5d. per lb. In St. Kitts also cotton has been grown as a catch crop with cane, and has given very remunerative returns.

The West Indies as a Source of Cotton Supply.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS, Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, delivered an address on the present position and prospects of the Sea Island Cotton Industry in the West Indies at the West India Committee Rooms at 4 p.m. on Thursday July 19th. Sir Henry K. Dawson presided, and there was a very large attendance, among those present were: Sir Augustus Hemming, Sir Alfred L. Jones, Sir E. Noël Walker, Lady Morris, Sir George Watt, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., Right Hon. J. Parker Smith, Mr. Arthur à Beckett, Mr. F. W. Barwick, Mr. Batley, Mr. J. Beesty, Mrs. Bowen, Mr. H. Bubeck, Mr. E. Bicker Caarten, Mr. George Carrington, Miss Carrington, Mr. E. R. S. Cheales, Brig.-Gen. W. A. Collings, Mr. W. C. Dalrymple, Mr. N. Dawson, Mr. Alex. K. Duncan, Mr. A. E. H. Dussek, Mr. Edward Easton, Mr. Martin Elliott, Miss Eversley, Hon. W. Fawcett, Mr. W. G. Freeman, Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, Miss Gittens, Mr. W. Gillespie, Hon. G. Goodwille, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. E. Goulding, Mr. C. W. W. Greenidge, Miss Chapman Hand, Mr. R. E. Harvey, Mr. Christopher Head, Mr. Kaller, Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, Mr. E. Knight, Mr. J. H. Lee, Mr. H. Liversidge, Mr. E. G. Louis, Mrs. Louis, Mr. J. A. C. MacCalman, Mrs. MacCalman, Mr. J. Macphail, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Hon. R. H. McCarthy, Mr. J. Z. Mayhew, Mr. B. A. Neilson, Mr. D. Keith Nightingale, Mr. E. Lomas Oliver, Mr. H. G. Place, Mrs. A. Plaxton, Mr. James Peet, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. S. H. Rogers, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mrs. Senhouse, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. Harold H. Smith, Mr. P. Somerville, Mr. Charles Spence, Mr. W. R. Spence, Mr. E. Storrell, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Mr. P. H. Syngé, Miss Tappin, Mr. J. C. Wadham, Miss Weston, Mr. Wilfred Wigley, Mr. T. J. Wilkinson, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Alfred S. Williams, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinnall, Secretary.



Photo by Agentes S. Ingalls.

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THE GOLDEN GULF OF PARIA,
TRINIDAD.

The Chairman, in introducing the lecturer to the meeting, read a letter from Lord Elgin, saying that he would have liked much to preside at the meeting, but in consequence of the return of Sir West Ridgeway's Committee, and the pressing importance of the South African Questions which now have to be considered, he was unable to be present.

In the course of his remarks the lecturer said that Sea Island cotton was a long stapled variety possessing great strength and fineness. The best sorts were used for making Brussels lace, chiffon and other delicate fabrics, also gloves and handkerchiefs, as well as, in some instances, the sails of yachts, the tyres of motors, and the most durable mail bags. Hitherto the available supply of the best qualities of this cotton had been obtained from the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina. Somewhat lower qualities had been obtained from certain districts in Florida and Georgia. The total production from all sources during the last ten years averaged 90,000 bales of 400 lbs. each, or about 36 million pounds annually. The value would be about 2½ million sterling.

Origin of the revived Cotton Industry.

About 100 years ago the West Indies produced nearly all the cotton used in this country; later, cotton was discarded in favour of sugar and other crops yielding larger profits. Sugar now was not so profitable, hence the necessity for subsidiary industries. The recent revival of cotton planting was one of the results of the valuable services rendered to the West Indies by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Sea Island cotton was selected because the plant yielding it was formerly obtained from the West Indies, hence it was peculiarly adapted to the conditions existing there. In 1903 the Imperial Commissioner, while on a visit to the United States, obtained £500 worth of cotton-seed from one of the best estates in the Sea Islands, and thus was laid the foundation of an important new industry in the West Indies.

As showing the steady growth of cotton planting in this part of the world, it was stated that in 1902 the value of the lint and seed was just under £10,000; in 1903 it was nearly £12,000; in 1904 nearly £32,000 and in 1905 over £63,000. The returns for the year 1906 were not yet completed but the value of the lint and seed produced during the quarter ending March 31st last was nearly £42,000, or two-thirds of that for the year 1905. The total value of the industry to date might, therefore, be placed at nearly £160,000.

There was still room for further development, provided the requirements of the market were closely studied, and exactly the right class of cotton was produced. The prices obtained had in some cases exceeded those paid for similar cotton grown in the Sea Islands. The highest prices, as for instance at St. Vincent, had reached 20d. per pound, Barbados and Antigua came next with prices varying from 15d. to 19d. per pound. Excellent qualities of cotton had also been produced at St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat.

It was fortunate that Sea Island cotton was so well suited to the circumstances of the smaller sugar Islands, where a paying alternative industry had long been sought for. Cotton growing had not been taken up to any considerable extent as yet at Jamaica, British Guiana, Trinidad and Dominica, as in these Colonies other industries such as fruit, rice, cacao and limes, had already received considerable attention, and probably, except in the case of Jamaica, they were better adapted for such industries than for cotton.

In St. Kitts, Sea Island cotton was being grown as a catch crop on sugar estates, and was yielding, according to recent returns, a net profit varying from £3 10s. to £6 per acre. In the other islands where cotton was successfully grown the net profit may vary from £5 to £10 and even £12 per acre, depending on the character of the soil, and the skill and attention devoted to the cultivation.

An opening for young Capitalists.

He went on to say that there were promising openings for young men of the right stamp, with a capital, say, of £1,500 to £3,000, to embark in the new cotton cultivation in the West Indies. He advised prospective settlers to go out during the winter months and thoroughly study the conditions beforehand. A fair amount of land was reported to be available in Antigua, Montserrat, and Nevis, and possibly also at St. Vincent, at prices ranging from £2 to £7 per acre; in a few instances land might possibly be rented at about 8s. to 12s. per acre. Men new to the tropics were advised to attach themselves, for one season at all events, to a good cotton plantation in order to become practically acquainted with the details of the cultivation before starting on their own account.

A small handbook entitled "A.B.C. of Cotton Planting for the West Indies," to be obtained on application to the Secretary of the West India Committee (price 5d., post free), might be usefully consulted; also the files of the *Agricultural News* and the *West Indian Bulletin*, issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. It was proposed to prepare a register of planters in the West Indies who would be willing to receive young men as pupils and afford them the opportunity of learning the details of cotton planting. This would be published in a forthcoming issue of the *West India Committee Circular*.

In conclusion, Sir Daniel Morris mentioned that the prospects of growing Sea Island cotton in the West Indies was distinctly promising. The demand for this class of cotton, on a basis of about 1s. per pound, was increasing everywhere, the climate and conditions in the West Indies exactly suited the plant, and there was an intelligent class of planters and an adequate labour supply to carry on the cultivation on a moderately large scale, say up to 20,000 bales, at probably a lower cost than in the Sea Islands. There was also the advantage that with a cotton crop, which was an annual one, the first returns began to come in within six months from the time of planting. It was believed that no other part of the world could produce Sea Island cotton so advantageously as the West Indies. It might be regarded as looking too far ahead, but it was the opinion of responsible persons closely connected with the industry that eventually the West Indies might produce all the best qualities of Sea Island cotton required outside the United States of America, and thus add nearly a million sterling to the value of their present exports.

Finally he warmly eulogised the valuable services rendered by the British Cotton Growing Association, and by its President, Sir Alfred L. Jones, as also the considerable interest taken in recent years in cotton and other subsidiary industries by the West India Committee, whose Secretary, Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, was indefatigable in his efforts to benefit the West Indies.

Sir A. L. Jones opens the discussion.

The discussion was then opened by SIR ALFRED JONES, who expressed the great gratitude which was due to Sir Daniel Morris. He felt certain that the day would come when America would want all her cotton for herself, and then the Lancashire people might have difficulty in keeping their heads above water; but the West Indies and other British Colonies were now coming forward to supply what was wanted. They were indebted to Mr. Chamberlain for Sir Daniel Morris, and that had been a good thing for the West Indies. He wanted Sir Daniel to adopt a sort of school for cotton planters in the West Indies, whence they could be sent to other parts of the British Empire, particularly to West Africa, where the success in cotton growing had been very great. The native in Africa was now getting £100,000 sterling through cotton growing, where otherwise he would not get it, and as he got wealthy he became the customer of Great Britain, which was not the case with the foreigner in all cases. He had no doubt whatever that as they met from year to year, they would have records of success even greater than had been shown that afternoon. It was strange that they had ever lost cotton growing. A hundred years ago, the West Indies supplied all the cotton used in Lancashire, while now they were getting nearly all their supply from America.

SIR GEORGE WATT said that he had not been to the West Indies, and so could not speak of those Islands; but he had spent his life in India, and his first feeling when hearing Sir Daniel Morris was one of jealousy. He thought a bigger country than the West Indies needed Sir Daniel. He had studied cotton to some extent from the botanical point of view; Sea Island was originally perennial, and it was known to the people 200 years ago that it would not continue to produce good cotton unless cut down to the ground every three or four years. The American Colonists did not do this, and the plant was found to seed under certain favourable conditions, and it was seized upon and reproduced again and again. He wished to emphasise the great necessity of care being paid to the selection of the plant. Jamaica had the reputation in books of not being able to produce good cotton, and he would like to learn why this was so. The cotton industry was an exceedingly interesting subject, and any question of extending the production of cotton throughout the Empire seemed to him very largely to deal with the selection of the plant.

MR. E. LOMAS OLIVER spoke as a cotton spinner, and said that two years ago when there was a famine in the cotton spinning world, they were exceedingly glad to get cotton from anywhere and almost of any description, and were thankful for the supplies which came to them as the result of Sir Daniel Morris's efforts in the West Indies. As a spinner, he told Sir Daniel of some of the defects which would prevent West Indian cotton from ever becoming so popular as what they had got to regard as the genuine article, and ultimately he, Mr. Oliver went out to the West Indies and explained to the planters themselves the points which might be remedied; they had only tried to make these improvements, but they had succeeded, and in some respects they had surpassed the quality which was received from America. Sir Daniel had stated that last year the total value of the West Indian cotton crop was £63,000; he would like to add that the amount of money thus paid for the cotton was only a small portion of the finished article. That £63,000 worth of raw cotton, without any exaggeration, must have amounted to the payment of at least

A quarter of a million of wages

in this country. It was no small thing to be able to say that out of the total supply of 14,000 bags of Sea Island cotton, in the short space of four years, 4,000 out of the 14,000 was now coming from British Dominions. It was an enormous stride to have taken. It was often said

that a man of science was a complete child when it came to business matters, but in the case of Sir Daniel Morris they had the man of science who was also a man of business and of great tact. As a proof of how much the West Indies had advanced in the preparation of cotton—and their success in this matter they owed to Sir Daniel Morris—although the price of the standard article in the market dropped in 1905 about 3d. or 4d. per lb., the West Indies actually received 1d. to 2d. per lb. more in that year than they did in the year previous. Mr. Oliver thought that was a proof of the great improvement made in quality, and a proof also of their willingness to listen and learn.

MR. ARTHUR W. A. BECKETT wished to take the opportunity of making a few remarks, which, although they were not absolutely about cotton, concerned a matter which he wanted to bring before the West India Committee. They all knew that as much publicity as possible was required for the furtherance of an industry that they had at heart. There had been a suggestion that an exhibition should be held of Colonial products, and a proposal had been made which he thought an excellent one to bring before the Committee. It was that the next exhibition might be held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, as was done in 1881. It was Crown property and all that was necessary was to obtain permission from the authorities. This suggestion was only indirectly connected with cotton, but it had very much to do with the interests of the West Indies, and he hoped it would be considered (hear, hear).

THE HON. A. C. PONSONBY said he had been interested to hear that Sea Island cotton would make mail bags, but could not the lecturer tell him whether it would make a subsidised mail bag! (Laughter). He would be thought courageous when he differed with Sir Daniel Morris with regard to the cotton worm. He certainly did find a cotton worm in Barbados, which was, as Sir Daniel had described it, an intelligent and active animal. Its name would, he was sure, be long lived in history, and the name of that cotton worm was Sir Daniel Morris (laughter).

MR. W. P. B. SHEPHEARD wished to make one observation on the estimated price of £5 to £7 per acre for land suitable for cotton mentioned in the lecture. [Sir Daniel Morris, interposing, said not in Barbados]. Mr. Shephard was glad to note that qualification as it disposed of a doubt he had felt on the point. As a matter of fact in 1904 three acres planted with cotton on Husband's, St. Lucy, Barbados, after payment of all agricultural outlay, freight to the United Kingdom, and marketing expenses, had cleared over £5 per acre. It was obvious that the selling price would be so many years' purchase of the net yearly clearance.

MR. HAMEL SMITH inquired what steps had been taken to put the Imperial Department of Agriculture on a more permanent basis. He believed that its time expired next year and he wished to know if anything had been done to renew the grant for it.

MR. OWEN PHILIPPS, M.P., said he thought that everyone connected with the West Indies would bear testimony to what the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture had done in the few years since he had been appointed. They hoped that Sir Daniel Morris would be retained for those Colonies, and he was sure that all would agree with him that it was of the greatest importance that the Imperial Government should make arrangements for the continuance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture (hear, hear), and it was hoped that when they did so, they would also make arrangements for retaining and worthily recognising the services which Sir Daniel Morris had done for the West Indies. The Company, of which he, Mr. Philipps was Chairman, had endeavoured to help forward this work of cotton-growing in the West Indies by carrying it home at a very moderate rate. Ultimately, no doubt, the cotton would have to go to Liverpool, but meanwhile they had been carrying it *via* Southampton, and practically the railway fare from Southampton to Manchester took the great proportion of the freight charged to the cotton grower, so that actually they had been carrying a large quantity of the cotton at an absolutely nominal sum, and they were thus doing all in their power to help forward this growing industry.

The advantage of an alternative crop.

MR. GEORGE CARRINGTON, as one of the largest proprietors in the Island of Barbados, wished to express his opinion of what Sir Daniel Morris had done for them there. This year he, Mr. Carrington, hoped to have 100 acres in cotton, which area had extended from a very small beginning, and he had no doubt that other people were equally increasing their acreage in cotton. This would show what those out in the Colonies thought of it. They had found sugar a very bad paying business, especially in Barbados—at least he had done so personally—and he saw that in an alternative crop like cotton there was great hope for the future. It had great advantages over the sugar industry, which involved an immense amount of capital, and for which at the present time it was difficult to get the necessary capital for expensive machinery. Now cotton required a mere nothing. The expenses were very small, indeed, compared to the growing of a sugar crop, and when it was grown one paid a halfpenny to get it ginned, and that was about all that had to be done. It

would be the greatest possible blow to the West Indies if the Imperial Department of Agriculture were allowed to disappear (hear, hear).

The Right Hon. J. PARKER SMITH, P.C., moving a vote of thanks to Sir Daniel Morris, said he was sure that all would be pleased at the interesting discussion which it had called forth, and the very strong expressions of confidence in Sir Daniel which it had elicited. The question was of great importance, partly as being part of the question of the cotton supply of this country. In the future, it seemed to him a matter of vital importance for one of our largest industries that we should not be dependent on America for our cotton, and that we should have supplies of cotton grown in the British Empire. Efforts were being made in Africa and India as well as the West Indies, which it was hoped would lead to much success. But besides the cotton supply, the question of the development of the West Indies was concerned. Sir Daniel Morris had done much to dispel the gloomy prophecies made by the Commission, of which he was a member, ten years ago. He, Mr. Parker Smith, could not profess very long knowledge of the West Indies. He had had the pleasure, from inside the Colonial Office, of seeing the zealous care and attention paid by Mr. Chamberlain to these Colonies, endeavours which were now bringing their fruit (hear, hear). He had also visited them himself as a globe trotter, and had been impressed by the enormous fertility and strength of nature there, and had felt especially how extraordinarily little impression man had made upon nature in any one of the West Indian Islands, except perhaps Barbados. One felt the enormous scope there was for science to assist nature, and he had been struck with the way in which planters were absorbing the scientific ideas put before them by the Commissioner. He had visited many estates, and there was only one where he found a manager who was sceptical as to seedlings, and who still laughed at the idea of the old Bourbon being anything but the best possible care. In several Islands, the Botanic Gardens played an important part of the life of the Colony, and he was impressed with the importance of paying for, subsidising and helping science until it had got beyond the infant stage, and had created that wealth which he thought would do more than anything else to satisfy the wants of the West Indies. He felt that the future of the West Indies was at stake. The political questions in the West Indies seemed to him very grave, but the dangers would be met and averted if science brought prosperity into the Islands. It was the business of the Government to facilitate in every way science (hear, hear), and it was as the man who had done more, he thought, than anyone else to use the resources of science to enable that part of our Empire which once was the richest and most prosperous part of it, to emerge from the distress under which it had long suffered—it was as the man who had done more than anyone else to enable the West Indies to get a fresh start for prosperity, that all would return thanks to Sir Daniel Morris (applause).

Young Men wanted in Jamaica.

SIR AUGUSTUS HEMMING, who seconded the motion, said that although Jamaica, with which he had been particularly connected, was not in any way under the Department so ably presided over by Sir Daniel Morris, the latter had always been willing to give them advice and assistance. Sir Augustus had been surprised to find that many years ago there was a large export of cotton from Jamaica, but three years ago he did not think a single pound of lint went out of the Island. Sir Daniel Morris then went over and gave them a very interesting lecture on the subject, a meeting was held, and he hoped that there would have been some good results, but he was sorry to hear that Jamaica had only made moderate advance in the direction of cotton. He would much like to know the reason why cotton could not be grown there; although the banana industry was now the chief one in the Island, there was a quantity of land not in cultivation, some portion of which he thought might be used for the cultivation of cotton, and if the advantages were so great, he did not see why Jamaica should not share them. He most heartily agreed with Sir Daniel as to the desirability of young men going out to the Colonies to cultivate cotton; he had always been an advocate of that in the matter of the fruit industry in Jamaica. There was a magnificent opening for young men with a moderate capital to go out and really do well. He would like to suggest that it would be desirable for two or three young men to join together instead of going out alone. In tropical Colonies there was a certain risk in solitude, but if two or three were to join together, they would have a larger capital and would be companions for each other. Sir Augustus concluded by hoping that the Government would see their way to a very long continuance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture.

SIR HENRY K. DAVSON, before putting the vote to the meeting, said that he would like to add his personal testimony to all that had been said about the work done by the Imperial Commissioner in the West Indies. He had the good fortune, when travelling through the West Indies a few weeks ago, to meet Sir Daniel Morris at St. Vincent, and be shown by him over works connected with the Department. He was particularly impressed with the school of agriculture, where the young men were not only taught theoretically but where there was a practical adaptation to that theory. He was sorry to

find that the Colony of British Guiana grew less cotton than any of the others. It might seem an innovation on the part of the West India Committee to be taking an interest in cotton growing, to those who had not studied its history, because the idea had been prevalent that it was only sugar in which it took an interest. He wished to say that the West India Committee was ready and most eager to do everything it could to encourage the growth of cotton or of any other product that could be grown in the West Indies (applause).

Sir D. Morris returns thanks.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS, in reply, said that he was exceedingly touched by the cordial reception his address had received from so large and representative a meeting of those interested in the West Indies. The praise accorded to him he wished to share with the officers of the department who had so loyally and efficiently seconded his efforts for so many years. He mentioned as specially worthy of commendation Dr. Francis Watts, of the Leeward Islands, Prof. d'Albuquerque, and Mr. J. R. Bovell, of Barbados, Mr. Sands, of St. Vincent, and Mr. Shepherd, of St. Kitts. He also desired to acknowledge the valuable support afforded to him by the governors and executive officers connected with the several Colonies; by the officers and members of the agricultural societies and the planters generally. The latter had fully proved that they were alive to the value of scientific research, and welcomed the assistance that had been placed within their reach by the Imperial Government for the improvement of local industries. In no part of the world was it possible to meet with a class of men more deeply interested in their work or more willing to adopt the advice offered them when once they were convinced that it led to practical results. Sir Daniel briefly referred to the large amount of literature annually distributed by his department, and added that all the publications were obtainable at cost price from the Secretary of the West India Committee in London as soon as issued. As to the future of the department he was not without hope that it might be possible to continue it for some years longer, as he was convinced that it was capable of showing ever better results than at present. Further, there was no other plan that could so effectually and economically place the West Indian Colonies in a position to help themselves and so relieve them of being dependent on the Mother Country. In conclusion he mentioned that the officers of the department, as well as its friends and supporters throughout the West Indies, would be greatly encouraged by the kind words that had fallen from the several speakers that afternoon, and been so warmly endorsed by the meeting.

SIR DANIEL MORRIS then proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Henry Davson for presiding, which was seconded by Mr. Norman Lamont, M.P., who referred to Sir Daniel as the greatest benefit conferred by Mr. Chamberlain on the West Indies. With regard to the remark that it would be better to move the Commissioner to a larger sphere, Mr. Lamont thought the larger sphere should be found within the West Indies. He also advocated the federation of the West Indian Colonies, and said he would like to see Sir Daniel the first Governor-General. Mr. Lamont expressed the belief that Codrington College would form an excellent nucleus for a tropical university.

SIR HENRY DAVSON having thanked those present the very successful meeting broke up, and tea was served in the Secretary's room, a special feature being fresh lime squashes, which many of those present partook of for the first time.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Rum Obscuration.

The term "obscuration" in dealing with coloured spirits refers to the amount of spirit which is "obscured" in determining the strength by the ordinary hydrometer or gravity balance. Alcohol being lighter than water, it follows that the addition of a body heavier than water would mask the alcohol, so that it would be quite possible by careful arrangement to obtain a mixture of alcohol, water and, say, sugar, which would indicate water by the hydrometer. The result, therefore, of any pronounced proportion of colour would be for some of the alcohol to be lost sight of for duty purposes when the hydrometer was used. In the year 1818 Sike's Hydrometer, still the official instrument, was by the 58th George 3rd, Cap 28, made to supersede Clarke's, up till then in use, and it was enacted that all spirits which had any sweetening or other ingredient calculated to interfere with the indications of the hydrometer, were to be forfeited. In the Minutes of July 30th, 1823, the following occurs —

"Many cases having occurred of Seizures of Rum under the Act of 58th Geo. 3^d Cap. 28, Sec. 2, upon the alledged ground of its having some ingredient mixed in it which defeats the operation of the Hydrometer, such cases having been occasioned by the practice of colouring the article in order to meet the fancy of the Buyers without any intention of defrauding the Revenue.

" Resolved:

" That the Chairman request a Conference with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject, with a view of relieving the Trade from a grievance which would at all times be severely felt, but at present, falls with peculiar hardship upon an article very difficult of sale, even at Prices which do not pay the cost of its Manufacture."

At the following meeting a reply was received to the effect that:—

" Taking this circumstance into consideration, and bearing in mind the peculiar distress under which the West India Interest is hard labouring, My Lords would be unwilling to press upon the Planters by too severe an enforcement of the Penalties imposed by the Statute. They will, therefore, direct the Excise to extend the limit within which Rums shall not be deemed seizable for gravity occasioned by colouring matter from $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. They are led to believe by the information which has been laid before them, that all cases except those of Fraud or gross carelessness will be comprised within that limit, and that under such a latitude the fair Trader will experience no unnecessary molestation."

Rum remained chargeable on the hydrometer test until when the absolute amount of alcohol was determined by distillation. The question of obscuration then was transferred to as between buyer and seller, the former having to pay duty on unobscured spirit, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ % is still looked upon as being a quantity not to be objected to.

An Echo of the Colonial Exhibition 1905.

The Trinidad Committee for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition 1905 have been in the pleasant



Photo by

Leaving for Panama.

Jose A. A.

Tempted by the offer of high wages, large numbers of able bodied laborers are leaving the West Indian Islands for the Canal works at Panama, and such a scene as that in Antigua, depicted above, is becoming very familiar. This wholesale exodus to the Isthmus is naturally having a prejudicial effect on the labour supply in the West Indies.

position of being able to show a saving of £221 15. 5d. on the sum of £1,500 originally voted by the Legislature to defray the expenses of the Exhibition. In their report, which is signed by the Hon. William C. L. Dyett, as Chairman, Hon. Eugene Cipriani, Hon. George Goodwill, Mr. Edgar Tripp, the Rev. Dr. Morton, D.D., and Mr. J. H. Hart, F.L.S., and published as Council Paper No. 61, of 1906, the Committee say that they "consider it unnecessary to discuss in detail the work performed by the Commissioners at the Exhibition, which has on all sides been declared a success; as it has already signified its entire approval of the work carried out by Messrs. Hart & Smith, by means of various resolutions recorded in the Minutes, copies of which have been regularly forwarded for the information of the Government, and further by recommending them to His Excellency the Governor for an honorarium, of which His Excellency was pleased to approve. It is likewise considered unnecessary to go over the same ground as that covered by the report of the West India Committee, published in its "Souvenir of the Exhibition," a copy of which is appended to this report. The local Committee is unanimous in expressing its approval and sincere thanks for the able assistance afforded by the West India Committee, and especially for the valuable and continuous services rendered by Mr. A. E. Aspinall as Secretary of that Committee, to whom in a very great measure is due the success which has been achieved."

The report of the Barbados Exhibition Committee, which was published earlier in the year (Barbados Official Gazette, No. XLI., No. 32) also makes generous acknowledgment of the services of their Commissioner and of the West

India Committee in the following terms: "It only remains for the Committee again to express their thanks to the West India Committee for their assistance and support in securing the representation of Barbados, and to their Secretary, Mr. Aspinall, to whose indefatigable exertions much of the success of the Barbados Court is due; to the Honourable Forster M. Alleyne, and those associated with him, for the trouble taken in arranging the Barbados Court in so successful and interesting a manner." In Barbados also a credit balance was shown, and the report gives an excellent summary of the arrangements which were made. From Jamaica and Grenada no reports have been received.

Mr. Chamberlain.

At a meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee on July 12th, Mr. Cyril Gurney presiding, it was resolved unanimously:

"That this meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, being mindful of the great services rendered to the West Indian Colonies by the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., during his tenure of office as Secretary of State for the Colonies, is desirous of associating this body with the many expressions of good wishes and congratulation which have been forthcoming from all parts of the Empire upon the occasion of his seventieth birthday."

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

The West Indians v. M.C.C. and Ground.

This match, at Lord's on July 16th and 17th, ended in a win for the M.C.C. and Ground by six wickets. The result was largely due to the success of the bowling of Vogler, who got nine wickets for just under 5 runs each in the West Indians' second innings. The M.C.C. and Ground finished their first innings with a lead of 29, and their opponents on going in again, started fairly well against the bowling of Young and Mr. Beldam. The turning point of the match came when Vogler was put on at the Nursery end. He got out Mr. Challenor at once, and afterwards he was nearly always master of the batsmen. The third wicket fell at 73, but the whole side were out for an addition of 42. The M.C.C. and Ground had thus only 87 to get to win.—*The Times*. Scores:—

WEST INDIANS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. Challenor, c and b Vogler	59	c Tarrant, b Vogler	37
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, c Challenor, b Young	31	l.b.w., b Vogler	49
Mr. H. B. G. Austin, c Vogler, b Beldam	1	b Vogler	10
Mr. S. G. Smith, c Veal, b Tarrant	29	c Challenor, b Vogler	8
Mr. P. A. Goodman, b Vogler	20	run out	9
Mr. L. Constantine, b Tarrant	9	b Vogler	7
Mr. R. Ollivierre, c Tarrant, b Vogler	14	c Tarrant, b Vogler	8
Mr. G. C. Learmond, c Vogler, b Young	16	c Tarrant, b Vogler	11
Cumberbatch, not out	59	c Tarrant, b Vogler	4
Mr. C. S. Morrison, b Young	9	not out	1
Mr. J. E. Parker, c Harrison, b Young	11	c Warner, b Vogler	6
Extras	37	Extras	5
Total	240	Total	115

M.C.C. AND GROUND.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Capt. E. L. Challenor, c Ollivierre, b Smith	31	b Ollivierre	28
Tarrant, b Cumberbatch	10	b Cumberbatch	1
Mr. G. W. Beldam, b Morrison	4	c Cumberbatch, b Ollivierre	11
Mr. P. F. Warner, c Parker, b Morrison	87	not out	11
Mr. C. A. L. Payne, b Smith	4	c Cumberbatch, b Ollivierre	14
Vogler, c Cumberbatch, b Smith	1	not out	11
Mr. W. P. Harrison, b Morrison	1	not out	11
Capt. C. L. Veal, c Bancroft, b Smith	42	Extras	1
Mr. G. T. V. Weigall, b Smith	39		
Mr. C. Headlam, c Goodman, b Morrison	3		
Young, not out	17		
Extras	11		
Total	269	Total (4 white)	87

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Beldam	8	1	37	1	4	0	23	0
Young	15.3	4	42	4	18	3	42	0
Vogler	26	5	61	3	14.1	0	44	9
Tarrant	18	3	17	2				

Beldam bowled two wides.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Cumberbatch	11	1	42	1	10.1	1	14	1
Morrison	27.3	6	54	1	15.1	1	45	1
Smith	20	3	78	1				
Goodman	2	0	12	1				
Parker	4	0	19	0				

Smith bowled one wide and Morrison one no-ball.

The West Indians v. Derbyshire.

The West Indians were well beaten at Derby on Saturday, July 21st, the home county winning by six wickets. Derbyshire had been left overnight with 259 to win, and they had a full day before them in which to do it. Two wickets fell for 58, and three for 101, whilst at 124 Ashcroft had to retire owing to giddiness. On his retirement Ollivierre and Needham hit up 123 in an hour, both men playing brilliantly. Needham left at 156, and then Ollivierre and Ashcroft hit off the balance in

five minutes. Needham hit six 4's, and Ollivierre a 6 and eight 4's.—*Sporting Life*. Score and analysis:—

WEST INDIANS.		Second Innings.	
First Innings.			
Mr. O. H. Layne, c	Humphries, b	Mr. C. A. Ollivierre, c	61
Mr. G. Chaltoner, e	Morton, b	Mr. H. Purdy, b	56
Warren	Warren	Mr. E. M. Ashcroft, c	6
Mr. L. Constantine, b	Taylor	Mr. W. T. Taylor, not out	19
Mr. S. G. Smith, b	Morton	Extras	7
Mr. P. A. Goodman, not out	81	Total	233
Mr. R. Ollivierre, b	Warren		
Mr. H. B. C. Asstli, b	Morton		
Mr. G. C. Leamond, b	Morton		
Dr. Cameron, c	Purdy, b		
Comberbach, b	Cadman		
Mr. C. S. Morrison, run out	11		
Extras	7		
Total	233	Total	217

DERBYSHIRE.		Second Innings.	
First Innings.			
Mr. L. G. Wright, st	R. Ollivierre, b	Mr. L. G. Wright, st	41
Mr. C. A. Ollivierre, b	Smith	Mr. C. A. Ollivierre, b	68
Mr. H. Purdy, b	Morrison	Mr. H. Purdy, b	62
Needham, c	Goodman, b	Mr. E. M. Ashcroft, c	44
Morton, c	Goodman, b	Mr. W. T. Taylor, not out	21
Mr. E. M. Ashcroft, c	R. Ollivierre, b	Extras	14
Mr. W. T. Taylor, not out	19	Total	250
Extras	14	Total (4 wks.)	250
Total	217		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Warren	9	0	67	3	Warren	25	9	56
Cadman	17	1	48	3	Morton	13	4	47
Purdy	1	0	23	0	Cadman	20	1	44
Taylor	3.5	0	1	0	Ashcroft	3	0	30
Morton	18	3	22	1	Taylor	5	1	34
Warren bowled a no-ball, and					Purdy	2.5	0	16
Morton a wide.					Fletcher	7	0	3
					Warren and Taylor each bowled			
					a wide and Warren a no-ball.			

First Innings.				Second Innings.				
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Smith	24	1	59	3	Smith	17	2	55
Morrison	14	3	37	2	Comberbach	15.5	3	46
Comberbach	5.5	3	26	1	R. Ollivierre	14	1	32
Layne	20	2	77	0	Layne	6	0	35
Goodman	5	1	9	0	Goodman	5	0	13
					Morrison	6	0	22

Some Homeward Mails.

The R.M.S. "Port Antonio" sailed from Kingston, Jamaica, on Thursday, July 5th, and arrived at Avonmouth on Wednesday, July 18th. Among her passengers were the Hon. George McGrath, Mr. A. W. Vickers and Mr. Justice St. Aubyn. We extract the following from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents received by this and chance opportunities:—

A proposed Logwood Factory.

Mr. Ashenheim, writing on July 5th, stated that the question of the appointment of a Commercial Agent in the Mother Country had been revived, and the Board of Agriculture had willingly agreed that the Committee already appointed to deal with the matter should take it up again, their names being the Archbishop of Jamaica, Mr. Middleton and Mr. Murray. It was stated that a logwood factory was to be established in Westmoreland in or near Savanna-la-Mar. A company was to be formed, the promoter being an experienced capitalist in the dye trade in England, and a preliminary meeting was held at the residence of Mr. C. Lister Clarke on June 23rd.

It was reported that a wealthy English capitalist, whose name was not disclosed, was visiting Jamaica with Mr. J. C. Nolan, Special Commissioner for the protection of Jamaica rum, and arrived by the "Port Henderson" on June 15th. He was touring the western parishes, where he intended to have a series of conferences with the planters.

The Administrator Apostolic of the Roman Catholic denomination in Jamaica had recently formulated a scheme by which girls and young women were being instructed in the manufacture of jippi-jappa hats. The class started with about twenty learners, and there was every indication that it would develop to a large extent in the near future. Hon. Lieut. Col. C. J. Ward, of Kingston, had generously given £300 towards the furtherance of this object, and the greater part of this amount had been utilised in the purchase of suitable premises in Kingston, where the manufacture of the hats would be carried on. Arrangements had been completed with a local merchant to purchase all the hats that were made by the girls. This gentleman would immediately send the hats abroad, where he hoped they would find a ready market. Jippi-jappa hats were also being manufactured at Alpha Cottage Industrial School, Kingston (a Catholic institution), and at the Franciscan Convent in Kingston.

St. Kitts dependent on Tramps.

Writing from St. Kitts under date July 2nd, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson pointed out that in future the ocean steamer would not arrive at Barbados until after the Canadian boat had left for the Northern Islands, and consequently the people of St. Kitts would only get their letters by any stray tramp which might be passing. Crops were coming in though there were still many estates

with care to reap. Nice showers, which were just what were wanted for the young cotton crop and for next seasons young canes, had fallen.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Science Progress in the Twentieth Century. No. 1. John Murray, Albemarle Street. 5s. This publication is described as a "quarterly journal of scientific thought." It is edited by N. H. Alcock, M.D., and W. G. Freeman, B.Sc., F.L.S., the latter of whom is well-known to readers of *The West India Committee Circular*, and who was at one time on the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. In their opening remarks, the editors express a hope that the publication will take the place of "Science Progress," discontinued since 1898, and point out the difficulty in these days of specialisation and multiplication of scientific work keeping abreast of the advance of knowledge and trend of general scientific thought. The endeavours of this new periodical will be "to present summaries as far as possible of a non-technical character, of important recent work in any branch of science, to show the progress achieved, and if possible to indicate something of the line along which further advance is to be made towards the desired end." This the first number acts well up to this purpose, and promises a brilliant future. Among so many valuable articles it would be invidious to particularise, but we may direct especial attention to Dr. Buckmaster's article on "Blood-Platelets," and Dr. Tutton on "Some recent Progress in Chemical and Structural Crystallography." Our readers have before them a rich mental treat in the perusal of this interesting periodical.

Comparative Index of the Laws of the Colonies of Grenada and St. Vincent. Barbados Advocate Printing Works, 1905. This useful publication is compiled by His Honour P. M. C. Sheriff, Chief Justice, formerly of St. Vincent and now of St. Lucia, and is dedicated by him to His Honour E. J. Cameron, C.M.G., Administrator of the former Colony. It is arranged alphabetically in a manner which will greatly facilitate reference to the Ordinances of either Colony, and show at a glance the corresponding Ordinance in the sister Island, and it has also a table giving the amendments and repeals of the St. Vincent enactments and the Ordinances of St. Vincent, which had their effect in the period from July 31st, 1884, to December 31st, 1905.

The Laws of Barbados. We are indebted to Mr. Edward T. Grannum, Acting Colonial Secretary of Barbados for copies of the Laws of Barbados from Vol. V. to date. We take this opportunity of reminding the various West Indian Governments how much the West India Committee appreciate receiving the bound volumes of their respective Ordinances, in addition to the slips issued with the Official Gazette and otherwise. Such gifts will be regularly acknowledged in this column.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. Bank Rate $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ (changed from 4% on June 21st, 1906). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) are quoted at $87\frac{1}{8}$.

THE SUGAR BIRD. Mr. C. Czarnikow, a member of the West India Committee, has presented to the "Zoo" a new bird house, which appropriately enough already contains several specimens of the yellow-winged sugar bird (*Coereba cyanea*).

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended July 19th, 120 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.55d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Prices paid 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 16d.

CULEX MONSTRANS. It is customary to measure tigers and other big game by the distance between the tip of the tail to the tip of the nose. Our esteemed contemporary of Honduras, the *Clarion*, mentions that a mosquito has been shot—caught, we mean—at Corozal, measuring six-sixteenths of an inch from tip of body to tip of proboscis? This ranks with the man-eater of Berbice, or—but enough!

GLASGOW IN LONDON. Since the lamented death of Mr. H. O. Smith, which took place on April 20th, the London Office of Messrs. A. & W. Smith & Co., Ltd., of Eglinton Engine Works, Glasgow, has been placed under the charge of Mr. A. F. McLaren, 110, Cannon Street, E.C., who has the assistance of Mr. S. Irvine, the late chief draughtsman of the Company, who is thoroughly conversant with sugar machinery.

PRO PARNASSO. We understand that the erection of the machinery and plant for the new central factory on Parnassus Estate in Jamaica will be proceeded with in August next. The factory will be very similar to the Gunthorpe's Factory in Antigua, and the present estimated output is 2,000 tons, but this will, it is expected, be increased to 3,000 tons. The machinery is being manufactured by Messrs. John McNeil, Sons & Co.

VERMIFORM. Some "worm rubber" was recently shipped from Ceylon as a trial sample, and this appears to have been reported on favourably. It is prepared in thin strips, each strip resembling a fat earth-worm. The worm shape hastens the drying of the rubber, which is then closely pressed together, so as to occupy the smallest possible space. The rapidity with which crêpe or lace rubber—for it is practically the same thing—can be dried is in its favour compared with the slower-drying sheet and biscuit rubber.

GUIANA LIMES. At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture of British Guiana on June 29th, Professor Harrison reported that the services of Mr. Ward had been placed at the disposal of Mr. W. L. Bennett,

who had arrived in the Colony to investigate the possibilities of lime cultivation. Some limes grown in the Colony had been found to give thirteen and a half ounces of citric acid to the gallon, which was somewhat better than West Indian limes generally. An endeavour is to be made to publish a quarterly journal of the Society.

COFFEE CORNER. The President of Brazil at the opening of the Congress was opposed to the scheme to increase the value of coffee by convention. The majority of coffee merchants in Europe seemed to consider the proposed coffee loan as uncommercial. As the reader knows from the daily press, it has been proposed that the Brazilian Government should raise a loan of . . . \$150,000,000 silver to enable the Brazilian states to control the coffee market. It was expected that the exporter would pay a tax of three francs per sack to provide interest on this loan.

THE W. I. CLUB. The Statutory Meeting of the West Indian Club was held on July 17th. In the absence of the Chairman, Sir Nevile Lubbock, Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Sheppard, the former Chairman of the Committee, was voted to the Chair. The following members of the Club were then elected to act as the Committee of Management until July, 1907:—Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. A. Johnson, Mr. A. N. Lubbock, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Sir J. Roper Parkington, J.P., D.L., Mr. G. H. H. Pile, The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. P. B. Sheppard.

LOOFA. In Algeria, the cultivation of "vegetable sponges" is now making progress. The cultivation of this plant (of which about ten species are known and cultivated, in the warm regions of Asia and Africa) is, says *Capital*, fairly extensive in the environs of Algiers and Oran. Prior to maturity, the fruit is edible; when the stage of ripeness has been passed, however, the pulp becomes separated from the fibrous matter, which then forms the spongy mass termed the "vegetable sponge." Fine specimens, when carefully bleached in a weak lime bath, are sold at from 3½d. to 4½d. a piece. Paris is at present the chief market for most of the vegetable sponges grown in Algeria. They are highly suitable not only for toilet and bathroom but also for domestic purposes.

DOMINICA & CABLES. At a meeting of the Council of the Dominica Agricultural Society held on June 16th, 1906, the following resolution was passed unanimously. "That after considering the documents laid before them concerning cable communication between Europe and the West Indies this Council resolve that they cannot recommend any action to interfere with the operations of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, inasmuch as for a number of years that Company has had to contend with disasters brought about by seismic disturbances, during which time it has done everything possible to maintain complete telegraphic communication." Oddly enough the cable of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company was interrupted on the very same day. Communication was, however, speedily restored.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Wed., July 18th.—Lady Curzon died.—88% Beet, 8s. 4½d., steady.

Thur., July 19th.—Lecture at the West India Committee Rooms on Cotton, by Sir Daniel Morris.—A week-end in Jamaica, by Arthur W. a Beckett, in the *Pall Mall Gazette*—Lord Durham presided at the inaugural dinner of the Liberal Colonial Club—Beet, 8s. 5½d., steady.

Fri., July 20th.—Beet, 8s. 6½d., steady.

Sat., July 21st.—Peace treaty between Guatemala, Salvador and Honduras signed—Mr. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., married to Miss Ivy Dundas.—Mr. Alfred Beits' will, with bequests for Imperial objects, published—Beet (morning call), 8s. 6½d., steady.

Sun., July 22nd.—The Czar dissolved the Duma.

Mon., July 23rd.—Cricket: West Indians v Scotland. Scotland, 147; West Indians, 109 for 4 wickets—Beet, 8s. 6½d., quiet.

Tues., July 24th.—The will of Sir Charles Tennant published, showing estate of the gross value of £2,151,974, and net personalty, £2,955,443.—Cricket: West Indians v Scotland. West Indians, 249 (Austin 68, not out). Second Innings: Scotland, 72 for 3 wickets.—Beet 8s. 7d., quiet.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Hon. W. PIRAN, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, has been granted six months leave of absence.

Hon. R. P. SIMMONDS has been granted leave of absence in respect of his duties as member of the Legislative Council, Jamaica.

Hon. E. DuBOUCLAY, our Hon. Correspondent in St. Lucia, has been granted six months leave of absence from his duties as Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

His Hon. Sir HERBERT GREAVES, Chief Justice of Barbados, was to leave for England on July 17th, and during his absence Dr. Chandler, C.M.G., would act in his place.

Mr. A. W. BARTLETT, B.A., B.Sc., F.L.S., Government Botanist and Superintendent, Botanic Gardens, British Guiana, has been granted leave of absence for three months.

Mr. W. M. MACDONALD, Colonial Engineer, Antigua, has been granted six months leave of absence, during which period the Hon. A. W. Holmes & Coart will act as Colonial Engineer and Surveyor of Works.

Hon. E. A. FOSTER, I.S.O., Auditor-General of the Leeward Islands, has been granted three months leave of absence, with extension of leave for one month and twenty-eight days, during which time the Hon. W. D. Auchinleck will act as Auditor-General, and Mr. A. E. Eldridge as Treasurer.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), July 19th. "Weather all that can be desired."
British Guiana (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 18th. "Fine and favourable for growing crop."
 (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), July 23rd. "Weather has been finer since last message and is generally favourable for cultivation and grinding." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended July 21st. **KINGSTON**: "5th to 6th, fine; 7th, cloudy; 8th to 10th, fine." **PORT ANTONIO**: "5th to 11th, fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), August 2nd: Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn, Mrs. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Koch, Mr. J. G. Knight, Mr. H. N. Ives, Mr. and Mrs. M. Moreno, Mr. A. Parra, Mr. W. P. Breen, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. Shields, Dr. S. McNaughton, Mr. P. Bieran.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. Owen Jones), July 18th: Judge and Mrs. St. Aubyn, Mr. and Mrs. T. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Clark, Mr. H. H. Cousins, Miss Church, Mrs. J. Fulford, Miss W. Fulford, Miss Gilchrist, Mrs. R. Johnstone, Miss D. Johnstone, Mr. O. Jansen, Mr. E. Lyons, Miss V. Lyons, Mr. A. H. Morgan, Hon. and Mrs. G. McGrath, Miss Orrett, Mrs. C. T. Stewart, Mrs. E. W. Lucie Smith, Dr. and Mrs. L. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, Mr. A. W. Vickers, Mr. C. L. Walker.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
July 27	Demerara, Trinidad, Barbados and all W. I. Islands ...	*Glasgow ...	Direct Line	"Naparima"	July 27, 6 p.m.
" 28	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Trinidad and Demerara ...	*Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Savan"	" 27, noon.
" 28	Barbados and Trinidad ...	Liverpool ...	Leyland Line	"Jamaican"	" 27, 6 p.m.
" 28	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"	" 27, 16 p.m.
Aug. 2	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted) ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"	Aug. 1, mdn't.
" 11	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 10, 16 p.m.
" 16	The West Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted) ...	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	" 15, mdn't.

Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on July 28th marked *via* New York, will probably go forward by S.S. "Maraval" from New York on August 4th and be delivered in Grenada on August 13th, and Trinidad on August 14th. The usual postage of rd. suffices.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
July 28	The West Indies ...	London	Direct Line	"Saba"
" 30	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted) ...	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"
Aug. 1	Jamaica ...	Avonmouth...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"

* Letters must be addressed per Private S.S. "Naparima."

† In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Exports from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwt.s.	Rum galls.	Coffee cwt.s.	Coconuts	Cotton lbs.	Pimento cwt.s.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to June 30, '06	6,223	26,067	641,249	9,525	1,634,545	15,036	17,143	4,483,685	5,767,071
" " July 1, '05	4,983	11,934	582,889	6,228	1,125,480	28,620	17,421	4,381,496	2,434,814

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/June, 10 months.

	1905/6.	1904/5.	1903/4	
Convention Europe	3,600,000	3,120,000	3,470,000	Tons.
America	1,520,000	1,460,000	1,450,000	"
	5,120,000	4,580,000	4,920,000	"

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st July, even dates.

	1906.	1905.	1904.	
Known world	2,610,000	2,000,000	2,340,000	Tons.

F. O. Licht's Beet Crops.

	1905/6	1904/5.	1903/4.	
Convention Europe	5,560,000	3,420,000	4,220,000	Tons.

The improving tendency continues, the advance, so far, however, being by farthings, which perhaps makes it all the sounder. The distribution this year has been phenomenal, and when we consider the fact that the production of beet and cane this season is roughly 2,500,000 tons in excess of that of 1904/5, and that the figures of Consumption for the first ten months in Convention Europe and America, as given by Licht and printed above, account for an excess in these countries of only 550,000 tons, which taken in conjunction with Licht's visible supply at even dates on the 1st July, showing only an excess over last year of 610,000 tons, the extent of the movement becomes plain. Piecing these figures together it would appear that something like 1,350,000 tons in the distribution remains unaccounted for, having gone elsewhere, but assuming that the figures are correct, the importance of this shrinkage is of first moment, getting rid, as it does, of the world's record sugar crop, which at the commencement bid fair to crush prices even below 7s. 10½d. which practically has been the minimum reached this season. Welcome as this has proved, it will not be safe to expect a repetition of it next year. The growing beet crops, which will be the determining control of future prices, seem so far to be progressing favourably.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	2,080,000	1,440,000	1,900,000	1,990,000	2,100,000	Tons
United States	320,000	220,000	180,000	320,000	120,000	"
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	180,000	400,000	190,000	350,000	410,000	"
Total	2,580,000	2,060,000	2,270,000	2,660,000	2,630,000	"

Quotations of 88% Beet, 24th July:—

	8s. 7d.	11s. 1d.	9s. 8½d.	7s. 11½d.	8s. 1d.
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The closing quotations of 88% beet are:—July, 8s. 7d.; August, 8s. 7d.; Oct./Dec., 8s. 9d.; Jan./March, 1907, 8s. 9½d., and May, 8s. 11½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Following the improved tone in sugar generally, there is a better demand for yellow crystallised, and the value of average qualities is now 15s., with a general range of 14s. 9d. to 15s. 6d. for low to good yellow. Deliveries continue large. For a cargo of 96 test Refiners would pay 9s. 6d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in fair demand from 10s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. On floating terms, 89 test is worth about 7s. 9d. in bond.

Muscovado.—Small lots of grocery are selling on the spot from 13s. to 14s. The value of 89 test to Refiners is about 8s. 3d. in bond, on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	43,000	30,000	34,000	18,000	49,000	Tons.
Deliveries	26,000	22,000	28,000	24,000	24,000	"
Stocks	26,000	17,000	18,000	22,000	37,000	"
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	14s. 9d.	17s. 6d.	16s. 3d.	15s. 0d.	13s. 0d.	"

Rum.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	8600	10,000	10,800	10,900	Pens
Demerara	6500	5500	9800	7100	"
Total of all kinds	21,300	24,500	27,600	17,500	"

A steady tone prevails in this Market, and figures are more favourable than of late. The Importers' stock of Demerara is practically all sold out, and 9½d. is the minimum quotation for fair Marks. Jamaica is in reduced supply and prices are firm from 2s. 1d. upwards, according to quality. Leewards and other foreign kinds are quoted 8d. to 1s. 1d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	11,700	19,800	26,700	20,700	Bags.
Grenada	10,700	17,500	19,100	14,600	"
Total of all kinds	22,400	37,300	45,800	35,300	"

The tone of the Market is dull, the weather being hot. Trinidad is steady, but with little doing. Other West India marks a further decline of 1s., and is inactive. The present quotations are: Trinidad fair collected, 57s.; Estate fermented, 51s. to 54s.; Grenada fair, 49s.; fermented, 52s. to 54s. From other Islands Native cocoa is worth about 47s. and

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 39s. to 41s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Recent sales of West India include 53s at 1s. 10d., 64s at 1s. 7½d., 72s at 11½d., 82s at 9½d., 94s at 8d., 100s at 7d., 114s at 6d., 128s to 149s at 5½d. and in shell, 43½ to 4d. **Mace.**—Also steady. Fair pale sold at 1s. 7d., pale reblush at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., fair red at 1s. 4d., and broken at 1s. to 1s. 3d. **Pimento.**—Firm at 2½d. **Uinger.**—Quieter. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 57s. to 63s. **Arrowroot.**—Steady, but with very little business, the nominal value of good manufacturing St. Vincent remaining at 2d.

Lime Juice.—Steady, at 11d. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, dealer, value, 42s. Hand Pressed, unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, scarce, value, 2s. 6d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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LORD ELGIN has administered a sharp reproof to Messrs. Dargan, Brown and Gonsalves, in his reply to their petition in which they complained that the matters in connection with the late riots in British Guiana were not truly represented and suggested that the lives of many loyal subjects had been ruthlessly sacrificed without cause or justification. In a letter to the Officer Administering the Government, which has just been published with other correspondence on the subject as a parliamentary paper, Lord Elgin, on June 7th, confirmed his opinion expressed in a despatch dated February 8th, that the information which he then received did not lead him to think that the conduct of the Colonial Government in the matter of the riots gave any ground for the appointment of a special Commission. The Colony was, however, told that a Commission would be sent out if they were prepared to defray the cost, but the Elected Members of the Combined Court voted against it by a majority of two to one. Lord Elgin expressed his belief that under very difficult circumstances the Governor of British Guiana and his Officers acted with wisdom and moderation, entitling them to the thanks and to the confidence of the community. He added that he read with regret the reckless assertion made by the petitioners that the lives of the loyal subjects of the Colony "have been ruthlessly sacrificed without cause and without legal justification, and through the criminal neglect of duty on the part of the Officers responsible for the peace of the Colony," and he felt bound to record his opinion that "elected representatives in a Colonial community, including divers races and interests, incur grave responsibility by bringing against the Executive Government charges such as these, which are demonstrably without foundation. This attitude of uncompromising—I had almost said of unreasoning—opposition, is calculated to bring discredit upon representative Government." In a second despatch of the same date, Lord Elgin, dealing with the petition forwarded by Messrs. Thorne and Brown, which contained 6115 signatures, endorsed his belief that the Governor and his officers acted with discretion, and he told the memorialists, who claimed to speak for the vast majority of the inhabitants of the Colony, that they should attach greater value than appeared to be the case to the maintenance of law, order and security, which was essential to the well being of the whole community. He recommended that the exhaustive despatch of Sir Alexander Swettenham, dated July 14th, 1903, and Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of September 10th of the same year, should be republished in the Colony. Sir Alexander Swettenham fully disproved the allegation that the labourers were being ousted by coolies imported at their expense, and he denied that the suggestion that the native labourers were taxed for the introduction of Indian immigrants was justified. The whole cost of introduction fell upon the planters, and the revenue of the Colony only bore certain expenses of supervision. Lord Elgin continued: "The immigrants and their descendants form so large and valuable a part of the community and contribute so materially to the revenue, that I cannot regard it as unfair that these incidental charges should be borne by the taxpayers as a whole. Sir A. Swettenham, indeed, expressed his own personal regret that 'instead

of merely 150,000 coolies we have not ten times that number in the Colony." Dealing with the establishment of subsidiary industries in addition to sugar, Lord Elgin recommended the petitioners to bear in mind that "if industries of various kinds are to be established and developed, energy and initiative on the part of the working members of the community are no less indispensable than encouragement by the Government. The petitioners condemn the Governor and his officers for alleged neglect of duties; but I see no evidence to support these charges nor, I regret to add, is evidence forthcoming of efforts on the part of those who make them to play their own part in the development of the Colony." He referred to the petition as being pervaded with recklessness of assertion, and inasmuch as he gathered that the contention of the memorialists was "(1) that the present Governor and his Executive Officers have favoured the interests of the sugar planters as against the interests of the masses of the population and (2) that the masses suffer from want of representation in the Legislature" his answer was as follows: "I repeat that I have carefully considered all the circumstances attending the riots and I am of opinion that the Governor took no action which was not consistent with the all important duty, which he faithfully discharged, of maintaining law and order and security of life and property. I have also, as far as possible, reviewed the course of administration since the present Governor took up his office, and I entirely decline to accept the suggestion that he has in any way neglected the general interests of the community. The incidents which are referred to in the 52nd and 53rd sentences of the petition, and which are held to show that the Governor has been unduly favourable to the planting interest at the expense of the general community, are not correctly represented by the petitioners. In both cases Sir F. Hodgson acted with the cognizance and approval of my predecessor, whose judgment in this matter I see no reason to question. I am not prepared to admit that the petitioners can be taken as spokesmen of the 'vast majority' of the population. They speak as far as I can judge for one section only and their contention has been answered already in Sir Alexander Swettenham's despatch to which I have already referred. There is an unofficial majority in the Combined Court which controls the expenditure of the Colony. In the Legislature the views which are embodied in this petition find and have found adequate expression. I do not agree that the Colony is suffering from want of adequate representation; and I will add that a claim for extended representative institutions would be better sustained upon some other basis than such a series of allegations unsupported by evidence and in the main untrue, as formed the substance of this petition." Disclosing, as it does, the policy of the present Government towards a benevolent system of immigration which has stood the test of time, the publication of this Blue Book is of far reaching importance. We may hope that it will result in a more cordial understanding between all classes of the community in British Guiana, who should work together for the common weal and aim at the development of the Colony.

The West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, July 26th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
JOHN W. MEYER (Trinidad)	James Peet	A. N. Lubbock.
JULIAN WICKHAM (British Guiana)	R. E. Brassington	T. M. Marshall.
DAVID STUART DOUGAL (British Guiana)	R. E. Brassington	A. Waterfield.
ARTHUR A. BAXON (Dominica)	C. H. Grell	S. Didier.
ALLAN O'NEAL SKINNER (Barbados)	H. A. Bovell	T. W. Wilkinson.
GEORGE L. LUCAS (Jamaica)	H. F. Previté	E. L. Marshall.
WILLIAM RAEBURN (Jamaica)	James Wilson	C. A. Campbell
C. ORMOND HAZELL, K.C. (St. Vincent)	J. A. Robison	J. G. Porter.
JOHN M. JOSEPH (St. Vincent)	J. A. Robison	J. G. Porter.
THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON E. A. TURPIN (St. Vincent)	J. A. Robison	J. G. Porter.
HON. CONRAD J. SIMMONS (St. Vincent)	J. A. Robison	R. C. Curtis.
THOMAS WARDLE (British Guiana)	William Morison	R. C. Curtis.
DR. E. H. GEWAND (British Guiana)	William Morison	R. C. Curtis.
WILLIAM FAUSET (British Guiana)	William Morison	R. C. Curtis.
HORACE GODRICH (British Guiana)	William Morison	R. C. Curtis.
JAMES B. PINNEY (British Guiana)	William Morison	R. C. Curtis.
HARRY M. ENNALS	E. L. Marshall	W. P. B. Shephard.

weather. Rain fell heavily during the morning, and it was impossible to resume play until after lunch. Scores and analysis :—

WEST INDIANS.				AN ENGLAND ELEVEN.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
G. Chaloner, c Sewell, b Hargreave .. 11	c Warren, b Hargreave .. 14	R. D. H. Sewell, c Parker, b Ollivierre .. 20	c Lilley, b Hargreave .. 15	Kinnel, st. Constantine, b Smith .. 16	c Constantine, b Ollivierre .. 39	C. K. Bancroft, b Hargreave .. 23	c Chaloner, b Ollivierre .. 25
L. Constantine, c Lilley, b Hargreave .. 54	c and b Hargreave .. 51	Quife, st. Constantine, b Smith .. 19	st. Lilley, b Hargreave .. 0	A. E. Lawton, b Smith .. 2	c Morrison, b Ollivierre .. 1	S. Smith, c Lilley, b Warren .. 8	c Morrison, b Ollivierre .. 1
R. Ollivierre, c Sewell, b Warren .. 0	c Lilley, b Hargreave .. 0	T. A. Higson, b Ollivierre .. 19	lbw b Hargreave .. 21	Lilley, c Smith, b Ollivierre .. 6	not out 45	R. Ollivierre, c Sewell, b Warren .. 0	not out 45
H. R. G. Austin, run out .. 29	c Lilley, b Hargreave .. 12	Warren, c Constantine, b Layne .. 26	c Lilley, b Higson .. 22	Hargreave, run out .. 1	not out 45	H. R. G. Austin, run out .. 29	not out 45
Dr. Cameron, c Lilley, b Hargreave .. 4	not out 2	Rowlands, c Chamberlatch, b Layne .. 1	c Lilley, b Higson .. 22	Rowlands, c Chamberlatch, b Layne .. 1	not out 45	Dr. Cameron, c Lilley, b Hargreave .. 4	not out 45
C. Chamberlatch, b Warren .. 30	c Lilley, b Higson .. 22	A. K. Peitfield, not out .. 2	b Rowlands .. 5	Rydes, st. L. b., 2 .. 17	not out 45	C. Chamberlatch, b Warren .. 30	not out 45
J. E. Parker, c Day, b Rowlands .. 12	b Rowlands .. 5	Total 158	run out .. 4	Total 158	not out 45	J. E. Parker, c Day, b Rowlands .. 12	not out 45
C. S. Morrison not out .. 19	run out .. 4		B. 27		not out 45	C. S. Morrison not out .. 19	not out 45
B. 9, 1-b. 4, w. 2, n-b. 4 .. 19	B. 27				not out 45	B. 9, 1-b. 4, w. 2, n-b. 4 .. 19	not out 45
Total 201	Total 158				not out 45	Total 201	not out 45

BOWLING ANALYSIS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
O.	M.	R.	W.
Hargreave .. 20	12	37	4
Warren .. 26	3	108	4
Lawton .. 1	0	12	0
Rowlands .. 1, 9	0	12	1
Warren bowled four no-balls and two wides.			
Hargreave .. 23	9	49	7
Warren .. 17	3	65	0
Rowlands .. 5	0	23	1
Lawton .. 1	0	3	0
Higson .. 1	0	4	1

BOWLING ANALYSIS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
O.	M.	R.	W.
Ollivierre .. 20	1	71	4
Smith .. 15	6	40	3
Layne .. 5	1	4	0
Ollivierre .. 6	11	65	3
Smith .. 10	1	31	1
Layne .. 0.5	0	3	0
Chamberlatch .. 1	0	20	0
Smith bowled a wide.			

Coming Events.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

Fri., Aug. 10th.—West Indians v. Norwalk, at Norwich. 2 days.

Mon., Aug. 13th.—" v. Nottinghamshire, at Nottingham. 3 days.

Thurs., Aug. 16th.—" v. Northamptonshire, at Northampton. 3 days.

Mon., Dec. 3rd.—Show of Colonial Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall.

West Indian Interests at Westminster.

British Guiana Disturbances.

Further correspondence relating to the disturbances in British Guiana has been issued as a Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 3026, July, 1906, in continuation of Cd. 2822, March, 1906). The correspondence and events succeeding the rejection by the Combined Court on February 20th, of the motion relating to the proposed Commission of Inquiry into the riots are recorded and the full text of the petition from certain inhabitants which was forwarded on April 23rd, praying for an independent Commission of Inquiry together with Messrs. Dargan, Brown and Gonsalves' petition on the same subject, dated April 12th, are given with the replies of the Secretary of State. A Memorandum, drawn up by Professor J. B. Harrison, in order to meet certain allegations made against him in the petition, shows the extensions of minor industries in the Colony since 1903. The figures which the Acting-Governor described as emphasising the usefulness of the work carried out by the Department of Science and Agriculture in encouraging minor products, are as follows :—

	1903-4	1904-5
	Acres.	Acres.
Rice	16,670	23,853
Cocoa-nuts	3,766	6,132
Cacao	901	1,793
Coffee	718	574

An important feature of the Blue Book is the republication, at the instance of Lord Elgin Governor of British Guiana, and Mr. J. Chamberlain, at that time Secretary of State for the Colonies, in defence of immigration. It will be within the recollection of our readers that Sir J. A. Swettenham, in forwarding a Memorial on July 14th, 1903, pointed out that the negroes, who were themselves immigrants, had no more moral right to protest against the introduction of East Indians than the indigenous population, composed exclusively of Red Indians, had to protest against their rights and privileges being curtailed by the immigrant negro and his descendants.

Canada and the West Indies.

The first steamer under the new contract with Messrs. Pickford and Black for the Canada-West Indies Mail service, left St. John on June 30th. The service will be a round tour starting from Halifax and from Georgetown, Demerara, every twelve days. Grenada and Tobago are no longer ports of call, but provision is made for an occasional steamer to call at Nevis. The following itinerary of the steamers leaving St. John on August 10th will indicate the route followed and the time taken :

St. John	..	..	Leave	Aug. 10	Demerara	..	..	Leave	Sept. 4
Halifax	..	..	Arrive	" 11	Trinidad	..	..	"	" 7
"	..	..	Leave	" 19	Barbados	..	..	"	" 10
Bermuda	..	..	"	" 23	St. Vincent	..	..	"	" 11
St. Kitts	..	..	"	"	St. Lucia	..	..	"	" 12
Antigua	..	..	"	"	Dominica	..	..	"	" 13
Montserrat	..	..	"	" 27	Montserrat	..	..	"	" 15
Dominica	..	..	"	"	Antigua	..	..	"	" 14
St. Lucia	..	..	"	" 28	St. Kitts	..	..	"	" 16
St. Vincent	..	..	"	" 28	Bermuda	..	..	"	" 21
Barbados	..	..	"	" 29	St. John	..	..	Arrive	" 25
Trinidad	..	..	"	" 30	Halifax	..	..	"	" 25
Demerara	..	..	Arrive	Sept. 2					

The steamers working the service will be the "Oruro" (August 10th), "Orinoco," "Ocamo," and "Olenda." The steamships "Beta" and "Boston" will be devoted to the Jamaica service, the former sailing from Halifax to Bermuda, Turks Island, Santiago (Cuba), and Jamaica on the 15th of every month; and the latter to Santiago (Cuba), and Jamaica on the 1st of every month, except when either of these days falls on a Sunday, in which case the steamers will sail at 10 p.m. on the previous night.

Some Homeward Mails.

It really might be the 18th instead of the 20th century! We have to record the receipt of our mail letters from British Guiana through the agency of the sweet potato schooner, "Lottie Toppin" which was lucky enough to catch the homeward R.M.S.P. "La Plata" at Barbados. The latter vessel reached Southampton at 2 a.m. on Monday, July 30th, and the mails were delivered in the afternoon of the same day. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents —

Manures improve Barbados Canes.

July brought to Barbados a continuance of the beautiful showers of June. They were light but frequent, and about three inches was the general rainfall for the month, up to the 14th, the date upon which the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne last wrote to us. Foreign manure was, he said, being rapidly applied, and under the influence of the showers the canes were taking it up and improving visibly. The cotton fields were looking very pretty, and this might, indeed, be said of all classes of vegetation, and the prospects generally were certainly as good as at the same time last year.

The Session of the Legislature closed on July 3rd, but writs had already been issued by the Acting Governor, and the new House of Assembly would be elected by July 31st. It seemed likely that none of the sitting members would be opposed.

The quality of news by cable had again become very unsatisfactory.

The races had taken place, but entries were few and the sport moderate. The attendance also was much smaller than usual, a fact for which the showery weather was mainly responsible.

Very few mills were at work, and most of the sugar had been sold, though there was a large quantity still to be shipped. Sugar was quoted: Muscovado, \$1.50; Dark Crystals, \$1.90 and Molasses, 14 cents. (no buyers).

Patent Stills in British Guiana in 1860.

Writing from British Guiana on July 4th, Mr. A. Summerson, commenting on the pot still patent controversy, informed us that rum was made in a patent still in Demerara as far back as 1860.

The weather was too wet everywhere except on the Corentyne coast, and some few days of good sunshine would be acceptable. Crystals were quoted at \$1.95.

The Hon. B. Howell Jones was elected Chairman of the British Guiana Planters' Association for 1907, with Messrs. Delafons, Fleming and Summerson members of the Council. Mr. A. Summerson had retired from the post of Secretary to the Association, which he had held since 1883, in favour of Mr. J. C. McCowan.

Sale of Real Estate in Bermuda.

We are informed by Mr. W. T. James in a letter dated July 4th, that his Excellency the Governor has appointed a Committee to report on the desirability of aliens being allowed to purchase real estate in Bermuda. This Committee has had before it land owners and representative men from all parts of the Colony, and will in due course report on the question as to what restrictions, if any, should be imposed on aliens who purchase real estate. At the present time it was, said Mr. James, considered by many a hardship that they could not sell; and by the American tourist it was felt to be a hardship that he was not allowed to purchase. Especially as the building of attractive residences by American winter tourists would undoubtedly benefit the Colony and increase property values, it was hoped that this grievance might be removed at an early date.

As anticipated, the ad valorem duties had been increased from 5 per cent. to 6½ per cent.; this, with the increase in specific duties on tobacco, was thought to be sufficient to meet the deficit caused by the serious falling off in imports.

At the time of writing there was a Bill before the Legislature authorising a Colonial Government loan for the purpose of deepening the channel leading into St. George's harbour. It was proposed to purchase a dredger in England and to do the work departmentally. Opinions on the subject were somewhat divided, it being stated by the advocates of the scheme that if the channel were opened much of the passing trade would be attracted and ships arriving at Bermuda in distress would be accommodated in harbour at St. George's instead of remaining in the open roadstead of Murray's Anchorage. Others were of opinion that very little, if any, passing trade would be attracted, and at any rate the increase of trade would never recoup the Colony for the large expenditure of £70,000, which it would take forty years to pay off, thus burdening Bermuda with a yearly payment of about £4000 for that time. It was only fair to say that the promoters of the scheme were doubtless honest in their opinion, and endeavouring to resuscitate the business of their town which for many years had been steadily declining.

St. George's also, with considerable enterprise, was building a new up-to-date hotel of moderate dimensions; the building was beautifully located and overlooked a most picturesque part of the Islands, and it was confidently expected that it would prove a most desirable home for the rest and pleasure seeking tourist. The Colony was perfectly healthy, though suffering for want of rain, very little having fallen during the past three months.

Citrate of Lime from Dominica.

The inconvenience suffered by the business section of the community owing to the state of the mail arrangements was very great. Mr. Agar, writing on July 3rd, said that the past fortnight had been thoroughly wet.

The first shipment from Dominica of Citrate of Lime on a commercial scale was being made, and although it was a little premature to reckon on this as an industry there was no doubt that should the experiment be successful the manufacture of citrate of lime instead of concentrated lime juice would rapidly develop.

Continued Rains in Grenada.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton, writing on July 7th, said that the funeral of Dr. Paulin Orgias was one of the most impressive seen in Grenada for many years. The Chief of Police headed a guard of honour, the Government band was in attendance, and all the Societies of which the deceased was Medical Officer turned out in full force and regalia.

Rains continued in abundance, but up to the time of writing there had been little or none of the usual thunder and lightning which was to be expected at that time of year.

Lieut. E. C. Wright, A.D.C. to the Governor, was expecting to leave shortly for Barbados, where he was to be married to Miss Swaby, the Bishop's daughter.

Limes from St. Lucia.

Mr. George S. Hudson, of St. Lucia, writing on July 14th, informed us that the Annual Meeting of the St. Lucia Agricultural Society was held on June 19th last, His Honour the Administrator presiding. The importation some three years ago of a "Hereford" Bull and "Berkshire" Boar having proved a success it was resolved to sell these animals within the Colony by auction, and offer adequate subsidies for the importation of an Arab Stallion, a breeding Jack, two Bulls and three Toffenburg Goats as the means of the Society allowed. A vote of £25 for the importation from Ceylon of seeds of Para rubber for sale to planters, was passed. It was also resolved to circularize planters on the growing danger of scale insect and black blight (*Capnodium citri*) attacking Cacao, Castillea Rubber and other shade and fruit trees.

The weather was very rainy with high winds; 14½ inches fell in June in the humid districts, and 5 inches to date in July. Ratoons were making good and plants showing fair growth. The seedling cane B208 did exceptionally well last crop at Cul de Sac Factory where it averaged 40 tons per acre, 9½ to 10 Beaumè. It also did well at Roseau, and was a strong favourite in St. Lucia. The promise of the coming cacao crop remained distinctly good, despite heavy rains during the flowering months; first pickings would ripen in September. The first shipment of green limes on a commercial scale was recorded this month from Messrs. Barnard's lime plantation at Micoud, where a concentrating plant would shortly be imported.

Railway Extension in Trinidad.

In a letter dated July 16th, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick said that the Committee appointed to consider and report on railway extensions had sent in its report recommending extension of line from Tabaquite to Rio Claro, near Mayaro, and from San Fernando to Siparia to be constructed simultaneously; but that if funds were not available for the two lines, then the Tabaquite Rio Claro line was to be preferred. The people of the southern district were much dissatisfied with this preference being accorded, and were agitating on the subject and contemplating bringing the matter before the Secretary of State, and possibly Parliament, through Mr. N. Lamont; it was felt however that the Tabaquite-Rio Claro district was more urgently in need of a railway than the

district of Siparia, the bulk of the cultivation there being still young, while that which was more advanced had outlets to water carriage. Besides this, the Siparia line would cost nearly double as much per mile as the Tabaguite line, and would pass for the first two or three miles through sugar estates, which would give absolutely no traffic to the line, and afterwards for a couple of miles or thereabouts through lagoon lands only partially capable of cultivation.

The weather had been fine for the first half of the fortnight, but turned wet again in the second half, and there had been some heavy showers. They had then another spell of sunshine, and the prospects for the December crop were a little more hopeful than when he last wrote.

The strong demand for cocoa advised last mail had somewhat subsided, owing to the June contracts having been filled. Fine Estates were quoted at 54 -, Mixed Estates at 53 - and Ordinary at 52 - per 50 kilos c. & f. Havre, for delivery during the last two months of the year. A small amount of business for immediate shipment had been done at slightly higher prices. A few shipments from Carupano had caused an easier tone in the Venezuelan market, but there had been no arrivals of the finer qualities, which would still realise higher prices.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Total at last report	.. .. .	99,714	bags, Trinidad	23,346	bags, Venezuela
July 1.—S.S.—“Saba”	.. .. .	50	.. .. .	—	.. .. .
.. 2.—S.S.—“Martinique”	.. .. .	50	.. .. .	—	.. .. .
.. 2.—S.S.—“Patagonia”	.. .. .	1,050	.. .. .	458	.. .. .
.. 3.—S.S.—“Atrato”	.. .. .	1,630	.. .. .	—	.. .. .
.. 6.—S.S.—“Maracas”	.. .. .	2,621	.. .. .	—	.. .. .
.. 7.—S.S.—“Catalina”	.. .. .	421	.. .. .	254	.. .. .
.. 11.—S.S.—“Orinoco”	.. .. .	274	.. .. .	100	.. .. .
.. 13.—S.S.—“Prins Willem III.”	.. .. .	307	.. .. .	346	.. .. .
Totals to date	.. .. .	106,345	bags, Trinidad	24,104	bags, Venezuela,

Letter to the Editor.

Admiral Bligh.

TO THE EDITOR, THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—With reference to the Court Martial of 1795, referred to in the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR of May 30th last, you may be glad to know that Rear-Admiral Rodney Bligh was not connected with the “*Bounty*” the Commander of which was William Bligh. Both Blighs were Cornishmen, but they were not nearly related, so far as I can ascertain. Sir Richard Rodney Bligh is said (probably incorrectly) to have been a godson of Lord Rodney, under whom, however, he served in the West Indies. Curiously enough, nine months before he sat on Norman's court martial, he had been court martialled himself for the loss of his ship, the “*Alexander*,” which was captured by a French squadron and taken into Brest, but he was honourably acquitted. From 1796 to 1799 Bligh was second in command at Jamaica, under Sir Hyde Parker.

I am, etc.,

FRANK CURDALL.

Notes of Interest.

THANKS.

Mr. Chamberlain has acknowledged with thanks the good wishes of the West India Committee on the occasion of his birthday.

A CORRECTION.

On page 363 of our last issue, Sir James Hay was described as having retired from the Government of Trinidad in 1901, instead of Barbados, as was actually the case. We meekly apologise for the error of a compositor.

WIRELESS.

With regard to the announcement which we made in our last issue regarding the invitation for tenders issued by the Government for the establishment of wireless telegraphy in the West Indies, we are informed that the question of the sources of any possible expenditure has not yet arisen.

BARBADOS' LOSS.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. W. O. Collymore, the senior partner of the firm of Messrs. Musson, Son and Company, of Barbados, and a Member of the Executive of the Barbados branch of the West India Committee, which took place on July 23rd from hemorrhage of the brain.

COTTON REPORT.

In their report dated July 25th, 1906, Messrs. Wolstenholme and Holland report a fair business in West Indian Sea Island descriptions during the fortnight, with prices decidedly easier. The demand has been almost entirely for qualities 13½d. and 15d., and spinners will not buy unless the quality is desirable, and easy prices are accepted. The sales include Barbados 14½d. and 15½d., St. Kitts, 15d. and 15½d., Antigua, 15½d. and 16d., St. Thomas, 14d. and 15d., and Nevis, 13½d. and 14½d.

PROTECTION IN THE U.S.A.

It is stated in the last issue of *The Journal of Comparative Legislation* that a considerable number of States in America, especially those in the west and south, have set on foot a system of indirect Protection for native industries. A series of statutes has been passed by Alabama, California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and other States exempting

cotton and woollen manufactures, beet sugar plant, or enterprises generally, from local taxation for periods of three to fifteen years. No fewer than sixteen States have, according to *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, adopted such legislation.

DENATURED ALCOHOL. In Germany, alcohol is completely denatured by the addition of (a) 2½ per cent. of "standard denaturiser," made of four parts of wood alcohol, one part of piridin (obtained by distilling bone oil or coal tar), with the addition of fifty grains of oil of lavender or rosemary to each litre; (b) ¾ per cent. of the above "standard," and 2 per cent. of benzol. Incomplete denaturation, i.e., sufficient to prevent alcohol from being drunk, but not to disqualify it from use for various special purposes, for which the wholly denatured spirit would be unavailable, is effected by adding (c) 5 per cent. wood alcohol and ½ per cent. piridin (d) 30 per cent. or 50 per cent. solution of shellac. (e) 1 per cent. camphor, or 2 per cent. oil of turpentine, or ½ per cent. benzol.

A RECOGNITION OF GOOD WORK. Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, Governor of the Leeward Islands, has forwarded to the Secretary of State a resolution adopted unanimously at a meeting of the General Legislative Council of the Colony recording the gratitude of the Council for the generous assistance afforded to the Colony by the institution and maintenance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and expressing a hope that arrangements will be made to enable the Colony to benefit by a continuance of the Department, such assistance being more than ever necessary in view of the crisis through which the Colony is passing, and the keen and skilled competition for the principal markets of the world, in which the staple and minor products must compete at a disadvantage unless assisted by the practical and scientific instruction which the Imperial Department of Agriculture is alone competent to give.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the week under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., July 25th.—Bodmin Election. Mr. Freeman Thomas (L.), 1999. Mr. G. Simey (U.), 1876, majority 1223.
—Cricket: West Indians beat Scotland by four wickets.—Bzet, Bzet, ss. 6½d. quiet.
Thurs., July 26th.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—Note on British Guiana in the *Globe*.
—Bzet, ss. 6½d., quiet.
Fri., July 27th.—Navy estimates showing a reduction of £2,500,000 introduced.—Mr. Arthur J. Hallour addressed a mass meeting of Conservatives at the Albert Hall.—Bzet, ss. 7d., steady.
Sat., July 28th.—The King inspected the 3rd Coldstream Guards prior to their disembarkment.—Bzet (morning call), ss. 7½d., steady.
Mon., July 30th.—The R.M.S.P. *La Plata*, reached Southampton. The third reading of the Education Bill agreed to by the House of Commons. Government Majority 192. Bzet 8/7 quiet.
Tues., July 31st.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" arrived at Avonmouth from Jamaica.—Bzet, ss. 7½d., steady.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 25th, "Weather fine with occasional light showers." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson and Co.), July 31st, "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." **Trinidad**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), July 27th, "Heavy rains, beneficial to cultivation." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended July 18th. **KINGSTON**—"Fine." **PORT ANTONIO**—"Fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. W. J. Dagnall), July 30th: Mr. S. A. Morgan, Mr. J. Farmer, Mr. and Mrs. Sealy, Mr. A. F. Lovitt, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Pilgrim, Mr. C. Kennaway, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hinkson, Sir W. Herbert and Lady Greaves, Miss B. Appleby, Mr. H. Ansell, Mr. and Mrs. W. McLarch, Mr. W. Bennett, Mr. R. B. Gregg, Mr. A. Street, Mr. K. A. Croft, Mrs. and Miss Cameron, Mr. T. R. Stads, Mr. Wm. Morison, Mr. R. C. Curtis, Mr. W. A. Douglas, Colonel and Mrs. Lushington, Mr. S. Birt, Captain Birt, His Honour Chief Justice Udal, Mrs. and Miss Udal, Mr. Cruise, Mrs. Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. W. Pope, Mr. J. Carr, Mr. C. de Mier, Mr. J. de Mier, Mr. H. Knowles, Mr. S. B. Spiro, Mr. M. Sibba, Mr. E. J. Pavé, Mr. Bert de Lannarzo, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Clarke, Mr. J. McBaroy, Mr. E. F. Scott, Mr. R. Mangot, Mr. P. Sellmann, Mr. J. B. Seller, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Manogot, Hon. H. A. and Mrs. Dheazer, Mr. J. Ribeiro, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. J. H. d. Silva, Mr. A. Vieira, Mr. and Mrs. J. Salmon, Mrs. I. Bacher.
OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), August 2nd: Mr. I. R. Gibbins, Dr. and Mrs. Camacho, Mr. J. Matis, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Coppin, Mr. E. Mujica, Miss F. Durtin, Mr. A. Chomat, Mr. L. Grant, Mr. M. Grisol, Mr. F. Molina, Dr. Rohlehr, Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn, Mrs. Barnes, M. and M. Koch, Mr. J. Knight, Mr. H. N. Ives, Mr. and Mrs. M. Moreno, Mr. A. Parra, Mr. W. P. Bosen, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Lennards, Mr. and Mrs. Shields, Dr. S. McNaughton, Mr. F. Iberon, Dr. King, Mr. and Mrs. Orellana, Mr. and Mrs. Collymore, Mr. W. Wigley.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. Owen Jones), July 28th: **Jamaica**—Mr. G. Brown, Mr. H. C. Bell, Mr. A. D. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. S. Brown, Mr. G. H. Crip, Mr. C. Cowper, Mr. P. A. Craven, Mr. C. M. De Costa, G. J. M. D. Day, Mr. S. De L. Davis, Mr. H. S. Davis, Mr. B. Edwards, Mr. R. A. Harvey, Mr. A. L. Harkness, Miss M. Jones, Mr. N. L. Ingle, Mr. Tugle, Col. C. H. Kitchener, Mr. H. C. Lukach, Mr. R. A. Leslie, Mrs. and Miss Middleton, Mr. A. E. Myers, Miss Owen, Mrs. Pilliner, Mr. J. R. Rolph, Mr. E. L. Smith, Rev. W. Smith, Mr. J. H. Sharp, Mr. B. L. Varley, Mr. A. J. Briggs.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES. No. LXXIII.



Hon. William Fawcett.

The West India Committee Rooms,
25 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Aug. 7th, 1906

Telegram: "CABLE, LONDON." Telephone: 6442 CENTRAL.

WE are glad to see that there is a tendency on the part of the confectioners to concentrate their efforts towards securing the abolition of the sugar duties, and to leave the Brussels Convention alone. Though, of course, the question of the sugar duties is one which primarily concerns consumers more than producers, no one would be more pleased than ourselves to see a reduction of this impost, of which the confectioners complain. But as to the Sugar Convention, we must still adhere to our belief that it is in the confectioners' interest as well as our own that the Government should decide not to denounce this agreement. The reason is well put by that eminent authority on sugar, M. George Durcau, in a recent issue of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*. Commenting on the reply of Lord Elgin to the enquiry of the Westmoreland Sugar Planters' Association, as to whether in the event of the Government deciding to denounce the Brussels Convention they would be willing to permit Jamaica to enter

into reciprocal arrangements with the United States, in which Lord Elgin said that he was not in a position to state what course would be adopted by the Government, M. Durcau said that this was

regrettable. "The sugar trade and industry of the whole world are, as a matter of course, deeply interested in what the British Government intends to do with regard to an agreement which has manifestly a favourable influence on the general economic conditions of sugar production, and above all on sugar consumption. Does this silence mean that the British Government, before making a pronouncement on the subject, is going to devote itself to a deeper study of the Convention and its effects? If this is the case, it is to be assumed that the possibility of the re-establishment of the Austrian and German cartels, with their inevitable consequences for the sugar world, effects to which the West India Committee properly calls attention, will receive serious consideration. The Government, again, will not fail to recognise that in the event of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the Convention, the other States might consider it useful among themselves to adhere to the Brussels Convention, and would then be compelled to impose countervailing duties on English sugar products, such as jams, marmalade, biscuits, and condensed milk, prepared with the help of bounty-fed sugar, whether from Russian or other sources, introduced into England. As the *British Trade Journal* remarked, that would be a serious blow for the great confectionery industry of England. Let the Government weigh the *pros* and *cons*, and without a doubt the Brussels Convention will appear to be the best solution of the sugar question which has as yet been found." According to the official returns, 345,373 cwts. of confectionery and jams were exported from the United Kingdom in 1905, as compared with 314,879 cwts. in 1904, and 319,736 cwts. in 1903, the value amounting to £895,597 in 1905, £812,213 in 1904, and £801,067 in 1903. Unfortunately the destination is not given, but in France, according to the Customs returns, the imports from Great Britain in the first six months of 1906 in syrups, bonbons, jams, fruits, sweets and biscuits, showed a decided increase as compared with those for the two preceding years. The export of confectionery is undoubtedly an important branch of the trade, having regard to its possibilities of development, and the confectioners can, therefore, hardly be indifferent to this aspect of the case.

ONE of the chief characteristics of a Colonial organisation, such as the West India Committee, should be a spirit of unselfish and loyal co-operation among all the members, and between the members and the officials for the common good. This, in our case, has been attained to no small extent, and as the Committee grows in size and strength, it is gratifying to us to be able to record a marked increase in this *esprit de corps* which induces representatives of different industries to work heartily together, and side by side, with the common object of promoting the interests of the agricultural and manufacturing industries of the British West Indies, British Guiana, and British Honduras, and thus increasing the general welfare of these Colonies. It is our constant aim to devise new means of stimulating this feeling in every possible way, and in order to bring our readers into closer touch with each other and with ourselves, we have arranged to introduce another new feature into our pages. This will take the form of a correspondence column. Under the heading "Answers to Correspondents" we shall endeavour to reply briefly and concisely to any question however simple or however abstruse it may be, which may be propounded to us on matters immediately concerning the West Indies, their commerce and their industries. It may at first sight seem that we are undertaking rather a serious task; but on every subject under the sun there is somebody qualified to speak as an expert, and it is to save our readers the trouble of approaching such somebody direct that we assume this fresh responsibility, which should also draw closer the bonds which keep us all together. The utility of this new departure must naturally depend very much upon our readers themselves, but if it meets with the support which we have reason to hope it will do, it should be the means of disseminating much useful information of the kind our readers require in a brief form.

We have on many occasions in the past impressed upon our sugar-producing readers the necessity for lowering the cost of production. Two years have now elapsed since any specific lines were laid down in the *West India Committee Circular* as to the points in which probable economies could be effected, and advance has undoubtedly been made in two of the directions indicated, viz., treble crushing, and megass diffusion, with the greater use of electricity as a motive power and mechanical tillage by the adoption of steam ploughs. So far as the former of these is concerned, it is only a matter of time and money as to when the larger factories will be fully equipped, and the success of the latter is, we are convinced, only a question of a system especially adapted to the various conditions of the West Indies being devised, to become universal. For flat, alluvial lands, with facilities for the movement of heavy engines, ploughing with ploughs such as are now in use in Antigua and Trinidad will become universal. For undulating country there is no reason why motor cultivation should not be successful, and the same applies to British Guiana, where it is possible to fill up the small drains with some porous subject, such as sand, which would allow the passage of the motor plough and at the same time permit of drainage. This, we may mention, is likely to be experimented with in that Colony, and should it be successful it would mean the introduction of motor tillage and thus revolutionise the whole system of cultivation and cut down the costly immigration to a much lower figure than it now stands. Mechanical tillage, therefore, and new and suitable canes adapted to especial conditions, must be looked to for further economy in cost of cane. It must be remembered that when steam ploughing was experimented with in Trinidad many years ago, it was in the mistaken days of deep tillage. Now that it is recognised that with most heavy tropical soils a few inches, eight or nine, of tillage is all that is required, and that the subsoil is best left alone, the conditions are quite altered, and what was a failure two score years ago will be a success in the immediate future. Beyond the items already mentioned in manufacture, viz., further extraction of juice from the cane and extension of electricity as a motive power, there is not much left for economy in this direction, leaving out, of course, economy from concentration, which has now practically reached its limits in British Guiana and Trinidad. It seems to us that the sugar industry should be conducted on three lines, viz., sugar estates proper with large factories, well-equipped and up-to-date with cultivation supplied with every facility for cheapness and efficient cultivation; small estates on which the sugar-cane is only a portion of the cultivation, and where the canes are either sold to a central factory or else manufactured on muscovado lines with the lightest of mills to secure the maximum purity of juice, and with sugar and molasses made for the small but high price market which obtains for these. The third division, and this concerns Jamaica especially, is where rum is the prime consideration. The remarks as to tillage apply to this also, but the manufacture must be adjusted so as to give the maximum return of the best rum. Reviewing the subject, it seems to us that as regards the bulk of the industry, the most favourable outlook for further reduction in the cost of production lies in the cultivation—in new canes, certainly, but primarily in the adoption of mechanical means of tillage. We feel convinced that there are very few conditions on the larger West Indian sugar estates which will not admit of this. The great battle nowadays is for a cheap cane, and this should be provided through the extra yield coupled with the lower cost.

Hon. William Fawcett.

Mr. W. Fawcett, whose portrait appears on the first page of this issue, is spending a well-earned holiday in this country. He was Assistant in the Botanical Department of the British Museum from 1880 until 1886, in December of which year he was appointed Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, Jamaica, a post which he still holds with conspicuous ability. He received his early education at Dulwich College, and proceeded to the degree of B.Sc. at the University of London. In addition to his numerous other duties, Mr. Fawcett finds time to perform those of nominated member of the Legislative Council, Deputy Chairman of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and member of the Board

of Agriculture, and ever since his arrival in the Colony he has been on the Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica for the encouragement of literature, science and art. He is also Corresponding Member of the Royal Horticultural Society, and of the Pharmaceutical Society of England, and Corresponding Fellow of the Botanic Society of Edinburgh. Mr. Fawcett edits the "Monthly Bulletin" of the Department of Agriculture, and in 1893 he published a valuable "List of Jamaica Flowering Plants." In 1897 the headquarters of the Department over which he presides were transferred to Hope Gardens. Mr. Fawcett is in constant correspondence with planters in all parts of Jamaica, giving advice and information on every subject connected with tropical agriculture and horticulture. Moreover, he does everything possible by correspondence and by personal visits to advise planters regarding the numerous problems with which they have to contend. He is a fellow of several learned bodies including the Linnean Society.

The Tower of London.

Foremost among the places of interest in the immediate neighbourhood of the West India Committee Rooms is the old Tower of London. Indeed, to adapt a once popular song, if it were not for the intervention of a hideous block of buildings and an equally ugly hoarding, the splendid old Norman Keep would be plainly visible from the windows of the West India Committee Rooms. The particular view which is reproduced in the present issue was taken from the Tower Bridge, which is about five or ten minutes walk from our doors. The Tower first came into existence in 1078, when William the Conqueror, in order completely to control the City, began the task of building it. The Keep, surmounted by the four quaint towers at the corners, is called the White Tower, and as such it has been known since the days of Edward III. Except for the alteration of the windows by Sir Christopher Wren, it has undergone very little alteration for many generations. The large block of buildings to the left is the new guardroom and barracks, while to the left again is the King's House, the residence of Lieut.-General Sir Bryan Milman, the Major of the Tower, through whose courtesy many of our members from over-seas have been privileged to visit this magnificent pile.

The West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will be held to-morrow, Aug. 9th. Candidates' forms and full particulars regarding Membership can be obtained from the Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C. Seven candidates now await election.

Dutch Sugar Duties.

Two Dutch Royal Decrees were issued on July 2nd, fixing the import duty on certain articles containing sugar as follows:—

Medicines prepared with sugar [other than medicines included under the head of "small wares" (<i>kramerij</i>):—		Florins.*	Per 100 kilogs †
When the proportion of sugar contained therein—			
Exceeds 10%, but does not exceed 50%	13.50
Exceeds 50%	27.00
Succades, candied ginger, candied lemon and orange peel			
When the proportion of sugar contained therein—			
Does not exceed 20%	5.50
Exceeds 20%, but does not exceed 50%	13.50
Exceeds 50%, but does not exceed 70%	18.00
Exceeds 70%	25.00

* Florin = 1s. 8d.

† 100 kilogs = 220.46 lbs.

The importer of these articles is required to state in his declaration to which of the above-mentioned classes the imported goods belong to. The duties, except those on medicines were enforceable from August 1st inst.

The Proposed Rum Combine.

Speaking of the reported "Corner in Jamaica Rum," *The Wine Trade Review* strongly deprecates the formation of any combine. "Experience," it says, "is altogether against the promoters of the

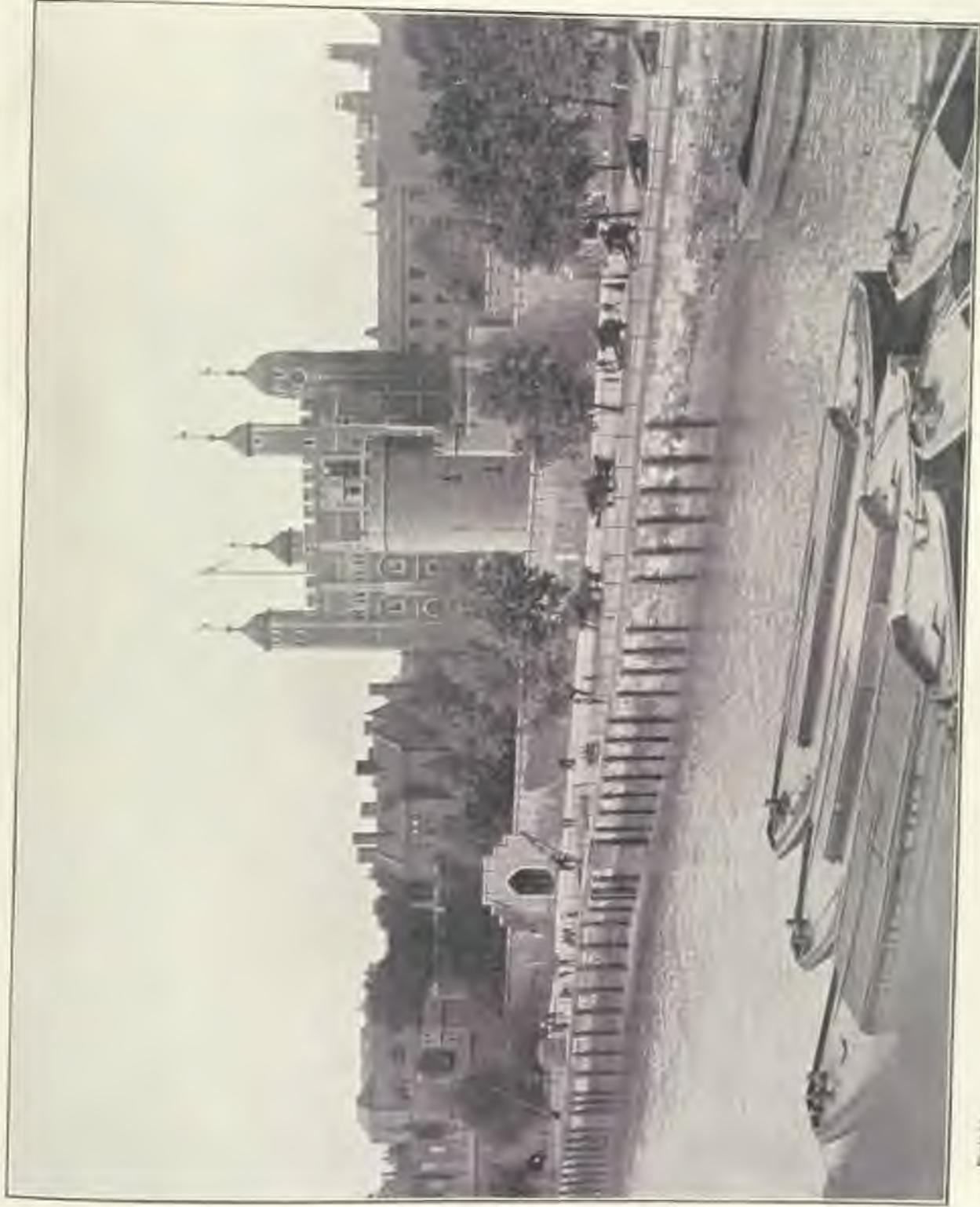


Photo W.

London E. Asplund

THE TOWER OF LONDON.

corner in rum, and the planters who imagine that the teachings of history are to be reversed for their benefit must be of a particularly sanguine temperament. Apart from all that, it must be remembered that the leading houses in the rum trade here are not likely to sit down quietly under an unwarranted attack upon their interests. They are not without means even to fight a 'trust,' and it is not to be supposed that they will consent to be ousted from a trade with which they have been so long connected, and which they have conducted with advantage to all concerned. If the planters think that by acquiescing in the proposals of the English capitalists they will be assisting to materially increase the return they obtain from this country, they will find that they are grievously mistaken. Consumers cannot be driven into paying any price that may be demanded, and it would be a suicidal policy to insist upon an appreciable enhancement of price, since the only effect would be to shatter the demand for Jamaica rum and to promote the sale of the produce of the other West Indian colonies. From every point of view, indeed, the planters will be misguided if they endeavour to upset the present arrangements—under which, it may be added, they are obtaining a fair price for their rum."

The King and Jamaica Tea.

The King has been graciously pleased to accept a packet of Jamaica tea from the West Indian Produce Association, of 4, Fenchurch Buildings. This signal mark of royal favour, gratifying as it is to the Association, will be still more appreciated in the Colony where the tea industry was established by the Hon. H. E. Cox, Custos of St. Ann's. Ninety acres are now under cultivation, and Mr. Cox's factory is fitted for turning out first-class tea. Jamaica tea is used in the Titchfield Hotel, Port Antonio, and also the Moneague and Rio Cobre Hotels. Twenty-five per cent. more was sold locally in 1905 than in 1904, and we learn that up to the middle of June nearly as much tea was sold as in the whole of 1905. Samples of tea exported recently included fine grades, fannings, Pekoes and Souchong, and one unassorted, as it left the drier.

The December Fruit Exhibition.

The following letter has been addressed by the Secretary of the West India Committee to the various Permanent Exhibition Committees in the West Indian Colonies:—

"When the exhibitions of Colonial fruit were first inaugurated by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1904, the principal Colonies represented were the West Indies. Since then, however, interest has fallen off to such an extent that at the last exhibition, held on June 5th and 6th last, the West Indies sent no exhibits direct, and were only represented by firms at home, though such distant Colonies as Australia and South Africa made very representative displays, the former of citrus fruits, which are likely to compete keenly with similar fruits from the West Indies. I think that you will agree with me that this lack of interest is a pity, more especially as these exhibitions are well attended and 'noticed' by the Press.

"Everything is made as easy as possible for exhibitors; space is free of charge, and exhibits are brought over freight free through the kindness of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. In the circumstances, I venture to ask for your kind assistance towards securing the more adequate representation of the West Indies in the future.

"The next exhibition of the series is to be held on December 4th and 5th next, and it has occurred to me that this would be a good opportunity for following the example of Cape Colony, whose Government hired the whole of the hall for the night preceding the exhibition in March last and gave a reception to which the Press and those interested in fruit were invited, thus securing a very excellent advertisement for her produce.

"I believe so implicitly in these exhibitions, that I have already engaged the Horticultural Hall, with cloak-room and storage accommodation, for the purpose of an evening reception, at a cost of £7 17s. 6d., including heat and light, feeling that with your valuable co-operation it should be possible to get together a collection of fruit sufficiently representative in quantity and quality to make it worth while doing so. What I have done may at first seem premature, but as the matter was under consideration by another Colony, it was desirable and, indeed, necessary to take immediate action.

"With regard to expenses, it would be a case of cutting our coat according to the cloth. The expenses would be for (i.) the hire of the hall; (ii.) carriage of the fruit from port of arrival; (iii.) assistance for setting out the fruit on tables provided free of charge; (iv.) the reception. The latter would, of course, be controlled by the number of people invited, but I think myself that at least 1,000 invitations should be sent out. At any rate, if the Colonies could provide among them the sum of

from £80 to £90, we should not have to ask them for more, but should, I estimate, be able to show a balance on the right side.

"As regards my own position in the matter, I need hardly say that I shall be only too glad to assist in making the arrangements if I can secure your valued co-operation. Trusting that you will give this matter your consideration, and favour me with a reply at your early convenience, as time is of object."

A Hundred Years Ago.

Jamaica Sugar Freights.

The adjustment of the West Indian freights was, as we have already shown, a matter with which the West India Committee used to concern themselves, and at a meeting for regulating the freight on sugar from Jamaica which was held at the Jamaica Coffee House on July 22nd, 1772, Mr. Beeston Long presiding:

"Several accounts of the Ships employed in the Jamaica Trade were laid before the Committee from whence it appears that the Owners have sustained great losses without making any Allowance for Accidents and that there must necessarily be an advance of Freight on Sugar to prevent the Capital Ships from being laid up or employed in other Trades the Consequence of which must prove very detrimental to the planters who would in that Case be obliged to trust their Property in insufficient Bottoms by which the Premiums of Insurance and all other Charges and losses would be greatly enhanced.

Resolved:—That a general Meeting of the planters, Merchants and owners of Ships in order to settle the Freight of Sugar, be advertised in the Public Papers to meet this Day sennight at the London Tavern at one o'Clock precisely."

Pursuant to this notice, the meeting duly assembled at the London Tavern on July 29th, those present being Mr. Long, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Purrier, Mr. Gowland, Mr. Linge, Mr. Currie, Mr. Stephen Fuller, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Tyers, Mr. Morse and Mr. Evans, and,

"It appearing by the Accounts, of many capital Ships fitted out, in the most frugal Manner, for the three last Voyages to Jamaica, that, by Means of the great Advance upon Seamen's Wages, Provisions and all other Articles incident to Shipping—the Freights have fallen very short of defraying the Expence of fitting out, supporting, and navigating the said Ships, in every of the said Voyages; In consequence whereof, considerable losses have been sustained by the owners. It is, therefore, agreed unanimously that unless there is an additional Sixpence the Hundredweight at least, to the old Freight of three Shillings and Sixpence, upon Sugar brought from Jamaica, the Navigation between Great Britain, and that Island, must gradually diminish.

Ordered:—That this Minute be published in the public Papers, for the Satisfaction of all Parties concerned."

In those days, 4s. per cwt. was by no means an excessive freight on sugar from Jamaica, though it seems high compared with the 10½d. which is approximately the freight now prevailing.

The Trinidad "Repatriation Fund."

At the meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee, which was honoured by the presence of Sir Henry Jackson, on June 20th, reference was made to the Immigrants' Repatriation Fund of Trinidad, and the Chairman mentioned that there appeared to be no notification of it in the Blue Books. The Hon. Denis Slyne, Receiver-General of Trinidad, writes under date July 16th to remind us that:—In the "Trinidad and Tobago Blue Book 1904-5," the Balance Sheet of the Colony, pages F3 and F4, shows, under "Liabilities," that the "Immigrants' Repatriation Fund" had on March 31st, 1905, amounted to £4,636 14s. 8d., and under "Assets," that of this, £3,097 4s. 0½d. had been invested, while on page 1F of the same book, it is recorded that the investment is in the Government Savings Bank.

In the Blue Book for the year 1905-6, now with the printer, it will be found that the Fund on March 31st last was £7,339 16s. 2½d., and that the portion invested had amounted to £5,152 2s. 10½d. The Trustees of the Fund are the Colonial Secretary and Protector of Immigrants. In August of each year they deposit the available surplus in the Government Savings Bank at 3% interest, and I hold, among the Treasury Securities of the Colony, their "depositor's book."

Mr. Slyne adds that no planter or his representative, so far, at least as he is aware, has sought information at the Treasury in Trinidad in relation to the Fund, but if any further particulars on the subject that he can supply are needed he will be happy to furnish them either verbally or in writing.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

The West Indians v. Northumberland and Durham.

The West Indians faced a combined eleven of Northumberland and Durham on Monday, July 30th. At the close of play the visitors left off in a strong position, having got out eight of their opponents and holding a lead of 138 runs. Rain and thunder prevented a resumption of the match on the following day for five hours; then the sun came out, and the home men went in. They did better than on Monday, Kirtley and Brown hitting freely. All the side were out, however, for 148. The West Indians quickly began their second innings, and did worse than previously, Turnbull was clever with the ball, and Burn and Milne were almost equally good. Stumps were drawn when the visitors had scored 47 for three wickets. The match was concluded in beautiful weather and before a large attendance on August 1st. The bowlers received much assistance from the state of the ground, with the result that the West Indians, on resuming, batted with great caution. Constantine and Smith played confidently, and Austin made several hard drives, but frequent bowling changes had the desired effect, and in an hour the innings was completed for 144. The home team, who required 237 to win, had twenty-five minutes' play before luncheon, and scored 19 without loss, but with four added after resuming, three wickets fell in two overs, and though Turnbull, Kirtley, and Brown, by forcing tactics, tried to alter appearances, all were out for 91, the Colonials winning by 145. Full score:—

WEST INDIANS.

First Innings		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. Challenger, c Kirtley, b Turnbull ...	97	1-b-w, b Milne ...	19
Mr. L. Constantine, b Turnbull ...	7	c Skinner, b Milne ...	29
Mr. O. H. Layne, 1-b-w, b Turnbull ...	1	c Burn, b Turnbull ...	0
Mr. H. B. G. Austin, c Kirtley, b Skinner ...	88	b Elliott ...	24
Mr. P. A. Goodman, b Turnbull ...	37	b Milne ...	20
Mr. S. G. Smith, b Turnbull ...	41	c Skinner, b Elliott ...	32
Mr. R. Olivierre, b Turnbull ...	0	c Milne, b Turnbull ...	2
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, c Faussett, b Burn ...	28	c Burn, b Turnbull ...	1
Cumberbatch, b Turnbull ...	1	not out ...	15
Mr. G. C. Learmonth, st Kirtley, b Turnbull ...	1	1-b-w, b Elliott ...	0
Mr. J. F. Parker, not out ...	0	c Mate, b Elliott ...	9
Extras ...	6	Extras ...	7
Total ...	240	Total ...	148

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. C. R. Faussett, b Olivierre ...	26	c Olivierre, b Layne ...	12
Mr. A. Burn, st Bancroft, b Smith ...	29	b Layne ...	6
Mr. E. W. Elliott, b Smith ...	3	c Layne, b Smith ...	1
Richardson, b Smith ...	4	c Olivierre, b Layne ...	0
Mr. C. M. Skinner, b Olivierre ...	4	b Layne ...	10
Mr. J. Gillman, b Olivierre ...	0	c Bancroft, b Smith ...	5
Mr. E. Mate, st Bancroft, b Smith ...	16	c Goodman, b Smith ...	5
Turnbull, c Challenger, b Smith ...	5	not out ...	10
Mr. J. T. Kirtley, c Goodman, b Layne ...	20	st Bancroft, b Smith ...	11
Mr. W. G. Brown, not out ...	17	c Olivierre, b Smith ...	11
Mr. G. Milne, c Olivierre, b Smith ...	0	b Layne ...	2
Extras ...	16	Extras ...	6
Total ...	148	Total ...	91

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.					
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.		
Turnbull ...	36	5	110	2	Turnbull ...	22	5	55	3
Burn ...	15	2	43	1	Burn ...	3	0	19	0
Skinner ...	6	2	28	1	Milne ...	13	1	47	3
Milne ...	17	0	45	0	Elliott ...	7	1	22	4

First Innings.				Second Innings.					
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.		
Olivierre ...	21	5	69	7	Layne ...	15	4	36	5
Smith ...	21	6	56	4	Smith ...	15	3	69	5
Layne ...	1	0	7	1	Olivierre ...	1	1	0	0

The West Indians v. Yorkshire.

After having all the best of the game, the West Indians defeated Yorkshire at Harrogate August 4th by 262 runs. On Saturday Yorkshire had an impossible task before them, as with only six wickets in hand they still required 412 runs to win. Denton and Taylor played bright, attractive cricket, hitting freely in all directions, and added 138 in eighty minutes. After this, however, the batting broke down completely, and at ten minutes to two the match was at an end. Denton, who had the satisfaction of carrying out his bat, gave a splendid display of clean, hard hitting. Full score:—

WEST INDIANS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. Challenger, c Wilkinson, b Sedgwick ...	2	b Sedgwick ...	47
Mr. L. Constantine, c Dolphin, b Myers ...	59	c Denton, b Rhodes ...	31
Mr. O. H. Layne, c Taylor, b Rhodes ...	63	c K. Smith, b Wilkinson ...	50
Mr. S. Smith, c Dolphin, b Sedgwick ...	31	c Dolphin, b Rhodes ...	23
Mr. P. A. Goodman, b Myers ...	11	not out ...	102
Mr. H. B. G. Austin, c E. Smith, b Sedgwick ...	13	c Myers, b Sedgwick ...	13
Mr. R. Olivierre, c Sedgwick, b Myers ...	26	b Sedgwick ...	10
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, not out ...	15	not out ...	17
Cumberbatch, b Myers ...	2		
Mr. J. C. Parker, c and b Myers ...	7		
Dr. Cameron, c Taylor, b Myers ...	12		
Extras ...	2	Extras ...	13
Total ...	270	Total (6 wickets) ...	306

*Innings declared closed.

YORKSHIRE.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. R. S. Leather, c S. Smith, b Olivierre ...	5	c Payne, b Olivierre ...	14
Rhodes, c Constantine, b S. Smith ...	1	hit wkt, b S. Smith ...	13
Denton, c S. Smith, b Olivierre ...	22	not out ...	122
Tunstall, c Constantine, b S. Smith ...	15	b Cumberbatch ...	43
Mr. T. L. Taylor, c Bancroft, b Olivierre ...	5	1-b-w, b Olivierre ...	72
Mr. W. H. Wilkinson, b Olivierre ...	0	1-b-w, b Cumberbatch ...	4
Mr. E. Smith, b S. Smith ...	1	run out ...	2
Sedgwick, c Cumberbatch, b Olivierre ...	0	run out ...	1
Myers, c Cumberbatch, b Olivierre ...	6	b Olivierre ...	0
Dolphin, c Cumberbatch, b Olivierre ...	4	b Cumberbatch ...	0
Oyston, not out ...	1	b Olivierre ...	0
Extras ...	0	Extras ...	2
Total ...	50	Total ...	263

The Legislature placed at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture during the past year the sum of £1,000 to encourage the export of produce to markets other than those of the United States. It was decided to make shipments of onions during the season to the principal cities of Canada, and a special agent went to Canada from Bermuda to superintend the distribution and sale of the shipment. A shipment of onions was also made to London during the year. The results of both shipments proved unsatisfactory, and it is not likely that these experiments will be repeated.

Mr. Eyre Hutson, who has drawn up the report, says that owing to the reduction in the naval and military establishments, to the failure in the export business of the staple crops, to the gradual closing down of the Imperial public works, and to the anticipation of no increase in the immediate future of the winter tourist resorts owing to the inadequacy of hotel accommodation, the general outlook of the Colony at the close of the year was not a bright one.

Consular Reports.

French Sugar Tax.

The French sugar duties are estimated to yield £5,992,052 in 1906.

Japan's Sugar Trade.

Imports of sugar into Japan fell from £2,352,000 in 1904 to £1,400,000 in 1905. H.M. Consul attributes the falling off to the market being over-stocked, the high prices ruling, and the unseasonable weather, which checked the usual summer requirements. Moreover, the amount of Formosan sugar on which there is no duty, entering Japan is steadily increasing. It is interesting to note from the figures accompanying the report that whereas in 1901, before the sugar Convention, no Russian sugar entered Japan, in 1904 Russian sugar to the value of £200,000 was imported. Conversely, the Austrian imports which in 1901 were valued at £415,000 fell in 1904 to £19,000.

The Trade of Dutch Guiana.

Of the total population of Surinam, which amounts to 74,715, as many as 19,000 are British Indians, and there is also a large number of British Creoles. The omission for the first time for seven and a half years of Paramaribo from the ports of call of the R.M.S.P. Co. had a bad effect on trade with the United Kingdom and the Colonies. Goods to the value of £57,496 were exported to Demerara, including 34 tons of balata, 283,434 litres of rum and 3,308 tons of sugar. Though there was some improvement in the cocoa industry, the year 1905 was anything but satisfactory from an agricultural point of view. The cocoa disease still continued, and the crop was only 1,495 tons, against 843 tons in 1904, and 3,526 tons in 1899. Experiments are being made with a view to stamping out the disease, but the results are up to the present doubtful, and even should they prove successful on the limited areas under treatment, it is doubtful whether it will be feasible to apply them to all the cocoa in the Colony. The crop for the first quarter of the present year shows a further improvement, being 4,681 bags (of 100 kilos.) against 2,681 and 1,351 bags during the same period in 1905 and 1904. As stated in the last report, the cultivation of bananas for export has been commenced, and on May 19th, 1906, an agreement was signed between the Colonial Government and the United Fruit Company, of Boston, United States of America, by which it is agreed that the Company shall buy all the fruit produced (up to a certain standard) on 3,000 hectares (7,413 acres) to be planted within the next three years. A considerable quantity of Para rubber has been put in and it appears to be doing well. A large area has been planted with sisal hemp, and this also seems to prosper. The rice industry continues to increase. It is, however, almost entirely in the hands of small land-holders, principally British Indian immigrants. The total amount produced in 1905 is estimated at 1,149 tons, against 875,442 and 304 tons in the three previous years. The imports of foreign rice during the year amounted to 4,650 tons, valued at £38,760.

Some Homeward Abails.

We have learnt from the Colonial Office, and are glad to be able to announce, that an arrangement is being completed with the Royal Mail Steam Company for the resumption to some extent of the intercolonial mail service, which was suspended in May last as the result of the abandonment of the mail contract in 1905. All the details are not yet to hand, but it is understood that a fortnightly service will, for the time being, be renewed between British Guiana, Grenada, St. Vincent and Barbados, and that there will be less frequent communication with the more northerly islands. The arrangement will be of an experimental character, terminable at short notice, and it is hoped that pending the consent of the Colonies concerned to the details of the arrangement, the Government,

in order to suit the public convenience, may be able to take steps in advance for an immediate resumption of the service. Since we last went to press we have received letters from various Islands by occasional opportunities and also mails by the R.M.S. Port Kingston, which sailed from Jamaica on July 19th, and arrived at Avonmouth on Tuesday, July 31st. Among her passengers were General Caulfield, who is relinquishing the command of the troops in Jamaica, Mr. W. H. Farquharson, who expects to remain in this country until September 8th, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Commissioner for the protection of Jamaica rum, Mrs. and Master Pringle, and a large number of other passengers. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Labour saving appliances in Antigua.

Writing on July 11th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner informed us that the mails were now sent home through the agency of a sailing boat belonging to Messrs. Bennett, Bryson & Co., which connected with the "Yare" at Dominica, the latter carrying the mails down to meet the ocean boat at Barbados. The pineapple industry had been practically killed by low prices in London, but it had now been given its *coup de grace* by the cessation of regular shipping facilities with the Mother Country.

The denunciation of the Brussels Convention by the present Government would be a most serious blow to the Empire, and would, of course, mean ruin to the British West Indian sugar industry. The uncertainty which already prevailed was having a good deal of effect in preventing the investment of capital in the British West Indian sugar industry, to the loss alike of the West Indies and of the manufacturers at home. The Governor was at the time of writing visiting the other Islands of the Colony, and was in Montserrat.

The weather continued unsettled and showery. The young canes on the whole were well advanced and looked very promising. With such a wet "dry season" as they had had, provisions were very plentiful, and this and other causes had led to considerable scarcity of labour in some parts of the Island. With sugar at prices then prevailing, an advance in labour rates was practically out of the question if estates were to make ends meet, and thus the question of labour saving appliances became all the more important. Messrs. Henckell, DuBuisson's & Co.'s experiment with Louisiana labour saving implements would be watched with great interest. By the use of such implements a higher standard of intelligence would be demanded in the labourer, but on the other hand, the reduction in the number of hands employed would enable higher wages to be paid, a thing which every planter desired if it were possible.

Exports from Dominica in 1904 and 1905.

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. A. Agar, our Hon. Correspondent in Dominica, we are able to give the following table showing the exports from the Island for 1904 and 1905.

Article.	1904.			1905.			Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value in £	Total Value in £	Quantity.	Value in £	Total Value in £		
Cacao	1,106,564 lbs.	—	21,325	1,326,062 lbs.	—	25,554	4,229	—
Limes (green)*	8,162 brls.	2,857	—	13,564 brls.	4,747	—	(1,890)	—
" (pickled)*	865 brls.	324	—	642 brls.	241	—	—	(83)
Lime Juices (raw)*	234,972 gals.	6,853	—	164,475 galls.	5,483	—	—	(1,370)
" (concentrated)*	83,727 gals.	17,792	—	124,625 galls.	26,483	—	(8,691)	—
*Reduced to galls. raw juice	(1,291,047)	—	—	(1,772,981)	—	—	—	—
Lime Oils	—	1,160	—	—	1,947	—	(787)	—
Total value of Lime Products	—	—	28,986	—	—	38,901	9,915	—
Coffee	408 lbs.	10	—	3,129 lbs.	78	—	68	—
Oranges	738,360	—	625	665,280	—	554	—	61
Cane Products	—	—	1,353	—	—	1,884	531	—
Bananas	5,050 bunches	—	189	5,986	—	225	36	—
Bay Leaves	240 bales.	—	1,107	54 bales.	—	243	—	864
Sundry Fruits & Vegetables	—	—	988	—	—	914	—	74
Lumber	—	—	335	—	—	421	86	—
Other Exports	—	—	726	—	—	557	—	169
(Actual Exports)	—	—	(55,644)	—	—	(69,331)	(13,687)	—
Whale Oil and Whaler's	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stores in transit	—	—	5,917	—	—	4,231	—	1,686
Exports not produce of the	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island	—	—	1,455	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	63,006	—	—	78,035	15,029	net increase

During 1905, 76% of the exports went to the United Kingdom and British possessions, and 24% to the United States and other foreign countries, as compared with 80% and 20% respectively in the preceding year. During 1905, the imports into Dominica were valued at £95,358 as compared with

£91,088 in 1904, and of them 70% came from the United Kingdom and British possessions and 30% from the United States and foreign countries, as compared with 65% and 35% respectively in the preceding year. The complete table, which records the progress being made by this prosperous Island, can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

The proposed Jamaica Rum Syndicate.

Writing on July 19th Mr. Ashenheim informed us that the weather was extremely hot. The attitude of the planters appeared to be favourable towards the proposals for the establishment of a syndicate to control Jamaica rum, though a difficulty arose through attorneys of estates not being in a position to enter into a contract which would be binding. Mr. Murphy, who had visited the Island in connection with the matter, had stated that 80% of the rum output of Westmoreland had already been secured to the syndicate on binding contracts, and he expressed little doubt that those who controlled the balance of the output would also join the combine when he reached England and interviewed the parties concerned. "In Trelawny," and we quote an interview with Mr. Murphy in the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph*, "owing to the number of planters engaged in the making of Jamaica rums and the difficulties with regard to absentee owners," he was unable on his short visit to complete more than six or seven agreements.

It was rumoured that the Government were entertaining the idea of leasing the Colbeck estate to an American syndicate for the cultivation of cotton. Indeed, syndicates were talked about on all sides.

A meeting of logwood growers had been held at the rooms of the Westmoreland Planters' Association to meet Mr. William Anderson, a gentleman from Glasgow, for the purpose of forming a company for the extraction of logwood dye in Westmoreland. There were already two logwood factories in the Island and a third would probably be established in the near future.

Small-pox had broken out at Colon, and it was hoped that every effort would be taken by the quarantine authorities to prevent the introduction of this disease into Jamaica through vessels trading between the two places.



A Scene in Jamaica.

Among the many excellent hotels in Jamaica is the Mandeville, in the parish of Manchester, in the neighbourhood of which this photograph was taken by Mr. H. L. Q. Henriques.

Letter to the Editor.

Limes and Lemons.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I am glad to see that efforts are being made to encourage the use of fresh limes in this country instead of lemons. In the United States limes are extremely popular, and I am sure the public here will appreciate the difference between limes and lemons when they know the former better. To sing the praises of this juicy fruit to your readers is perhaps unnecessary to a large extent; but for the benefit of such as do not know them, I will only say that in every way they are superior to lemons: they are more fragrant, more juicy, and certainly as economical; and it is to be hoped the efforts being made to bring limes before the public will be successful.

Yours faithfully,
WEST INDIAN.

July 30th, 1906.

[We fully agree with "West Indian" as to the respective merits of limes and lemons, and, indeed, we think that all who have visited or resided in the tropics must do so as well. At the present time the quantity of limes consumed in this country is infinitesimal compared with those used

in America, where the fruit is deservedly popular. The demand for limes in this country is, however, steadily increasing, and if *only* West Indians at home will help by asking for them on every possible occasion at hotels, clubs and restaurants, the possibilities of its development are immense.—E.D.J.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The Colonizer, Vol. XI., No. 128, 2d. s. 3s. per annum. London: Paternoster Printing Company. A useful function is performed by this monthly journal in drawing public attention to Colonial matters, and the advice given in its pages to intending settlers in different parts of the Empire establishes a strong claim for support from all interested in the Colonies. In addition to the usual features the current issue contains an interview with Sir Daniel Morris on West Indian planting prospects, and an illustrated article on past and present developments of the R.M.S.P. Co., the whole constituting a West Indian number of no little interest.

The Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, Vol. X., No. 7. The principal feature of this issue is the half-yearly report of the Jamaica Agricultural Society signed by Mr. John Barclay, which was submitted at a meeting on June 21st. The work of the Society for the past year is fully recorded. The experimental shipments of Seville oranges are reported upon as being encouraging, and hope is expressed that a regular trade will be begun next season. Reference is made to Mr. Chalmer's visit to Jamaica to inquire into the condition of the tobacco industry. He reported that at the request of the Admiralty, he had blended 8,657 lbs. of Jamaica tobacco for experiment in the Navy, and this blend was undergoing trial in the Fleet. It was reported that while the seamen enjoyed the cigarettes made of Jamaica tobacco, the pipe tobacco blend was not favoured. The number of members on the roll is 498; 43 new members were admitted through the year, and 56 were struck off for non-payment of their subscriptions. The year began with a credit balance of £147 12s. 3d., which was increased at the close to £172 6s. 10d.

Cotton Seed and Cotton-Cake-Meal on West Indian Plantations, Pamphlet Series, Imperial Department of Agriculture, No. 43, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 2½d., post free. Prof. J. P. d'Albuquerque has in this pamphlet contributed to the literature on cotton a useful memorandum on cotton-seed and cotton-cake-meal as a feeding stuff on West Indian plantations. With the increasing production of cotton-seed in the West Indies, which is estimated to have reached about 2,749,000 lb. in the year 1905, of a value, at £5 per ton (the price at which cotton-seed is sold to the oil factory for the purpose of extracting the oil), of £6,135, it was felt to be desirable that planters should be informed as to the most economical uses to which this product should be devoted. It is valuable in three directions, viz., as a source of oil, as a foodstuff, and as a manure, and the full value is obtained from it only when it is put to all these uses. This is secured by extracting the oil from the seed and feeding the residual cake-meal to plantation stock, the resulting manure being applied to the land. Prof. d'Albuquerque shows how the planter may make an intelligent use of cotton-seed by a careful appreciation of the principles of rational feeding. Nations are suggested for cautious trial, in which cotton-cake-meal is combined with such home-grown foodstuffs as "cane meat," sour grass, &c. The carbohydrates of the green fodders will thus be balanced by the protein in the cotton-cake-meal. It is mentioned that "cane meat" consists of the leafy top of the sugar-cane, and is a very important green fodder on sugar estates. Sour grass is *Andropogon perfoliatus*, a native of India, grown in many parts of the West Indies. It is of especial value, as it thrives on dry exposed situations unsuitable for cane cultivation. It is, perhaps, with the exception of Guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*), the most valuable fodder grass in the West Indies. In Barbados it is cultivated almost to the exclusion of all others. The erection of an experimental cotton-seed oil factory at Barbados, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, has placed the West Indian planter in the position of being able to exchange his seed for a corresponding amount of cotton-cake-meal, and so to utilize to the utmost advantage the monetary value, the feeding value, and the manurial value of the cotton-seed.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Ralph Williams, C.M.G., Resident Commissioners of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands on the retirement of Sir Robert Llewellyn.

Mr. RALPH WILLIAMS, who now returns to the West Indies after an absence of five years, was educated at Kewall. He explored parts of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego 1873-4 and Central Africa 1883-4. The first official position held by him was that of head of the Civil Intelligence Department of the Bechuanaland Expedition 1884, subsequent to which his book "The British Lion in Bechuanaland" was published. In 1887 he was appointed British Consular Officer to the South African Republic and in the next year British Agent at Pretoria. In 1890 he became Colonial Treasurer of Gibraltar and in 1897 he went to Barbados as Colonial Secretary, a position which he continued to hold until 1901, when he was made Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

His Honour J. E. HEWICK, Puisne Judge, British Guiana, has been granted three months' leave of absence.

Mr. R. B. T. SIEPHENSON, M.B., C.M., D.P.H., M.D., Government Medical Officer, has been granted leave of absence from British Guiana for six months.

Hon. C. B. HAMILTON, C.M.G., Receiver-General, British Guiana, has been granted nine months' leave of absence, during which time Mr. Percy Hemery will act in his place.

During the absence on leave of Sir T. CROSSLEY RAYNER, K.C., Attorney-General, British Guiana, Mr. J. J. NUNAN, B.A., LL.B., Solicitor-General, will take over the duties of his office.

Mr. G. A. HANLEY, Inspector of Police, St. Kitts, has been granted three months' leave of absence, with an extension on leave for six months, during which period Mr. P. J. O'Farrell will act in his place.

Three months' vacation leave of absence has been granted to His Honour J. S. UDAL, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, from July 10th, and His Honour J. M. DANAVALL, Puisne Judge, has been appointed to act as Chief Justice from that date.

Notes of Interest.

BANK RATE. Bank Rate $3\frac{1}{2}$ % (changed from 4 % on June 21st, 1906). Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ %) are quoted at 87 $\frac{3}{4}$.

OBITUARY. We regret to have to record the death of Mr. John Dalzell, of Messrs. Sproston, Limited, of Demerara, which took place at Margate on August 2nd.

WATCHING SUGAR. Mr. Robert Kerr is the Convener and Mr. Andrew Downie the Vice-Convener of the Sugar Section of the Greenock Chamber of Commerce which has recently been established.

DR. FRANCIS WATTS. Dr. Francis Watts, Chemist to the Government and Superintendent of Agriculture for the Leeward Islands, is expected to arrive in England at about the end of August for a well-earned holiday.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended August 2nd, 187 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.55d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Prices paid 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 16d.

COTTON REPORTS. In their cotton report, dated August 1st, Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland state that since their last advices the market has been quiet for West Indian Sea Island description, and prices continue in buyers favour for the lower qualities. The sales include Barbados 14d. and 15d. and St. Thomas at 15d. Nevis cotton has been exceptionally poor this season, owing to poor seed and drought, and in consequence spinners do not care to bid for it.

THE W.I. CLUB. The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club was held on Wednesday, August 1st. Mr. Lionel de Mercado presided, and amongst those present were:—Mr. I. Frank Braham, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. R. S. Gamble, Mr. R. A. J. Goode, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. Edmund Hart, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Emanuel Lyons, Mr. A. E. Mais, Mr. F. J. Morris, Dr. H. C. G. Moyle, Mr. Harold de Pass, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. H. Powell Rees and Mr. Chas. W. White.

ALL AT SEA. The Oxford and Cambridge Undergraduates who recently visited Jamaica at the invitation of Sir Alfred Jones, appear to be highly delighted with their experiences. These "Jones' scholars" in a letter to their host say that they feel that their visit must have done some little good by bringing members of their class . . . to a closer and more personal knowledge of our oldest colony (*sic*). What will Newfoundland say to this? The letter is dated July 30th "at sea."

ST. LUCIA. We are glad to learn that the suggestion made in our issue of June 27th is already being followed, and that the Imperial Department of Agriculture propose to issue a pamphlet regarding St. Lucia, in which Island young men with capital may find fairly good openings for the cultivation of cocoa, limes and rubber. The present Administrator of this Colony is taking much interest in agricultural matters, and is paying special attention to experiments with rubber trees. Seeds of the Para rubber tree have been ordered from Ceylon, but in the case of the *Castilloa* there are already a number of fine trees established in the Island.

COCO-NUTS It seems fairly well established that the application of salt upon the best coco-nut soil, i.e. those that are light and permeable, is positively injurious. That the coco-nut is able to take up a large quantity of salt is not disputed, but the presence of salt is a substance that in no way contributes to the health, vigour and fruitfulness of the tree. The analysis of 1,000 coco-nuts weighing an aggregate of 3,125 lb. disclosed drains upon soil fertility for that number amounting to nitrogen 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, potash 17, phosphoric acid 3 lb., reducing this to crop and acres, and taking 60 fruits per annum per tree at the average for a bearing grove, which in round numbers should give about 10,000 nuts each year, taking from the soil a total of nitrogen 82 $\frac{1}{2}$, potash 170, phosphoric acid 70 lbs. According to the United States Department of Agriculture the coco-nut, therefore, is not an exhausting crop, a crop of corn taking more than double the nitrogen and phosphoric acid and a little less potash.

GUIANA'S GUSHERS. An important discovery has been made at Wakenaam, which, for the benefit of the uninitiated, we may explain is a small island at the mouth of the Essequibo River, British Guiana. We are informed by Mr. William Fauset that in sinking the 258 feet artesian well at "Maria's Pleasure," natural gas which burnt very well was met at a depth of 82 feet. At the depth of 110 feet the gas was so powerful that it sent sand and water 20 feet into the air. The total depth of the well

was 258 feet. At a boring at Plantation "Marionville" another bed was tapped at a depth of nearly 200 feet containing a powerful supply of gas. When ignited the flames were about six feet in diameter and rose quite 12 feet into the air. The gases were burnt all night and were witnessed by quite 1,000 people. A large stream of water came from the well, equal to 200,000 gallons per day, and mixed with it were tar and oil. We shall watch the development of this industry with interest.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the week under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., Aug. 1st.—The announcement made by Lord Elgin and Mr. Churchill in Parliament regarding the Transvaal Constitution appeared in the Press.—The Annual Meeting of the British Association opened York.—88% Beet, 8s. 7½d., quiet.
- Thurs., Aug. 2nd.—Discussion in the House of Commons regarding the constitution of the Defence Committee—Beet, 8s. 9½d., steady.
- Fri., Aug. 3rd.—Government majority reduced to five on an amendment to the Trades Disputes' Bill.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., quiet.
- Sat., Aug. 4th.—Parliament adjourned until Tuesday, October 23rd.—Italian emigrant ship, bound for Buenos Ayres, wrecked off the S.E. coast of Spain.—Cockermouth election resulted in a Unionist gain. Sir John Randles (U) 4,593, Hon. F. Guest (L) 3,903, Mr. R. Smillie (Lab) 1,436
- Mon., Aug. 6th.—August Bank Holiday.—Mr. Winston Churchill spoke at a Liberal demonstration at Wimborne
- Tues., Aug. 7th.—Latest Cricket, Leicestershire, first innings, 274; West Indians, first innings, 242. Leicestershire, second innings, 196 for 6 wickets. Beet, 9s. 1½d., steady.

Answers to Correspondents.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Wednesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Carpenter.—There is no opening in the carpentering trade in the West Indies. Of all trades, carpentering is perhaps the one at which the black man is best. In the building trade in Jamaica competition is already very keen. Thus, for the erection of a £2,000 building recently, it was stated that upwards of ten tenders were submitted.

Entomologist.—No. The "man eating" mosquito of Berbice, to which we alluded in our issue of July 25th, has never been tamed. Efforts have been made in this direction, but they have been unsuccessful, the subjects invariably dying—suddenly—in captivity. Your theory as to the sagging of the telegraph wires being due to the accumulation of these pests on them on moonlight nights, is not borne out by facts.

Enquirer.—There is no occasion whatever for a young man settling in the West Indies to adopt any special precautions as to health. A fair amount of exercise, mental and physical, should be taken. The mouth should be kept shut—in moderation—and the skin open—also in moderation; clothes of light woollen materials should invariably be worn. It should be remembered that the increased metabolism which goes on has to be met with good wholesome food and a full amount of sleep, and that superfluous energy should be kept in check.

Beet.—Statements as to the cost of cane sugar production are frequently misleading from a variety of causes, apart from those of crop and appliances. An estate making sugar and rum, or sugar, rum and cattle food, includes the cost of the bye-products in the cost of the sugar, but does not always, in fact seldom, credit the sugar account with the value of these, which is an important factor in cane sugar. With an average crop under average conditions, £9 may be taken as covering the cost of production of 96° crystals. It is not likely that the British beet grown in the circumstances you mention would seriously affect the West Indian industry. There is room for both within the Empire.

Nemo.—Papain is the dried milky juice of the papaw (*Carica papaya*). It is used medicinally on account of its digestive qualities. The milky juice (latex) which exudes when the skin is scored or scratched, is collected and purchased by those who dry and ship the drug. The papain industry is a considerable one in Mootierias, where it was introduced by Dr. Francis Watts, the value of the exports of this commodity being from £1,500 to £1,800, thus putting much money in circulation for the peasantry. There are three or four regular buyers, of whom the Messrs. Company is the chief. Supplies are coming forward from India and Ceylon, and these tend to depress the price, which at the present time is about 5s. to 7s. per pound.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gaviller), Aug. 2nd. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), August 3rd. "Weather is favourable for growing crops." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended July 25th. PORT ANTONIO: "Fine." KINGSTON: "Fine."

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Captain W. J. Dagnall) August 16th: Mr. H. Hochschild, Mr. E. C. Lefeuve, Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich, Mr. F. Fowler, Mr. Belt, Mr. H. Strampfer, Mr. and Miss Legge, Mr. C. C. Kenrick, Mr. V. C. Bridgman, Mr. Golding, Mr. A. R. Michell, Mr. B. L. Jackson, Professor Jno. Perry, Mr. Geo. Brown, Mr. J. Cipriani, Miss A. Stower, Mr. F. Withington, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wilson, Mr. G. S. Croshaw, Hon. H. E. Murray, Mr. W. A. Murray.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), August 30th: Mr. H. J. Madge, Mrs. F. C. Madge, Mr. and Mrs. Stolk, Mr. W. K. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Cuffin, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. C. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Stuerlen, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Stralendorf, Jun., Mr. and Mrs. Woodroffe, Mr. E. Axmacher, Mr. L. Wessels, Mr. C. H. Barclay, Mr. M. Sanchez, Mr. A. Sacre, Mr. and Mrs. José and Miss Granada.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston," (Capt. J. G. Parsons), July 31st: Miss V. Abrahams, Mr. L. Anderson, Col. and Mrs. Black, Lieut. Briscoe, Mrs. C. W. M. Castle, Miss D. Castle, General Caulfield, Mr. and Miss Comran, Mr. F. Clarke, Mr. E. R. Coggan, Mr. R. Edgar, Miss M. W. Edgar, Mr. A. W. Edgar, Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Mr. L. H. Facey, Mr. Galland, Mrs. Hitching, Dr. C. E. Harvey, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. H. S. Jones, Mr. W. H. Johnson, Mr. E. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. Kniveton, Miss M. Kerr, Mrs. E. G. Liddell, Miss Evelyn Masters, Mr. Moore, Mr. D. G. Morrison, Mr. W. Madge, Mrs. and Miss McCorm, Capt. S. McLachlan, Mrs. J. T. Marsh, Mr. J. C. Nolan, Mrs. R. and Miss Nosworthy, Mr. P. Panellas, Mr. E. A. Poole, Mrs. Pringle, Mr. J. H. Peggs, Capt. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Rust, Captain J. A. Stubbs, Mrs. R. Sewell, Mrs. Sadler, Rev. S. A. Swaby, Mr. E. B. Thomas, Miss Trimmingham, Miss Walker, Mr. F. Ward, Mr. V. Armstrong, Mr. K. V. Colville, Mr. J. L. Beaumont, Mr. W. Kerr, Mr. P. G. Masters, Mr. C. B. S. Monfries, Mr. R. McIver, Mr. E. A. Macbee, Mr. E. D. Taylor, Mrs. Williams, Mr. E. B. Muff, Mr. E. R. Salem.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Aug. 9	Barbados (for Demerara and West India Islands)	Liverpool ...	Harrison Line	"Commodore"	Aug. 8, mid'n't.
" 10	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Caroni"	" 10, noon.
" 11	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 10, 4 p.m.
" 16	The W. Indies (Northern Islands and Demerara excepted)	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	" 15, mid'n't.
" 18	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool ...	Leyland Line	"Yucatan"	" 17, ..
" 22	Demerara	Liverpool ...	The Liverpool Line	"Frednes"	" 21, ..
" 24	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica) Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Saba"	" 24, noon

Letters for Grenada and Trinidad, posted on August 8th marked *via* New York, will probably go forward by S S "Grenada" from New York on August 15th and be delivered in Grenada on August 23rd, and Trinidad on August 24th. The usual postage of 1d. suffices.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Aug. 13	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Trent"
" 15	Jamaica	Avonmouth...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"
" 27	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Orinoco"

* In R.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to July 13 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to June 28 1906	1905	April 1 to July 2. 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to July 16. 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to July 16. 1906	1905
Sugar	36,182	28,681 Tns.	36,080	27,378 Tons.	6425	5046 Tons.	423,521	272,674 lbs. & Bcls.	—	—
Molasses	54,393	34,075 Tns.	1927	1652 Casks.	—	—	1501	687 Puns.	—	—
Rum	—	—	8498	6767 Puns.	664,877	600,024 Gall.	148	178 Tns.	—	—
Cattle Feed and Molassuit	—	—	3559	2938 Tons.	—	—	70	165 Bcls.	—	—
Cocoa	—	—	3500	11,580 lbs.	30,112	12,680 Cwts.	70	346 Puns.	57,603	60,724 Bags.
Coffee	—	—	—	—	20,063	6689 "	—	—	—	—
Cocónuts	—	—	50,538	237,971	1,075,495	1,268,280	6,704,505	3,200,000	—	—
Copra	—	—	—	—	—	—	9317	5502 Bags	1014	703 Bales
Cotton	—	—	—	—	13,036	28,600 lbs.	—	—	—	4745 Bags.
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	70,061	64,028 Tons.	—	—
Asphalt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oranges	—	—	—	—	5,913,371	2,693,364	—	—	—	—
Bananas	—	—	—	—	4,845,296	4,200,253 Bchs.	—	—	—	—
Pimento	—	—	—	—	19,107	18,305 Cwts.	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4176	4336 Bcls.
Gold	—	—	43,563	44,204 Ozs.	—	—	—	—	422	170 1/2 Bcls.
Diamonds	—	—	788	3337 carats.	—	—	—	—	343	308 Cases
									126	170 Bags

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The improving tone of the market is well maintained and the reduction in the visible supply, which has been the chief feature of the season, if it continues all through this month and next as there is every appearance of its doing, will leave us on the 1st October with an easily manageable amount of sugar to start the next campaign with. The great and dreaded August liquidation has been accomplished without difficulty, Refiners being found to take off the sugar. The whole future of the market for next year depends on what the Beet crops will give us. So far, no serious complaints have been made about the growth of the roots, and with favourable weather from now onwards a fairly good crop in Convention Europe may be looked for, but the disturbed condition of affairs in Russia leads one to doubt whether the crop in that country can be relied upon. Indeed it is a grave question whether the figure of 1,000,000 tons for 1905/6 has ever been reached. This may in a measure account for the abnormal reduction in stocks of statistical countries referred to in the last issue of this *Summary*. Russia has ever been a country from which no reliable information has been obtainable. Looking at sugar broadly, there seems to be a fair chance of a moderate and perhaps permanent improvement in prices, which will not interfere with Consumption and will be welcome to cane and beet growers alike.

The present quotations of 88% beet are:—August, 9s. 1½d.; October/December, 8s. 11d.; Jan./Mar., 1907, 9s. 0½d. and May, 9s. 2d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	2,060,000	1,430,000	1,880,000	2,010,000	2,120,000	
United States	320,000	200,000	160,000	290,000	130,000	..
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	190,000	550,000	280,000	380,000	470,000	..
Total	2,570,000	2,180,000	2,320,000	2,680,000	2,720,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 7th Aug:—	9s. 1½d.	10s. 8d.	10s. 0½d.	8s. 3½d.	6s. 0d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There is a continued good demand for yellow crystallised, with considerable sales of properly made sugar, chiefly from 15s. 3d. to 15s. 6d., the former being the value of average qualities. This sugar is now on the exact parity of *imitations*. Deliveries continue satisfactory. For a cargo of 96 centrifugals, 10s. should be obtainable on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar continues to sell pretty freely from 10s. to 14s., duty paid, on the spot. The value of 8g test, to arrive, is about 8s. in bond, on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Steady, but with little doing in grocery kinds. To Refiners, 8g test is worth about 8s. 9d., floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons.
Imports	43,000	31,000	34,000	18,000	51,000	
Deliveries	28,000	24,000	29,000	26,000	25,000	..
Stocks	25,000	16,000	17,000	21,000	33,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	15s. 3d.	17s. 8d.	16s. 6d.	15s. 3d.	13s. 0d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London:	1906	1905	1904	1903	Puns
Jamaica	8500	10,200	11,100	11,300	
Demerara	6300	5000	9500	6900	..
Total of all kinds	20,900	23,500	28,600	27,700	..

A firm tone prevails in this Market, and unsold stocks are exceptionally light. The value of fair Demerara is 9½d. and of approved Marks of Jamaica, 2s. 1d. Leewards and Foreign kinds ranging from 8d. to 1s. 1d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:	1906	1905	1904	1903	Bags
Trinidad	11,600	19,200	27,000	20,400	
Grenada	9800	17,500	18,700	12,300	..
Total of all kinds	21,400	36,700	45,700	32,700	..

The Market is quiet, with little business passing. The supplies of West India cocoa here just now in Importers' hands are almost too small to form a Market. Quotations remain unchanged, viz. Trinidad fair collected, 57s.; Estate Marks, 58s. to 63s.; Grenada fair, 49s., fermented, 52s. to 54s. From other Islands Native cocoa is worth about 47s., and fermented, 51s. to 54s.

Coffee.—Firm. Good ordinary Jamaica, 41s to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Recent sales of West India include 60's at 1s. 4d., 79's at 10d.

Mace.—Sales include good palish, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., fair pale and reddish, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d. 104's at 7d., and 109's at 6½d.

Pimento.—Firm at 2½d. to 3½d.

Arrowroot.—Unchanged. Good manufacturing St. Vincent, nominally 2d.

Lime Juice.—No alteration; value, 11d. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, steady, at £21. Hand Pressed, quoted 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, value, 2s. 6d.

Ginger.—Unchanged. Good

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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THE publication in book form of the remarkable series of articles by Mr. Henry W. Nevinson on the African Slave Trade, which appeared recently in *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, brings prominently to the front the question of the competition between slave grown cocoa and that produced under normal conditions, in British markets. At the instance of the above mentioned magazine, Mr. Nevinson who, it may be pointed out, is an English war correspondent of standing, sailed with an expedition from England in 1904, for Portuguese West Africa, in order to investigate thoroughly the labour conditions prevailing there, and the result of his experiences as now collated under the title "A Modern Slavery," leaves little room for doubt that cocoa grown on the Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Príncipe, off the coast of Guinea, and which finds its way largely into our markets, is actually produced under a system of forced labour to which no other term than slavery of the worst description can be applied. The agents of the planters collect bodies of "labourers" by arrangement with the head men of the tribes on the main land, and these labourers are literally driven down to the coast under armed supervision—the hapless negroes frequently dying en route—and utilised on the plantations under conditions compared to which the old slavery of the West was luxury and ease. Much of the cocoa grown by these unfortunate slaves is shipped to this country to enter into competition with the free grown product of our West Indian Colonies.

Thus, in 1904, out of a total of 60,822,025 lbs. of cocoa imported into the United Kingdom, no less than 14,525,299 came from Portugal, and it is safe to assume that the bulk of this was produced under the conditions above referred to. It must still be within the memory of some of our older readers how strong the feeling was against slavery in Cuba which outlived slavery in other parts of the West Indies, and the outcry which arose against slave grown sugar being allowed to compete with free grown sugar. The position was very similar to that to which we now draw attention, which is certainly one which calls for energetic and drastic treatment. The admission of slave grown cocoa from these small African Dependencies of Portugal is just as wrong in principle as was the admission of slave grown sugar from the magnificent possession of Spain in the Caribbean Sea. It is impossible to read Mr. Nevinson's account of the labour system of the former Islands without recognising that beneath the thin covering of apparent legality an iniquitous system of slavery exists. It is true that there is no plain recognition of buying and selling—which made the slave of the West Indies and the Southern States of America a mere article of commerce—but it is all the worse on that account. Under that system the mere fact of the negro being purchased at a high price and being a marketable commodity brought with it an amount of care and consideration for his welfare, which in itself was a guarantee of good treatment. In the San Thomé and Príncipe system of slavery it is different. Mere articles, of which there is a plentiful supply comparatively near at hand—which cannot be openly bought and sold, but which can be used up and more easily obtained,—no inducement exists for their possession or to secure their well-

being beyond what is barely necessary for the immediate present, and in this way the slaves of these Islands are objects of far greater pity than their West Indian brethren of old. How can sympathy be shown? How can the British people give practical demonstration of their abhorrence of the system and of their innate sense of justice? From an Imperial point of view the matter is one which any government might take up by prohibition, with the view of safeguarding an industry of their own Colonies; but there is another way, without government intervention, by which the same end may be reached, and that is by the action of the British public itself. If purchasers would only refuse to be supplied with any form of cocoa in which there is not a distinct guarantee of freedom from admixture with cocoa from San Thome and Principe, an effectual stop would be put to the importation of slave grown cocoa. In the United States manufacturers are already refusing to use cocoa from these Islands, and if the British public would only take the matter up in their own irresistible way, and decline to consume slave grown cocoa, they would assuredly be serving the great cause of humanity.

The West India Committee.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Executive on Thursday, August 9th, the following were elected members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
W. A. HAYLOCK (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher	C. A. Metzgen
W. J. SLACK (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher	J. M. Rosado.
P. STANLEY WOODS (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher	C. A. Metzgen.
R. S. TURTON (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher	C. A. Metzgen.
ROWLAND H. ORMSBY (British Honduras)	Hon. A. R. Usher	J. M. Rosado.
M. DE WIVELESLE MALCOLM (Jamaica)	Col. E. D. Malcolm, of Pottaloch, C.B.	W. P. B. Sheppard.
L. P. WRENCH (Dominica)	E. L. Marshall	W. P. B. Sheppard.

Full particulars regarding membership, and application forms for candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, The West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

A Hundred Years Ago.

Mr. Nolan's Counterpart.

From the old minute books of the West India Committee it appears that from March 25th, 1771, to March 25th, 1772, 10,737 casks of rum were imported from Jamaica, 439 from Granada (sic), 95 from Mountserrat (sic), 77 from Barbados, 62 from St. Kitts, 38 from Antigua, 37 from Nevis, 36 from Dominica, 16 from Tortola, 1 from St. Vincent's (sic), and 43 from North America. At a special meeting of the West India Merchants on June 3rd, 1772:—

The Merchants took into consideration the Advertisements concerning the Sale of genuine Rum. Mr. Evans moved that the following Advertisement be inserted in the newspapers, which was agreed to, and is as follows:—

Many Applications having been made to the West Indian Merchants upon the Subject of Mr. John Eden's Advertisement for the Sale of genuine Rum, they think it fit for the Satisfaction of the Public to print the minute of their General Meeting of January 7th last under the Sanction of which Mr. Eden advertises, viz.—

"A Plan formerly proposed by Mr. Evans was again taken into consideration for promoting the Sale of Genuine Rum only, and Mr. Evans having mentioned to the Meeting that Messrs. Collins and Company were about to open a Warehouse at No. 2, in Lower Thames Street for that Purpose, it was unanimously agreed that the said plan will be the means of accommodating the Public and extending the Sale of Genuine Rum in small Quantities."

Resolved: That the above minute was not meant to be confined to Messrs. Collins and Company but to be extended to all dealers who will engage to sell genuine Rum.—(SIGNED) JAS. ALLEN, Secy.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

The West Indians v. Leicestershire.

After a close finish, Leicestershire beat the West Indians at Leicester on August 8th by 24 runs. The West Indians were left with 351 to get to win, and they must be congratulated on getting so near to victory, for to make over 300 in the last innings of a match must always be considered a fine performance. Score:—

LEICESTERSHIRE.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. C. J. R. Wood, b Smith ..	7	c Bancroft, b Ollivierre ..	16
Captain Challenger, b Ollivierre	8	c Goodman, b Smith ..	8
Whitehead, c Bancroft, b Cumberbatch ..	11	c Ollivierre, b Smith ..	0
Kings, hit wkt, b Smith ..	10	b Ollivierre ..	28
King, c Goodman, b Smith ..	1	run out ..	12
Coe, b Ollivierre ..	17	c Goodman, b Smith ..	26
Mr. V. F. S. Crawford, c Challenger, b Ollivierre ..	27	c Morrison, b Cumberbatch ..	51
Mr. R. T. Crawford, c Learmond, b Cumberbatch ..	49	b Morrison ..	24
Jayes, not out ..	26	not out ..	53
Mr. W. W. Odell, c Cumberbatch, b Goodman ..	20	c Constantine, b Smith ..	4
Payne, b Morrison ..	3	c Bancroft, b Layne ..	1
Byes, 1; lb., 4 ..	5	Byes, 1; w., 1 ..	16
Total ..	274	Total ..	318

THE WEST INDIANS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. Challenger, c Payne, b King ..	36	c Whitehead, b Odell ..	63
Mr. L. Constantine, c and b Odell ..	02	c V. F. S. Crawford, b Jayes ..	50
Layne, b King ..	0	c Payne, b R. T. Crawford ..	5
Mr. S. Smith, lbw, b Odell ..	22	run out ..	43
Mr. P. A. Goodman, c Whitehead, b Odell ..	12	b R. T. Crawford ..	23
Mr. H. D. G. Austin, b King ..	10	c King, b Odell ..	68
Mr. K. Ollivierre, c Coe, b Odell ..	19	lbw, b Wood ..	2
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, c Coe, b Odell ..	3	b R. T. Crawford ..	2
Mr. G. C. Learmond, c Whitehead, b Jayes ..	17	b Wood ..	2
Cumberbatch, b Odell ..	11	b Jayes ..	22
Mr. G. S. Morrison, not out ..	0	not out ..	2
Byes, 1; l.b., 6 ..	18	Byes, 1; l.b., 7; w., 1 ..	25
Total ..	242	Total ..	326

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.					
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.		
Ollivierre ..	21	3	95	3	Ollivierre ..	26	2	125	2
Smith ..	23	5	80	3	Smith ..	29	3	95	4
Layne ..	9	0	45	0	Cumberbatch ..	5	0	39	1
Cumberbatch ..	14	0	48	0	Morrison ..	7	0	20	1
Morrison ..	7	1	1	1	Layne ..	5-4	0	22	1
Goodman ..	1	0	1	1					

First Innings.				Second Innings.					
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.		
Jayes ..	12-1	1	71	1	R. T. Crawford ..	17	3	63	3
Crawford ..	3	0	15	0	Jayes ..	17	1	97	2
Odell ..	10	3	60	0	King ..	9	2	15	0
King ..	22	3	75	3	Odell ..	17-4	4	53	2
					Whitehead ..	8	1	38	0
					Coe ..	2	1	0	0
					Wood ..	7	1	31	2

The West Indians v. Norfolk.

The West Indians beat Norfolk at Norwich on Saturday in dashing style by an innings and 118 runs. Score:—

THE WEST INDIANS.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
G. Challenger, run out ..	17	Mr. E. Ollivierre, lbw, b Gibson ..	11
Mr. L. Constantine, b Workman ..	11	Cumberbatch, not out ..	26
Mr. Layne, b Workman ..	62	Mr. J. E. Parker, st. Charles b Barrett ..	24
Mr. S. Smith, c and b Gibson ..	6	Mr. G. C. Learmond, st. Charles, b Barrett ..	0
Mr. P. A. Goodman, c McCormick, b Workman ..	88	Byes, etc. ..	17
Mr. A. K. Harragin, c Donaghy, b Workman ..	2		
Mr. H. B. G. Austin, b Smith ..	2	Total ..	375

NORFOLK.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
The Rev. J. G. McCormick, lbw, b Ollivierre ..	11	b Layne ..	18
Mr. C. E. Dunning, b Layne ..	10	c Ollivierre, b Smith ..	11
Mr. M. Falcon, b Ollivierre ..	0	c Constantine, b Layne ..	5
Jackson, lbw, b Ollivierre ..	0	st. Constantine, b Smith ..	4
Mr. L. Barrett, b Layne ..	18	c Constantine, b Layne ..	25
Mr. B. Coxens Hardy, st. Learmond, b Smith ..	6	c Learmond, b Smith ..	48
Mr. J. A. Workman, c Austin, b Layne ..	3	b Layne ..	2
Col. C. F. Charles, b Layne ..	15	st. Constantine, b Smith ..	0
Mr. R. G. Pitch, c Learmond, b Smith ..	0	c Constantine, b Smith ..	0
Gibson, b Layne ..	1	run out ..	0
Smith, not out ..	0	not out ..	3
Byes, etc. ..	5	Byes, etc. ..	5
Total ..	61	Total ..	166

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Gibson ..	27	11	60	1	Barrett ..	3	1	2
Smith ..	28	5	104	1	Fal on ..	5	0	2
Workman ..	20	7	91	1	Pitch ..	4	1	13

First Innings.				Second Innings.					
O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.		
Ollivierre ..	17	15	77	1	Layne ..	25	3	75	2
Layne ..	17	3	14	2	Ollivierre ..	6	0	15	0
Smith ..	13	5	48	2	Parker ..	1	0	10	0
					Smith ..	20-3	3	48	5
					Cumberbatch ..	9	3	20	0

The Report of the Commissioners of Customs.

The Commissioners of H.M. Customs in their report for the year ended March 31st, 1906, emphasise the fact that the output of beet and cane sugar in 1905-6 was the largest on record. According to the estimates of recognised authorities, the world's production in the last three Sugar seasons—September 1st to August 31st—is placed at:—

	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
Beet ..	5,881,000 Tons.	4,713,000 "Tons.	6,875,000 Tons.
Cane ..	4,297,000 "	4,559,000 "	4,095,000 "
Total ..	10,178,000 "	9,272,000 "	11,970,000 "

"Early in 1905 it was reported that Continental beet sowings were in excess of those of the preceding year and standard sugar,—'88 per cent beet'—which had risen to 76s. the cwt in January, 1905, fell to 14s. 6d. the cwt. at the close of March, the new crop being offered at 11s. 6d. In July, the collapse of speculative operations set free large quantities of Sugar, and refiners were able to obtain ample supplies at low prices until the plentiful new season's crop became available in October. In the remainder of the financial year prices were moderate and consumption active."

During the five years since the re-imposition of the sugar duties the gross and net receipts from this source have been as follows:—

	1907-2.	1908-3.	1909-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
Gross Receipts (less repayments) ..	£6,878,740	£1,780,978	£5,971,630	£6,214,161	£6,298,105
Drawbacks ..	179,552	302,260	245,726	107,777	115,152
Net Revenue ..	6,999,292	4,478,707	5,725,904	6,106,384	6,177,953

The net imports of foreign raw and refined Sugar, and the exports of Sugar refined in this country, are shown, for each of the past five calendar years, in the following table—

Years.	Imports of Sugar.	Re-exports of Foreign Refined Sugar and of Raw Sugar.	Imports less Re-exports in Col. 3.	Exports of British Refined Sugar.
1901	Refined .. 21,258,846 Cwts.	70,415 Cwts.	21,186,431 Cwts.	556,309 Cwts.
	Unrefined.. 13,387,143 "	122,895 "	13,264,248 "	—
	Total .. 34,645,989 "	193,310 "	34,450,679 "	556,309 "
1902	Refined .. 18,365,417 "	44,237 "	18,321,180 "	716,011 "
	Unrefined.. 13,221,402 "	91,937 "	13,130,165 "	—
	Total .. 31,586,819 "	135,574 "	31,451,335 "	716,011 "
1903	Refined .. 18,568,720 "	43,365 "	18,545,355 "	1,029,194 "
	Unrefined.. 12,646,679 "	59,111 "	12,589,568 "	—
	Total .. 31,215,399 "	102,476 "	31,134,923 "	1,029,194 "
1904	Refined .. 17,005,203 "	23,785 "	17,581,718 "	588,453 "
	Unrefined.. 14,683,940 "	100,879 "	14,583,061 "	—
	Total .. 31,689,143 "	124,664 "	32,104,779 "	588,453 "
1905	Refined .. 14,695,801 "	23,775 "	14,672,026 "	647,394 "
	Unrefined.. 14,686,648 "	113,523 "	14,543,126 "	—
	Total .. 29,382,449 "	137,297 "	29,215,152 "	647,394 "

Rum and Imitation Rum.

The contributions from Rum (including Imitation Rum) to the Imperial Revenue were practically the same in 1905-6 as in 1904-5, being respectively £2,148,217 and £2,147,752.

Importations of Rum, exclusive of Imitation Rum, have declined steadily from 6,692,601 proof gallons in 1901 to 4,198,647 proof gallons in 1905, and there was a continued fall in import values from rs. 6d. the gallon in 1901 to rs. 1d. in 1904. In consequence of short supplies and depleted stocks the average import value rose in 1905 to rs. 3d. the proof gallon, but the quantity cleared for consumption was only slightly in excess of that cleared in the preceding year.

The quantities of Rum, including Imitation Rum, retained for home consumption and the duty received therefrom in each of the past five financial years were:—

Years.	Quantity retained.	Net Duty received.	Increase or Decrease per cent. on quantity retained in previous year.
1901-1902	4,083,414 Proof Gallons.	£2,211,811	— 5.68 Per cent.
1902-1903	4,116,658 "	2,229,873	+ 0.61 " "
1903-1904	4,138,825 "	2,241,769	+ 0.53 " "
1904-1905	3,964,103 "	2,147,752	— 4.19 " "
1905-1906	3,965,952 "	2,148,217	+ 0.02 " "

The importation of Imitation Rum, which is the produce of countries in which the sugar cane is not grown, is inconsiderable, though there was an increase in 1905. The quantity retained for consumption in each of the past five financial years was as follows:—

Years.	Quantity retained.
1901-1902	26,164 Proof Gallons.
1902-1903	18,184 "
1903-1904	14,708 "
1904-1905	10,049 "
1905-1906	10,943 "

Molasses for Distilleries and Cattle Food.

The Commissioners of H.M. Customs report that the quantities of Molasses delivered on drawback or free of duty for use in distilleries, or for stock feeding purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act, 1901, and the Revenue Act, 1903, continue to show an increase, which is particularly noticeable in the quantity delivered for cattle feeding as will be seen from the following table:—

	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
For use in Distilleries—					
British made	258,915 (a)	323,194 (a)	191,684 (a)	—	—
Foreign and Colonial made	445,263	390,202	555,463	250,475	191,821
For Cattle Food—					
British made	(c)	(c)	118,168 (d)	338,485	418,579
Foreign and Colonial made	(c)	(c)	514,823	576,578	1,014,528
Total	703,598	723,396	1,558,936	1,847,048	2,481,900

(a) Delivered on drawback. (b) Delivered free of duty from bonded refineries since September 1st, 1903. (c) Not free of duty until September 1st, 1903. (d) Not including 13,501 cwt., made from duty paid sugar, on which an equivalent allowance of duty was made.

The Cocoa Duties.

Dealing with cocoa, the Commissioners of Customs state that the revenue derived from it in 1905-6 was £273,100, as against £258,705 in 1904-5, showing an increase of £14,395 or 5.56 per cent. This is due to a plentiful supply which lowered prices and encouraged an increased consumption.

The quantities of each kind of cocoa retained for home consumption, and the net receipts therefrom, for the past five years were:—

Years.		Quantity retained.	Net Duty received.	Years.		Quantity retained.	Net Duty received.
Cocoa, Raw	1901-1902 ..	45,222,692 lbs.	£188,429	Cocoa, Prepared, and Chocolate.	1901-1902 ..	7,709,897 lbs.	£64,991
	1902-1903 ..	37,181,180 "	154,922		1902-1903 ..	8,363,755 "	69,098
	1903-1904 ..	41,201,760 "	184,186		1903-1904 ..	10,808,298 "	85,860
	1904-1905 ..	42,619,344 "	177,680		1904-1905 ..	9,538,865 "	79,491
	1905-1906 ..	47,011,184 "	199,661		1905-1906 ..	8,114,588 "	70,972
Cocoa, Hulls and Shells.	1901-1902 ..	1,492 cwt.	149	Cocoa, Butter.	1901-1902 ..	415,630 "	1,738
	1902-1903 ..	1,969 "	199		1902-1903 ..	229,362 "	597
	1903-1904 ..	3,782 "	378		1903-1904 ..	119,501 "	493
	1904-1905 ..	8,763 "	876		1904-1905 ..	181,834 "	758
	1905-1906 ..	3,059 "	310		1905-1906 ..	650,718 "	2,753

Some Homeward Abails.

The R.M.S. "Port Royal" reached Avonmouth from Jamaica on Saturday, August 11th, and on the following Monday the R.M.S.P. "Trent" arrived at Southampton from Barbados. Among her passengers were Mr. J. D. Adamson, Mr. Bastiaans, Mr. Da Costa, and Mr. Shepherd. Complaints about the Mail arrangements occupied a prominent position in the letters of our correspondence, and we are glad to learn that directly the contract is formally signed by the Government and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., foreshadowed in our last, no time will be lost, and instructions will immediately be issued for the Inter-Colonial services to be renewed on the lines indicated at the earliest possible moment. We extract the following items of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Cotton and Sugar in Antigua.

Cotton planting seems to be increasing, and for next crop Antigua should export a good deal more than previously. Quite a lot of land, for many years in bush, is being cleared and planted, and as a result labour is much in demand and consequently in very short supply. The Hon. A. St. G. Spooner, writing on July 23rd, said that the question of how this cotton was to be ginned was a serious one, as there was only one ginney in the Island and it was doubtful whether it could tackle the crop that would be grown.

Owing to the rains that had fallen during the year to date the labourers were well supplied with provisions, the gaol and hospital, the best indications of the relations between food demand and food supply, were both sparsely filled, and the Island generally looked green and growthy. The large amount of peasant canes sold to the Gunthorpe's and Bendal's Factories had also put a lot of money in the peasants' hands and made many of them independent of wage earning for the time. Naturally, cotton planters could afford to pay wages which sugar planters could not, owing to present prices of sugar, so that the question of growing cane with less labour was becoming an important and a very necessary one for the welfare of the whole Island, the labourer included. Otherwise, cane cultivation might have to be reduced and the labourer rendered more dependent on the cotton industry, which only found him a full supply of work at certain seasons. In this connection the experiments then being tried with Louisiana implements were very interesting and important, and although it might be too much to expect that these implements could be adopted without any alteration, still it was to be hoped and seemed probable that the principles on which they worked would prove sound and suitable to local conditions and enable Antigua to get the necessary implements.

Favourable weather in Barbados.

Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, writing to us on July 29th, said that the showers in July, though quite sufficient, were for the most part lighter than those of June; but on the 27th a nice rain fell by which all benefited to some extent, and as much as 2.65 was recorded in Bridgetown. Five to six inches would be the average rainfall for the month to date, which coming after a "dripping June," was all that was required. The canes were taking up their manure rapidly, and were healthy and vigorous. The cotton fields were looking very pretty, and great preparations were being made for planting more next month. Yams, potatoes, Indian corn, and all provisions were coming on well. The new cotton factory, near the public library, was showing its head bravely, and would be finished before long.

The death of Mr. Walter Collymore on July 23rd caused very general regret. He was one of the most upright and most respected of the merchants of Bridgetown, and his high character as well as his great abilities rendered his loss a very severe one to the community.

The elections had taken place, and all the old members had been returned without opposition. The Legislature met on the day of the departure of the Mail. The dastardly attempt to poison Prof. Harrison, of British Guiana, and his laboratory staff with arsenic had created quite a consternation in Barbados. The crop had closed though all the sugar had not yet been shipped.

Mr. A. Summerson's services in British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan, writing on July 20th, informed us that at a meeting of the British Guiana Planters' Association on July 11th, the following resolution was ordered to be recorded on the minutes :

That this Meeting desire to place on record their appreciation of, and deep indebtedness to Mr. Summerson for his long and arduous services to the Planters' Association during the time he has been associated with them as Secretary and Treasurer.

The weather, after being much too wet, had changed, and it was fine and bright and in every way favourable for the estates. Canes were reported to be backward, but if the favourable weather continued there should be a good crop at the end of the year. The prospects for the coming crop were hopeful. Sugar was quoted at \$2 nominal, though there was none to dispose of.

The Cable Interruptions.

Writing from Dominica on July 27th, Mr. E. A. Agar said that cable communication was interrupted from the 12th to the 14th. The weather had been seasonable and the crops continued to look well.

Good weather for Cotton in Nevis.

Cotton planters in Nevis were in a difficulty as to the shipment of their cotton when the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote to us on July 16th that steamers could not be persuaded to call, and although the style of boat plying between Nevis and St. Kitts was unsuitable for cotton, the planters had to ship to St. Kitts. The weather during the fortnight had been just what was required. Frequent and soaking showers had fallen, without any excessively heavy rains, and a large area of cotton had been established for 1907. Some of the early planting in February was coming in. Mr. Wigley, the Acting Administrator, had visited the Island, and his time was fully occupied visiting the various cotton districts, etc. On July 12th he presided over a meeting of the Agricultural Society.

Experiments in cultivation in St. Kitts.

During the fortnight ended July 22nd, frequent nice showers had fallen in St. Kitts, and Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote that they exactly suited the young crop, but though estates which had not finished the crop were having rather a trying time, cotton was coming in well all over the Island, and on a few forward fields picking would probably begin at the end of August or the beginning of September.

An interesting discussion took place at a meeting of the Agricultural Society on the 12th on the subject of ploughing of ratoon canes. It was suggested that the Barbadian method of trashing the banks and not sub-soiling should be tried, but the general opinion appeared to be that the local practice of sub-soiling both banks and leaving one bank only covered with trash was best suited to conditions of St. Kitts. One or two planters promised to give the Barbadian method a trial and the results would be watched with interest.

Opening up St. Lucia.

The weather had been wet in St. Lucia when Mr. George S. Hudson wrote to us on July 28th, about ten inches of rain having fallen during the month to that date in the humid districts. Sugar canes were making fine growth; so were weeds, and the rain made it difficult to cope with the latter, but the canes had certainly a very fine start for the 1907 crop. The coming crop of cacao was promising, and forward except in the Roseau valley, which was rather disappointing. Peasants' cacao was also showing badly this year, and in St. Lucia it was cacao from this source that swelled exports to a "record," but the larger and well cultivated estates were looking very well.

A Committee, lately appointed to advise the Colonial Government as to the directions in which a special vote of £5000 for roads should be expended, had sent in their report. The majority were in favour of opening up the now inaccessible cacao districts in Roseau, Canaries, Vieuxfort, Micoud and Dennery, by twenty-two miles of bridle tracks, and completing the Goldsworthy main road across the Island.

Slight shocks of earthquake still continued at irregular intervals, being felt more in the northern part of the island. They did no damage, except to nerves.

St. Vincent's Shipping Difficulties.

Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co., writing on July 26th, again complained of the difficulties experienced in shipping produce. The "Mennon" came in quite unexpected by her agents and left behind a shipment of molasses which had been prepared for her, and on applying to the agents for room in the following steamer, the "Oruro," the shippers were informed that she would be full and could

not take any cargo from St. Vincent. Alternate showers and hot suns ideal weather for the young cotton cultivation, had prevailed during the fortnight, and there was every prospect of a good crop next year.

The permanent Exhibition Committee of St. Vincent, with the help of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, had been able to send a representative collection of exhibits to the Canadian Exhibition.

Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on July 26th, said that the planters had met the situation caused by the low germinating power of most of the best marks of cotton seed in an energetic manner, with the result that nearly all had a good stand of cotton. The acreage under cotton fully came up to expectations, and from a preliminary estimate it appeared that quite double the area of last season's cultivations had been planted. The peasantry had also taken up the industry to some extent, which was certainly a good sign, for, as written by Sir W. T. Thisleton Dyer in *Nature* of March 22nd, 1906, "To induce the negro to engage in profitable cultivation instead of contenting himself with a bare modicum of ground provisions, provides a source of revenue, raises his standard of comfort, and makes for his moral progress." The Government, by offering prizes to the peasantry on the Land Settlement for the best cotton cultivations had in a large measure helped to further this aim.

The rainfall had been very heavy during the past six weeks, and a few days of bright sunshine would do a lot of good to the young crops, and prevent the early attacks of disease.

Two important Trinidad Reports.

The reports of the Committees on the Railway Extension and the question of local government in Trinidad reached us by the mail and can now be seen at the West India Committee Rooms. San Fernando, wrote H. G. Townsend Fenwick, had had its meeting to protest against any preference being given to the Tabaquite-Rio Claro proposals. The chief argument advanced in favour of preference to the Siparia extension was that, when in 1894, £250,000 was raised to carry out the extensions to Tabaquite and Sangre Grande, a promise was made that if there was any of this money left after completing those extensions, it was to be devoted to extensions in the Southern District. The gist of the report on local government was that things be left much as they are, but that the Warden and Medical Officers be *ex officio* members of the Boards of their respective districts.

Arrangements had been come to by the Railway Works Co. and the Crown Agents with regard to the floating dock, and a draft agreement and a contract were before the Council for approval.

Rains, more or less heavy, have fallen every day of the fortnight. They had been general throughout the Colony, and had been beneficial on the whole, although many of the flowers of the cocoa trees were destroyed. Reports from the country were not in favour of an early crop, but in most districts the trees were taking on flowers and small fruit. During the last few days of the month the anxiety to buy had been exhibited by one or two merchants, presumably to cover short sales. Other than this there had been little demand, and the market, although firm, was inactive. Supplies had been on a small scale, and somewhat unsatisfactory in quality. Fine Estates were quoted @ 54/-, Mixed Estates @ 53/-, and Ordinary @ 52/-, for delivery during the first two months of the year. One or two shipments of inferior qualities of Venezuelan cocoa had realised higher prices, and there was a much firmer tone in this market, fine qualities which were very scarce, realising big figures.

SHIPMENTS.

Totals at last report	105,345 bags, Trinidad	24,404 bags, Venezuelan	
July 17.—S.S.—"La Plata"	1,767 " "	56 " "	Europe.
" 17.—S.S.—"Cr. of Navarre"	100 " "		
" 18.—S.S.—"Maraval"	2,205 " "	798 " "	New York.
" 22.—S.S.—"Prins Maurits"	800 " "		
Totals to date	111,217 bags, Trinidad	25,258 bags, Venezuelan.	

The Editor's Diary.

Wed., August 8th.—88⁹⁰/₁₀₀. Beet, 9s. 2½d. quiet.

Thurs., August 9th.—Letter from the Duke of Somerset forwarding the Public Address, containing 370,000 signatures to Lord Milner, and the reply of the latter published in the Press.—The Report of the Postmaster General, published as a Blue Book (Cd. 3114). Beet, 9s. 1½d., quiet.

Fri., August 10th.—Beet, 9s. 0½d., quiet.

Sat., August 11th.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 0½d., quiet.

Mon., August 13th.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent" arrived at Southampton. Beet, 8s. 11d., quiet.

Tues., August 14th.—The King left England for Germany. Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.

Weather Telegrams.

Barbados—(Messrs. T. Daniel and Co., Ltd.), August 8th: "Weather perfect." (Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), August 15th: "Seasonable weather." **British Guiana**—(Messrs. Curtis Campbell and Co.), August 9th: "Too much rain for present requirements, more sunshine wanted." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson and Co.), August 13th: "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended August 1st. **PORT ANTONIO**—July 26th to 31st, fine; August 1st, rainy. **KINGSROX**—Fine.

Our Library.

West Indies in Canada, 1906.—This is the title of a small handbook issued by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for distribution at the Halifax and Toronto Exhibitions, with the object of placing Canadian merchants in possession of reliable facts relative to the resources of the British West Indies and the possibilities for trade between them and the Dominion. Tables are given showing that the value of Canadian imports into the West Indies (including British Guiana) amounted in the year ended June 30th, 1905, to \$3,433,012 (£775,211), while the value of the West Indian exports to Canada was \$8,589,530 (£1,780,485). The total volume of the trade carried on between the two countries last year was therefore \$12,022,542 (£2,504,696). Barbados exported to Canada, in 1905, sugar of the value of £107,335 and molasses of the value of £68,647 while the imports of Canadian products into Barbados, in the same year, were of the value of £78,576. The Leeward Islands exported produce to British North America in the year 1904-5 of the value of £166,098, receiving in return imports of the value of £25,174. The value of the imports from Canada into Jamaica was £112,465, or 6.9 per cent of the total, the exports to Canada being 8.8 per cent. of the total. From British Guiana there was exported produce, mostly sugar, of the value of \$2,512,643, the imports from Canada being valued at \$468,538. While the corresponding figures for last year are not yet to hand, it is understood that the trade of that year was much larger than ever before. As is well known, the Dominion Government offers preferential rates for produce grown in the British Colonies, and, on this and other grounds, it is desirable that closer commercial relations should be encouraged between the West Indies and Canada. The trade already built up, largely by means of Messrs. Pickford and Black's Canadian line of steamers, is considerable; but there is abundant room for expansion, especially in regard to shipments of sugar, molasses, cocoa nuts, cacao, coffee, spices, fresh fruits, and other tropical produce. A useful feature of the book is an alphabetical and descriptive list of West Indian produce.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), August 13th: Mr. Macfarlane, Mr. Gato, Mr. F. Cuello, Mr. S. Fieldwick, Mrs. P. N. Jones, Mrs. Bernstein, Mr. R. G. Thomas, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Hon. A. G. Bell, Mr. Chunkoo, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Da Costa, Mr. J. Baggs, Mrs. G. L. Pile, Miss E. Roden, Mrs. Dalton, Mr. F. Harris, Mr. I. A. Brown, Mr. Thornton, Mr. H. A. Bunting, Mr. W. F. Walton, Mr. N. P. Raposo, Mr. Garcia, Mr. Bastiaans, Mr. and Mrs. Guanchez, Mr. G. White, Miss Barslem, Dr. W. Ulrich, Mrs. Watson, Mr. H. Dunsmuir, Mr. H. Pearce, Mr. D. K. Jardine, Lieut. V. B. Laing, Mr. G. Cushman, Mr. J. D. Adamson, Lieut. and Mrs. Wright, Mr. Douglas Grey, Miss Sealey, Mrs. J. H. de Jonge, Mr. and Mrs. C. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shepherd, Mrs. A. Horsford, Mr. C. Petersen, Mr. E. R. Stackdale, Rev. W. H. Jolley.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. Triggs), August 16th:—Mr. H. Hochschild, Mr. E. C. Lefevre, Mr. and Mrs. J. Urich, Mr. F. Fowler, Mr. Belt, Mr. H. Strampier, Mr. and Miss Legge, Mr. C. C. Kenrick, Mr. V. C. Badgwan, Mr. A. R. Mitchell, Mr. B. L. Jackson, Pros. J. Perry, Miss A. Stower, Mr. F. Withington, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wilson, Mr. G. S. Croshaw, Hon. H. E. Murray, Mr. W. A. Murray, Mr. Golding, Mr. G. Brown, Mr. J. Cipriani, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. J. Robbins, Mr. G. Janssen, Mr. A. Bartlett, Miss Frostuck, Mr. H. Way, Mr. W. Hutchison, Mr. C. De Windt, Mr. and Mrs. Rivas, Mr. S. F. Dattin, Mr. A. Fernandez, Mr. H. B. Bateman, Mr. M. Perinay, Mr. H. O'Connor.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. J. G. Little), August 15th: **Jamaica.**—Mr. E. C. Azevedo, Miss Black, Miss D. H. Brett, Mr. R. Bretter, Mr. R. A. Bloxham, Mr. J. Dunstan, Mr. A. Dewar, Mrs. Gay, Mr. A. Harris, Miss Harris, Mr. I. A. Isaac, Mr. and Mrs. O. Jansen, Miss C. E. Jones, Rev. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. I. G. Mantering, Mr. and Mrs. A. de C. Parmator, Mr. J. H. McPhail, Mr. L. L. Hooper, Hon. E. B. Simmons, Mr. A. Schuesser, Mr. D. S. Savory, Mr. A. Stott, Mr. A. Taylor, Mr. Tomkinson, Mr. M. I. Taylor, Mr. R. Whites, Mr. Williams.

Exports of Produce from the West Indies.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1st to July 31st.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1906.	1905.	1906.
Sugar ..	30,760	28,799 tons.	14,771	27,728 tons	7,047	5,101 tons	117,379	272,728 bags & brls.	—	—
Molasses ..	52,487	35,025 puns.	2,406	1,624 casks.	—	—	1,141	2,887 puns.	—	—
Rum ..	—	—	9,731	8,544 puns	634,992	604,839 galls.	91	290 bcs.	—	—
Cattle Feed & Molasses ..	—	—	4,728	3,349 tons	—	—	91	348 puns	—	—
Cocoa ..	—	—	3,800	24,640 lbs.	79,720	13,019 cwts.	18,061,510	25,917,435 lbs.	52,603	60,724 bags.
Coffee ..	—	—	—	—	10,123	7,100 "	16,410	11,932 "	—	—
Cocconuts ..	—	—	64,624	246,477	1,886,045	1,334,730	5,281,402	5,275,890	—	—
Capers ..	—	—	—	—	15,036	23,660 lbs.	10,011	5,256 bags	—	—
Cotton ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,014	203 bales.
Cotton Seed ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,692	4,745 bags.
Asphalt ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oranges ..	—	—	—	—	1,811,771	2,846,014	25,797	69,938 tons.	—	—
Bananas ..	—	—	—	—	5,258,128	5,450,082 stems	—	—	—	—
Pimento ..	—	—	—	—	20,408	19,063 cwts.	—	—	—	—
Spice ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gold ..	—	—	51,263	49,843 ozs.	—	—	—	—	4,274	4,384 lbs.
Diamonds ..	—	—	241	2,327 carats	—	—	—	—	472	529 1/2 brls.
									373	361 cases.
									210	170 bags.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No LXXIV



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Knight & Fry.

Mr. Ralph Champneys Williams, C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEething LANE, LONDON,

Aug. 21st, 1906

Telegrams: "CANTON LONDON." Telephone: 8843 CENTRAL.

It was with a feeling of profound relief that we were able to announce on the 17th inst. that a contract had been signed between the Crown Agents for the Colonies and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the resumption of the West Indian Intercolonial Mail Services which, subsequent to the abandonment of the mail contract on June 31st, 1905, were suspended early in the present year. It is true that the Services are only to be carried on in a modified form, but we must, we suppose, be thankful for small mercies. As foreshadowed in our issue of the 8th instant, the arrangements include the provision of a fortnightly service between British Guiana, Grenada, St. Vincent and Barbados, by intercolonial steamer connecting with the ocean steamer at the latter island. A coasting steamer will continue to ply between Dominica, St. Lucia, and Barbados, and an intercolonial steamer will visit the more northerly Islands once a month. We never shared the belief of Mr. Lyttelton that it would be possible to conduct the West Indian Mail Service as a

whole without a subsidy, and it will be within recollection that we repeatedly urged this point, and

that we also took the strongest possible exception to the Colonies not being consulted on a matter which so vitally affects their interest. The cessation, however, of the intercolonial services called for prompt action, and the result is the conclusion of this tentative arrangement on which the Colonies will have full opportunity of passing an opinion. The new services, which will take effect from the date of the arrival of the R.M.S.P. "La Plata" at Barbados on Aug. 28th, will be experimental, and as the contract is terminable at short notice it should be possible to amend and also to extend it if it is found to be desirable or necessary. The subsidy for the service is to be at the rate of £17,500 per annum, and we understand that half of this sum will be paid by the Imperial Government, and that the Colonies principally concerned, namely British Guiana, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis and St. Kitts, will be asked to contribute the other half, which, we imagine, they can hardly fail to do, considering the interests involved. It must be clearly understood that the arrangement above referred to is quite distinct from the transatlantic service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. With regard to the latter our readers will recollect that at the annual meeting of that Company on May 30th, Mr. Owen Philipps said that though it was too early to express a final opinion on the results obtained, their new route was proving a more commercial one than the old contract route, and that with a reasonable poundage rate he hoped and believed that it would be possible to carry on the main line service without a mail contract. If Mr. Philipps' hope is fulfilled the ill-wind of last year's deplorable muddle will be found to have blown the Colonies substantial good by reducing the cost of their mail services. Now inasmuch as in 1905 out of 556,000 lbs. weight letters, postcards, &c., which passed between the United Kingdom and the West Indies, no less than 498,000 lbs. were despatched from the United Kingdom, as compared with 58,000 lbs. forwarded to the Mother Country by the Colonies, the latter may, we think, reasonably expect the Treasury to put its hand in its pocket and pay its fair share in securing and maintaining the regularity of departure and arrival of the ocean steamers on the basis of a sufficient poundage rate for the mails or otherwise. If, and so long as the present transatlantic service is continued, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, and Trinidad will be as well served as heretofore. It is to be regretted, however, that the departure of the steamer on the day after its arrival at British Guiana will leave people in Demerara but a short time for replying to their correspondence, and practically shut out return letters from Essequibo and Berbice. Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis will also be at a disadvantage, as besides only having a monthly service their mails and passengers in transit will be detained for nearly a week in Barbados. A second intercolonial steamer would solve both these difficulties. Jamaica, besides being in direct communication with the Mother Country by means of the speedy and comfortable vessels of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service, has now the advantage of another line of steamers to the United States. As a temporary measure then the present arrangement is welcome, and with the addition of a second intercolonial steamer it would leave little cause for complaint.

A letter appears in the *Antigua Standard* of July 7th from an anonymous correspondent over the signature "One whom the British Government meant to benefit," animadverting to the control of Gunthorpe's Central Factory, and the estates connected with it. This, though unimportant in itself, deserves attention as well-illustrating the mistaken idea which prevails among the lower classes in the West Indies—and which is, we are afraid, not confined to that quarter—as to the direction in which benefit should be derived from such semi-public works as the Antigua factory. Before going into the grievances ventilated, we should like to point out that the Government grant, which formed the basis of the factory, was a portion of the grant-in-aid to the planters of 1902, which was voted by the Imperial Government solely for the benefit of the sugar industry, a point which, judging from his *nom de plume*, has evidently been lost sight of by the writer. The chief points which

he complains of are, that the staff has been reduced, that outside skilled labour in connection with the factory has been introduced at a relatively high salary, and that steam ploughing has deprived 200 agricultural labourers of their employment. Further, that the peasants' canes are not paid for at the same rate as the proprietors' canes. The factory is also mentioned as making enormous profits from which the people do not benefit. The misconception as to the source of the Government grant, mentioned above, at once puts the complaints out of court—but even if this grant were one purely and simply for the benefit of the community, a factory of this nature is not a philanthropic institution in the sense of supplying a maximum of people with the work they particularly fancy, but a business concern for the advantage of the sugar industry in particular, and through it, the Island as a whole. If the staff has been cut down and extra work thrown on others, with small extra remuneration, this has no doubt been done as a necessary step in economy. At the present price of sugar the enormous profits, which the writer of the letter attributes to the factory, do not exist, and we may point out that those responsible for the control of a concern like the Antigua Central, the success of which is a matter of the highest importance to the smaller West Indian Islands, are not likely to increase that responsibility, as they would do by reducing the staff, without due cause. If skilled control has to be brought in from outside, it is undoubtedly the absence of it in the Island which renders the adoption of this course necessary, a matter the remedy for which in the future is in the hands of the Islanders themselves. The foregoing are points of administration, but the displacement of labour by the introduction of mechanical tillage for estate work opens up a question of wider import. It seems to us that the position is this: if, by the adoption of steam ploughing a larger and cheaper crop is obtained, while labour is liberated for the growing of more canes at the hands of the peasantry, for which in Antigua every facility is given, good to all parties must result. The increased supply of canes to the factory means, so long as the latter is powerful enough to deal with them economically—and this limit has been far from reached at Gunthorpe's—reduction in cost of manufacture and further profit in all directions. The estate proprietor as well as the peasant receives more for his canes, while the factory profit is also increased. Again, it is a prominent trait in the negro labourer, though, perhaps, a natural one, to prefer congenial tasks without responsibility or necessity for initiation, to occupations which require enterprise and the display of individual energy. Therefore the throwing of the 200 labourers upon their own resources, as the result of the introduction of mechanical tillage, should, so long as an opportunity for profitable industry is open to them, prove to be to their ultimate advantage, especially as employment on the estates in cane-cutting, planting, &c., is still open to them. As to the peasant farmers' canes being paid for with profits at a lesser rate than those of the estate proprietors, so long as the canes are well grown and in good condition, we certainly think that in the circumstances the farmers should receive the same rate of payment as the proprietors. It is true that the latter have responsibilities connected with the factory which the farmer has not; but taking into consideration the need the latter have of encouragement, it would be a politic—if unsoundly economic—step. We have written somewhat at length on this subject, as in view of further factory schemes being carried out and of the general introduction of mechanical tillage, the questions involved are sure to crop up again sooner or later. The points that we should like to emphasise are, that strict economy in the control of a co-operative central factory is to the advantage of all, peasantry as well as proprietors, and that the substitution of labour-saving appliances in the field, where adjacent land is available for peasant cultivation, promotes the common good. The tendency of mechanical tillage in an island like Antigua should be towards converting the task labourer into the peasant farmer, the strengthening of agriculture, and the raising of the general tone of the industrial classes.

FROM the covering letter of Mr. H. LLEWELLYN SMITH, Controller-General of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade, forwarding to the President the Report on the Work of the

Imperial Institute for 1905, it appears that the suggestions made by SIR CHARLES BRUCE for the transfer of the control of the Institute to the Colonial Office are—in part at any rate—to be carried out, and the continuity of the establishment maintained. A perusal of PROFESSOR DUNSTAN'S report leaves no room for doubt that the investigations of the Scientific and Technical Department have been useful. Again, no one who visited the Colonial collections at South Kensington in the old days, and has visited them again recently, can fail to be struck by the remarkable improvement in their arrangement and scope since they were taken in hand by Mr. W. G. FREEMAN, and it would have been a mistake to have allowed the work to be brought abruptly to an end. We are bound to confess that we have always felt the position of the Institute to be a calamity owing to its distance from the centre of commerce. A visitor has only to listen to the sound of his footsteps echoing and reverberating through the too often deserted galleries to realise that. But even to South Kensington the fruits of the work of Mr. FREEMAN and his assistants are attracting an increasing number of visitors, and it is not too much to hope that if ever funds are forthcoming a move may be made further east, and the great white elephant, as the present building has unfortunately proved, will be handed over in its entirety to the steadily expanding London University. To revert to Mr. LLEWELLYN-SMITH'S letter; he points out that consequent upon the cessation of the grant of £2,000 per annum made by the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, negotiations were opened between the Board of Trade, the Colonial Office, and the Treasury, with a view to putting the Scientific and Technical Department of the Imperial Institute on a satisfactory financial footing. Though not yet completed, these negotiations are sufficiently advanced to make it practically certain that the loss of revenue will at least be made good by contributions partly from the Treasury, partly from the Governments of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates which chiefly avail themselves of the services of the department, while there is good reason for hoping that a sufficient fund will be forthcoming not only to replace the lost grant, but to enable the department to meet the increasing demand for its services. In view of the fact that a large proportion of the funds will, under this scheme, be contributed by the Colonial Governments, it seems desirable that the management of the funds so contributed should be largely controlled by the Colonial Office. We understand that the Colonial Office is agreeable to this arrangement, and that only the details now remain to be settled. This being so, further developments of an interesting character may be expected in the near future.

Mr. Ralph Champneys Williams, C.M.G.

The Governor-Elect of the Windward Islands was for the four years, 1897 to 1901, Colonial Secretary of Barbados, during which time he acquired considerable popularity, and was looked upon as an infallible authority on affairs South African. Small wonder at that; for in 1884, Mr. Ralph Williams was head of the Civil Intelligence Department of the Bechuanaland Expedition; in 1887, British Consular Officer to the South African Republic, and in the following year British Agent in Pretoria. Since he left the West Indies he has been Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and through his unflinching tact, none the less than through his commanding presence, he has shown himself to be a capable master of men. Before he began his career in the Colonial service Mr. Williams was an ardent explorer in Patagonia, and also Central Africa. He married in 1875 the youngest daughter of Mr. Samuel Dean. He is the author of "The British Lion in Bechuanaland," and has a nickname which is always a signal mark of popularity. He was created C.M.G. in 1901, and within a short time we may expect to see the prefix "K" added.

Death of Mr. R. A. Hankey.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Rodolph Alexander Hankey, senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Thomson Hankey & Co., which took place at Axenstein in Switzerland, on Saturday, August 18th. Mr. Hankey, who was in his seventieth year, was a Director of the Colonial Bank and of the London and India Docks, and was for many years a member of the West India Committee.

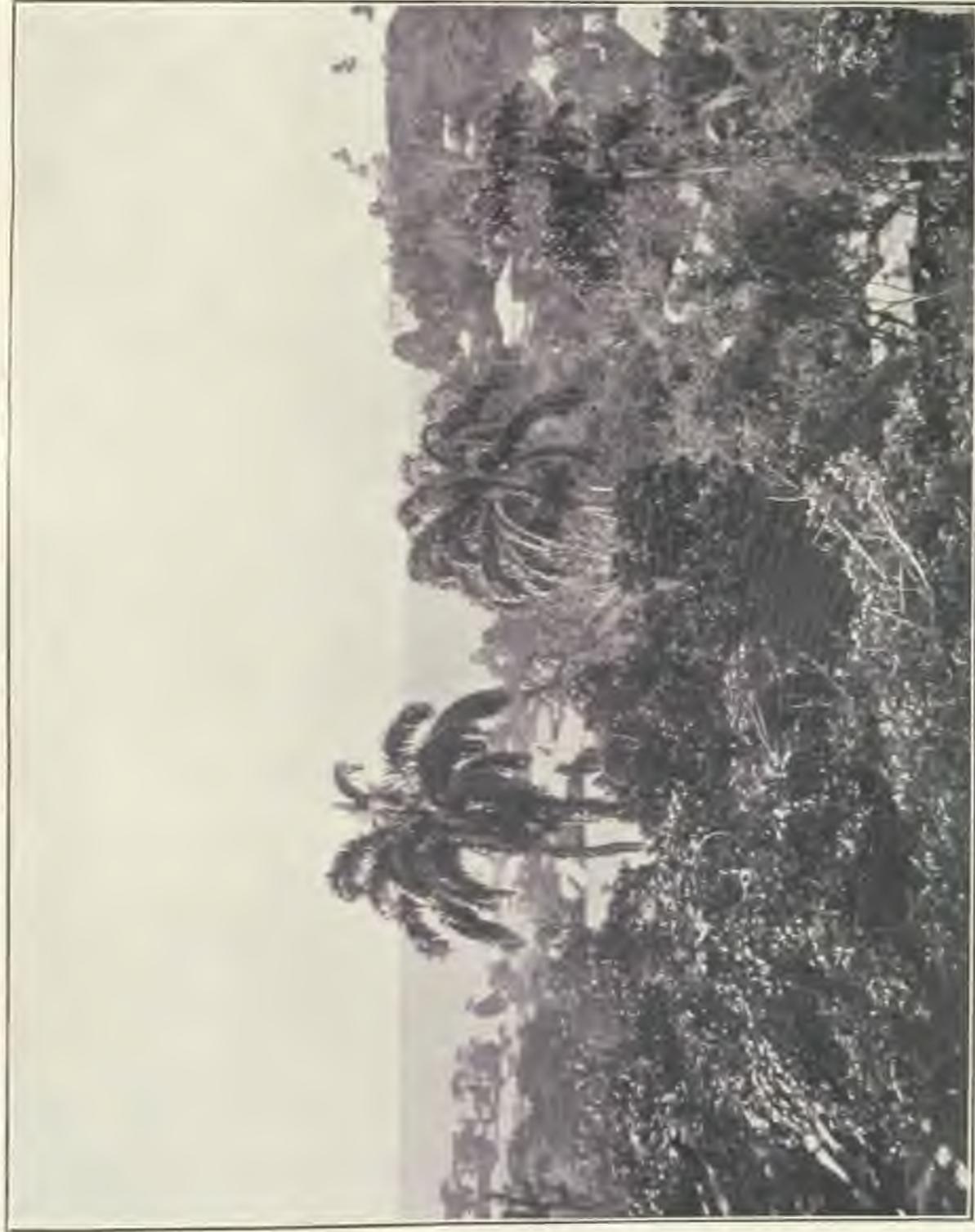


Photo by Alexander E. Snyden.

TROPICAL FOLIAGE.

The West India Committee.

As the next election of Members to the West India Committee will not be held before next month and will date from 1st October next, we may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following 1st January. Thus members, elected in October, November and December next, will on paying their subscriptions not be required to renew them until 1st Jan., 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Equality of Opportunity or Artificial Competition?

In the current issue of the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* M. Georges Dureau reverts to the question of the future of the Brussels Convention. Dealing with the objection made to it on the ground that Great Britain is being dictated to and overawed by the International Commission at Brussels, M. Dureau asks, Why should the position of England with regard to the Convention be less tenable than that of the other high Contracting Powers? Will M. Cailloux be capable of convincing our neighbours across the Channel that as a matter of fact it is all in their interest to secure the continuance of the Convention by the abolition of Bounties? If it were only to show that the rivals of Germany are by no means disarmed against the policy of cartels, England ought at all cost to continue her present sugar policy. In the event of the United Kingdom withdrawing from the Convention one of two things must happen: either the other contracting Powers will continue the agreement, in which case the English market will easily become open to Russian and other bounty-fed sugar, and British sugared products will be subject to prohibition or to be countervailed in the markets of the contract-parties; or the Convention will come to an end, in which event each Power will again become free. From that moment the surtaxes will be raised and nothing will prevent the German and Austrian sugar manufacturers and refiners from carrying to a successful conclusion the attempts which have actually been made to reconstitute cartels. Great Britain will not lose sight of these eventualities if she wishes to spare her sugar trade serious trouble. To sum up, Will the policy inaugurated by the Brussels Convention, a policy tending to free competition and the increase of consumption, be abandoned after a short experience, or will the great civilised Powers which are participating in this experiment return to the régime of artificial competition, the system of cartels and bounties of which the entire sugar world has not yet been able to forget the disastrous effects?

The Trinidad Cocoa Factory.

Dealing with the announcement which we made in a recent issue of the formation of a company for the manufacture of cocoa in Trinidad, *Confectionery* says, "We have heard of a prominent planter in Samoa having his cocoa manufactured and tinned in Sydney and brought back to Samoa for local consumption, and, of course, there have been several individual makers in the West Indies and Demerara who have made cocoa and chocolate for local consumption, to say nothing of the well-known "clock-weights" that keep for years, and are unequalled for flavour to those who like all the fat left in; but the present venture with Mr. Tucker at its head, is so far the most ambitious attempt that has been made to set up a factory for the making of chocolate on the spot where the raw material is produced. By doing so it is hoped to partially remedy the loss caused by the unfortunate prices, and also to create an important local industry.

"There is no doubt, as was recently pointed out in the cocoa market report, that prices of the best grades of Trinidad cocoa have been for many months past, and still are, very low in proportion to the cheaper kinds. Last year when the commoner grades were seven or eight shillings lower than they are now, unsatisfactory as the price then was, the fine and superior marks sold higher in proportion, and every one expected that when good times came and prices went up ten shillings or so (as they ought to for Trinidad cocoa to sell at its real value compared to other growths like San Thome or Bahia, and especially Samana and Sanchez) that the rise would be general for fine and common alike. This however, has not proved to be the case, for whilst "good muddling red" of attractive appearance has risen in price from 52s. or 53s. to 59s. or 60s., the fine old marks "La Compensacion" at 64s., San Antonio at 65s., and Soconusco at 67s., still show no improvement on the prices they sold at when the others were almost down to 50s.

"Very naturally the planting fraternity at the producing centre protest vigorously against this state of affairs. Commenting on the matter the *Port of Spain Gazette*, the leading daily of the capital

of Trinidad, finds the remedy suggested, to send cocoa less highly cured, a very strange one. Why our worthy contemporary should do so it is difficult to say, because our Colonial and foreign buyers have said hard enough things of the English manufacturers when they persisted in sending out the goods that they (the manufacturers) had to sell rather than what the buyers wished to receive, and yet now the tables are turned, and the English and European cocoa and chocolate makers show that they do not wish for highly cured cocoa, why should the Trinidad planters, through their oldest and best known organ, show that they are aggrieved, especially as the cocoa that is now selling highest in proportion to its quality takes less time, and so less labour and wages, to turn out, and loses less weight in the sweating and drying?

"As it is, London for years has been taking the very best of Trinidad's marks, which the Continent could not use to advantage, and which only lately America has attracted her way, though from all one gathers the three superior marks already mentioned still come to London in spite of the low prices they obtain. Be this as it may, the English manufacturers in general, and the London *one* in particular, are to be punished by Trinidad for not paying higher prices for the fine cocoa she can turn out." For the present, however, this important confectionery trade paper refrains from criticising the new venture.

The Mining and Forest Industries of Guiana.

The total output of gold from British Guiana during the season 1905-6 amounted to 91,925 ozs., which, although greater than in 1903-4, was 5,686 ozs. below that of 1904-5. The Council of the Institute of Mines and Forests of British Guiana in their seventeenth annual report, for copies of which we are indebted to the secretary Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, state that the dredging for gold on the Conawarook, for which a new and powerful plant was in course of erection, was expected to lead to a large increase in the returns. Very little was done in the twelve months under review in the direction of diamond working, only 68,701 stones having been declared.

In forest products, Balata represented the highest value, the amount exported being 517,335 lbs. of the value of \$181,848. With regard to rubber the Council are able to place on record that the amount for 1904-5, which was 1,545 lbs., has been more than doubled, the shipment for the last year having been 3,822 lbs. A large proportion of this rubber came from the North-West District where several rubber-growing concessions have been taken up. The operations in the higher waters of the Potaro were retarded possibly by the illness of Dr. Bovallius; but it is understood that they are now proceeding satisfactorily under his management. It seems a great pity, say the Council, that the question of rubber cultivation and collection was not taken up in this Colony years ago when it was pointed out by Mr. Thiselton Dyer that it was advisable to plant rubber to a large extent. The late Mr. Jenman had previous to this made several reports to the Government as to the rubbers of the Colony. However, at the present time, considerable attention is being devoted to this subject, and, at the forthcoming County Show to be held in Georgetown on September 12th and 13th, under the auspices of the Board of Agriculture, a special section has been devoted to forest products, and prizes are offered for the best specimens of rubber derived from *Hevea*, *Sapium* and *Castilloa*, the amounts to be exhibited to be 5 lbs. in weight.

With regard to timber 266,912 cubic feet of Greenheart and Mora to the value of \$114,703 were exported. The exports of ordinary lumber amounted to 20,844 feet, and 1,748,800 Wallaba shingles were exported. Wallaba and bardwood posts numbered 4,591 and bags of charcoal 62,930. Locust and other gums exported amounted to 10,690 lbs. The export of railway sleepers was still in the experimental stage, only 2,000, the same quantity as in the preceding year, having been exported, and it seems to the Council that it might be worth while to send specimens of Mora timber, which appears to be eminently suitable for railway sleepers, to some of the great railway companies; but the difficulty in the way of its profitable exportation would appear to lie in the expense of haulage and to the impeded navigation of the rivers which renders water carriage impossible in many of the places where Mora is most abundant. A possible remedy for this would be the use of portable machinery which could saw the sleepers on the spot, in which case some of the roads which were constructed some years ago, and some now in the course of construction, might be utilised for transportation. The Council express regret that the total export of forest products amounted only to \$351,346.70, "a fact which does not say much for the energy or the enterprise of its inhabitants when we take into consideration the enormous extent of the virgin forests which it possesses."

Dealing with the important question of labour, the Council state that the black man makes an excellent labourer, whether it be as a gold-digger, miner or timber man, when well treated, properly paid, and kept under regular supervision. When, however, any of these conditions are wanting he is apt to be refractory, and, therefore, the Institute has made a point of seeing that all these conditions are observed in so far as it possesses the power to enforce them. In the development of the

interior it is to those of African descent or of mixed African blood, we must look for the future of the Colony. The total number of labourers registered to work in the gold-fields amounted for 1905-6 to 10,528.

A Warning to Jamaican Fruit-Growers.

Dealing with the imports of oranges into the United Kingdom from Jamaica the *Fruit-Grower* reminds the Jamaica growers and senders that the immense advantage which this practical monopoly gives should be made the most of. There is no fruit grown more welcome during the late summer and early autumn months than oranges, and Jamaica oranges are specially good from the fact that they are thin-skinned, have an exceedingly refreshing juice, and are, in fact, an all-round fine fruit for hot weather. There is scarcely any limit to the quantity of such fruit we can take. It should, therefore, be a subject for earnest conference amongst the growers and others interested in orange shipments from Jamaica to see how far such a demand can be met. The statistics compiled by Mr. B. C. Orgill, show that a total of over 84,000 cases of citrous fruits were sent from Jamaica to the United Kingdom between Aug. 23rd, 1905, and Feb. 1st, 1906, and that Jamaica has practically the entire market for oranges for nearly three months, are interesting from many points of view, and are likely to be very carefully digested in all parts of the world where oranges can be grown for export. So that unless the Jamaica growers put their house in order at once it is more than likely we shall find these fruits reaching us from other sources.

The Colonial Nursing Association.

The West Indies were represented by Sir Charles Bruce, Lady Sendall, Sir Frederic Hodgson, Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, Sir Edward and Lady Noël Walker, and Sir William and Lady Haynes Smith at the annual meeting of the Colonial Nursing Association which was held recently in the library of the Colonial Office. Lord Amptill presided, and proceedings were opened by Lord Elgin, who, after referring to the official *imprimatur* given to the Association by Mr. Chamberlain, who circularised the Colonies with particulars regarding it, said that when it was remembered that Great Britain possessed Colonies in almost every part of the world and that in many of these Colonies the conditions were unfavourable to the health of white people, they would recognise the inestimable boon which good trained nursing must be, and therefore the debt which the country owed to the Association for their endeavours to provide such nursing in the Colonies. The tenth Annual Report which was presented recorded a steady and continuous progress. Five new private branches had been established since April, 1905, and a former private branch was now revived under Government auspices. The total number of nurses at work during the year had been 144; of whom 108 were employed by Government and 36 as private nurses. Last year the total was 121, ninety-four being in Government and twenty-seven in private employment, and the total number of nurses sent out since 1896 was 305.

Lord Amptill, in moving the adoption of the report, said that funds were not increasing as he and the Committee would like to see. At present the Association was mainly relying on the contributions of a small circle of subscribers who were connected with the Colonies; and there was no reason why they should not obtain contributions and sympathy from a much wider circle. The Association had great claims on the sympathy and support of the general public, for their claim was based on nothing short of a united Empire, and the furtherance of Imperial policy was not a matter only for statesmen, for Parliament, or for speeches, but was a subject in which all must take their share.

Sir Frederic Hodgson, seconding the adoption of the report, testified to the great value of the work of the Association on the Gold Coast and Demerara. The report was adopted unanimously. In concluding this short account of the meeting, we may add that we shall be very glad to receive, acknowledge, and forward to the proper quarter, any donation, however big, towards the funds of this deserving Association.

Paper from Megass.

Two schemes are on foot for the use of the megass or crushed sugar cane in the West Indies for making paper. Mr. Bert de Lamarre, whom we are glad to welcome once more to this country, expects when he returns to Trinidad in September or October to start a paper paste or pulp factory for the working up of the megass from the canes, and the fibre from banana cultivation. In Barbados, Messrs Cottle, Catford & Co. have issued a circular announcing the formation of a small syndicate with a similar object in view, a patent for the purpose having recently been registered in the Island.

In order to secure a regular supply of megass for a reasonable time, an endeavour is being made to obtain from proprietors the option of purchasing all the megass from their properties for a period of five years on the basis of \$1.20 per ton for sweepings of approved quality, and for first quality, properly dried (such as would be stacked), \$5.00 per ton—delivered in town.

"It is calculated," says the *Agricultural Reporter*, "that thirteen tons of canes will yield one ton of muscovado sugar and four tons of megass, and calculations are given to show that proprietors would profit by selling their megass for the above stated prices and buying coal to use as fuel. It is assumed that of the 4 tons of megass produced, $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons will be sufficient to boil a ton of sugar, whereas it takes one ton of coal to do the same work. Then, taking the price of a ton of coal in the local market at \$9.00, it appears that the planters' megass, as consumed for fuel, is only of the value of about \$2.60 per ton. Supposing a planter should make 100 tons of sugar and sell his megass at the price named, his profits would, it seems, be very considerable. For 100 tons of sugar there would be 400 tons of megass, which at \$5.00 would be worth \$2,000. But the cost of 100 tons of coal at \$9.00 per ton is \$900. Deducting this amount from the value of the megass, it appears that a clear profit of \$1,100

would result. In view of these deductions, the authors of the letter say it is obvious that, if the syndicate's experiment is successful, the prospects of this Island will be wonderfully improved. For, taking the average crop at 50,000 tons of sugar, 200,000 tons of megass at \$5.00 a ton, is equal to \$1,000,000. Deducting the cost of 50,000 tons of coal at \$9.00 a ton, there would remain a profit to the Island of \$550,000, for material which is at present burnt. If all the calculations contained in this circular letter were realised, it does appear that considerable benefit would result from the establishment of this paper industry. It must be borne in mind, however, that the undertaking is of the nature of an experiment. It may succeed or it may fail. At any rate, if the syndicate will make trial, planters may fittingly extend to the enterprise all the support which is



Photo by

Cricketers in Antigua.

José Anfo.

A cricket match between the officials and the Antigua C.C. is an annual fixture in the Island, and the group includes the competing teams and some of the fair spectators at the match in the present year. Sir Bickham and Lady Sweet-Escott, the Chief Justice, the Colonial Secretary, and Captain J. Becke, A.D.C. will be recognised.

in their power to give, and which they may reasonably give."

While we shall watch this experiment with interest, it must not be forgotten that similar attempts to make paper from megass have already been made in British Guiana. Patents were taken out in 1883 and the necessary machinery was shipped to the Colony by the late Mr. Quintin Hogg, but it was found that the cost was too great, and that the proceeds of the pulp did not compensate for the expense involved and experiments were suspended in 1885. An attempt in a similar direction was also made with megass from the estates of the New Colonial Company at a later date, but this failed, the paper being covered with black specks, which it was found impossible to remove by bleaching or otherwise. Since those days, however, pulp for paper has, of course, advanced largely in value, and on estates where wood is available, as in some cases in Trinidad, or where, by improved processes of crushing, the megass becomes less useful as fuel, it is quite possible that success may be achieved. In the case of the Barbados scheme it will be noted that the price to be paid is for megass delivered in Bridgetown, and that estates proprietors will therefore have to defray the cost of transport, which is a considerable item of expense with a bulky material like megass. Moreover, in the calculations given above, it is assumed that all the megass sold is of first quality. We did not realise that megass in Barbados is in excess of sugar requirements to the extent of 25%. Even taking into consideration these points, there should, however, be a fair margin of profit, and if a new

industry can successfully be established in Barbados it will be a matter for general satisfaction. In any case, where megass is available there is a profitable outlet for the interior cellulose fibre in the manufacture of the cattle food, molascuit, the demand for which is rapidly broadening in this country.

A Hundred Years Ago.

The Funds of the West India Committee.

The duties of the Treasurer of the West India Committee were more onerous in 1795 than they are at the present day, the funds of the organisation in the eighteenth century being raised by means of a trade rate imposed on all produce imported into the United Kingdom, as is shown by the following resolution. But at the same time there was no trouble in bringing defaulters to book. The second resolution makes it clear that it was a point of honour for the planters to pay their dues. At the General Meeting of the West India Committee on May 20th, 1795, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, the Right Honourable Lord Penhryn presiding, it was:—*

Resolved:—That the Sum of Two Pence be the Assessment for the present Year on each Hh'd of Sugar, Puncheon of Rum, Bag of Cotton, and 1,000 lbs. Weight of Coffee, and in proportion on all other Articles of West India Produce imported from the 25th March, 1795, to the 25th March, 1796, into the Port of London; and the several Outports, and that the same be collected by Mr. James Allen, and paid into the Hands of Samuel Long, Esq., Treasurer.

Resolved:—That the Planters who consign their Produce to the Outports, be requested to give particular directions for their Proportions, being also paid to the Order of the Treasurer.

The Imperial Institute.

The work of the Imperial Institute is devoted principally to the maintenance of a permanent exhibit of economic products from the Colonies and India, and scientific and technical research. There is also a reference library and a quarterly bulletin is published. In his report on the work of the Institute for 1905, Professor Wyndham Dunstan, the Director, deals concisely with each of these aspects of it. A large number of exhibits from the Colonial Exhibition of 1905 have been added to the West Indian Galleries and numerous additions have been received from the Colonies direct, and framed maps of the West Indies have been placed in the Courts. During the year many requests for investigation of economic products were received and dealt with, and a number of samples of petroleum from Trinidad, which proved to be of good quality, were examined and reported on. Samples of Trinidad manjak or pitch were also examined. They were not of good quality and suggestions were made for refining manjak so that a better product might be put on the market. A consignment of the material so treated was expected from Trinidad. A sample of Jamaica tobacco examined, proved to be of excellent quality and experts to whom it was submitted for valuation estimated that it would fetch from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per lb. and would be readily saleable in this country. Considerable progress has also been made with the examination of British Honduras tobacco, which, in spite of being grown by the natives, without special care, is suitable for importation into this country for manufacturing purposes, though it is doubtless susceptible of considerable improvement. A considerable demand having arisen for plantain and banana fibres (*Musa species*) examination was made of two samples of the fibre of *Musa ensata* and *Musa ulugurensis* from German East Africa. They were valued by experts at from £40 to £50 per ton. It, therefore, seemed desirable that the possibility of cultivating these fibre plants in British territory should be considered, and the Foreign Office was asked to send copies of the report to the British Protectorates in East Africa.† Important investigations were also conducted with rubber.

According to a Parliamentary paper [Cd. 3,095] just issued the total contributions from the Colonies to the Imperial Institute up to March 31st last amounted to £32,236 13s. 7d., of which £22,412 14s. 10d. were from self-governing Colonies, £51 1s. 9d. from Zanzibar, and £9,823 18s. 9d. from the Crown Colonies, the latter including: Bermuda £156 5s. 10d., British Honduras £436 2s. 3d., British Guiana £582 15s. 7d., Bahamas £652 3s. 8d., Jamaica £1,249 1s. 6d., the Leeward Islands £189 0s. 10d., Trinidad and Tobago £235 14s., and the Windward Islands £449 16s. 11d.

* Our "Hundred Years Ago" contributor does not intend to imply that this no longer holds good. At the same time there are still a few Members of the West India Committee who have not yet paid their dues for the current year. We shall make an exception to our rule not to send the *Circular* to those in arrears, and send them this issue in the hope that it will awaken them to the sense of their responsibilities.—Ed.

† We have asked the director for copies of this report for the West Indies.—Ed.

A Recruit for the Brussels Convention.

The adhesion of Switzerland to the Brussels Convention is confirmed. It will take effect from September 1st, 1906, and will be subject to the following conditions. As long as Switzerland does not export sugar she will not be bound by Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention, which pledge the High Contracting Parties to place sugar factories and refineries in bond, and limit the difference between the Customs duty and excise duty on sugar to 6 fr. per 100 kilog. for refined, and 5 fr. 50 per kilog. for other sugars. The delegate of the Swiss Federal Government will take part in the meetings of the Permanent Commission, and enjoy the right of discussion without that of voting. It is, however, expressly understood that in the event of the right to vote being given to the delegate of some new power becoming a party to the Convention, though not an exporter of sugar, the same right to vote shall be immediately extended to the delegate of the Swiss Federal Government. The signatories to the Convention now number eleven, namely Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Holland, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

The West Indians v. Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire placed rather a weak team in the field against the West Indians on Monday, August 13th. They batted first on a good wicket, and compiled 254 runs for five wickets. Payton, the young professional who has come into the side this year, made his first century for the county. He batted for two hours and ten minutes and gave no chance. Payton and Iremonger put on 123 for the third wicket. A heavy thunderstorm stopped play for the day at the tea interval. The heavy rain of Monday afternoon made the wicket rather difficult at Trent Bridge on the following day, and throughout, the bowlers held the upper hand. Nottinghamshire increased their total to 296, and after getting rid of the West Indians for a small score they made 65 for three wickets in their second innings, so that they were 212 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand. Mr. Smith played bright cricket for an hour, and J. Gunn hit well for Nottinghamshire. As on Monday, heavy rain fell at the tea interval and stopped play for over an hour. The chief feature of the third day's play at Trent Bridge were centuries by J. Gunn and Mr. Challenor. Gunn scored 112 of his side's full total of 180 in two hours and ten minutes, and made only one mistake. Mr. Challenor, who with Layne put on 129 for the first wicket when the West Indians went in a second time 327 behind, scored 108 in just over two hours, but he was missed three times. In the end, the match was drawn, the West Indians being 35 runs behind with three wickets to fall. *The Times*. Score and analysis:—

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.				WEST INDIANS.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. N. C. V. Turner, c Goodman, b Ollivierre	13	at Ollivierre, b Smith	0	Mr. G. Challenor, c Taylor, b Wass	0	b Hallam	108
J. Iremonger, c Ollivierre, b Smith	76	c Layne, b Smith	8	Mr. L. Constantine, c R. Turner, b Wass	2	c Scoleton, b Iremonger	15
J. Gunn, c Harragin, b Ollivierre	100	c Cumberbatch, b Smith	112	Layne, not out	15	c Taylor, b J. Gunn	44
Payton, b Cumberbatch	117	b Ollivierre	0	Mr. E. Smith, c Stapleton, b Wass	43	at Stapleton, b Hallam	10
Mr. R. H. Turner, c Goodman, b Layne	6	c Cumberbatch, b Ollivierre	15	Mr. H. C. B. Austin, lbw, b Hallam	30	b Hallam	80
James, at Constantine, b South	23	c Constantine, b Layne	2	Mr. P. A. Goodman, b Hallam	12	lbw, b Hallam	18
Day, c Harragin, b Smith	17	b Ollivierre	8	Mr. R. Ollivierre, b Hallam	10	b Hallam	19
Stapleton, c Ollivierre, b Layne	6	not out	12	Mr. A. E. Harragin, c R. Turner, b Wass	26	not out	43
Hallam, at Constantine, b South	7	b Morrison	5	Cumberbatch, b Wass	0	not out	13
Taylor, not out	4	b Morrison	4	Dr. Cameron, not out	5		
Wass, c Constantine, b Layne	16	c Cameron, b Ollivierre	3	Mr. H. S. Morrison, c James, b Hallam	3		
Extras	6	Extras	3	Extras	0	Extras	0
Total	296	Total	180	Total	149	Total (7 wks)	199

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.
Ollivierre	14	0	58	2	Ollivierre	19.5	5	60	4	Wass	27	2	80	0
Smith	39	5	122	4	Smith	25	0	90	3	Hallam	25	10	39	5
Cumberbatch	13	0	51	1	Layne	6	1	30	1	Taylor	19	0	72	0
Layne	13.2	7	53	3	Morrison	3	0	7	2	J. Gunn	13	2	47	1
Morrison	1	0	6	0						Iremonger	12	2	52	1

The West Indians v. Northamptonshire.

The West Indians have been showing good form in the later matches of their tour, and they made a good start against Northamptonshire at Northampton on Thursday, August 16th. They scored nearly 300 runs and then got out four of their opponents very cheaply. At the close of play on the following day Northamptonshire with one wicket down in their second innings, wanted 252 runs to win the game. The West Indians gained a lead of over 200 on the first innings,

but when they went in again they were got out cheaply, owing to some good bowling by Thompson and East. When the game was continued on Saturday, the home side, with nine wickets in hand, wanted 252 to win, but at no time did they look like making the runs, and the West Indians won this, the last match of their tour, on Saturday, August 18th, by 155 runs. Mr. Smith once again bowled very well, his six wickets only costing 10 runs each. Score and analysis —

WEST INDIANS.				NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Mr. G. Challenger, b Thompson	57	run out	...	Dr. Pretty, c Cumberbatch, b Olivierre	...	st Bancroft, b Smith	...
Mr. L. Constantine, b East	32	b Thompson	...	Cox, b Smith	...	st Bancroft, b Smith	...
Layne, b Hawtin	...	b Thompson	...	Stocks, b Smith	...	c Smith, b Olivierre	...
Mr. S. Smith, c B. C. Smith, b Hawtin	...	c Wells, b Thompson	...	Mr. R. W. Hawtin, c Constantine, b Olivierre	...	b Smith	...
Mr. P. A. Goodman, c Manning, b East	...	c Thompson, b East	...	Thompson, c Cumberbatch, b Smith	...	c Bancroft, b Olivierre	...
Mr. H. Austin, b Thompson	...	b Thompson	...	Mr. W. H. Kingston, c Bancroft, b Layne	...	b Smith	...
Mr. A. E. Harragin, b East	...	c Stocks, b East	...	East, c Olivierre, b Layne	...	b Olivierre	...
Mr. R. Olivierre, b Wells	...	b Thompson	...	Mr. T. Manning, b Smith	...	c and b Smith	...
Cumberbatch, c B. C. Smith, b Cox	...	st Smith, b East	...	Mr. T. Horton, b Smith	...	c Harragin, b Olivierre	...
Mr. C. K. Bancroft, c Thompson, b Cox	...	not out	...	Wells, not out	...	b Smith	...
Mr. C. S. Morrison, not out	...	st Smith, b East	...	Mr. B. C. Smith, c Cumberbatch, b Smith	...	not out	...
Extras	...	Extras	...	Extras	...	Extras	...
Total	...	Total	...	Total	...	Total	...

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.				Second Innings.				First Innings.				Second Innings.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
Thompson	23	0	96	8	Thompson	15	3	47	5	Olivierre	11	3	75	2	
East	22.5	4	80	2	East	15.4	0	45	4	Smith	24.5	0	30	0	
Hawtin	0	1	32	0						Layne	0	3	20	0	
Cox	10	0	46	0						Morrison	2	1	1	0	
Wells	9	1	75	1											

Consular Reports.

Coffee in Guatemala.

Coffee represents nearly seven-eighths of the total value of the exports. The amount shipped during the year, portions of two crops, constitutes a record: 810,816 quintals (calculated as hulled coffee), valued officially at £1,459,469. Germany and the United States are the principal consumers of Guatemalan coffee, the latter, however, taking mostly clean coffee. The actual dimensions of the last crop are not yet accurately known, but it has been a poor one, under 700,000 quintals. An average crop is expected next season.

The Cocoa Industry of Guayaquil.

The information regarding cocoa in the Consular Report on Ecuador for the years 1899-1905, is meagre in the extreme, in spite of it being by far the most important article of export. In this connection it will be of interest to our readers to know that, at the instance of the Agricultural and Commercial Society of Grenada, we have asked the Secretary of State if he will advise our Consuls in all cocoa-growing countries to endeavour to collect the fullest possible information regarding the cocoa industry. Reverting to Ecuador it appears that the production of cocoa during the last seven years has been practically stationary, the crops of Guayaquil and Puerto Bolivar amounting to:—

Year.	Quantity.	Year.	Quantity.
1899	52,596,200 lbs.	1903	47,426,000 "
1900	38,161,700 "	1904	56,281,000 "
1901	48,254,600 "	1905	45,929,000 "
1902	46,750,600 "		

The export of coffee has risen steadily from 2,527,500 lbs. in 1899, and 4,795,100 lbs. in 1905.

The production of sugar throughout the Guayaquil district, is encouraged by an import duty on foreign sugar of about 7s. 6d. per 100 lbs., by which the sale price in Ecuador is being kept up to 23d. per lb. The total production and exportation has been as follows:—

Year.	Quantity.		Year.	Quantity.	
	Produce.	Export.		Produce.	Export.
1899	12,368,200 lbs.	3,215,000 lbs.	1903	12,203,700 "	3,785,200 "
1900	12,563,900 "	3,768,200 "	1904	14,142,200 "	1,217,400 "
1901	13,860,800 "	5,900 "	1905	12,714,600 "	—
1902	14,852,300 "	162,800 "			

Letter to the Editor.

Slave grown Cocoa.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—Just before reading your leading article on the St. Thome slavery, in yesterday's issue of the *Circular*, I was on the point of writing you an account of the way the slave trade is carried on in Angola, where I resided for twelve years. I have crossed it from north to south, and from east to west, and am one of the very few white men who have been at the mouth of the Quinina River.

After reading Nevinson's book it is unnecessary for me to write you a description. All I can say is that Nevinson has in no wise exaggerated the condition of things in Angola. With regard to the slave trade, indeed, he is quite moderate in his statements. I was for quite five years stationed on the coast close to the shipping point at Benguella. I have seen thousands of slaves shipped away, and during this, the whole time I was there, I never saw or ever heard of one that returned. During my stay in Angola slaves could be bought for from £12 to £15 without any trouble.

I have often seen young boys break out of a gang going down to the steamer and bolt. One case in particular I remember; the boy would have got clean away if two other natives had not caught him. I know nothing of the treatment slaves get in St. Thomé, but on one estate on the Bine trade road by the Olimbinga Mountain, the slaves are there shockingly treated, their entire food being sweet potatoes. They were a mass of sores, and while I was staying there a fine old negro who ran away was caught by one of the drivers two days from the estate, and because he resisted in walking back and sat down on the roadway was shot dead.

I am, &c.
PLANTER.

August 16th, 1906.

[Our correspondent's letter quite bears out Mr. Nevinson's statements. A similar letter in stronger terms appeared over the signature "Theobroma" in the *Daily Mail* of July 21st. The writer said "in this country the chief buyers" are the large Quaker houses, who largely advertise their preparations of cocoa, but singularly enough never mention that the main ingredient is obtained by slave labour." Though we can hardly believe that this slave-grown cocoa is really used by reputable manufacturers in this country, we must, however, again impress upon our readers and through them the British public that a large proportion of the cocoa they consume is grown by this system of slavery in its worst form.—ED.]

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The Canadian War of 1812, by C. P. Lucas, C.B. Oxford: Clarendon Press. A review of this book will be given in an early issue of the *West India Committee Circular*.

The International Sugar Journal, Vol. VIII., No. 92, August. Altricham: Manchester. This number contains a summary of the conclusions arrived at by the British delegates of the Permanent Commission, based mainly on the report of Mr. Rhind, the British Vice-Consul at Rio de Janeiro, on the Brazilian sugar legislature, the report itself also being reproduced in full. Papers by Noel Deer and T. H. P. Heriot on "A method for the preparation of cane products for polarimetric assay," and "Simple methods of chemical control" (continued) are also given, and the reproductions include papers by H. Pellet on the "Method to be recommended for extracting the percentage of sugar in the beet," and the "Estimation of reducing substances in sugar and the different products of the sucértris."

Notes of Interest.

A CHANGE: The offices of Messrs. Aston W. Gardner & Co., Jamaica Agency, have been removed to 68-69, The Gamage Buildings, 118-122, Holborn, where all business is now carried on.

WELL DESERVED. Mrs. Wright, the widow of the late Mr. E. F. Wright, Inspector-General of Police of Jamaica, has been given a presentation for her second son, Douglas Alexander Wright, to Christ's Hospital.

TROPICAL FOLIAGE. Our full-page illustration in the present issue requires no description. It suffices to say that it is reproduced from a photograph taken in the neighbourhood of Government House, Grenada.

STILL AT IT. To give an idea to which canes attain in Mexico, a bundle was exhibited at the Sugar Exchange in New Orleans, which, although not fully matured, measured 15 ft. in height, with ten to twelve red joints. The length of the latter is phenomenal.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended August 16th, 36 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. Prices paid 7½d. to 16d.

FREE TO READERS. The address on Cotton, delivered before the West India Committee on July 19th last, has been published in pamphlet form by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. We shall be

* Of St. Thomé cocoa.

glad to forward copies *free of charge* to any of our subscribers desiring to have them. To others the cost will be 6d. per copy.

TANTALISING. It is a matter of common knowledge that there exists in the department of Quiche, in Guatemala, a gold mine of extraordinary productiveness, but the natives jealously guard the secret of its whereabouts, and no exploring party now dares to run the risk of their vengeance by endeavouring to locate it.

A RAPPROCHEMENT. "Chamberlain day," says *Confectionery*, "brought a rich harvest to the confectioner." A well-known firm issued small packets of sweets containing portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain which had a big sale. This should tend to improve the relations between our late great Colonial Minister and the trade, which used, we believe, to be somewhat strained in the days of the jam and pickle arguments.

LABOUR AND THE COLONIES. *A propos* to the much talked about visit of representatives of the labour party to the West Indies, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald writes to us that it is to be no official deputation. The visit is to be purely personal, and owing to the shortness of time at his disposal he regrets that he will not, at present, be able to visit the West Indies. He is looking forward, however, to visiting them later on.

FOR OUR READERS! For the convenience of our readers we have arranged to supply spring-backed filing cases for filing the current issues of the *West India Committee Circular* at 2s. 6d., or post free 3s. each; binding cases with gilt lettering on the back to hold one year's issues, 2s. each, post free; a ready reckoner (Dollars to Sterling and Sterling to Dollars), mounted on a stout card, 6d., and a Chart of Prices of 88 % beet from 1870 to 1840, also mounted on stout card, 6d.

GUIANA MAPS. At the request of Hon. Darnell Davis, Acting Colonial Secretary of the Colony, we have pleasure in announcing that maps of British Guiana, including geological maps of different portions of the Colony with the accompanying explanatory pamphlets and reports on the mineral resources of the Colony, can be purchased from Messrs. Dulau & Co., 37, Soho Square, London, W., and from Messrs. Stanfords, 12, Long Acre, at an inclusive price of 2s. 6d. each.

APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENTS. The attention of those of our readers who require managers, overseers, engineers, clerks, &c., for their estates, is called to the list of applicants for such appointments, which appears in the advertisement pages of alternate issues of the *West India Committee Circular*. The last list was given on p. vi. of No. 203, and the next will appear in No. 205. Full particulars regarding the insertion of advertisements under the heading "Appointments Wanted," can be obtained from the Advertisement Manager, the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

JAPAN'S ENTERPRISE. An official department has, says the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, been formed in Japan for the development of the sugar industry in the Islands of Lion-Kion. Its headquarters will be at Okinawa, and it will comprise a director, two advisers, three engineers and five secretaries. The objects of the department, which will be under the control of the Minister for Agriculture, will be to collect information regarding cane cultivation, and to organise conferences and give instruction, and to publish reports, analysis of sugar and of the soil. The expenses of the department for 1906 are estimated at £13,500.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the week under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed., Aug. 15—East Denbigh Election. E. G. Hemmerde (L), 5,917; Griffith Boscawen (U), 3,126. Majority 2,791. No change.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.
- Thurs., Aug. 16—Severe earthquake in Chile, Valparaiso severely damaged.—Beet, 9s., steadier.
- Fri., Aug. 17—Sensational movements on the New York Stock Exchange.—Beet, 9s. 0½d., quiet.
- Sat., Aug. 18—Beet (morning call), 9s. 1½d., steady.
- Sun., Aug. 19—It was announced that Mr. Fielding, the Canadian Finance Minister, had been unseated owing to the bribery by agents at the elections.
- Mon., Aug. 20—Summary of the West Indian Cricket tour in the *Sportsman*.—Article on West Indian rubber in the *Financier*.—Beet, 9s. 2½d., quiet.
- Tues., Aug. 21—Article on the West Indian Cricket Team in the *Times*, page 9.—Revolution breaks out in Cuba.—Beet, 9s. 2½d.

Coming Events.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

- August 30—Return of the West Indian Cricket Team.
- Dec. 3, 4 & 5—Show of Colonial fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall.

Answers to Correspondents.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Wednesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Sugar.—The earliest known sugar factory was in use in Syria in the early part of the twelfth century. The Crusaders found the cultivation of the sugar cane in full swing. There is every reason to believe that the cane grown was a short yellow cane. N.B.—Wind mills were not used.

Chemicus.—Sulphate of alumina was used or rather experimented with in the manufacture of Demerara or yellow sugar as far back as 1881. It is a common error to speak of this sugar as being coloured—the yellow colour being produced absolutely from the colouring matter of the cane juice.

Addiscombe.—There should be no difficulty in finding some planter in Jamaica or Dominica who would be willing to "board and lodge" you during your visit to one of those Islands for two or three months at say 25/- or 30/- per week. We will send you the names of several planters in these Islands who are glad to take pupils, if this will meet your views.

Lyonesse.—There are no openings for women in Barbados. A certificated teacher of drawing, painting, or needle-work would find it very hard to get an appointment, and the boarding-house business, which is already rather overdone, requires capital and local experience. The fact that in Jamaica and Trinidad there are Women's Self-Help Societies speaks for itself.

Distiller.—With a pot still the highest strength of the high wines should be 54° O.P. with the manufacture of 40° O.P. rum. Should this strength not be obtained in the early running of the still, there is probably something wrong with the rectifier or the proportions of the still. Within certain limits spirits of any desired strength can be run with a patent still, but the strength wanted should be specified.

Bedford.—The best parts of Jamaica for growing bananas are St. Mary, where 21,174 acres are now under this form of cultivation, Portland, 6,014 acres, and St. Catherine, 7,936 acres. St. Thomas, though subject to storms has 4,732 acres in bananas. St. James comes next with 1,012 acres, and the Clarendon with 1,010 acres. Cacao is principally grown in St. Mary, which has 1,803 acres under cacao, St. Catherine 1,595 acres, St. Thomas 586 acres, and Portland 511 acres. Out of a total of 774,961 acres in Jamaica, 44,325 were under bananas and 4,626 acres under cacao in 1905.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.), August 21st. "Weather favourable for cultivation." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) August 21st. "Weather showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended August 8th. PORT ANTONIO: 2nd and 3rd, fine; 4th, rain; 5th to 8th, fine. KINGSTON: 2nd to 6th, fine; 7th to 8th, rainy.

Mail Arrangements.

Outward Mails.					
Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Aug. 23	Demerara and West India Islands (Jamaica excepted)	*Glasgow ...	Direct Line	"Crown of Navarre"	Aug. 23, 6 p.m.
" 24	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	†Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Saba"	" 24, noon.
" 25	Bermuda and Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 24, 10 p.m.
" 30	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool ...	Leyland Line	"Floridian"	" 29, "
" 30	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara (St. Lucia and Dominica) Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	" 29, mid'n.
Homeward Mails.					
Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.	
Aug. 27	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	
" 29	Jamaica	Avonmouth...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Antonio"	

* Letters should be addressed per private S.S. "Crown of Navarre."
 † In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Captain A. P. Dix), August 30th. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Madge, Mr. and Mrs. Stolk, Mr. W. K. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lowe, Mrs. Cuffin, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. C. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Stierlen, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Woodroffe, Mr. E. Axmacher, Mr. L. Wessels, Mr. C. H. Barclay, Mrs. Dias Granados, Miss Granados, Mr. José Granados, Mr. and Mrs. Araujo, Mr. J. Bryce, Mr. A. Tarado, Mr. G. Krüger, Mr. Hy. A. J. Chapman, Miss Cameron, Mr. Vernon Smith, Mr. Hy. Price, Mr. J. Price, Mr. Jas. Smith, Mr. and Miss Reis, Mr. H. M. Abbott, Mr. Jas. Bell, Mr. Velutini, Mr. Forbes, Mrs. and

The Produce Markets' Summary.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/July, 11 months.

	1905/6.	1904/5.	1903/4	
Convention Europe	3,930,000	3,490,000	3,850,000	Tons.
America	1,730,000	1,620,000	1,620,000	..
	5,660,000	5,110,000	5,470,000	..

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st August, even dates.

	1906.	1905.	1904	
Known world	2,090,000	1,720,000	1,990,000	Tons.

The position of sugar is undoubtedly improving, and the great increase in this year's production is gradually and surely being absorbed, with the result that after eleven months of the crop we are left with under 400,000 tons excess in visible supply out of the 2,500,000 tons additional production. This is a very important feature, and should help to insure a paying price for sugar growing during the coming season of 1906-7. Of course, the future range of values will mainly depend on the way the growing crop crops ultimately turn out. Up to the present impartial accounts describe the crops everywhere as being normal, with a certain less amount of land put under cultivation. With this condition of things, and if nothing of an unfavourable nature takes place in the weather from now to crop time, a reduction in out-turn in Convention Europe should be a certainty, and will help to consolidate the partial improvement in prices that has already commenced. The Cane crops bid fair to be on a liberal scale, but being tropically grown are always subject to many vicissitudes. Altogether the outlook is now healthier than it has been at any time during the last eighteen months.

The moment's quotations of 88% beet are—August, 9s. 2½d.; September, 9s. 1d.; October/December, 8s. 10d.; January/March, 1907, 8s. 11d., and May, 9s. 0½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	1,680,000	1,160,000	1,580,000	1,750,000	1,830,000	Tons
United States	300,000	210,000	140,000	280,000	140,000	..
Cuba and Cargoes afloat	160,000	490,000	250,000	350,000	410,000	..
Total	2,140,000	1,860,000	1,970,000	2,380,000	2,380,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 21st Aug.—	9s. 2½d.	9s. 5d.	10s. 6½d.	8s. 5½d.	6s. 2d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Yellow crystallised continues to meet with a ready outlet, although at the moment the tone is quiet. Considerable sales have recently been made within the range of 15s. to 15s. 6d., with good to choice sugar in small quantities from 16s. to 17s. 6d. The value of average qualities remains 15s. 3d. For a cargo of 96 test to Refiners, 10s. 3d. should be obtainable on floating terms, in bond.

Molasses Sugar is selling pretty freely; dark qualities, 10s. to 10s. 6d., and fine grocery up to 14s. To arrive, 8y test is still selling at 8s. on floating terms, in bond.

Muscovado.—There is no grocery Barbados here, and values range from 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. To Refiners, 8y test should command about 9s. in bond, on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904	1903	1902.	
Imports	45,000	31,000	34,000	19,000	53,000	Tons
Deliveries	31,000	26,000	32,000	28,000	28,000	..
Stocks	22,000	15,000	15,000	20,000	28,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	18s. 3d.	17s. 6d.	17s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	13s. 0d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Home Consumption	2,150,000	2,030,000	2,160,000	2,160,000	Galls
Stocks 31st July	7,250,000	8,470,000	10,100,000	10,100,000	..
Stocks in London:					
Jamaica	9,200	10,100	11,200	11,200	Puns
Demerara	5,900	5,100	9,900	7,600	..
Total of all kinds	21,200	23,800	29,000	28,400	..

The Market is steady at an advance of ½d per gallon in Demerara, with a fair business doing, chiefly from 10d to 10½d. Jamaica is firm, with a quotation of 2s. 2d for approved Marks. Leewards and Foreign kinds are quoted 9d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocon.—Board of Trade Returns for 7 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Imports	15,844	14,886	19,005	19,005	Tons
Home Consumption	12,887	11,757	12,779	12,779	..
Stocks 31st July	4793	5851	6725	6725	..
Stocks in London:					
Trinidad	12,200	22,500	28,100	28,100	Bags
Grenada	8700	16,900	17,900	17,900	..
Total of all kinds	69,000	86,000	98,000	98,000	..

The Market is steady, with an improvement of 1s. in fermented West India, other than Trinidad, which is unchanged, as is also Native cocon. The present quotations are: Trinidad fair collected, 58s., Estate Marks, 58s. to 63s.; Grenada fair, 49s., fermented, 53s. to 55s. From other Islands fair Native is worth about 47s., and fermented, 52s. to 55s.

Coffee.—Unchanged. Good ordinary Jamaica, 47s to 43s.

Nutmegs.—Steady. Large sales of West India including 50's at 2s 6d, 64's at 1s 3d to 1s 5d, 75's at 10½d, 84's at 9½d, 94's at 7½d, 100's at 7d, 108's at 6½d, 120's at 6d, 130's at 5½d, and 140's at 5d per lb. **Mace.**—Firm. Good pale realised 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d., fair pale, 1s. 5d., fair red, 1s. 3d to 1s 4d, and broken, 10½d to 1s 1d. **Cinger.**—Firm. Quotations nominal. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d to 3½d.

Arrowroot.—Fair sales of St. Vincent at 1½d. to 2d., the latter price being the nominal value of good manufacturing

Lime Juice.—Unchanged at 11d. to 1s. 3d. Concentrated, firm value £22 10s. to £23. Hand Pressed, steady at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, scarce, value, 2s. 6d.

The . . .

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WHEN the West Indian Cricket team arrived at Southampton on June 3rd, we extended to them a hearty welcome, and expressed the hope that their tour might be successful in every respect. Our hope has not unfortunately been altogether fulfilled, the West Indians having succeeded in winning seven only out of nineteen matches, while they lost ten, as compared with five matches won and eight lost out of the seventeen played in 1900. But on the whole they have not done so badly, and we imagine that they will be better pleased to return defeated by genuine first class county teams than with a number of barnecide victories over weak combinations to their credit. They will have learnt much from their tour, and the knowledge which they have acquired with regard to the general conditions of first class cricket in this country will be disseminated, we hope, through the cricket clubs of the West Indies, in some of which tendency has of late years manifested itself to allow cricket to give place to more effeminate games such as lawn tennis. Of the nineteen matches played this season thirteen were officially considered "first class." In the matches falling under this category, Yorkshire, Northamptonshire and All Scotland were defeated, and in the case of the first named county, in spite of the fact that HIRST and HAIGH stood down, the victory was considered a highly creditable one. Throughout the tour the team won more commendation for their batting than for their bowling or their fielding, which was freely commented upon as showing signs of slackness. This was especially noticeable with the black members of the team. The honours of the tour undoubtedly fell to MR. SYDNEY SMITH, of Trinidad, who scored 1107 runs and took 116 wickets for less than twenty runs apiece. MR. CHALLENGOR and MR. CONSTANTINE each made more than 1000 runs in the tour. Of the bowlers, LANE and MR. OLLIVIERRE came next to MR. SMITH, and both did their fair share towards averting disaster. MR. HARRAGIN on the few occasions on which he played showed himself to be well up to county form. It is to be regretted that the visit of the West Indian team did not arouse greater enthusiasm. On no occasion were the gates of large dimensions, but if the Yorkshire match had taken place earlier in the tour the results might have been far different. Owing to the holiday season and to the dispersal of the members of the team throughout the United Kingdom, it was not possible for the West Indian Club to entertain Mr. H. B. G. AUSTIN and his colleagues at a banquet prior to their departure as they did immediately after their arrival, but we have no hesitation in saying that the good wishes of the members of the West Indian Club, of the West India Committee, and also of all interested in our West Indian Colonies, will go with the team on their return journey to-morrow. We bid them *au revoir* but not good-bye, and hope that before another visit of a West Indian Cricket team to this country there will not be such a long interval as there was between the departure of the first and the arrival of the present combination.

THE present unsettled condition of Cuba brings forward again prominently the question of the future of that Island. As matters stand at present, the insurrection—if such it may be called—appears to be confined to small isolated conflicts with authority, but at any moment, in a

politically volcanic country like Cuba, it may assume formidable proportions. Should it do so, there is little doubt but that the United States will step in and settle matters to their own satisfaction. What form that settlement may take it is impossible to say. It might be that our American cousins, while maintaining the nominal independence of Cuba, will content themselves with further strengthening their controlling position. On the other hand, it is quite on the cards that by way of settling matters once for all, annexation may take place. But whatever occurs, we may be certain that the result of the present condition of things will mean that American influence in Cuba will become more dominant. In a previous issue we pointed out how completely the effect of the English Treaty under negotiation is nullified by the recent amendments introduced in the Cuban Senate—amendments which, as we pointed out at the time, there was evidence to show were the outcome of the supposed intention of the present British Government to retire from the Brussels Convention, and which permitted the interference of the United States whenever internal trouble was calculated to prejudice the interests of American subjects and American capital in Cuba. The present outbreak gives at once an opportunity for intervention, which we may be certain will take place directly these interests are affected. So far as the sugar question is concerned, we may be certain that the United States will not be likely to allow the next crop to be prejudiced, and that the effect of any further action on the part of the United States Government will be to develop the industry further, and to render the American still more independent of outside supplies. This, however, is a secondary matter compared with the further shutting out of British trade which will result. The tightening of the grasp on Cuba by our transatlantic brethren will mean that only such products will be interchanged between Cuba and British ports as suits America, who will dictate their own conditions of transport. No matter how the question is regarded, the result of the *laissez aller* policy of Great Britain towards the West Indies, British and foreign, is again in evidence. We have repeatedly called attention to the political and commercial trend of events in the Caribbean. Matters are marching very quickly. Every day brings a further decline of British influence, and with it of British trade in the West, just at the time when the prospective completion of the Panama Canal augurs well for a new era of prosperity and importance for the West Indies. The present state of affairs in Cuba promises to afford an additional factor in the situation.

Cotton as a Catch Crop.

Mr. Arthur M. Lee has forwarded to the Imperial Commission of Agriculture the following summary of the working and results of cotton as a catch crop for the past season on his two Estates in St. Kitts:—

	Estate A.	Estate B.
Area in Cotton	41 acres.	41½ acres.
Rainfall from May to April	52 inches.	61 inches.
First Sowings	April, 1905.	May, 1905.
Reaping ended	March, 1906.	March, 1906.
Total weight Seed Cotton	24,134 lbs.	38,548 lbs.
Total shipping weight Lint	6,646 lbs.	9,765 lbs.
Average proportion of Lint to Seed Cotton	27·04%	25·34%
Average Lint per acre	161 lbs.	219 lbs.
Average Cost per acre	£3 12 5	£4 12 4
Average Return per acre	8 19 11	10 19 1
Average Clearance per acre	£5 7 6	£6 6 9
Average Price obtained per lb. Lint	13·32d.	11·08d.

Last year the value of the cotton seed was deducted from the cost of growing. This year there is no such deduction. The crushed seed was used as cattle food, and went back to the fields as manure. Last year, cotton was charged 25s. per acre for manure for the subsequent principal crop. No such charge has been made this year. Estate A suffered but little from pests. On Estate B one field was practically destroyed by leaf-mite. Sulphur and lime were applied with very poor results, and the bush was burned. The Manager reports that there have been no visible ill effects of catch crop on subsequent crops.

To Advertise the West Indies.

Our readers will be glad to know that the results of the visit of Mr. Alfred J. West to the West Indies are now taking tangible form. Under the title of "Our Mercantile Marine and Our Colonies," a display of his animated photographs has met with a most enthusiastic reception at Portsmouth. The views include the following items: Arrival at Bridgetown, Barbados, the boatmen and diving boys; Trinidad, a ride on the Electric Tram Car through the Port-of-Spain, Through the Coolie Village to the Blue Basin; the Pitons of St. Lucia; Dominica, Roseau Town and Valley, Panorama from Morne Bruce, On the way to the Sulphur Springs; Jamaica, the Markets, Loading Bananas, Natives Dancing, Ride through Kingston on the Electric Tram Car, Scenes by the Wayside, Constant Spring, Gymkhana, West India Regiment at Church Parade, Native children leaving School, A ride on the Montego and Port Antonio Railways, Sunday Morning in the Mountains, Jack's Hill Church, Boys climbing trees for cocoa-nuts, How the native women wash clothes, and Returning from market.

The reception at our senior Naval Port augurs well for September, when the show will be opened in London under the patronage of the West India Committee. There can be no doubt that the pictures will be the means of drawing public attention in England to the attractions of our West Indian Colonies and also to their produce and capabilities.

The West Indian Cricket Tour.

The members of the West Indian Cricket team return to the West Indies to-morrow. We are indebted to the Sportsman for the following statistical summary of their tour:—

RESULTS OF MATCHES.

v. First Class Counties	Won	Drawn	Lost	Total
Other First Class Contests	1	1	4	6
Total First Class	3	2	8	13
Minor Matches	4	0	0	4
Total	7	2	8	17
Date and place.	1st Inn.	2nd Inn.	Ttl.	
June 15, 12	West Indians	156	728	284
Crystal Palace.	Mr. W. G. Grace's XI.	345	186	320
Lost by 227 runs.				
June 14, 15, 16	West Indians	379	137	300
Leeds	Rosex	376	395	521
Lost by 211 runs.				
June 18, 19, 20	West Indians	258	208	456
Leeds	Lord Blackley's XI.	271	287	457
Lost by two wickets. *Right wickets down.				
June 21, 22, 23	West Indians	264	336	540
Kaling	Minor Counties	199	135	335
Won by 215 runs.				
June 25, 26	West Indians	331	271	359
Leeds	Surrey	396	47	353
Lost by ten wickets. *No wicket down.				
June 29, 30	West Indians	149	81	220
Swindon	Wiltshire	233	83	316
Lost by 26 runs.				
July 1, 2, 3	West Indians	166	293	459
Southampton	Hampshire	249	111	460
Lost by six wickets. *Four wickets down.				
July 9, 10	West Indians	324	176	500
Cardiff	South Wales	302	120	323
Won by 278 runs.				
July 10, 11	West Indians	248	269	457
Cardiff Bridge	Kent	471	—	471
Lost by an innings and 74 runs.				
July 18, 17	West Indians	240	175	315
Leeds	M.C.C. and Ground	269	87	350
Lost by six wickets. *Four wickets down.				
July 19, 20, 21	West Indians	233	242	475
Derby	Derbyshire	217	259	476
Lost by six wickets. *Four wickets down.				
July 21, 22, 23	West Indians	249	201	450
Edinburgh	All Scotland	147	304	451
Won by four wickets. *Six wickets down.				
July 26, 27, 28	West Indians	201	158	359
Blackpool	An England XI.	128	159	307
Drawn (rain). *Four wickets down.				
July 30, 31, Aug. 1	West Indians	290	144	324
Sunderland	Northumberland and Durham	243	91	229
Won by 145 runs.				
Aug. 4, 5, 6	West Indians	270	305	575
Harrowgate	Yorkshire	50	263	313
Won by 267 runs. *Six wickets down. †Innings declared closed.				
Aug. 5, 7, 8	West Indians	242	326	568
Leicester	Leicestershire	274	318	592
Lost by 24 runs.				
Aug. 20, 11	West Indians	375	—	375
Norwich	Norfolk	91	166	257
Won by an innings and 128 runs.				
Aug. 13, 14, 15	West Indians	149	202	441
Nottingham	Notis.	295	120	476
Drawn. *Seven wickets down.				
Aug. 16, 17, 18	West Indians	297	99	396
Northampton	Northamptonshire	85	156	241
Won by 156 runs.				

†Does not count as first class.

SUMMARY OF RUNS.—ALL MATCHES.

West Indians scored 2688 runs for 259 wickets; average per wicket, 22.27. Opponents scored 7426 runs for 334 wickets; average per wicket, 22.23.

FIRST CLASS MATCHES ONLY.

West Indians scored 5583 runs for 249 wickets; average per wicket, 22.42. Opponents scored 5608 runs for 216 wickets; average per wicket, 25.96.

SUMMARY OF BATTING.

	H. R. G. Austin.	C. K. Hancock.	G. Chalfour.	L. S. Chastonina.	C. P. Cumberland.	P. A. Goodwin.	A. E. Harragob.	C. H. Layton.	E. C. Leamont.	C. S. Morris.	R. A. Ollivere.	J. E. Parker.	G. G. Smith.
June 11	4	4	1	89	2	6	17	16	14	—	—	—	2
" 14	74	18	4	0	0	2	50	20	—	—	—	—	20
" 25	16	6	—	16	0	9	51	10	15	—	—	—	10
" 26	8	7	8	12	—	—	23	21	—	—	—	—	11
" 27	40	0	26	47	—	—	57	7	—	—	—	—	1
July 2	8	10	33	0	13	38	15	—	—	—	—	—	48
" 10	14	23	4	0	15	27	16	—	—	—	—	—	100
" 12	14	13	0	8	14	32	11	—	—	—	—	—	20
" 16	34	4	0	30	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
" 19	10	29	27	2	0	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
" 23	38	—	20	26	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
" 26	7	4	90	13	—	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
" 28	29	23	11	54	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
" 29	12	15	14	51	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Aug. 4	11	25	8	79	2	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
" 6	19	3	36	92	11	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
" 13	68	0	23	50	20	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
" 17	10	—	0	21	2	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	43
" 20	20	—	108	15	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
" 26	1	0	67	31	5	107	13	—	—	—	—	—	0
" 27	5	21	23	2	2	24	8	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	599	266	684	775	223	607	412	485	155	72	420	49	521
MINOR MATCHES.													
June 18	11	11	28	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
" 21	1	3	47	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
" 22	—	—	15	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
" 29	32	—	44	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93
" 30	9	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	52
July 9	—	3	—	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	240
" 17	3	24	4	23	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
" 24	1	27	1	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Aug. 10	39	—	37	27	15	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
" 11	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Totals	660	317	217	602	108	107	639	220	192	120	491	89	1207

By J. Cameron scored 5 and 0 (July 2), 1 and 2 (July 19), 4 and 2* (July 20), 12 (August 2), and 5* (August 13); total (first class matches), 33; and 9 and 3 (June 20), and 0 and 28 (July 9); total (all matches), 73.
T. J. Burton scored 2 and 5 (June 17), and 2* and 19 (June 25); total (first class matches), 32; and 0 and 9* (June 10), and 2 and 3 (June 29); total (all matches), 48. *Signifies not out.

BATTING AVERAGES—ALL MATCHES.

	No. Times		Total in 80	Aver.	
	Matches	inn. out.			
Smith, S. G. (Trinidad)	19	37	4	1107	29.9
Harragin, A. R. (Trinidad)	18	35	3	639	18.5
Constantine, L. S. (Trinidad)	18	35	0	7005	93
Challenger, G. (Trinidad)	18	35	0	1017	29.1
Goodman, P. A. (Barbados)	16	31	3	869	28.3
Layne, O. H. (Barbados)	15	29	0	610	20.7
Austin, H. B. G. (Leeward)	15	35	0	663	19.0
Ollivierre, R. A. (St. Vincent)	14	28	5	317	13.2
Bancroft, C. K. (Barbados)	14	31	8	399	13.2
Cumberbatch, C. P. (Trinidad)	4	8	1	43	5.4
Barton, T. J. (Demerara)	12	24	1	109	31
Learnmond, G. C. (Trinidad)	11	22	1	138	12
Morrison, C. S. (Jamaica)	11	22	4	73	3.3
Cameron, Dr. J. (Jamaica)	7	14	2	89	24
Parker, J. E. (Demerara)	7	14	2	89	24

* Signifies not out. † Denotes players who visited England in 1905.

BOWLING AVERAGES—ALL MATCHES.

	Inns. Overs.		Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.	Aver.
	Inns.	Overs.				
Smith, S. G.	35	733.5	117	3540	116	30.51
Morrison, C. S.	19	407.0	47	571	30	19.03
Layne, O. H.	27	356.4	58	1183	57	20.73
Ollivierre, R. A.	26	350.5	33	1444	74	19.51
Cumberbatch, C. P.	24	246.1	46	852	35	24.34
Barton, T. J.	7	33.4	1	274	0	—
Goodman, P. A.	7	33.4	1	274	0	—
Parker, J. E.	7	33.4	1	274	0	—

Dr. J. Cameron (7-0-16-0) bowled in two innings, and L. S. Constantine (3-0-14-0) once only.
Smith bowled 22 wickets, Cumberbatch 4, Ollivierre 3, and Parker, 2. Morrison delivered 4 no-balls, Smith 0, and Ollivierre 1.

BATTING AVERAGES—FIRST CLASS MATCHES ONLY.

	No. Times		Total in 80	Aver.	
	Matches	inn. out.			
Goodman, P. A.	11	22	3	667	30.7
Harragin, A. R.	7	14	2	118	32
Constantine, L. S.	12	24	0	776	64.7
Challenger, G.	12	24	0	654	54.5
Smith, S. G.	10	20	3	713	71.3
Layne, O. H.	13	26	1	490	37.7
Austin, H. B. G. (Captain)	11	22	0	380	34.5
Ollivierre, R. A.	11	22	5	266	24.2
Bancroft, C. K.	7	14	1	155	22.1
Learnmond, G. C.	7	14	3	188	27.0
Cumberbatch, C. P.	10	20	7	79	11.3
Morrison, C. S.	5	10	2	49	14.7
Parker, J. E.	5	10	2	35	11.9
Cameron, Dr. J.	2	4	0	35	17.5

Barton, T. J., played in two matches, and scored 10, 5, 7, and 19.
* Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES—FIRST CLASS MATCHES ONLY.

	Inns. Overs.		Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.	Aver.
	Inns.	Overs.				
Ollivierre, R. A.	10	321.7	47	1152	57	20.20
Layne, O. H.	12	261.9	39	819	34	24.08
Smith, S. G.	11	492.3	73	1668	80	20.85
Morrison, C. S.	13	281.2	26	391	14	27.93
Goodman, P. A.	11	25	4	237	8	29.63
Cumberbatch, C. P.	19	191.5	31	719	24	29.96
Barton, T. J.	4	37.1	5	185	3	61.66
Parker, J. E.	4	49	5	163	4	40.75

Dr. J. Cameron (3-0-18-0) and L. S. Constantine (2-0-14-0) each bowled in one innings only.

Smith bowled 22 wickets, Cumberbatch and Ollivierre 3 each, and Parker 2. Morrison delivered 3 no-balls and Smith 2.

"CENTURIES" FOR (6)

Challenger, G., v. Nottingham, August 13	100
Goodman, P. A., v. Yorkshire, August 2	100
Goodman, P. A., v. Northhamptonshire, August 16	100
Layne, O. H., v. Essex, June 14	100
Smith, S. G., v. Hampshire, July 2	100
† Smith, S. G., v. South Wales, July 9	100

* Signifies not out. † Not first class.

"CENTURIES" AGAINST (6)

Denton, for Yorkshire, August 9	100
Gunn, J., for Nottingham, August 13	100
Lawton, A. R., for W. G. Grace's XI., June 21	100
Mead, P., for Hampshire, July 2	100
Payton, for Nottingham, August 13	100
Perrie, P. A., for Essex, June 14	100

* Signifies not out.

"SPECTACLES" FOR (3)

Cumberbatch, C. P., v. Essex, June 14	100
Layne, O. H., v. Northhamptonshire, August 16	100
Parker, J. E., v. Minor Counties, June 21	100

C. S. Morrison failed to score in either innings v. Kent, July 12, but was not out on one occasion.

"SPECTACLES" AGAINST.

There are no instances.
F. C. Phillips failed to score in either innings for the Minor Counties on June 21 at Ealing, but was not out on one occasion.

Many Years Ago.

Mauritius Sugar.

In 1814 the Island of Mauritius was transferred by the Treaty of Paris to Great Britain, and by 1824 sugar had become an important article of export. The West Indian planters were naturally apprehensive lest their interests should be prejudiced by the introduction of sugar from that Island on equal terms with their own. At the meeting of the West India Committee of the 19th of May, 1824, it was mentioned that two resolutions had passed the House of Commons on the 14th of May:—

By the first of which sugars imported from the Mauritius are admissible upon the same duties as are by law now payable upon sugar imported from the West Indian Colonies.

By the second, sugars imported from all places within the limits of the East India Company's charter, not being the Island of Mauritius, and not being in the East Indies, and admissible upon the same duties as are by law payable upon sugars imported from places in the East Indies.

Both of these resolutions appeared to the Committee to be important innovations in the long established system of commerce between Great Britain and her Colonies, and it was decided that a deputation should wait upon the President of the Board of Trade upon the subject. At the following meeting, on the 14th of July, the Chairman reported:—

That the Deputation appointed at the last meeting of this Committee had conferred with Mr. Huskisson, at the Board of Trade, upon the subjects referred to them; that an opposition to the projected introduction of Mauritius sugar upon Colonial duties had been made, and that whether owing to the opposition, or not, the intended measure had been for the present abandoned.

The Homeward Mail.

The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" left Barbados at 9 a.m. on August 14th, and arrived at Southampton at 10.45 p.m. on Sunday, August 26th. Among her passengers were the Bishop of Guiana and Mr. E. Chambers. Our letters were less numerous than usual, but in nearly all the greatest satisfaction was expressed at the announcement which we were able to make, and which was cabled out on August 9th, with regard to the resumption of an inter-colonial mail service.

The opening of the Legislature in Barbados.

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, writing on August 11th, stated that the Legislature was opened on Tuesday, July 31st. The ceremony was shorn of many of its features of interest by the absence of the troops, with their band, guard of honour, and the officers of the staff. The police, however, furnished an escort and a band. The Acting Governor, the Hon. S. W. Knaggs, delivered his speech, which was well received. [A copy of the speech is given in the *Official Gazette*, which can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.—ED.]

The Hon. J. Thomas Jones, Member of the Legislative Council, died on August 3rd at the age of 69. He was a merchant of Bridgetown, and most active in performing all the duties of a citizen. He had been for years a member of St. Michael's Vestry, during which time he served on various boards, as well as acted as a churchwarden. He was a member for many years of the House of Assembly, and four years ago was called to the Legislative Council. Quite recently he was elected Chairman of the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance.

His many friends in Barbados had heard with pleasure of the appointment of their former Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Ralph Williams, to the Governorship of the Leeward Islands. They wished him all success in his new appointment, and hoped to see him when he was on his way to take up his post.

The last few days of July had given an abundant rainfall, so that the total for the month far exceeded what the writer had foreshadowed. August had come in with similar weather, and already $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches had been commonly recorded for the month to date. There had, however, been no wash, and all outward traces of it quickly disappeared under the influence of the hot suns between the intervals of the showers. The growth of Indian corn and of other food stuffs was almost abnormal, and there seemed a prospect of a rich harvest of these planted on land which would not be required until November for the canes. Cotton was making a very pretty show, and the canes, —the ratoons especially—were doing all they could to make up for the lost time.

The British Guiana "Back Passage" Fund.

Adverting to the question of the Immigration Back Passage Fund, Mr. J. C. McCowan, in a letter dated August 10th, informed us that particulars regarding it duly appeared in the Colony's accounts. The Fund was administered by the Consolidated Immigration Loan Commissioners, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Planters' Association were members of that body. All matters in connection with the Immigration Fund came before the Board, and all bonds, investments, etc., were sanctioned by them. At the date of last account, the Return Passage Account showed a credit of \$148,388.25, of which \$103,479.15 was invested to meet back passages. \$5104.12 was in the Treasury and \$39,804.98 was represented by Planters' Notes not yet due. The new system of an immigrant paying a portion of his back passage commenced with those introduced in season 1898-99 (due to return 1908-09); the cost was computed at \$60 per adult, of which the planters payed one-half, or \$30 for men, and for women two-thirds, or \$40, the immigrant thus paying \$30 or \$20 respectively. The planter payed at the above rates on 25 per cent. of the number introduced, as past experience pointed to that being the present percentage of immigrants returning to India.

There was a meeting of the Legislature on July 31st. Nothing whatever was doing in the sugar market. A collision had occurred between the "Essequibo" of Messrs. Sproston's line and a schooner belonging to Messrs. Booker Bros., by which the latter vessel was sunk. Professor Harrison was about to go on leave after his severe illness from arsenic poisoning.

The papers referred in eulogistic terms to the useful life of the late Mr. J. H. de Jonge, who died in Barbados on July 28th last, and also to the general regret felt by the community at his decease. At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on July 30th, a vote of condolence with the widow and sister was passed.

Reginald Thomas, a constable in the British Guiana Police Force, had been presented by the Acting Governor with the certificate of the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of a bluejacket of H.M.S. "Diamond," who fell overboard in the Demerara river on the 25th of December last.

The weather was all that could be desired at the moment. They had some heavy rains a week previously in Demerara and Essequibo, more than was perhaps wanted in some places. In Berbice the fall was lighter.

A surplus of \$44,000 in Jamaica.

We have received letters and papers from Jamaica up to August 11th. The question of the representation of the Crown Colonies at the Colonial Conference was raised in a leading article in

the *Daily Gleaner*, and it was suggested that a concerted effort should be made to secure such representation.

The official statement regarding the finances of the Colony for 1905-06 showed a surplus of over £44,000. General revenue had increased considerably, thanks to the surtax of 6 per cent. imposed during the year. Customs receipts increased by over £39,000. The total increase of general revenue over the previous year amounted to £116,245. General expenditure for the year amounted to £821,611, a net decrease of £3204 over the previous year. It is the intention of the Government to utilise the surplus in the payment of debts.

Mr. Grabow was understood to have raised sufficient money to render the scheme of building a first class hotel in Lower St. Andrews practically a certainty.

Cotton Sowing increases by 25 % in Montserrat.

Mr. Conrad Watson, writing on August 7th, reported that the Governor, Sir B. Sweet-Escott, paid the Island a visit in July, and there being no communication with Antigua, except by small sloops, he had to remain for two weeks.

There was an increase of about 25 per cent. on the last year's sowings of cotton. The weather had been rather too wet for the establishing of the young cotton plants, and labour had been scarce and indifferent.

The Montserrat Company had established a citrate of lime factory and were now sending a shipment by schooner to Barbados to catch the Royal Mail. The Bishop of Antigua was paying a visit to the Island.

The early worm in Nevis.

When the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote on July 30th, he said that the cotton worm had already appeared, and unless drastic measures were resorted to for its destruction, it would be difficult to control later on. The last of the sugar crop for 1906 went on to Canada on July 28th, and very little cotton remained to forward.

Despite the fact that Colon was suffering from an outbreak of small-pox, labourers were still being engaged for the canal zone, and the labour question of the future was likely to be a matter for serious consideration. In Nevis, however, the gradual abandonment of the sugar industry, which appeared inevitable, would reduce the scale of the employment of labour. Antigua, St. Kitts, and Barbados appeared likely to be the chief sufferers, the last-named especially so.

The weather since Mr. Shand last wrote had had a tendency towards drought, and though light showers had fallen during the past week, the high winds prevailing had soon dried up the surface moisture, and heavy soaking rains were required to bring in the young crops of sugar cane and cotton. When once the latter was fairly established, it did not seem to require much rain until the bolls commenced to form, but dry weather at that particular stage was fatal.

The Earth quaking in St. Lucia.

When Mr. Sydney D. Melville wrote on August 11th, the crops were promising, and they had had good rains.

The seismic disturbances had not yet died out, and a succession of shocks was experienced on August 2nd, the tremors lasting through the night. They were in hopes that some arrangement was at length being arrived at by which their mails would be regularly delivered.

A welcome appointment to St. Vincent.

Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co., writing on August 11th, said that they had received the welcome news of the appointment of Mr. Ralph Williams as Governor of the Windward Islands, for which everyone resident there was truly thankful. Added to the fact that they were soon to have a mail service, and that the Cable Company were again issuing news bulletins, it made them feel quite Elysian.

Trinidad awaits the return of the Governor.

When the Hon. G. Townsend Fenwick closed his letter on August 11th, public telegrams had been received containing the news that something was being temporarily arranged for serving Demerara and some of the Northern Islands, and it was hoped a permanent arrangement would soon follow.

On condition of the Colony taking forty more immigrants this season, in addition to their indent for 2400, the Calcutta Agency cabled that they would be able to despatch the first ship on August 18th, instead of November 15th. The condition was, of course, accepted. The Protector's Annual Report was in every way a satisfactory one, and it did not call for any special comment except perhaps as to the steady increase in amounts deposited by East Indians in the savings banks in the amounts remitted to India, carried back in return ships and sent by P.O. orders.

The Acting Governor had gone to Tobago for a month, as matters political were more than usually quiet. The report on local Government had been adopted by the Legislative Council, but like several other important matters which had recently engaged the attention of the Council, further steps would not be taken until the return of Sir Henry Jackson.

The death of Mr. A. J. Jordan, who recently became a member of the West India Committee, took place on August 6th, from malignant malarial fever, after a few days' illness. Mr. Jordan, who was only thirty-three years of age, was Curator of the Government House Gardens under the Botanical Department, and had done much to improve that portion of the gardens under his immediate control.

Heavy weather and floods had been frequent during the past fortnight, and a few weeks of sunshine would be welcomed by all. The receipts of cocoa from the country had been very small, and had met with keen competition, in consequence of which prices had taken an upward turn. The prospects for the coming crop remained unfavourable owing to the heavy weather above referred to. Quotations for future delivery were nominal, but business had been done for shipment to New York (December and January) at the equivalent of prices quoted in Mr. Fenwick's last letter. Larger arrivals of Venezuelan had stimulated business in this market, and prices had become firmer, owing to the keen competition by the buyers. Sales had been made for Europe for Ordinary grades at 58/- C. and F., Havre.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Total at last report	.. ..	111,217 bags, Trinidad	25,258 bags, Venezuela		
July 28th.—S.S. "Grenada"	.. ..	3,056 "	649 "	..	Europe.
" 28th.—S.S. "Prins Fred. Hendk."	.. ..	200 "	— "	..	"
" 30th.—S.S. "Canada"	.. ..	246 "	166 "	..	"
" 30th.—S.S. "Trent"	.. ..	1,140 "	— "	..	"
Aug. 1st.—S.S. "Tagus"	.. ..	266 "	— "	..	New York.
" 3rd.—S.S. "Sea Belle"	.. ..	130 "	— "	..	Europe.
" 3rd.—S.S. "Calabria"	.. ..	2,200 "	— "	..	"
" 4th.—S.S. "P. der Nederlands"	.. ..	260 "	200 "	..	New York.
Totals to date	.. ..	118,705 bags, Trinidad	26,273 bags, Venezuela.		

Our Library.

West Indian Bulletin, Vol. VII., No. 2, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms. Price 6d., post free. 8d.—This number contains a reprint of Sir D. Morris' review of the work of the Imperial Department of Agriculture which has already been published as a Colonial Report in this country. The article by Dr. Francis Watts and Mr. H. A. Tompauy as to Polarimetric determination of Sacrose is concluded in this number. Mr. Charles Allan's article on the Manufacture of Jamaica Rum is reproduced from the Report of the Jamaica Sugar Experiment Station, 1905. Some notes on Manuring Cotton are taken from a Bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture. Several recent articles on Canning Pineapples, to which we have already adverted, are conveniently summarised, and a memorandum on production of Camphor has been taken *en bloc* from the report of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. We confess we should like to see more original matter in this well got up publication, though the information which it contains is for the most part very useful and especially so to West Indian readers who do not have an opportunity of perusing the articles first hand in the scientific publications from which they are culled.

Notes of Interest.

CRUSOE'S ISLAND. The reported disappearance of the Island of Juan Fernandez has revived the old error of calling it "Robinson Crusoe's" island. Although Defoe no doubt derived the idea of his classic from Alexander Selkirk's long residence in Juan Fernandez, it was really from Tobago that the description of the Island was drawn.

LIMES IN NEW YORK. A shipment of 2900 barrels of limes from Dominica, which was landed in New York on June 6th, had a disastrous effect on the lime market, some having to be disposed of at \$2.00 per barrel, heavy supplies of limes from Mexico arriving at the same time. It was expected that six weeks at least would elapse before the market would recover.

MEXICAN RUBBER. The Department (or County) of Soconusco, in the State of Chiapas, one of the twenty-seven States forming the Republic of Mexico, is the natural home of the *Castilloa elastica*, or Mexican rubber tree, as is proven by the great number of wild rubber trees which grow spontaneously in its forests. In their wild state they grow tall and lank, reaching a height of over fifty feet and a diameter of twelve to eighteen inches.

JUICY LIMES. The superiority of limes over lemons has been frequently urged in these columns, and it is satisfactory to note that the *Produce Markets Review* of August 25th observes that "the scarcity of lemons may tend to popularise the lime, the value of which is completely overlooked on account of its small size. The lime is composed almost entirely of juice, the flavour and aroma of which is more delicate than that of the lemon."

APPOINTMENTS. The attention of our readers is called to the list of managers, engineers, overseers, book-keepers, analysts, accountants, etc., seeking employment in the West Indies, which appears on page vi. of the present issue of *The West India Committee Circular*. Particulars regarding the insertion of advertisements under the heading "Appointments Wanted," can be obtained from the Advertisement Manager, *The West India Committee Circular*, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

FORMALIN FOR FRUIT. The *Journal d'Agriculture Pratique* advocates the use of formalin—a 3 per cent. solution of trade formalin containing 40 per cent. of formaldehyde—for preserving ripe

fruit. For soft pulped fruit, the fruit is plunged into the solution and kept there for ten minutes, steeped for a further five minutes in cold water and spread on a metal strainer to dry. When the fruit has a peel or skin which is not eaten it is subjected to the formalin solution only. Fruit properly ripe at the time of treatment will keep in this way for from four to ten days.

WHITE CANE CUTTERS. A private letter received from Johnstone's River, says the *Daily Mail* of Queensland, states that the white cane cutters engaged for the north arrived safely, and "the following day went to work at £1 an acre for cutting alone, by which they were earning nine shillings per day. One of the Sydney gangs only worked for one day, and then went on strike for thirty shillings per acre. This they did not get, and are now doing nothing." If the cutting is valued at £1 per acre, and the labourer can earn the amount stated, the yield of canes per acre must be small.

FOR ST. VINCENT. The West India Committee recently forwarded to Mr. Andrew Carnegie a memorial from the inhabitants of St. Vincent received through the Kingstown Board, soliciting a donation for the establishment of a Free Library. The result is that Mr. Carnegie's secretary is now in communication with the Town Board on the subject, and on July 24th last the following resolution was adopted at a full meeting of that body:—

"This Board greatly appreciates the kindly help of the Chairman of The West India Committee in forwarding its petition to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and thanks the Committee for the interest shown in the matter, and their forcible appeal on behalf of the inhabitants of St. Vincent, as embodied in their letter to Mr. Andrew Carnegie."

The Editor's Diary.

- Wed., August 22nd—Cuban rising. An insurgent success at San Luis, Pinar del Rio, reported.—Special article in *The Times*, page 10, on Australia and the Cobden Club.—88% Beet, 9/3, firm.
- Thurs., August 23rd—Sir Alfred L. Jones and delegates of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine entertained at Brussels by the King of Belgians.—R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Homeward) left Jamaica at 6 p.m.—Beet, 9/3½, steady.
- Fri., August 24th.—President Roosevelt supported proposals for simplified spelling.—Beet, 9/4½, steady.
- Sat., August 25th.—Attempted assassination of Mr. Stolypin, the Russian Premier.—Beet (morning call) 9/6, firm.
- Sun., August 26th.—Viscountess Knutsford died in her 71st year.
- Mon., August 27th.—President Palma's statement regarding the Cuban Revolution published.—Beet, 9/6, steady.
- Tues., August 28th.—Beet, 9/5½, quiet.

Weather Telegrams.

British Guiana—(Messrs. Curtis, Campbell and Co.) August 27th, "No rain worth speaking of since last message." **Trinidad**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.) August 23rd, "Showery and favourable for cultivation." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.) Week ended August 15th. **PORT ANTONIO**—9th and 10th, fine; 11th, heavy rain; 12th, rainy; 13th to 15th, fine. **KINGSTON**—9th to 12th, fine; 13th, rainy; 14th and 15th, fine.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), August 27th: Mr. Chalmers, Mr. F. G. Graham, Mr. A. Hadden, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wray, Mr. D. H. Brid, Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Metheny, Dr. Masson, Mr. B. H. Stephens, Mr. J. Pietrantonio, Mr. N. Albatì, Mr. A. Signanini, Mr. E. Ballistini, Rev. F. O'Hefferman, Mr. C. L. Whittle, Mr. Sprick, Mr. and Mrs. Sammy, Mr. J. M. Thomas, Mrs. McEwen, Miss M. Patterson, Mr. E. Chambers, Mr. G. Corea, Mrs. H. S. Smith, Mr. G. Bell, His Lordship the Bishop of British Guiana, Mr. C. C. Monckton, Mrs. H. H. Laurence, Mr. C. G. Harris, Rev. H. A. Dalton, D.D., Captain H. L. Fox, Miss Hoad, Mr. C. Parke, Dr. G. B. Brown, Mr. W. H. Cutten, Mr. H. Tietz, Col. and Mrs. E. J. C. Boyce.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dis), August 30th: Mr. Hudson, Mr. Wyness, Mr. Green, Mr. Gower, Dr. Graveley, Mr. Olano, Mr. and Mrs. Wishart, Mr. J. Caston, Mr. and Mrs. Quickshank, Mr. Jessiman, Mr. and Mrs. McAfee, Mr. E. Kruger, General and Mrs. Corao, Mr. W. H. Large, Mr. and Mrs. P. Berg, Mr. and Mrs. L. Gutierrez, Mr. and Mrs. Nusas, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Ulrich, Mr. F. Vargas, Mr. Seni, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Stagg, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Madge, Mr. and Mrs. Stolk, Mr. W. K. Chandler, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lowe, Mrs. Cuffin, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. C. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Stierlen, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Woodroffe, Mr. J. Smith, Mrs. and Miss Reis, Mr. H. M. Abbott, Mr. J. Bolt, Mr. Velutini, Mr. W. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. G. Austin, Mr. P. A. Goodman, Mr. O. Layne, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. L. Constantine, Mr. G. Learnond, Mr. C. Cumberbatch, Mr. E. Axmacher, Mr. L. Wessels, Mr. C. H. Barclay, Mrs. and Miss Granados, Mr. and Mrs. Araujo, Mr. J. Bryce, Mr. Tirado, Mr. G. Kruger, Mr. H. A. J. Chapman, Mr. V. Smith, Mr. H. Price, Mr. Tarbes, Mrs. and Miss Simpson, Mr. J. A. Rapsay, Miss Rees, Mr. R. Ollivierre, Mr. C. S. Morrison, Mr. J. E. Parker, Mr. R. Lund, Mr. E. Orellana, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Compaan.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), August 25th: **Jamaica.**—Mr. P. A. Apenshaw, Major Barlow, Lieut. Buchanan, Mr. J. B. Brooks, Mr. Norman Chamberlain, Lady M. M. Clarke, Mr. F. M. Deighton, Mr. G. E. Fawcett, Miss J. Furneaux, Mrs. J. Fulford, Mr. A. B. McFarlane, Mr. and Mrs. A. Greenhalgh, Mr. B. R. Greenhalgh, Mr. W. A. Griffin, Mrs. Gay, Capt. and Mrs. Hunter, Miss E. Heath, Mr. N. J. Heath, Mr. J. Jager, Miss A. Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Kieffer and 4 children, Hon. H. Lygon, Hon. Doctor J. R. Love, Mr. L. F. Lopez, Mr. J. Murray, Mrs. D. Milliken, Mr. W. Morris, Mr. A. C. Monilly, Miss Pierce, Mr. H. R. Palmer, Miss Royden, Mr. A. Ritchie, Mr. F. E. Smith, M.P., and Mrs. F. E. Smith, Mr. H. Smith, Mr. F. Scott, Mrs. T. Stewart, Mr. C. Sadler, Mr. A. A. Tobin, K.C., Mr. and Mrs. Tonchard-Ghidain, Miss F. E. Thomson, Mr. G. L. Webster, Mrs. Watson, Mr. H. A. Whitworth, Mr. F. A. Wright, Mr. W. R. M. Woolf, Mr. J. Walker, Mr. A. Kattan, Mr. E. R. Salem, Mrs. R. Shamah, Mrs. I. Shamah, Mr. C. M. L. Wilson, Mr. R. H. Foster, Mr. G. R. C. Heale. **Bermuda.**—Mrs. H. W. Hawking, Mr. A. and Mrs. Hippisley, Major Hicks, Rev. J. L. Havard, Lieut. A. G. Joiner, Miss M. Callaway, Mrs. Darrell, Miss F. E. Lewis. **Turks Island.**—Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Ireland.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES

No. LXXV.



Dr. James J. Law.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEething LANE, LONDON.

Sept. 4th, 1906

TELEGRAMS: "GIBB, LONDON." TELEPHONE: 8642 CENTRAL.

THE Pure Foods Bill, which has just passed the Senate of the United States, and which becomes law on January 1st, 1907, is likely to bring about a grave condition of things in the rum trade. It is enacted that if any food or beverage be coloured in such a manner as to conceal damage or inferiority, it shall be deemed to be adulterated, and further that any article of consumption blended must be labelled as such—blend being construed to mean a mixture of like substances, *not excluding harmless colouring or flavouring ingredients*. The interpretation of the colouring clause rests, we understand, with Dr. W. H. Wiley, the well-known chief of the United States Bureau of Chemistry, who has raised the point, and should he determine that the colour of rum comes under the head of adulteration, coloured rum will be prohibited. On the other hand, should he rule the colour harmless, then coloured rum under the mixture clause will have to be labelled as blended. Either rum will have to be uncoloured, or if allowed to go coloured, sold as a blend.

We need not point out how seriously the situation may affect the rum trade. Unless specifically

described to the contrary, rum from time immemorial has invariably been shipped in a coloured state, and the compulsory substitution of white spirit for ordinary rum would have a most prejudicial effect upon consumption. The direct market for West Indian rum in the United States is not large at present, being confined practically to small shipments of Jamaica, but an extensive business is transacted in matured Jamaica rum *via* London, and the result of the legislation, if colour is altogether prohibited will be to wipe out this trade immediately, as years must elapse before the necessary quantity of white rum can become sufficiently matured for the market. Again, ordinary consumers who have been in the habit of asking for rum would not be satisfied by receiving a white spirit in its place, and will look with suspicion upon rum which has to be sold as "blended." We sincerely trust that Dr. Wiley will grasp the true position of colour in relation to rum, and not, in his eagerness to check adulteration, look upon its presence as being associated in some way with fraud. As a matter of fact, the turning of colour may be regarded as an essential feature in rum manufacture, and it may be said that rum is not rum in the term accepted by custom of the trade unless it is coloured. Should uncoloured rum be wanted by the trade, and save in a few very special instances it is not drunk as such, *white* rum is especially ordered. True rum owes a part of its distinctive flavour to its colour, and the manufacture of the latter forms a portion of the process which requires special attention and skill. This colour is invariably made from raw sugar or molasses, and is produced by the caramelisation of the sugar. Thus the colour is the product of the sugar-cane just as much as the spirit, and in no sense whatever can it be considered an adulteration. This question of colour arose many years ago in connection with the importation of coloured rum into Great Britain. When a new Customs' ordinance became law in 1818, the use of Sikes' hydrometer for determining the strength of spirits for duty purposes was rendered obligatory, and the addition of any matter to spirits which interfered with the value of the indications of this instrument by "obscuring" the spirit from greater gravity, became penal. Rum was at once affected, but on the serious representations of the West India Committee to the Government of the day, the importation of coloured rum was permitted so long as the "obscuration" did not exceed $2\frac{1}{2}$ %. The Committee pointed out that the practice of colouring rum was "to meet the fancy of the buyer without any intention of defrauding the revenue," and the Government recognised the circumstances of the case and fixed the above limit, by which they considered that "the free trader would experience no unnecessary molestation." In this instance it was a matter of revenue collection, but as in the United States the Customs determine the true proportion of spirit independent of the hydrometer, the question does not now come forward on these lines, but we give it as shewing the light in which colour was regarded even in those days. We are much afraid that if the use of colour in making rum is prohibited in the United States on the ground of adulteration, or coloured rum come under the head of a "blend," the Jamaica rum trade will certainly be seriously prejudiced, if not destroyed, so far as the United States is concerned, and a slur cast on this old-established and historic product, while the consumer will be in no way whatever benefited.

WHEN in April last we suggested that animated photographs should be taken in the West Indies and exhibited in London, with a view to popularise these Colonies, we hardly hoped that our suggestion would bear fruit so soon. Now, however, although only five months have elapsed since our article on the subject appeared, MR. ALFRED J. WEST whose portrait we give on another page, and who is of world wide fame in connection with "living picture" work, has visited several of the West Indian Islands and has secured a series of animated pictures of great interest and beauty. These Mr. West has already been showing to delighted audiences in our senior naval port for some weeks past. Largely drawn as it must be from the seafaring class, a Portsmouth audience is always extremely critical where nautical matters are concerned: but judging from the press extracts which

have reached us, the incidents of a voyage to the West Indies, and of the shore life and scenery which are faithfully reproduced, have been received with enthusiasm, and the verdict of the many who have visited the West Indies and of those who have not has been uniformly favourable. On Monday next those Members of the West India Committee who have taken the precaution of making an early application for the necessarily limited number of seats courteously placed at our disposal by Mr. West, will have an opportunity of judging for themselves the results of this distinguished photographer's efforts. They are to be exhibited for the first time in London at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, under the auspices of the West India Committee, at 2.50 p.m. on that day. Those who are not lucky enough to secure tickets will have ample opportunity of seeing the pictures later on, as they will be shown throughout the winter season. In our last issue we gave a summary of the principal scenes which will be depicted by Mr. West. It has already been our privilege to see some of them, and we have no hesitation in saying that the features of the voyage and of West Indian life and scenery thus presented will bring forcibly home to Londoners in a delightful fashion the lands and people of the West.

THE British Honduras newspapers received by the last mail contain further reference to the railway schemes now being considered in connection with that Colony. The *Colonial Guardian* is strongly in favour of the Stann Creek line, which, by the way, it states is to be 20 miles inland instead of 12 or 14, the length actually contemplated. It speaks of the mahogany on the proposed frontier line as having been reduced by constant cutting since Mr. SHELFBORD'S report of ten years back, of the logwood not being worth cutting, and of the pine trees as having been ear marked for exclusive use and not, perhaps, available for years to come. It attributes the fact that many who do not believe that such a railway will pay for many years, are still in favour of its being constructed, to the small cost to the Government for subsidy and to the belief that the owners will be either compelled to extend it, or construct a branch line across the Sibun along the Regan survey, where an almost inexhaustible quantity of mahogany and other valuable trees are to be found, and where it will pass through a vast tract of Crown land. Our contemporary speaks of the woodcutter having to emigrate annually to the neighbouring republics on account of the excess of labour in his department; but surely this is an argument in favour of the railway, which would not only give them employment for the time being, but ultimately lead to their utilisation in the Colony. The effect of the Stann Creek scheme, says the *Guardian*, would be to attract agricultural immigrants from the southern republic, who would be glad to secure the protection of the British flag. On the other hand, the *Clarion* says that "of the number who are directly concerned and are interested, there is not a moment's doubt that the majority of these are in favour of the 'frontier railway,'" and speaks of the public meeting on the subject (which the *Guardian* says was mainly attended by "boys") as being thoroughly representative, members of the Legislative Council and District Board, prominent merchants, and a large number of the most intelligent of the middle section of the community being present. The frontier line, according to this organ, would have three or four sources of support apart from that of timber—the cattle trade, the import and export trade of the Peten, and probably the Tabasco and Chiapas provinces, and by no means the last, the fruit trade, for which there are lands just as good as in the Stann Creek valley. The extreme liability of the Government of the Colony in connection with the frontier line would be the total sum of £35,000 in ten yearly instalments of £3,500, which would cease should the line stop working before the end of that period. The promoters of the scheme are well acquainted, we take it, with the prospects of the line, and the heavy loss would be theirs in the event of failure. When we advocated the frontier line in preference to the Stann Creek project, the former had been vetoed by the Colonial Office and the latter scheme substituted. The position is now changed. There seems now to be every prospect of the construction of the two lines

going on together, the seventy miles of line from Belize to the Guatemalan frontier by private enterprise, subsidised to the extent mentioned, and the Stann Creek railway from Stann Creek to a distance of 12 or 14 miles by the Government, and we feel sure that this will be the happiest solution of the question, and cause general satisfaction. Should the Belize river be made available for navigation, the frontier scheme would be the one prejudiced; but as we have said above, this is the promoters' look out. The fact that the unofficial members of the Council insisted upon the former being kept in view as a condition of the money for the latter being voted, is in itself an indication of the importance which was attached by the representatives of the people to the scheme, and apart from the whole question of the financial result of the railway, the expenditure in the Colony, which the construction of the line would entail, would be of great advantage to it. The development of British Honduras has already been delayed too long, and we sincerely hope that both lines may be constructed and a substantial step towards the development of the Colony thus gained.

In our issue of August 22nd last, dealing with the effect of the erection of central factories and the introduction of mechanical tillage on labour and the general prosperity of the West Indies, we based our remarks on certain statements made in a letter on the subject, which appeared in the *Antigua Standard*. Though it does not in any degree affect our argument regarding the question of principle, we think it only right to state that subsequent inquiries have convinced us that the premises on which the letter in question was based are not actually founded on fact. Indeed, we find that in the case of the Gunthorpe's Factory, and the estates immediately connected with it—and they must be treated as combined as the boiling houses and the estates were before—the staff of Antiguans now employed number actually more, and the amount paid in salaries is nearly 50% more than before the erection of the factory, without taking into consideration further salaries paid for skilled control which had to be brought in from outside in addition, there being none available in the Island for special work. With regard to the labourers, we learn that much more money has been disbursed in wages in the Island as a result of the factory, and though this was chiefly during its erection, we believe that even now the sum paid in wages for the manufacture and transport of the canes compares very favourably with what was formerly paid for this purpose by the muscovado houses previously making the sugar, and there is also frequently fresh work in connection with the maintenance or extension of railways, which gives a considerable amount of employment. Mechanical tillage does, of course, reduce the amount of work for labourers, but in Antigua that can hardly be called a disadvantage at the present time, as the difficulty has been rather for employers to find suitable labourers, and not for labourers to find work. As our readers will have seen from a report from our correspondent in the Island which appeared a short time back, the substitution of mechanical for manual work in cultivation and weeding would be considered a blessing, and it must not be forgotten that the newly started cotton industry, for which many parts of the Island are well adapted, doubtless gives employment for many hands.

Mr. James J. Law.

Mr. James J. Law, whose portrait we give on a preceding page, is an engineer well known in Barbados, none the less for the skilful manner in which he can adjust the internal economy of a refractory steam-engine on a sugar estate, than for his genuine good-fellowship, which makes him one of the most popular men in the Island. Mr. Law has frequently accompanied the Commissioner of Agriculture on his expeditions to different Islands, where he has undertaken the erection of cotton gins and the factories in which they are housed. As a boy he left Glasgow at the age of twenty presided over the destinies of the Bridgetown and St. Andrews Railway during the interregnum which



Photo by Alexander E. Applehill.

HAULING A BOAT UP THE ESSEQUEBO RIVER,
BRITISH GUIANA.

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preceded its transfer to the present company, and he has been of great service to those concerned in the oil industry of the Island. His wife comes of an old Barbados family, and dispenses characteristic hospitality at "Ambleside," his home in Barbados, not only to residents in the Colony, but also to those visiting the Island from the Old Country.

"Hauling up the Boat."

In our full-page illustration a boat's crew is depicted hauling a boat up one of the smaller side channels above the Etaballi Falls on the Essequibo River, British Guiana, in the dry season. The falls are some eight miles below Rockstone, which is reached by a small railway through the bush from Wismar, the nearest point on the Demerara River and about ninety miles from Georgetown. The passage of these falls is very exciting. The captain stands on the poop steering with a paddle and encouraging his crew, which is generally composed of Bucks or aboriginal Indians and "Boveanders," a cross between the two. The return voyage also is by no means devoid of excitement. The crew work with a will, plunging into the water and hauling up the boat by ropes tied to her bows and stern when occasion requires it. The Essequibo River is of immense width. It has its origin in the Acari mountains, and is no less than 620 miles in length. During floods its waters rises twenty-five to thirty feet. On the banks at this part is virgin forest, and it is not unusual to see a huge camoodic snake or boa constrictor swimming across the creeks.

The West India Committee.

The next election of Members to the West India Committee will be held on Thursday, Sept. 13th, and will date from October 1st next. We may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following 1st January. Thus members, elected in October, November and December next, will on paying their subscriptions not be required to renew them until 1st Jan., 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates' may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

Production and Consumption of Sugar.

The following table gives the production and consumption of the world in sugar for the nine years 1897-1898 to 1905-1906, and the average annual production and consumption taken for successive periods of three years:—

Year	Production.	Average.	Consumption.	Average.
1897-1898	7,736,701	8,042,273	7,964,525	8,212,303
1898-1899	7,959,117		7,881,555	
1899-1900	8,431,000		8,790,828	
1900-1901	9,717,355	10,189,787	9,345,389	9,853,712
1901-1902	10,950,716		10,198,876	
1902-1903	9,901,289		10,016,870	
1903-1904	10,498,738	10,569,491	10,874,878	10,667,362
1904-1905	9,481,736		9,376,757	
1905-1906	11,728,000		11,750,450	

A comparison of the average figures for the periods of three years seems to show a satisfactory increase in both production and consumption, which in each case is nearly equal in extent.

It may be interesting to note that British India has during the past few years been steadily increasing her import of sugar from Europe and the East. The following are the figures:—

	From Europe.	From the East.	Total
1901-1902	151,296	120,109	271,405 tons.
1902-1903	80,708	168,635	249,343 "
1903-1904	36,202	235,223	291,425 "
1904-1905	89,279	232,400	321,679 "
1905-1906	176,936	191,589	368,525 "

It will be seen that the increase in the imports for 1905-1906 as compared with 1901-1902 is nearly 100,000 tons.

Beet Prices and their Parity in America.

An important factor in determining the basis upon which the Canadian Preference should be calculated in sugar sales is the position of the New York Market in relation to beet. From special causes the New York price has been *below* the latter for some time, and it is only now that a proper parity has been established between the two. If 88% beet be taken as the standard of price—it is this which determines the United Kingdom price—the following table, compiled by Messrs. Willett & Gray, gives the parity price duty paid in New York. By deducting from the latter \$1.68 ct. per lb., and adding thereto 24 cts. the amount of the preference, a fair idea of the bond value of 96° crystals in Canadian ports can be obtained. Thus, if beet is quoted at 9s. 6d. the corresponding duty-paid price in New York will be \$3.99, and the bond value of British raw 96° sugar in any Canadian port should be \$2.65. This table also shows at a glance if a parity exists between the beet and New York markets.

Beet l.o.b. Hamburg s. d.	Equal to Centrifugals at N. Y.	Beet l.o.b. Hamburg s. d.	Equal to Centrifugals at N. Y.	Beet l.o.b. Hamburg s. d.	Equal to Centrifugals at N. Y.
8 —	3.660.	11 4½	4.40 c.	14 9	5.15c
8 0½	3.67	11 5½	4.42	14 9½	5.16
8 1½	3.69	11 6	4.43	14 10½	5.17
8 2½	3.70	11 6½	4.44	14 11½	5.19
8 3	3.71	11 7½	4.46	15 —	5.21
8 3½	3.73	11 8½	4.47	15 0½	5.22
8 4½	3.74	11 9	4.49	15 1½	5.23
8 5½	3.76	11 9½	4.50	15 2½	5.25
8 6	3.77	11 10½	4.51	15 3	5.26
8 6½	3.78	11 11½	4.53	15 3½	5.27
8 7½	3.80	12 —	4.54	15 4½	5.29
8 8½	3.81	12 0½	4.55	15 5½	5.30
8 9	3.82	12 1½	4.57	15 6	5.31
8 9½	3.84	12 2½	4.58	15 6½	5.33
8 10½	3.85	12 3	4.59	15 7½	5.34
8 11½	3.87	12 3½	4.60	15 8½	5.35
9 —	3.88	12 4½	4.62	15 9	5.37
9 0½	3.89	12 5½	4.64	15 9½	5.38
9 1½	3.91	12 6	4.65	15 10½	5.40
9 2½	3.92	12 6½	4.67	15 11½	5.41
9 3	3.93	12 7½	4.68	16 —	5.43
9 3½	3.95	12 8½	4.69	16 0½	5.44
9 4½	3.96	12 9	4.71	16 1½	5.45
9 5½	3.98	12 9½	4.72	16 2½	5.47
9 6	3.99	12 10½	4.73	16 3	5.48
9 6½	4.00	12 11½	4.75	16 3½	5.49
9 7½	4.01	13 —	4.76	16 4½	5.51
9 8½	4.03	13 0½	4.78	16 5½	5.52
9 9	4.04	13 1½	4.79	16 6	5.54
9 9½	4.06	13 2½	4.80	16 6½	5.55
9 10½	4.07	13 3	4.82	16 7½	5.57
9 11½	4.09	13 3½	4.84	16 8½	5.58
10 —	4.11	13 4½	4.85	16 9	5.59
10 0½	4.12	13 5½	4.86	16 9½	5.60
10 1½	4.14	13 6	4.87	16 10½	5.62
10 2½	4.15	13 6½	4.89	16 11½	5.63
10 3	4.16	13 7½	4.90	17 —	5.65
10 —	4.18	13 8½	4.91	17 0½	5.66
10 4½	4.19	13 9	4.93	17 1½	5.68
10 5½	4.20	13 9½	4.94	17 2½	5.69
10 6	4.21	13 10½	4.95	17 3	5.70
10 6½	4.22	13 11½	4.96	17 3½	5.71
10 7½	4.24	14 —	4.99	17 4½	5.73
10 8½	4.25	14 0½	5.00	17 5½	5.74
10 9	4.26	14 1½	5.01	17 6	5.75
10 9½	4.28	14 2½	5.02	17 6½	5.77
10 10½	4.29	14 3	5.03	17 7½	5.79
10 11½	4.31	14 3½	5.05	17 8½	5.80
11 —	4.32	14 4½	5.06	17 9	5.81
11 0½	4.33	14 5½	5.08	17 9½	5.82
11 1½	4.35	14 6	5.09	17 10½	5.84
11 2½	4.36	14 6½	5.11	17 11½	5.85
11 3	4.37	14 7½	5.12		
11 3½	4.39	14 8½	5.13		

Cocoa Cultivation in Ceylon.

The cocoa exports from Ceylon have risen from 10 cwt. in 1878 to 69,431 cwt. in 1905. The value, however, has diminished from 71.25 Rs. per cwt. in 1898 to 35.04 Rs. in 1905, and were it not for the cultivation of a permanent intercrop of rubber, the industry would in all probability have remained stationary. Since the ravages of the disease or diseases affecting the stems and pods first became prominent in Ceylon, there has, says Mr. Herbert Wright in *Tropical Agriculture*, been a tendency to replace the old Criollo or Caracas variety with the more prolific varieties of Forastero and Amelonado in the belief that the latter is not so liable to the ravages of parasitic fungi. Now, however, the planters are beginning to realise that all varieties of cacao cultivated in Ceylon are liable to be affected by the same disease, and when the latter appears in the fluted and high stems of the Forastero variety are very difficult to excise effectively. There has been during the last two or three years a distinct tendency to plant the old Caracas type in preference to the Forastero. The change of variety can be shown to be one of the factors responsible for the varying value placed upon the cacao exported from Ceylon.

The Cotton Industry.

Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, left in the "Victorian" on Saturday last for Canada, on his way back to the West Indies. His object in returning by this route is, we understand, to study the question of the trade relations between the West Indies and Canada, and also in order that he may attend the Halifax and Toronto Exhibitions, at which many of the West Indian Colonies are represented. On Wednesday, August 29th, he addressed a meeting under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association in Manchester, over which Sir Alfred J. Jones presided. Sir Daniel's remarks followed closely those which he made recently at the West India Committee Rooms, and it is, therefore, unnecessary to give a detailed account of his speech. In the discussion which followed, Mr. J. R. Barlow asked whether there was any hope of the West Indies producing other types of cotton than Sea Island, and this question has since been taken up by the Press. Sir Daniel said that they were fully alive to the necessity of not producing too much of the finest class of cotton, and were carrying out experiments with the object of getting more body and substance into it. The *Tribune* referred to the question of growing cotton on an extensive scale in British Guiana, a matter to which the *West India Committee Circular* has constantly drawn attention. The *Tribune* reminded its readers that when British Guiana was wrested from the Dutch, cotton was grown successfully on the seaboard and far up the banks of the great rivers, and Mr. A. R. Wallace recommended British Guiana as a place peculiarly fitted for the reception of the small cultivator. With this it is impossible to agree. If cotton is to be grown on a large scale—and it must be remembered that it is not Sea Island cotton alone that will save Lancashire—no better field for enterprise can be than British Guiana, but if cotton is to succeed there it must be undertaken in a business-like manner by large companies who must be prepared to make the necessary arrangements for an adequate supply of labour. Given these conditions, there is no reason why British Guiana should not hold a front place in the cotton industry.

Caravonica Cotton.

Dr. Thomatis has supplied some further information as to Caravonica Cotton. The three varieties of it are: (1) Wool; (2) Silk; (3) Kidney. The Caravonica wool has large bolls and its lint is so long, even six inch staple, and so stout, as to be hardly distinguishable from animal wool; indeed a wool expert and buyer, having been shown in Melbourne lately a sample of the wool cotton, took it seriously for a real sheep's wool (merino) and insisted on knowing the brand, the name of the station, the grower, and quantity of bales available!

Caravonica silk cotton is the nearest approach to silk, and French and Belgian cotton mills are procuring it to make silk ribbons and velveteens at 1/6 per lb. of ginned lint. The Caravonica kidney has been so improved that the staple is strong, regular, and long, approximating that of Caravonica wool, and yielding now over 40% of ginned lint. It is a large, hardy, prolific tree, it adapts itself to all kinds of seasons and climates, no matter how erratic and capricious, from inundating floods in the early seasons to perishing droughts. Dr. Thomatis says, in regard to climate:—"All that Caravonica wants is sandy soil, sandy lands, and heat and moisture, rain for six months, then heat, sun and drought for the other six months, when they will bear the crop, which lasts for six months, continuously flowering, budding and bolting."

Agriculture in Montserrat.

The report on the Botanic Station and Experimental Plots in Montserrat is interesting to read, pointing as it does to the energy being shown in the agricultural development of this Island. Onions, sisal hemp, ground nuts, cotton, ginger, pine-apples, cocoa, fruits, rubber, and brown corn are all under trial. Of these, cotton has already become a standard industry, 132,848 lbs. of the value of £6,064, as against 70,758 lbs. for the preceding year, having been shipped. The whole of the seed planted was treated with corrosive sublimate, and the season was characterised by the comparative absence of pests, the cotton worm excepted, which, however, was met with Paris green. Of the lesser industries, onions and sisal hemp appear to promise most. The old lime industry, for which Montserrat has been so celebrated, is apparently reviving, 2,500 crates having been shipped to London during the year. Considerable efforts are also being made to improve the local breed of stock by the introduction of pedigree sires. The agricultural interests of the Island appear to be well looked after in the hands of Mr. Robson, the Curator, and Mr. Dudley Johnson, the Agricultural Inspector, and the revival of the agriculture of the Island, which received such a blow by the hurricane of 1899, may be looked for in the near future.

The Worlds' Coffee Supply.

The *Wall Street Journal* gives an interesting account of the world's coffee supply, and points out that while the consumption in the United States is increasing largely, the visible supply of the world has been diminishing more or less rapidly, and is at the present time a million and a half bags below that of August 1905. This supply stood on the 1st August of this year at 9,948,033 bags. This distribution of coffee in the ports of the world may be taken at 373,133 bags for Great Britain; 4,985,459 bags for all Europe, of which the French ports alone held 2,111,802 bags, and Germany 1,470,944 bags. Then comes the United States with 3,343,594 bags. The Brazils and cargoes afloat account for the bulk of the balance.

The coffee trade is a world-wide system. From Arabia it has spread east and west through the tropics, and grows in some of the hottest climates of the world. It is one of those crops which, however, has sought out a few localities in which nearly all of it is grown. Brazil contributes about 80 per cent. of the total, and Java comes next in order with a crop varying from about 250,000 bags to 775,000 bags, even in succeeding years, so great is the risk in variation in product in the carefully cultivated fields of Java. More recently Venezuela has come to be looked upon as having large coffee possibilities. The whole northern coast of South America, Central America and the Islands of the West Indies are all to be counted among the possible areas of cultural expansion. What the future may hold for these countries will depend very much on how Brazil manages her system of maintaining a minimum price of coffee. The action of Brazil for controlling the price of her coffee will probably call international attention to coffee-growing as a field of investment, but to what extent surplus capital may venture into expansion of old fields or the opening of new ones it will take several years to determine.

Very Many Years Ago.

A Remarkable Discovery!

At a Meeting of the West India Committee held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand on the 9th of December, 1811, a letter from a Mr. James Smith of "No. 10, Knightsbridge, Hyde Park Corner," was read. In this letter, which occupies five closely written broad demy folio pages the writer put before the Committee in grandiloquent terms the advantages of a secret process for converting sugar into wine with the aid of a common West Indian product. The letter begins—

"Persuaded that that degree of prosperity which is necessary in the present circumstances to the National existence of the British Empire, depends on the fate of the West India Islands, and knowing that you are strongly impressed with the same opinion, I am induced to address you on a subject which I trust cannot but be grateful to your feelings."

He goes on to say that the project he submits would give the West Indian planters the most effectual relief in spite of every opposition from the systematic malice of Bonaparte, or the mistaken views of the great Landholders of Britain! Stated briefly Mr. Smith's proposal was to manufacture pure and genuine wines of qualities equal to any which the world could produce by fermentation from West India commodities, with all the properties of Sparkling Champagne, the flavour of Burgundy, Claret, etc., at a cost of 4d. per bottle!

"I think it necessary to mention that the wines which I produce by fermentation alone

from West India Commodities, are procured by a process so simple, that after the proper instructions shall be published to the World, any ignorant person will be able to ferment their own wines with more ease and less attention than what is necessary to make a Cup of good Coffee. . . . The great Landholders of this Country convinced that their real interests were not impeded, would return to those noble sentiments of generous patriotism which so eminently characterize English Gentlemen, and which are in harmony with the spirit of our excellent constitution."

The inventor was confident that the use of malt liquor would be superseded by the sugar wine to the general benefit of the public as

"The use of Malt Spirits, which destroy the physical strength and morals of the people, would give place to the healthy and invigorating beverage of a generous wine as pleasant to the taste as salutary to the human constitution. . . . The population of the Empire would be increased, as must infallibly take place in every country where a new market is created for any of its Great Staple Commodities. And eventually this Empire would lay the Cold Countries of the northern latitudes under contribution by that demand which they would be obliged to make sooner or later for our sugar to furnish them with Wines."

The above gives but a brief idea of the glowing prospects held out. It is needless to say that the letter included an application for funds to carry on the experiments on a suitable scale, and the last entry which can be found in the minutes in connection with this subject was—

Resolved:—"That the Chairman be authorised to draw upon the Treasurer for One Hundred pounds to be advanced to Mr. Smith to enable him to make his Experiment upon the scale proposed, and that the Secretary be directed to supply Mr. Smith with about 14 cwt. of Sugar for that purpose."

Emigration from Calcutta.

The report of Dr. Banks, the Protector of Emigrants, Calcutta, on emigration from that port, to the British and Foreign Colonies for the year 1905, states that no administrative measures of any importance were adopted by the Indian Government during the year under review. The Governments of Natal and Jamaica, however, amended the laws in those Colonies relating to Indian immigrants. The amendments made are not of sufficient importance to require specific mention. Information was received from the Emigration Agent for Mauritius that the rate of wages payable in the Colony to indentured adult male immigrants had been raised from Rs. 5 rising in five years to Rs. 7, to Rs. 6 rising in five years to Rs. 8. Seven emigration agencies were at work during the year, of which six represented British Colonies, and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The total number of emigrants registered was 15,296, being an increase of 5,010 over the number registered in 1904. The bad harvests and the consequent rise in the price of food grains in the recruiting districts contributed to this result. As usual, recruitment was most active in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, from which 76.39 per cent. of the emigrants came: Cawnpore, Fyzabad, and Basti supplying the largest number. Fifteen thousand three hundred and fifty-two emigrants were accommodated in sub-depots during the year, of whom 2,296 were rejected, which was a larger number than in the previous two years. This fact points to the exercise of more care in the



Mr. Alfred S. West, F.R.C.S.

medical inspections conducted up-country. Twelve thousand two hundred and ninety-six persons arrived at the Calcutta depôts, but the number was reduced by rejections, releases, and other causes to 9,943. Of these, 9,322 were shipped during the year and 621 were left for subsequent despatch. The figures show an increase in comparison with those for 1904, when 7,451 persons were accommodated in the Calcutta depôts, and 7,135 actually took ship to the Colonies. In 1903 the number who embarked was 9,084 and in 1904 it was 10,882.

The sanitary arrangements of the depôts at Garden Reach, Calcutta, were satisfactory throughout the year, and the intending emigrants were well cared for. The demand for labour increased, 8,157 immigrants being requisitioned as against 7,501 in the previous year. This was partly due to the fact that recruitment for Jamaica, which had been suspended in 1904, was resumed in 1905, 790 emigrants being despatched to that Colony. The number of labourers supplied was 8,933, or 776 more than the demand. This year there was less difficulty in securing labour owing to scarcity in the recruiting districts.

Colonies importing Indian labourers	1904.		1905	
	Demanded.	Supplied.	Demanded.	Supplied.
Demerara	1,640	1,299½	2,605	2,605½
Trinidad	2,400	1,196½	1,800	2,285
Jamaica... ..	...	...	830	790½
Mauritius	400	1,404½	520	705½
Natal	1,638	1,638	1,037½	1,037½
Fiji	1,184	1,124	1,200	1,344½
Surinam... ..	239	238½	165	165
Total	7,501	6,901	8,157½	8,933½

The accounts of the Emigration Fund show that the year closed with a surplus balance of Rs. 1,778-11-8. This surplus is due partly to the increase of receipts on account of the larger number of emigrants embarked during the year, and partly to the inclusion in the receipts of the sum of Rs. 3,283-8-5, which represents the unclaimed estates of deceased emigrants. During the year 4,703 immigrants returned to India, bringing with them savings amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 808,141-2-4, or, on an average, to Rs. 171-13-4 a head, as compared with Rs. 174-10 a head in the preceding year. The money saved in Jamaica per head is far in excess of anything saved in any other Colony. One thousand and seventy-eight adults brought back no savings. The cash savings of the resident Indian immigrants in the several Colonies during the year 1904 as far as could be ascertained were:

Demerara	£215,378	Fiji	£18,121
Trinidad	106,626	Jamaica	56,650
Mauritius	197,146	St. Lucia	—
Natal	136,395	Surinam	24,615

As in previous years, the labourers in Natal sent the largest remittances by money-order, the total amount so sent being nearly 14 lakhs.

Consular Report.

British Colonial Trade with Austria-Hungary.

It will be seen from the figures given below that while the imports from the British West Indies to Austria-Hungary are increasing, the exports are diminishing.

	Imports from—		Exports to—	
	1904. £	1905. £	1904 £	1905. £
British India and Ceylon	3,714,880	5,627,994	2,356,185	2,538,954
British West Indies ...	61,117	125,026	5,624	2,828
British possessions in the Mediterranean... ..	6,603	11,911	69,181	76,690
Australia	154,169	321,040	40,699	60,109
Canada	17,290	15,315	62,447	52,685
Cape Colony	23,000	19,542	100,606	132,677
Total... ..	5,977,059	6,120,828	2,634,742	2,863,943

* The report states that Trinidad holds the lead in this respect, but from the figures it would appear that this was a misprint for Jamaica.

Premiums on Live Stock in Jamaica.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society has resolved to offer the following premiums on live stock imported, viz.—three premiums of £10 each for the importation of dairy shorthorn, red poll or South Devon bulls; four premiums of £4 for the importation of rams of milch breeds of goats; three premiums of £3 for the importation of Essex, Poland China, or Berkshire boars. The following are the conditions:

- 1.—That only one premium be paid to each importer in each class of stock in any one year.
- 2.—That notice must be given by those intending to import of their intention to enter for these premiums.
- 3.—That the animals on arrival must be inspected and approved by two persons appointed by the Board.
- 4.—That the premiums will be paid only after the animals have been six months in the island.

Some Homeward Mats.

The machinery of the new mail arrangements under the new contract is not as yet in full working order, but we have received mail advices by various opportunities. The R.M.S. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth from Kingston, Jamaica, on Wednesday, August 29th, having among her passengers Mr. A. McDowell Nathan, who is interested in the proposals for the erection of the new hotel in Jamaica.

The Railways for British Honduras.

The Hon. A. R. Usher, writing on August 10th, said that no news had yet reached him with reference to the intention of the Mexican Government in respect to the fines illegally imposed on British vessels on the Rio Hondo, but it was understood that the matter was under consideration.

From the *Clarion*, of May 31st, it would be seen that the Legislative Council approved of a loan of £100,000 being raised for the development of the Colony, and one of the works suggested was the Stann Creek Railway. Since then the Frontier Railway had come to the front again, and it was understood that the Colonial Office was also likely to sanction this scheme, but opinion in the Colony was divided as to whether a line going only to the frontier would ever pay, and some strongly advocated that the Belize River should be made navigable as far as the Cayo, if possible, which would cost very much less than a railway to the frontier, and was worthy of serious consideration. The new Governor, Brigadier-General Swayne, who was expected at the Colony on August 12th, would no doubt have to settle the question of what works of development were to be undertaken at once.

Good Weather in Dominica.

The weather for the fortnight ended August 10th, the date of Mr. E. A. Agar's letter, had been rather fine for the season, and good for the young cacao.

Hotel enterprise in Jamaica.

Full particulars regarding the new hotel to be erected in the neighbourhood of Kingston were received by the R.M.S. "Port Antonio." It is to be erected under the auspices of the Hotel Titchfield Company, in the parish of St. Andrew, within three miles from Kingston, and will be 480 feet long and four storeys high, with five storeys in the centre, and will be built and furnished in first class style. The company are anxious to acquire the Quebec lands as the site. It is expected that the hotel will be completed by December 1st, 1907.

The Hanover Agricultural Show was held at the barracks on Wednesday, August 1st. Proceedings were opened by the Governor in the presence of a very large gathering. On August 9th an Agricultural Show was held at Mears Pen, North Clarendon.

Heavy rains wanted in Nevis.

Writing on August 11th, the Hon. C. A. Shand said that it was satisfactory that some kind of contract for mail communication was to be resumed in the immediate future, but regrettable that it did not include better terms for the service of the northern group of islands.

Dr. Bell, one of the resident medical officers, who had practised in Nevis for just thirty years, died on August 4th. He was much beloved by the people of the Island, and his funeral on the following day was very largely attended. He was a member of the Agricultural Society, and took a great interest in all matters affecting the welfare of the Island and its inhabitants.

Since last advices dry weather had prevailed, and unless heavy rain fell generally at an early date, the growth of both sugar and cotton crops, would be materially affected. A large area of cotton had already been planted for 1907, and many acres more would be sown provided the elements were more favourable than just at present.

Late grinding benefits St. Kitts.

When Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on August 10th, that a good many estates were still grinding, and this year there was a much larger acreage than usual of "stand over" canes to be reaped in October and November, which should benefit by the present trend of prices.

A meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on August 9th, at which it was determined to hold a local Agricultural and Industrial Show early in 1907; and it was also decided to ask the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, in view of the scarcity and cost of American mules and the inferior quality of such as were locally bred, to give the Island the use of a good Kentucky Jack of about fifteen hands high.

Mr. Samuel Abbott, late of the firm of Wade and Abbott, died recently after a short illness, in his eightieth year.

The weather since the middle of July had been hot and windy, with no rain; for the last few weeks only a little over a quarter of an inch had fallen at Brighton, and it was believed that this was the average of the whole Island. In spite of the dry weather, the large cotton acreage was generally looking very fit indeed. In a postscript written on August 11th, Mr. Adamson added that nice rains, though partial, fell during the previous night, ranging from half-an-inch to one inch, round the Island.

Our Library.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Report on the Petrography of the Cayuni and Mazaruni Districts, by Professor Harrison, C.M.G., &c. This valuable and interesting report, printed as an official paper in British Guiana, forms a further contribution to the petrology of British Guiana, for which Professor Harrison has already done so much, and a very useful feature in it is the description of the meanings attached to the technical terms used for distinguishing the igneous rocks of the Colony for the benefit of the general public. Summing up the situation in these districts, as regards gold, Professor Harrison says, "The results of field observations indicate that amphibolite and hornblende schist are the main sources of the metal in the Groete Creek, Cayuni and Puruni districts. I have obtained ample evidence that these rocks are metamorphosed gabbro or diabase. In them the gold occurs in two ways, first as a constituent of the heavy minerals, secondly as free gold in the numerous veins and veinlets of quartz which traverse them. The large veins, reefs and masses of quartz in the epidiorite and hornblende-schist districts not infrequently carry gold, in some cases in high proportions. But the majority of the quartz reefs which I have examined contain gold only in small and unprofitable proportions." An account of some rocks at Omai, on the Essequibo river, is attached to the report, and some notes on the geology and petrography of the Berbice by C. W. Anderson. A list of upwards of 500 microscopic slides of specimens in connection with the report and marked for reference is appended to it.

The **Empire Review** for September contains an article by Mr. J. S. Hart, of Toronto, on "How to extend Canadian Trade," dealing with the advantages which both the West Indies and Canada would derive from reciprocity, especially the former, and seeks to find the cause of the hanging up of the interchange of the products of the respective countries, and attributes it, especially as regards fruit, mainly to the imperfection of the trade communication. "Efforts have been made," says Mr. Hart, "by Great Britain and Canada to facilitate trade by bonusing steamer lines, and by Canada in remitting a part of the Custom's duty charged against the world at large. Their attempts may have been of service but have been inadequate, the British West Indies be undeveloped. . . . The steamers connecting them with Canada are too slow and infrequent to carry on a trade satisfactory to either party; besides, they make too frequent calls for the more perishable fruits. Their course should be direct and fast and frequent enough to supply the demand." A large proportion of Canadian tropical imports come via Boston and New York. St. John's, however, is only twelve and twenty-four hours further by boat, with a good harbour open all the year, and from thence a passenger train reaches a point as far West as Toronto in less than twenty-four hours. Arrangements are now under consideration for a high class steamship line between Mexico and British Columbia, and the whole of Canada might be trading on fair terms for all her tropical imports. Sugar, of course, now forms a large item in the imports to Canada from the West Indies. In fact, in 1905, out of \$4,232,287 of imports, \$3,959,000 represented sugar and molasses. Imports of tea amounted to \$1,500,000, of raw cotton, \$6,000,000, of rubber, \$2,500,000, and rice, \$556,000. These are all industries which are steadily progressing in the West Indies, and for which Canada is a valuable market. Each party, the writer says, should learn more fully the needs and peculiarities of the other, and adapt their methods accordingly. Canadian importers complained of the sorting, packing and parcelling of the fruit, while the consumers had an equal number of complaints to make regarding our want of adaptation to their needs. Mr. Hart considers that as a first step towards putting into practical shape reciprocity between Canada and the West Indies, the subsidy should be continued and a bounty be given any shipping company according to the weight carried. In addition to a better steamship service a tariff change would be necessary, with a marked or absolute abolition of duties in favour of British Colonies. Mr. Hart is a strong believer in the material advantages derivable from reciprocity between Canada and the West Indies, and the increasing wants of the former and the growing agricultural industries of the latter should form a strong objective towards that end in the near future.

Notes of Interest.

RHODES SCHOLARS. Among the Rhodes scholars who will take up residence at Oxford in October are Mr. Frederick Eardley Smith, of Bermuda (Worcester College), and Mr. Hugh James Wortley, of Jamaica (Exeter College).

A NARROW ESCAPE. Mr. Howard Marsh, of Messrs. George Fletcher & Co., of Derby, is to be congratulated on his escape from the railway accident which took place on Monday, September 3rd, at St. Pancras Station.

RED BANANAS. The red banana, shipped from Trinidad, is rapidly coming in favour both on this side and in the States. Their extreme delicacy means extra cost in shipping, but the higher price which has to be paid for them is compensated for by the exquisite delicacy of the flavour. Americans, who are proverbially good judges of fruit, pay more for them than any other kind. The *Daily Telegraph* states that the red banana in New York is popularly known as the "Aspinall."

FOR OUR READERS! For the convenience of our readers we have arranged to supply spring-backed filing cases for filing the current issues of the *West India Committee Circular* at 2s. 6d., or post free 3s. each; binding cases with gilt lettering on the back to hold one year's issues, 2s. each, post free; a ready reckoner (Dollars to Sterling and Sterling to Dollars), mounted on a stout card, 6d., and a Chart of Prices of 88 % beet from 1870 to 1904, also mounted on stout card, 6d.

THE COMIC SIDE. Mr. Arthur A. Beckett, one of the latest recruits of the West India Committee, who is well-known as a former member of the staff of *Punch*, and has just been elected for the fifth consecutive year Hon. Treasurer to the Institute of Journalists, is going to give to the world his reminiscences in a volume to be entitled "Recollections of a Humourist," which is to be published by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., in the spring. The book will, we understand, contain an account of his recent visit to the West Indies as the guest of Sir Alfred L. Jones.

FRIENDLY RIVALS. A most enjoyable game was played last Saturday at Perry Oval, Forest Hill, between the R.M.S.P.C.C. and Elder, Dempster & Co.'s Cricket Team, resulting in a draw slightly in favour of the Royal Mail, who, batting first, totalled 184, but could only dispose of seven of Elder, Dempster's wickets for 100 runs by the time arranged for closing. For the Royal Mail the chief scores were: Gay 45, Pacey 44, Moynihan and H. Williams 21 each. Sloan batted well for Elder, Dempster C. C., being unbeaten at the close with 43 runs to his credit.

APPOINTMENTS. The attention of those of our readers who require managers, overseers, engineers, clerks, &c., for their estates, is called to the list of applicants for such appointments, which appears in the advertisement pages of alternate issues of the *West India Committee Circular*. The last list was given on p. vi. of No. 205, and the next will appear in No. 207. Full particulars regarding the insertion of advertisements under the heading "Appointments Wanted," or "Estates, &c., for Sale," can be obtained from the Advertisement Manager, the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

SEPTEMBER. This Month most People plant Canes in, but I would chuse to lay all the Dung that is properly prepared, into the Cane Holes, and the Land wed very clean, and to have at least four-fifths of the Land for the Crop holed, and nine-tenths of the Dung made, that both may be well mouldered, which will give and secure a good Strong Spring to be well preferred, which it was as strictly observed as it necessarily ought, it would avoid that moist and repeated Labour of supplying which is too often neglected and unreasonably done.—*A Treatise on Husbandry or Planting by William Belgrave, of the Island of Barbados, 1755.*

COTTON REPORT. Since Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland's last report on August 14th, there has been more business doing in West Indian Sea Island descriptions, and sales have reached a fair total at steady prices. There is a demand for desirable qualities at 13d. to 14d. The business includes St. Thomas 10½d. to 15d., Barbados 13d. to 15d., St. Kitts 12½d to 15d., Antigua 12d. to 15½d., Nevis 11d. to 14d., Anguila 13½d., and Montserrat 11d. Sea Island crop accounts from America are somewhat better, but still unsatisfactory, and the general opinion is that the crop must be smaller than the last; against this it must not be forgotten that Spinners hold good stock. During the fortnight ended August 30th, 66 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom.

OUR VISITORS. With the departure of the West Indian Cricket Team, Mr. H. B. G. and Mrs. Austin, Mr. J. R. C. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. A. M. and Mrs. Low, the Rev. H. and Mrs. Dalton and Mr. and Mrs. Woodroffe, in the "Trent" on August 29th, the number of visitors from the West Indies still in this country is considerably reduced. Hon. W. Fawcett, Mr. Bert de Lamarre, Mr. F. E. Everington, Mr. J. D. Adamson, Mr. John Copeland, Mr. T. H. de Gale, Hon. A. P. Mackey, who leaves by the "Orinoco" on September 12th, and Mr. H. A. Pile have been among recent callers at the West India Committee Rooms. The Hon. W. Gordon Gordon is enjoying good sport on his grouse moor. Mr. G. A. Sealy is taking the waters at Llandudno and among others still "on this side" are Lt.-Col. Hon. C. J. Ward, who is making a good recovery from his recent illness, Hon. Oscar Marescaux, Mr. C. T. Hunter, Mr. R. S. Gamble, the Hon. W. H. Lascelles, the Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, W. Eustace Greg, Mr. J. Gillespie, Hon. A. Warner, Captain J. B. Saunders, Mr. J. G. de la Mothe, Mr. A. S. Keroban, Mr. C. F. Wieting, Mr. L. G. Alston, Mr. W. A. Douglas and Mr. W. H. Farquharson. Hon. E. Du Boulay is still in Paris, where he generally spends his holiday, and Dr. Francis Watts is staying at Ilfracombe.

The Editor's Diary.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the week under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Wed., Aug. 29th.—Sir D. Morris delivered an address in Manchester on cotton growing in the West Indies—88% Beet, 9s. 3½d., quiet.
 Thurs., Aug. 30th.—Lady Campbell-Bannerman died at Marenbad—The R.M.S. "Port Antonio" arrived at Avonmouth from Bristol. The R.M.S.P. "Trent" left Southampton for the West Indies with the West India Cricket Team.—Bank Rate 3½% unchanged.—Beet, 9s. 4½d., steady.
 Fri., Aug. 31st. The "Garden of Jamaica," by F. G. Aflalo in the *Morning Post*—Shade temperature in London 91°.—Beet, 9s. 5½d., steady.
 Sat., Sept. 1st.—Article in the *Times* on Australia and preferential trade.—Beet (morning call), 9s. 6d., steady.
 Sun., Sept. 2nd.—Shade temperature in London rose to 91° for the third consecutive day.
 Mon., Sept. 3rd.—Rumoured rising in the eastern end of Cuba (*The Times*).—Beet, 9s. 5½d., firm.
 Tues., Sept. 4th.—Consols (2½%) are quoted 86½.—Beet, 9s. 6½d., quiet.

Answers to Correspondents.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Wednesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Basset.—The Ochra or Ocho, *Hibiscus esculentus*, is a favourite and nutritious vegetable well-known in the West Indies. The unripe pods are boiled when very young in exactly the same manner as asparagus until they are quite soft, but not cooked sufficiently to burst the skin. The vegetable is also used to thicken soups. In this case, the skin and the seeds are removed by straining. The Hibiscus Manihot is a flowering shrub. It is purely ornamental and is usually grown in gardens.

Sugar Boiler.—The boiling temperatures which you give for the several vessels of your triple effect are normal. Speaking generally, there is twice as much difference between the boiling temperatures of the second and third vessel as there is between those of the first and second. Similar differences occur with any multiple evaporator employed in raw sugar factories, and are the necessary result of the effort of the evaporator to produce equal evaporations from the several vessels in face of the change in the specific heats of syrup as it is concentrated, and the additional available sensible heat going forward from vessel to vessel with the syrup. The size of the vapour connections within limits will not affect materially, *ceteris paribus*, the relation of temperatures; but by the extent to which the air connections with the condenser are opened, these can be modified to a certain extent. The above remarks of course, apply to the ordinary degree of evaporation, 70%, done by the evaporator of a cane sugar factory.

The West Indian Civil Service.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. E. F. S. BOWEN, Superintendent of Public Works, Barbados, resumed his duties on July 16th.

Mr. N. R. MCKINNON, K.C., Acting Solicitor-General, has returned to British Guiana and resumed the duties of his office on the 16th July.

Hon. J. E. M. SALMON, Registrar, St. Lucia, has been granted leave of absence, and his duties will be performed by Mr. Theo. Cools-Lartigue.

During the absence from Trinidad of the Hon. W. S. ROBERTSON, Mr. W. G. Kay will act as an un-Official Member of the Legislative Council.

Brigadier-General Eric JOHN E. SWAYNE, C.B., Governor Designate of British Honduras, has arrived in Belize and assumed the Government of the Colony.

Mr. I. de VERTRULL has been appointed to act as a Member of the Board of Education of Trinidad during the absence from the Colony of Mr. F. E. Scott.

The Lord Bishop of Guiana left the Colony on August 6th, and will be absent until December, during which time the Ven. Archdeacon Gwyther will act as his Vicar General.

During the absence from the Colony of the Hon. H. A. ALCAZAR, K.C., Mr. E. C. Skinner has been appointed to act as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Trinidad.

SIR ROBERT LLEWELYN will leave Grenada early in October, and Mr. Ralph Williams, who has not yet arrived in England, will assume the Government of the Windward Islands in the same month.

His Honour SIR W. H. GREAVES, Kt., Chief Justice of Barbados, has been granted three months' leave of absence from July 17th, during which time the Hon. W. K. Chandler, C.M.G., will act in his place.

The resignation of the Hon. A. W. HOLMES & COUPE of the acting appointment of Colonial Engineer Antigua, has been accepted, and Mr. B. H. Jarvis has been appointed to act as Colonial Engineer and Surveyor General.

Hon. N. DARNELL DAVIS, C.M.G., Acting Government Secretary, British Guiana, has been granted three months' leave of absence from August 11th, during which period Hon. J. Hampden King, Acting Auditor-General, will act in his place.

Hon. A. G. BELL, M.Inst.C.E., Colonial Civil Engineer, has been granted leave of absence for three months, with an extension of leave for three months, and during his absence from British Guiana his duties will be performed by Mr. R. J. Scott Bushie, A.M.Inst.C.E.

A West Indian Security.

The Floating Dock Company of St. Thomas, Ltd.

The Report of the Directors of this Company for the year ended July 22nd last, to be submitted at the Twenty-ninth Ordinary Meeting on September 11th, states that the Dock has been employed 84 days, compared with 44 for the previous twelve months. The Directors have increased the Investments by the purchase of £250 New South Wales Government 4 per cent Stock, and £10 East India Railway "B" Annuity. The Balance remaining at the credit of Revenue Account is £2,956 12s. 6d. The Directors recommend that the sum of £826 16s. 4d. be carried to the Reserve and Equalisation of Dividends Fund, and that a Dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum, free of Income Tax, be declared. The Director retiring by rotation is Mr. A. C. Miles, who is eligible and offers himself for re-election. The Auditor, Mr. J. Earle Hodges, also retires, but is eligible and offers himself for re-election. It is proposed to issue the Dividend Warrants to the Proprietors by post on the 11th September.

Weather Telegrams.

Antigua (Messrs. Boddington & Co.), September 3rd. "Pond rains general, five inches upward." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.), August 20th. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.) August 30th. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable." September 1st. "Weather dry, with local showers." (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), September 4th. "Weather continues favourable in Barbice." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended August 22nd. **PORT ANTONIO:** 16th to 22nd, rainy. **KINGSTON:** 16th to 20th, fine; 21st, rainy; 22nd, fine.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. Pearce) September 12th—Mr. H. Leotaud, Mr. O. Carter, Mr. A. Burch, Mr. A. Baraisie, Mr. R. Driver, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Almond, Mr. F. S. Schloss, Mr. G. E. Child, Mr. and Mrs. Strass, Mr. and Mrs. C. Morris, Mr. G. H. Fisien, Mr. C. F. Robins, Mr. D. Swan, Mrs. G. Swan, Mrs. C. F. Deininger, Mr. P. Tauch, Mrs. Bessone, Mr. M. Koppel, Mr. T. Vargas, Mr. W. Goodman, Mr. W. Bowring, Mr. A. D. Thomson, Mr. W. M. Freestone, Mr. and Mrs. Buchell, Mr. J. W. Meyer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Miss K. Halsey, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham, Mr. R. C. Curtis, Mr. H. W. Gower, Mr. A. T. Vinkery, Mrs. W. H. Coombs, Mr. J. Stubbins, Mr. J. Conrad, Mr. and Mrs. A. Mackay, Mr. Edison, Mr. E. J. M. Nash.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Antonio" (Capt. Owen Jones), August 29th. Jamaica:—Mr. A. D. Brooks, Mr. Bell, Mr. H. Crisp, Mr. A. Clodd, Mr. W. H. Drew, Mr. H. S. Davis, Mr. M. de L. Davis, Mr. A. H. Hart, Mr. T. C. Hart, Mrs. and Miss Maxwell-Hall, Rev. W. Hark, Mr. and Mrs. Ingle, Miss Jones, Dr. P. M. Lyon, Mr. J. L. MacKenzie, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Miss Owen, Mr. R. Raw, Mr. J. R. Smith, Mr. S. L. Schloss, Mr. F. Sharp, Miss L. P. Sharp, Mrs. A. M. Sinclair, Mr. Smallbones and Dr. F. N. Scotland.

Mail Arrangements.

The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco," which was timed to sail for Barbados on September 13th, will leave Southampton a day earlier, that is to say, on Wednesday, September 12th, and will call at Vigo and the Azores. This arrangement is made to suit the convenience of a large number of third class passengers who will be going to Panama.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Sept. 7	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Statia"	Sept 7, noon.
" 8	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"	" 7, 16 p.m.
" 8	Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Barrister"	" 7, mid'n't.
" 12	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara) St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"	" 11, mid'n't.
" 14	Demerara and West India Islands (Jamaica excepted)	‡Glasgow	Direct Line	"Crown of Granada"	" 13, 6 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Sept. 12	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"
" 17	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Tagus"

* Letters to be addressed per S.S. "Statia," via Dartmouth. † In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.
 ‡ Letters must be addressed "per Private S.S. 'Crown of Granada'"

Exports from Jamaica.

	Sugar tons.	Cocoa cwts.	Rum galls.	Boffee cwts.	Cocoanuts	Cotton lbs.	Pimento cwts.	Bananas bunches	Oranges
April 1 to Aug. 4, '06	7,590	33,852	830,300	12,190	2,157,045	15,036	23,028	6,445,022	6,244,696
" " " 5, '05	5,628	25,386	686,314	8,671	1,612,981	20,935	23,240	6,376,383	3,374,269

The Produce Markets' Summary.

Sugar.—The improvement in prices continues, and we have now reached a point that covers cost of production, and it is sincerely to be hoped the improvement will be a lasting one. The mainspring of this rise has undoubtedly been the abnormal distribution, following the reduced one of 1904'5, the outcome of the high prices resulting from the failure of that season's beet crop. Sundry outside influences of small moment have assisted the movement, and have been welcome in their way. Up to the present, no complaints reach us as to the condition of the growing beet crops, which appear to be in a normal position, notwithstanding the absence of rain and tropical heat in this country. Were anything wrong we should soon hear of it. The unsettled condition in Cuba, if it lasts and spreads, may prove an interesting feature later on, but in its present phase it attracts little attention. It is a question however that must not be brushed lightly aside, for anything affecting a region producing so large an amount of Sugar as Cuba, is manifestly of first importance. With Sugar still cheap, any circumstance that may unfavourably influence the production of Continental beet, or of Cane Sugar in the expanding island of Cuba is undoubtedly of great moment and will have an important effect on the range of prices during the coming season. These two features, outside which all others are of little moment, must therefore be dispassionately watched by all growers of Sugar, and within a month or so from now the indications should be pretty clearly laid before the world.

The closing prices of 88% beet are:—September, 9s. 6½d.; October/December, 9s. 4d.; January/March, 9s. 3½d., and May, 9s. 4½d., with crop 1907 8, October/December, 9s. 3d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	1,610,000	1,110,000	1,480,000	1,750,000	1,800,000	
United States	270,000	190,000	120,000	240,000	160,000	..
Cuba	80,000	210,000	40,000	200,000	100,000	..
Afloat	50,000	210,000	160,000	90,000	160,000	..
Total	2,010,000	1,720,000	1,800,000	2,280,000	2,310,000	

Quotations of 88% Beet, 4th Sept.:— 8s. 6½d. 8s. 10d. 10s. 9d. 8s. 5½d. 9s. 11½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Yellow crystallised has, so far, not followed the upward movement in the beet root market, the Trade being in full Stock from their recent purchases. Only small sales have taken place during the fortnight at unchanged prices, and 15s. 3d. remains the value of average qualities. An improved demand is now due. For 96 test to arrive, 10s. 6d. or over might easily be obtained on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar is in moderate demand, dark qualities selling from 10s. to 10s. 6d., and fine grocery up to 14s., duty paid and on the spot. To arrive, 8g test is quoted 8s. 3d. in bond, on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—There is no stock of grocery Barbados, and the landed value of suitable sugar is 14s. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. For 8g test afloat, something over 9s. in bond might be obtained on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	Tons
Imports	43,000	32,000	35,000	19,000	54,000	
Deliveries	33,000	28,000	34,100	30,000	29,000	..
Stocks	21,000	14,000	14,000	18,000	37,000	..

Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ... 16s. 8d. 17s. 0d. 17s. 6d. 15s. 9d. 12s. 9d.

Rum.—Stocks in London:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Puns.
Jamaica	9300	10,200	11,300	—	11,800
Demerara	5400	5900	9000	—	7700
Total of all kinds	20,700	24,300	29,100	—	29,300

The Market continues firm. The stock of Demerara in Importers' hands being all sold out, there is no business to report, 10d. remaining the nearest value for fair rum. In Jamaica sales are taking place from 2s. 2d. upwards, according to quality. Leewards and other foreign kinds are quoted 9d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	Bags
Trinidad	12,600	23,400	29,700	—	19,900
Grenada	7900	17,600	17,500	—	11,900
Total of all kinds	68,700	90,500	100,300	—	76,400

The Market is starved for supplies of West India kinds, and for the small lots available enhanced prices have been obtained. The closing values are Trinidad fair collected, 62s., Estate Marks, 64s. to 68s., Grenada fair, 55s., fermented, 57s. to 59s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 55s., and fermented, 56s. to 59s.

Coffee.—Easier. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Small sales at steady prices. **Mace.**—A few packages sold without change. **Ginger.**—Slow. Good common to low middling Jamaica, 59s. to 62s. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d. to 3d.

Arrowroot.—Large sales of St. Vincent have taken place, aggregating 2500 barrels, chiefly at 2d. for good manufacturing, and the market being practically cleared, further supplies are urgently needed.

Lime Juice.—Quiet, value 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, unchanged, value £22 10s. to £22 15s. Hand Pressed unchanged at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, no alteration, value, 3s. 6d.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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NO reason is given for the delay in the publication of the Report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for 1904-05, which has only just made a belated appearance. The Report is dated June 30th, 1906, *fifteen months* after the close of the financial year under review, and nine weeks more were allowed to elapse—surely more than a liberal time for printing and revising—before its presentation to Parliament. We have on more than one occasion called attention to the disadvantages which accrue from procrastination of this kind in dealing with these Reports, and the present instance furnishes an example of how much harm it may do. Considerable publicity of a kind which is hardly calculated to improve the credit of the Colony has been given to the Report by our contemporaries who do not realise that it deals with a period which closed nearly a year and a half ago, and one, moreover, in which the Island was only just beginning to recover from a cyclone of exceptional severity. Following our usual custom, we place on record on another page some of the more prominent features of SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM's masterly though melancholy summary of a year of depression; but we would ask our readers to bear in mind that that year has happily been succeeded already by one of returning prosperity. Thus, as we have already been able to announce, the revenue of the Colony for 1905-06, showed a surplus of over £44,000, the total increase of general revenue amounting to £116,245, and expenditure showing a small decrease over the preceding year. Again, in 1905-06 the exports showed a remarkable resiliency; 14,748,642 bunches of bananas were exported as compared with 8,982,040 in 1904-05, and it may be mentioned that during the first nineteen weeks of the present year 6,866,376 bunches have already been exported. Indeed, with the exception of cotton and pimento, increases are shown all down the list. Since April 1st last, 7697 tons of sugar have been exported, as compared with 6631 tons in 1905. Cocoa exports amounted to 33,942 cwts. against 15,459 cwts.; rum, 853,213 gallons against 689,568 gallons; coffee, 12,198 cwts. against 9163 cwts.; cocoa-nuts, 2,251,895 against 1,661,081; and oranges, 6,266,196 against 3,457,619. To SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM's trenchant remarks regarding Government control over expenditure, we may revert at a later date, but in the face of such returns it is impossible to take other than a cheerful view of the future, and when the Report or the Blue Book for 1905-06 is published, as we hope it will be at an early date, it should do much to re-assure the public at home as to the financial stability of Jamaica.

Canadian Sugar Imports.

During the year ended June 30th, 1905, the value of the sugar going into Canadian ports amounted to \$8,470,987 made up as follows: Eastern Ports, \$7,525,507; Western Ports, \$745,791. Of the 154,353 tons which this represents, British Guiana and the West Indies contributed 112,124 tons, valued at \$6,482,596.

Taking the money value as the basis of the proportions of sugar going into the Western and Eastern ports respectively, 88.8 per cent. was delivered at the latter, which would represent some-where about 138,000 tons. Of this, the West Indies and British Guiana sent 112,124, the balance, say 26,000 tons, must have been obtained from elsewhere. Nearly 7000 tons were contributed by Great Britain, and the balance from countries not receiving preference. Of the

above 112,124 tons, 1757 tons entered under the general tariff. These, it may be presumed, were concentrated syrups, which neither came under the head of sugar nor molasses. Anyway, the fact remains that in 1904-05, in spite of the excess of West Indian sugar available, 20,000 tons were imported into the Eastern ports from elsewhere.

The Exports of the West Indian Islands.

The following return has been issued by the Board of Trade showing the average annual exports to the United Kingdom and the United States of America during each quinquennium ending 1904, 1899, 1894, and 1889 from the British West Indian Islands; also how much of such exports were of sugar and molasses; how much were of fruit (fresh and dried), coffee, cocoa, and tobacco; together with the proportions for each such period going to the United States of America and the United Kingdom respectively.

Quinquennium.	Average Annual Value of the Total Exports from the British West Indian Islands.				
	To the United Kingdom.	To the United States of America.	To all Countries.	Percentage Proportion.	
				To the United Kingdom.	To the United States of America.
£	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
1900-1904	1,443,000	2,397,000	5,456,000	26.4	47.5
1895-1899	1,455,000	2,462,000	4,940,000	29.5	49.8
1890-1894	1,874,000	2,931,000	5,906,000	31.7	49.6
1885-1889	2,098,000	2,427,000	5,621,000	37.3	43.2

Quin- quennium.	Average Annual Value of the Total Exports from the British West Indian Islands.									
	To the United Kingdom.	To the United States of America.	To all Countries.	Percentage Proportion.		To the United Kingdom.	To the United States of America.	To all Countries.	Percentage Proportion.	
				To the United Kingdom.	To the United States of America.				To the United Kingdom.	To the United States of America.
£	£	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	£	£	£	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	
SUGAR.										
1900-1904	351,000	710,000	1,296,000	28.0	54.8	5,400	20,000	172,000	3.1	11.6
1895-1899	366,000	1,070,000	1,487,000	24.6	71.9	6,000	11,000	149,000	4.0	7.3
1890-1894	444,000	1,605,000	2,122,000	20.9	75.6	6,600	32,000	239,000	2.8	13.3
1885-1889	620,000	1,491,000	2,190,000	28.3	68.1	8,000	52,000	229,000	3.5	22.8
MOULASSES.										
1900-1904	69,000	860,000	953,000	7.3	90.2	24,400	41,600	129,400	18.9	32.1
1895-1899	29,000	647,000	682,000	4.2	94.8	48,600	78,000	202,800	24.0	38.5
1890-1894	43,000	503,000	551,000	7.8	91.3	94,600	177,400	345,000	27.4	51.4
1885-1889	41,000	296,000	343,000	12.0	86.3	82,800	121,800	235,000	35.2	51.8
FRUIT (fresh and dried).†										
1900-1904	69,000	860,000	953,000	7.3	90.2	24,400	41,600	129,400	18.9	32.1
1895-1899	29,000	647,000	682,000	4.2	94.8	48,600	78,000	202,800	24.0	38.5
1890-1894	43,000	503,000	551,000	7.8	91.3	94,600	177,400	345,000	27.4	51.4
1885-1889	41,000	296,000	343,000	12.0	86.3	82,800	121,800	235,000	35.2	51.8
COFFEE.										
1900-1904	69,000	860,000	953,000	7.3	90.2	24,400	41,600	129,400	18.9	32.1
1895-1899	29,000	647,000	682,000	4.2	94.8	48,600	78,000	202,800	24.0	38.5
1890-1894	43,000	503,000	551,000	7.8	91.3	94,600	177,400	345,000	27.4	51.4
1885-1889	41,000	296,000	343,000	12.0	86.3	82,800	121,800	235,000	35.2	51.8
COCOA.										
1900-1904	500,000	452,000	1,402,000	35.7	32.2	4,600	1,000	28,000	16.4	3.6
1895-1899	426,000	233,000	965,000	44.2	24.2	2,600	1,600	21,600	12.0	7.4
1890-1894	430,000	185,000	893,000	48.2	20.7	1,400	600	14,600	9.6	4.1
1885-1889	428,000	106,000	732,000	58.5	14.4	800	1,000	10,000	8.0	10.0
TOBACCO.										
1900-1904	500,000	452,000	1,402,000	35.7	32.2	4,600	1,000	28,000	16.4	3.6
1895-1899	426,000	233,000	965,000	44.2	24.2	2,600	1,600	21,600	12.0	7.4
1890-1894	430,000	185,000	893,000	48.2	20.7	1,400	600	14,600	9.6	4.1
1885-1889	428,000	106,000	732,000	58.5	14.4	800	1,000	10,000	8.0	10.0

An important feature of this statement is the rapid rise shown in value of the exports of cocoa and the falling off shown by sugar. The value of sugar and molasses exported in the five years ended 1904 exceeded that of cocoa by £66,000 only; but another by-product of sugar, namely rum, of which the exports from the West Indies amount to over £200,000 a year is, unfortunately, not included in the statement. It will be understood that the above table refers to the West Indian Islands only and does not include British Guiana, the value of whose exports of sugar, molasses and rum average about £1,250,000 per annum.‡

† Exclusive of trade between the various British West Indian Islands.

‡ Mostly fresh fruit, the exports of dried fruit from the British West Indian Islands being very small.

§ In 1904-05 the value of the exports from British Guiana were: sugar, £2,281,500; rum, £20,215; molasses, £1,497; and salt or cattle food, £20,714.

sugar is £6 per ton, while the excise duty is £3 per ton, 4s. a ton of cane being allowed on Australian sugar grown by white labour. During 1904-05, six of the milling companies failed to meet their monetary obligations to the State, and passed into the possession of the Government. In view of the abolition of Polynesian labour and its probable effect upon sugar production in North Queensland, there is every chance of beet cultivation being undertaken in Victoria, where the soil and climatic conditions are favourable to it.

Colonial Report.

A belated Jamaica Report.

The report on the Blue Book of Jamaica,* which has just been published, revives memories of the past, dealing as it does with such ancient history as the departure of Sir Augustus Hemming from the Island on May 25th, 1904, and subsequent events down to March 31st, 1905, only. The preceding report was issued in December, 1904, and no explanation is given for the belated appearance of the corresponding report for 1904-05. The delay in the publication of these Colonial reports, which greatly minimises their value, has been frequently commented on in the *West India Committee Circular*. It is difficult to assign a cause for it, and it certainly does not seem unreasonable to expect that considering the large civil service which Jamaica has, it should be produced earlier.

The total revenue for the year ended March 31st, 1905, was £751,562 and the expenditure £824,816, leaving a deficit of £73,254. We give the following table for the purpose of comparison:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1900-01 ..	£760,386	£763,662	£3,276 Deficit.
1901-02 ..	774,837	751,699	32,138 Surplus.
1902-03 ..	856,514	788,847	67,667 ..
1903-04 ..	926,164	822,876	103,288 ..
1904-05 ..	751,562	824,816	73,254 Deficit.

The balance sheet of the Colony, which on April 1st, 1904, indicated a surplus of £67,791 of assets over liabilities, exhibited on 31st March, 1905, an excess of liabilities over assets of £5463, and on that day the Colony had overdrawn its account with the Crown Agents by the very large sum of £88,832. In view of these circumstances the Government was compelled to defer not only all improvements, but even many administrative expenses very desirable for carrying out public duties. Sir J. Alexander Swettenham complains bitterly of the system prevailing, by which laws were passed designed to weaken the control which the Government and Legislature of the day ought always to be able to exercise over public expenditure, passed, too, on the unquestioned assumption that there would always be found in the Treasury ample funds for almost all purposes which called for public expenditure.

"For example, Laws 14 of 1873, 9 of 1874, 28 of 1880, and 21 of 1894, authorise the Governor to advance to parish boards whatever sums (without any limit) may be applied for, for local sanitary works, markets, poor-houses, waterworks, and cemeteries, and only one of these, viz., Law 7 of 1886 gives the Governor a discretion to refuse, the others give none. Law 30 of 1879 compels the placing on the public estimates of each year of double the subscriptions collected each year for a sailors' home. Law 19 of 1894 makes the cost of erecting private telephone wires a charge on the Public Treasury. Laws 31 of 1890, 31 of 1893, and 32 of 1896, compel the Treasury to make advances for re-constructing streets, and for maintaining and repairing sewers in certain localities. They also compel the expenditure from general revenue of £200 a year on streets, and enforce provision being made for that sum on the annual estimates. Law 14 of 1891 casts upon the Treasury the burden of extinguishing all deficits on the Immigration Fund. It seems never to have been contemplated that the Treasury might some day be exhausted, or that occasions might present themselves when there was too small a balance to meet all these irregular and often unlimited demands. I use the word irregular as meaning a demand which no taxation has been devised to meet and for which no funds have been provided."

The total value of exports amounted to £1,436,725, of which goods worth £1,334,610 were produced or manufactured in the Colony. The total value of imports was £1,672,168. The exports were £344,840 below the average of the past ten years. The value of the export of fruit for 1904-05—£601,816—was the lowest since April 1st, 1897. The following table shows the export of bananas:—

1902-03 ..	14,660,582 stems value	£1,134,750
1903-04 ..	7,803,243 ..	585,243†
1904-05 ..	8,903,739 ..	514,191

The proportion of the whole which went to England was almost 10 per cent. as compared with 8.1 per cent. in 1902-03. The figures for last year fell far short of expectation and estimate. Compared with the preceding year there was a diminution in value of exports under the following heads, principally:—

Bananas ..	£71,052	Sugar ..	£5,356
Logwood ..	35,249	Honey ..	5,265
Coconuts ..	32,702	Rum ..	4,452
Ginger ..	15,232	Fustic ..	3,789
Oranges ..	10,206	Grape-fruit ..	2,353

* Colonial Reports—Annual; No. 192, Jamaica.

† Hurricane year.

There was an increase of value in the following :—

Pimento	£48,122	Tobacco—Cigars	£1,620
Logwood extract	16,060	Cigarettes	1,056
Goat skins	4,431	Leaf	30
Cattle	2,326		

In the quantity of cocoa and kola nuts exported there was a gratifying increase, but no increase in value. A satisfactory feature of the year was the increase in the tobacco trade, Jamaica cigars and cigarettes having gained a very enviable reputation and the manufacture being well established. The increase in this industry is shown by the following table :—

	Value.		Value.
1894-95	£9,005	1900-01	£22,670
1895-96	7,648	1901-02	15,960
1896-97	11,363	1902-03	20,411
1897-98	18,090	1903-04	19,567
1898-99	17,230	1904-05	22,408
1899-1900	16,659		

For everything but leaf tobacco, foreign states are our best customers. For leaf tobacco there is a steady demand in England, and the quantity grown is not sufficient to supply that demand after supplying the local manufactures.

Sugar is perhaps the most notable feature in the exports, as shown in the following table, giving the sugar exported :—

	Destination.	Year 1902-03.	Year 1903-04.	Year 1904-05.	1904-05 of total export.
To the United States of America		£134,165	£39,980	£2,561	2·2 per cent.
To Canada		8,744	48,792	87,153	74·9

Of local manufactures, sugar takes the first place, with rum derived from the same product. The Brussels Convention has given decided encouragement to the sugar industry, and planters seem confident that cane sugar can for the future compete successfully with sugar produced from beetroot. Schemes were being promoted during the year for consolidating sugar properties and manufacturing at central factories. The two principal sugar-producing districts of Jamaica are on the north-west of the Island and on the south-west. Each has now a Planters' Association, but they do not combine, because on the north side the principal product is rum and on the south it is sugar.

Vigorous steps were taken to induce cultivators and others to grow cotton. The result was rather disappointing—an export of cotton of 14,466 lbs., worth £546, to the United Kingdom, and of cotton seed, worth £20, to the United Kingdom and United States. The prices realised were decidedly good, and the cotton grown was of very high quality. It is well known, says Sir J. A. Swettenham, that after the American war of independence many loyalists left the United States for Jamaica and Barbice, where they planted cotton with great success, and it is disappointing to find that with so much in favour of the cultivation it has not been pursued with more energy in this Colony. "Amongst the causes for this unsatisfactory state of things I may mention the ratoon difficulty, which, however, could be avoided by a rational system of rotation of crops, wherein cassava and the local peas (red peas and cow peas) or grain should take their places, and the existence of animal pests, which require extermination at some expense and trouble, and the want of skill on the part of local pickers. This last difficulty would, of course, vanish with practice."

"The great want of the Colony is the plantation on an extensive scale of its large properties, which at present are used for pastures or allowed to grow up in brushwood. Unfortunately, there is a want of confidence in the application of capital to land, except in certain favourite ways, such as banana planting."

"The local manufacture of logwood extract, worth £63,680, facilitates the export of the dye, and it has been so successful that a second factory is projected. The local manufacture of lime juice is capable of great expansion; hardly any place in the world is so well adapted as this for the growth and manufacture of this product."

"The local manufacture of what are classed as straw hats has developed considerably. The hats are made not from straw but from a small palm tree—*Carludovica jamaicensis*—locally named Jippi-jappa (the orthography whereof varies considerably), and they strongly resemble the expensive hats, misnamed Panama hats, which come from Colombia. The export figures (£3119) do not indicate the total export, as tourists and visitors buy many on the spot and take them away as private wearing apparel. The spread of this industry is very creditable to the enterprise of the more industrious of the peasantry, the remuneration is high and the work not difficult; all that is now required is to secure a steady supply for export, the demand for which exceeds the supply."

Consular Report.

Rubber and Cotton in Angola.

Some ten years ago rubber grew exuberantly in many districts of Angola, and merchants derived a profitable trade from its export, which reached some 3000 tons per annum. The wholesale devastation of the rubber forests, which has extended over a lengthy period, is now, however, being perceptibly felt by the dealers, who are beginning to realise that their sources of supply are diminished. Twenty years ago cotton was cultivated in Angola for export and fetched remunerative prices, ranging between 20 and 25 per cent. above the quotations for American cotton on account of its superior quality. Of late years its cultivation has been neglected. It is, however, indigenous and continues to grow in considerable quantities. Samples of good quality have been obtained. It is fairly clean, but rough in staple and rather like Peruvian cotton. The length of the staple is good, though it is somewhat soft.

Some Homeward Mails.

No general West Indian Mail has been received since August 27th, and the next homeward steamer of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is not due until Monday, September 17th. An additional cause of irritation is the announcement which has been made that until further notice all the steamers of this line will call at Vigo on the outward voyage, thus necessitating their departure from Southampton on Wednesday, a day earlier than heretofore.

Agricultural Meetings in Grenada.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton, writing on August 22nd, said that the heat in the Island was intense, and the rain continued to fall heavily. The cable repairing steamer "Henry Holmes" was visiting the Island. A draft licensing ordinance had been published. On August 20th, the first special general meeting in St. Patrick was held at the Court House in Sauteurs at 4 o'clock, and was successful in every way. The subject discussed was "The possibilities of Sea Island Cotton." On August 22nd the third special general meeting in St. Andrew was to be held in the Court House, Grenville, to discuss manures and manuring.

A splendid Cotton Crop, St. Kitts.

The weather in St. Kitts, wrote Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, on August 22nd, had not been at all favourable for the growing crop, except in Sandy Point district, where good showers had fallen, amounting to over four inches in places. In the other districts the total hardly exceeded half-an-inch anywhere, and this had fallen in little drizzles which had been of no real value. In spite of the bad weather, the cotton crop looked simply splendid, and so far no disease of any kind was reported. Picking would be beginning in a few early places very shortly. Mr. Ballou, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, was in the Island, and was visiting various planters and giving valuable hints as to combatting insect pests.

A late crop in Jamaica.

The City Council decided on August 20th to sell the Quebec lands, subject to certain conditions, which are given in the Jamaica papers of the following day. Mr. F. N. Martinez was entertained at a complimentary banquet on August 17th by the cricketers of Kingston, in recognition of what he has done for the cause of cricket and sport generally in the Island. In consequence of the incessant rains during the year, the sugar crop of Westmorland was considerably delayed, several estates having not finished making sugar in the last week in August.

Many Years Ago.

Sugar as a Substitute for Grain.

In 1808, on account of the scarcity of corn, arising from the deficiency of imported grain, the use of grain at distilleries was prohibited as a measure of relief. About this time the West Indian sugar industry was greatly depressed. Constant wars had not only been a great strain on the producer, but the heavy taxation resulting had also deprived the consumer of his buying power. In 1811 it was proposed by the Government to withdraw the prohibition as to grain, and not to sanction the permanent use of sugar, and this action was looked upon with considerable alarm by the West India Committee. It was represented that home grown corn was not sufficient for the wants of the people, and thus sugar should be used rather than imported corn. The Government, although prepared to do something for the sugar industry, did not see their way to granting this application in its entirety, and at a meeting of the Committee on March 26th, 1811, the following entry was made on the minutes:

Resolved: "That the incidental advantage arising from the admission of sugar to the Distilleries, as proposed by the Bill now before Parliament, is so guarded by the provisions of that Bill, that the West India Colonist, so far from being in effect admitted to an equal competition for the Distillery with British Corn, is not even admitted upon terms as favourable as the Foreign Importer. The Foreign Importer is admitted into general competition with the British Corn Grower when Barley is at 33/- per quarter, while 38/- per quarter is the price now proposed to be fixed for the admission of Sugar into competition with British and Foreign corn conjointly, on what is assumed to be an equal footing."

Resolved: "That this Bill, therefore, though advantageous to the West India Colonists as compared with the total exclusion from the Distilleries, to which they have been subjected, will be a Benefit very far short of that to which they conceive themselves to be equitably entitled, and which in consequence of the necessity for a large importation of foreign Corn, might be afforded to them without discouragement to the agriculture of the country."

Representations were made to the Government on the subject, but the Bill, however, passed Parliament on the lines indicated in the complaint.

Notes of Interest.

CROSSBREED COTTON. At least one of the cross-fertilisation experiments carried out by the Director of Agriculture for the West African Colonies promises to be successful, the yield from a plot of a hybridised variety being about 1200 lbs. of seed cotton per acre.

HAPPILY FALSE. Our readers will be very glad to learn that the alarmist report which was circulated by a London halfpenny paper regarding the health of Sir Alfred Jones, was greatly exaggerated. Sir Alfred has been slightly indisposed, but is now practically well again.

A GAIN TO JAMAICA. The Hamburg Amerika Line is about to place new steamers on the Hamburg-West Indies and the New York-West Indies routes. The tonnage of the Company is to be increased, and for this purpose the capital is to be augmented by 20,000,000 marks.

ESPRIT DE CORPS. The clanishness of Barbadians is proverbial, and it will not surprise those who are intimately acquainted with them to learn that at the canal works in Panama the Barbadian negroes have formed a small village of their own, with their shops and the usual paraphernalia.

WHITE YAMS. Mr. Low, a planter at Managua, in Nicaragua, states that he has met in Cuba with a white yam which is from every point of view the equal of the European potato. He is willing to send tubers of this species, as well as directions for cultivation, to anybody anxious to try it.

A CORRECTION. In the paragraph giving beet prices and their parity in America on page 438 of our last issue, a slight inaccuracy crept into the calculations in the example which was given to show how the price of bond value of 96th crystals in Canadian ports could be obtained. The price obtainable in Canadian ports when beet is quoted 9s. 6d. should be \$2.55 and not \$2.65.

OUR VISITORS. Mr. W. H. Farquharson left for Jamaica in the "Port Henderson" on Saturday last, but he hopes to return to this country again next year. Among our visitors during the week have been Mr. W. A. Bovell, who will remain in England until November, and Mr. H. A. Pile, who will return to Barbados with his family in the "Tagus" on September 26th. Mr. G. A. and Mrs. Sealy will leave for the same Colony by the first mail in October.

NAUDET PROCESS. The Naudet process for the diffusion of the megass, writes a correspondent to the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, has been a success at Fortuna in Puerto Rico. With cane containing 14 per cent sugar the loss in the megass is reduced to 3 per cent., while more work from the dilution is thrown on the evaporators, the greater purity of the juice from the thorough filtration helping the work of these. The greater part of the cost of the installation is spoken of as having been paid for in the first year.

JAMAICA MOLASSES. Mr. Allan, at present acting as Island Chemist of Jamaica, puts the value of molasses at 9d. per gallon in the Island at the lowest figure. This is calculated by taking rum at 1s. 6d. per gallon; molasses as containing 60 per cent. of sugar, and allowing 16 lb. of sugar to every gallon of rum. This estimate of 9d. per gallon is made on the basis of the lowest price of rum, the poorest quantity of molasses, and the most inefficient distillation. Mr. Allan considers the average value of molasses is not less than 1s. per gallon.

MR. WEST'S PICTURES. A large number of our members availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing Mr. Alfred J. West's animated pictures of our West Indian Colonies at the Polytechnic on Monday afternoon last. The proceedings were characterised with the greatest enthusiasm, and the pictures aroused a marked degree of interest. Local colour was added by numerous West Indian curiosities lent by the West India Committee, under whose auspices the pictures are now being exhibited. In our next issue we shall give a detailed account of this interesting entertainment.

PLANTERS AND PUPILS. Being constantly asked for the names of planters willing to receive pupils or visitors on their estates for a small premium or weekly payment, it has been decided to insert advertisements from such planters for the nominal sum of 10s. per annum in a special column which will be provided for this purpose. It is believed that this will be the means of placing intending settlers into communication with the planters in the West Indies, and will prove of mutual advantage, and from the number of enquiries which have been received, there is no doubt whatever that this arrangement will prove advantageous if generally supported and taken up.

CITRATE OF LIME. The successful preparation is recorded by a planter in the Seychelles of a sample of citrate of lime containing 65.10 citric acid, 2.77 per cent. chalk. It was prepared with imported chalk after two unsuccessful attempts had been made by him to prepare the article with Seychelles

lime, which can, however, be rendered sufficiently pure for the purpose. A sample of carefully prepared lime after six months' exposure to the air was found to contain: Free lime, 9.11; carbonate of lime, 98.30. This sample was pure enough to be employed in the preparation of citrate. The difficulty which is met with in employing Seychelles lime for the making of citrate of lime is that the latter substance contains both lime and carbonate of lime, and the end of the neutralisation is not so well marked as in the process in which imported chalk is employed. This difficulty can, however, be overcome by employing powdered and sifted coral instead of more or less impure lime.

The Editor's Diary.

- Wed., Sept. 5th—Funeral of Lady Campbell-Bannerman at Meigle.—88%; Beet, 9.6½ steady.
 Thurs., Sept. 6th—"A West Indian view of the Cricket Team" in the *Daily Chronicle*.—Beet, 9.6½, steady.
 Fri., Sept. 7th—Letter from Mr. R. Elworthy, of Linstead, on "Rubber Planting in Jamaica" in the *Daily Telegraph*.—Earthquake shocks reported to have occurred in Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia.—Beet, 9.6½, quiet.
 Sat., Sept. 8th—The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" left Avonmouth for Jamaica.—The King returned from Marienbad.—Cambridge v. Harvard Boatrace, Cambridge won by two lengths. The Cuban insurgents blew up several bridges on the Cuban Western Railroad (English).—The Government of Victoria represented at the Confectioners' and Bakers' Exhibition.—Beet, 9.7½ firm.
 Sun., Sept. 9th—Havana, Cuba reported to be in a state of panic.
 Mon., Sept. 10th—First presentation of Mr. West's animated pictures of the West Indies under the auspices of the West India Committee at the Polytechnic.—Beet, 9.7½ steady.

Answers to Correspondents.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Wednesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Mincing.—We have submitted the dried skin which you sent to us to microscopic examination, and find it to be the Kokan (*Garcinia indica*), which is produced in India. The dried skin of the fruit is soaked in the juice of the same, and is used as one of the ingredients in making curry. The plant is of the same type as the mangusteen.

Melrose.—You are wise to decide to gain experience in cotton cultivation by working with a practical planter before venturing to take an estate of your own. With regard to your inquiry for the names of plants willing to receive young men as pupils we gladly send you a few names, and you will note from another paragraph in this issue that we are endeavouring to establish a list of such planters.

R. H. M.—The West Indies afford a good field for emigration for young and energetic men, and your capital of £3000 should be adequate with which to start on cocoa cultivation in Tobago or Dominica. The climate is well suited for your wife and children, but we would advise you in the first instance to visit one of these Islands without them, and if you approve of the conditions to make a start and allow them to join you six months later. We have sent you the addresses of one or two planters who are willing to take pupils.

Weather Telegrams.

St. Kitts—(Messrs. Boddington and Co.), September 5th, "Heavy storm of wind and rain, appears to have sustained little damage, rainfall general." **Barbados**—(Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), September 6th, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana**—(The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), September 5th, "Fine and favourable for growing crop." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), September 8th, "Weather dry." **Jamaica**—(The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.). Week ended August 29th. **PORT ANTONIO**—23rd to 25th, fine; 26th to 28th, rainy; 29th, fine. **KINGSTON**—Fine; temperature, 84°.

The Mails.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Captain Pearce), September 12th: Mr. Hy. Leotard, Mr. Carter, Mr. A. Burch, Mr. A. R. Braine, Mr. R. Driver, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Almond, Mr. E. S. Schloss, Mr. G. E. Child, Private P. T. Goddard, Private G. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. Strass, Mr. Cecil Morris, Mr. G. Risen, Mr. C. F. Robins, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Swain, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Consul Fedor Deminger, Mr. P. Tauch, Mrs. Bessone, Mr. M. Koppel, Mr. F. Vargas, Mr. W. E. Goodman, Mr. Wm. Bowring, Mr. A. D. Thomson, Mr. W. Freestone, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Buchel, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mayer, Miss K. Halsey, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Abraham, Mr. R. C. Curtis, Mr. H. W. Gowar, Mr. A. F. Vickery, Mrs. W. H. Coombs, Mrs. Mackey, Mr. F. Christie, Mr. A. Mackay, Miss Mackay, Mr. J. Courad, Mr. Eddison, Mr. E. J. M. Nash, Mr. Hewick, Mr. M. J. Faurel, Mr. R. J. Priest, Mr. A. Tilly, Dr. T. Meags, Mr. C. Thorley, Mr. and Mrs. A. Somers Cocks, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Farmer, Mr. E. Watson, Mr. Brewis, Mr. Jones, Dr. F. Oliphant, Mr. C. F. Canton, Mr. W. G. Nash, Mr. R. Travieso, Mr. J. M. Wallbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Velasco, Miss J. Clavier.

The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), September 8th: **Jamaica**.—Lieut. H. Edwards, Mr. W. H. Farquharson, Capt. T. C. Goff, Mr. C. J. Gillies, Mr. E. Hart, Mrs. C. R. Isaacs, Rev. W. Warwick, Brig.-Gen. and Mrs. J. W. A. Marshall, Mr. C. W. Morrison, Dr. and Mrs. Neish, Capt. and Mrs. Peacocke, Mr. E. A. Poole, Miss B. G. Smith, Mr. J. Tillman, Miss Tillman, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wortley, Miss Wortley, Lieut. P. S. Wiltshire, Mr. W. Brice, Mr. H. Baird, Mr. H. W. Davies, Capt. Griffith, Mr. A. Hubboch, Mr. H. Hyman, Mr. J. G. Mitchell, Mr. D. Paramore, Mr. D. Roberts, Mr. R. Weber,

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXVI.



Hon. Robert G. Duncan.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Sept. 15th, 1906

Telegram: "CABLE LONDON." Telephone: 8042 CENTRAL.

SINCE we dealt recently with the question of the competition between free grown West Indian cocoa and slave grown cocoa from the Islands of San Thome and Principe, off Portuguese West Africa, two important developments have taken place. The Administrator of Barotseland, who has just reached England from north-western Rhodesia, has announced that King Lewanika has issued a proclamation setting free all the slaves in Barotseland, and finally abolishing slavery in that country. Thus, one of the main sources of supply from which the so-called indentured labourers in San Thomé and Principe are drawn will become closed. How far this will affect the cocoa industry of these two countries remains to be seen, but it appears to us that in the long run the effect of this important decision must be to raise the cost of production, and to place West Indian cocoa in a more favourable position to Portuguese cocoa in the markets of the world than heretofore. Again, we are informed on very good authority that some of the leading cocoa manufacturers in this country are fully alive

to the moral aspect of this question, and that they have already, to their credit be it said, despatched

a commissioner to Portuguese West Africa to enquire and report to them as to the facts of the case. The market for cocoa has for several years past been so low that it is refreshing at last to be able to record an advance in prices. The only matter for regret is that owing to the less favourable crop conditions which have recently prevailed, there is not more produce to reap the benefit from it. The rise cannot be attributed to the causes above mentioned, but as many of our readers will doubtless be glad to know the reason for it we will give the circumstances as far as we are able. The first indication of any rise occurred on August 14th, when the market was firm, and at the public sales West Indian growths showed an advance of from 1s. to 2s., and during the following week good business was transacted on this basis. At this time there was more demand for Trinidad cocoa than for some little time past, and considerable sales were effected at full prices. An advance was generally looked for, but it was not anticipated that it would come so early. However, it was hastened by the disclosure of a bear position in Hamburg. Bahia, African, &c., had been largely oversold for delivery, and when the bears tried to cover, prices rapidly advanced in the producing countries, until a rise in some instances of 12s. to 15s. per cwt. was paid. Most other descriptions of cocoa participated in the advance, and though the larger manufacturers held aloof, having sufficient stock in hand, some of the smaller houses found themselves compelled to buy, and this intensified the rise. Hamburg also, in order to recoup the losses made on the delivery contracts, came into the market, and stocks in the first hands were quickly disposed of. Guayaquil was the only kind of cocoa that did not rise in price, but values were already high, and latterly holders have asked 2s. to 3s. per cwt. more, and some business has been done on this basis. The market has now assumed a quieter tone, and it is probable that the bears have covered their sales, at any rate for the August and September shipments. In the absence of supplies the market in London is quiet; but there is no pressure to sell, and quotations are nominally unchanged.

WHATEVER may be the cause of the recent sensational rise in the price of lemons—and it has been variously attributed to a shortage caused by the effects of the eruptions of Vesuvius on the Neapolitan crop in the early part of the year, and to an increase of consumption as the result of the natural development of the taste for lemons which has been stimulated by an exceptionally hot and fine summer—the fact remains that the improved demand must prove a blessing to the owners of lime estates in the West Indies. It will be remembered that last year the West India Committee seized the opportunity of a shortage in the lemon crop due to frosts, prominently to call the attention of the public to the advantages of West Indian limes, and the result was so far favourable that during the earlier months of the present year, even when lemons were much cheaper than they are to-day, quite a considerable demand for the fruit arose on the part of the general public, who at last began to discover that not only can limes be used for every purpose for which lemons are now used, but that though not identical in flavour and appearance, they are also actually superior to the European fruit as regards delicacy of aroma, juiciness and taste. No less an authority than the *Grocer*, on that occasion, said: "The rind is so thin, and the pips are so few and small that the lime is practically a globe of juice, yielding more for its size and weight than the lemon, while the flavour is delicious." What better testimony as to the merits of West Indian limes could be desired? Now, in spite of the fact that for over six weeks it has been almost impossible to get lemons for love or money, the same remark applies equally to limes; in other words, our friends in the West Indies have so far failed to rise to the occasion that in spite of favourable crops of limes there has been an absolute famine of this fruit also. This is the more to be regretted, as the West Indies have for a long time past been reproached with being a country of mere samples as regards the products of minor industries. When a business is being built up it is of the utmost importance that the supply be able to cope with the demand, and if the present condition of things is repeated, the grocers and fruiterers will simply not bother to stock

the fruit. The West Indies are in a particularly favourable position with regard to limes, as they are produced from January to December, and all that is now required is a little judgment and careful nursing to establish on a permanent basis this trade, in the starting of which we may claim in some small measure to have assisted through constant letters to the Press and more especially through the Colonial Exhibition of 1905. Lemons are used all the year round, and there is no reason why limes should not be used all the year round also, though the demand must necessarily be less in the winter months than when the weather is hot. As long as the supply can be controlled in such a way as to keep hand-in-hand with the demand, and the market is neither kept too short, as the English market is now, nor flooded, as the American market was quite recently, the results should be satisfactory to all parties. What we have said about limes applies also to the tobacco industry, though in the case of limes we are very much afraid that the West Indians have missed their market for the moment, while in the case of tobacco the opportunity is only just beginning. In the course of an interview with a representative of the Press, a leading tobacco merchant recently stated that as a consequence of the Cuban revolution there was a certainty of a ten per cent. advance in the price of Cuban tobacco and a twenty-five per cent. advance by Christmas time was more than probable, whether the revolution were ended immediately or not. In view of this statement, we think that the opportunity might be taken by the Jamaica tobacco producers to be in the van and not left in the cart, if we may mix our metaphors, and to seize the opportunity of impressing upon the public on every possible occasion that the price of Jamaica cigars, at any rate, has not advanced and that these cigars compare very favourably with the Cuban article, and by arranging that such a supply can be kept in London and our great centres, as will be able to meet any sudden increase in demand. It is by watching for such opportunities as these and by availing themselves of them, that new trade can be built up and made to prosper.

HON. ROBERT G. DUNCAN.

After leaving school and spending four years in a solicitor's office Mr. R. G. Duncan went out to British Guiana in 1874, under indenture as overseer to the Colonial Company, Limited. He was appointed manager of "Hampton Court" plantation in 1881, and planting attorney for all the plantations of the Company in 1889. In 1900 he accepted an appointment as planting attorney for Messrs. Curtis Campbell & Co.'s estates. Mr. Duncan was elected financial representative for North West Essequibo in 1889, and he has since occupied a seat more or less continuously on the Legislature, representing, as Member of the Court of Policy, the eastern division of Demerara and the north western division of the country of Essequibo. He was elected President of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society two years in succession, and has for many years held the position of Chairman of the Planters' Association. Mr. Duncan, in addition to serving on numerous commissions appointed by the Governor, did duty for several years as a member of the Central Board of Health. He occupied a seat as Member of the Agricultural Board, and has served as President, Vice-President and Director of the Institute of Mines and Forests, besides holding the positions of Director on the Board of the Hand-in-Hand and B. G. Mutual Fire Insurance Companies. He has been Chairman of the Georgetown Club, and is at present Director of the Argosy Company, Limited. Mr. Duncan has a stake in the Colony as part proprietor of sugar, rice and cocoa-nut estates and is typical of the sturdy class of Colonist from north of the Tweed, which is the backbone of our West Indian Colonies.

SOME INTERESTING CURIOSITIES.

While the library of the West India Committee continues to grow owing to the generosity of Members, the small collection of curiosities to which we have referred on previous occasions is also increasing in a satisfactory manner. In our present issue will be found an illustration of some of the latest and most notable additions to it. The mallet depicted is the Chairman's hammer used at all meetings of the West India Committee. It was presented by Mr. Edward R. Davson, and the inscription upon it, which is plainly decipherable, tells of its historic interest. It is made of Mora wood taken from the remains of the "Stelling," or landing-place, at Fort Savonette, Upper Berbice

River, British Guiana, which was the highest point on the river at which the Dutch had a fort when Sir Ralph Abercrombie took what was then the Colony of Berbice in 1796. Across it is the silver-mounted punch ladle said to have belonged to Chatoyer, the King of the Caribs, or Charaibes, the aboriginal inhabitants of St. Vincent, who led their French allies against the British in 1795, burning the cane-fields, plundering the houses, and ruthlessly murdering the English Colonists. The bowl of the ladle is formed of a segment of a cocoa-nut exquisitely carved, as can be seen from the illustration, while the rim is inscribed in crude characters, "Chatoyer, 1773." For this curiosity the Committee are indebted to Mr. G. MacGregor Frame; but the Carib stone implement also depicted is one of a representative set of twenty-eight acquired by purchase, which were at one time in the collection of the late Mr. Colin M. Gillespie. The particular stone shown is a very perfect specimen, and was probably used as a bill-hook in Nevis, where it was found. On either side of the hammer and ladle is shown the obverse and reverse of a medal, also given by Mr. Frame, which was struck to commemorate the disastrous hurricane which devastated Barbados on August 11th, 1831. It is inscribed "Commemorative of the awful hurricane of August 11th, 1831, which called forth the generous sympathy and liberal succour of our Sister Isles and other friendly shores in the hour of calamity and distress. Donations received: In produce £3,628; cash £21,147—£24,775 Cy.—Lieut.-General Sir James Lyon, K.C.B. and G.C.H., Governor." On the reverse is a quotation from Governor Lyon's despatch on that occasion: "On the evening of the 10th, the sun set on a landscape of the greatest beauty and fertility, and rose the following morning over an utter desolation and waste." Loss sustained in property £2,311,729 Cy—in lives 2,437. "*Deus hanc fortasse benigni reducat in sedem vice.*"

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

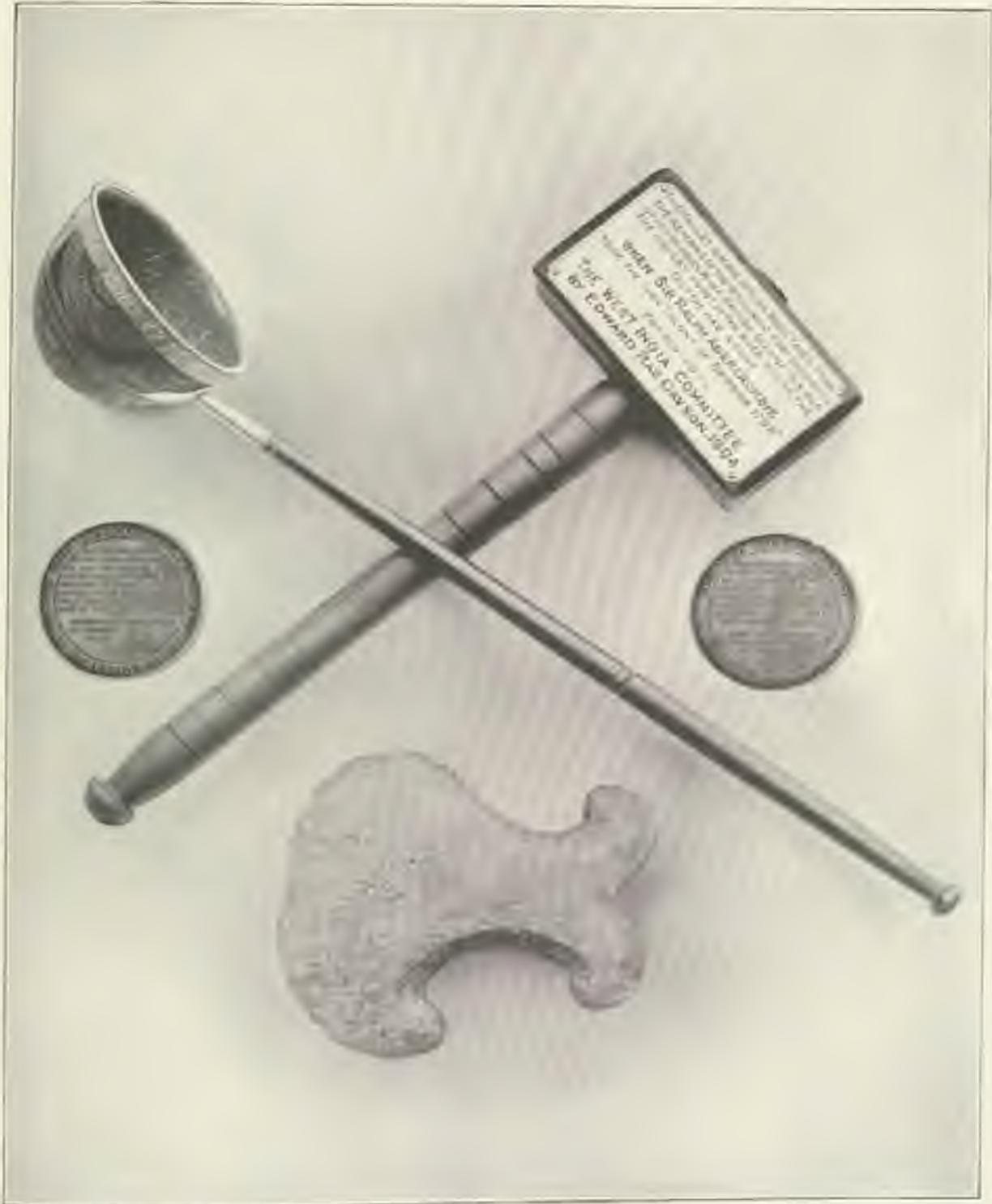
At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, Sept. 13th, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Secunder.
CHARLES E. GOODING (Barbados).	S. Browne.	M. H. Smith.
MARTIN MALDEN (Trinidad).	J. Peet.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
MIDDLETON & Co.	Sir Henry Davson.	A. McConnell.
W. S. ROBERTSON & Co. (London).	Hon. W. Sloane Robertson.	E. R. Davson.
T. J. POTTER (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	Prof. P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S.
B. C. BURT, B.Sc. (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
A. P. CLARK (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	Prof. P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S.
EUGENE HERNANDEZ (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	Prof. P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S.
JULIAN G. RUST (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	H. F. Previté.
JOHN CADMAN, M.Sc. (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	Prof. P. Carmody, F.I.C., F.C.S.
HON. ALBERT ALCAZAR (Trinidad).	L. Bert de Lamarre.	Eugène Coryat.
H. R. SILVER (Halifax, N.S.)	Sir N. Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford.
HON. HENRY CORK (Jamaica).	Walter W. Wynne.	H. A. Trotter.
JOHN COPLAND (Grenada).	Jonas Browne & Son.	Sir Henry Davson.
STANLEY DELISSER (Jamaica).	F. N. Martinez.	E. R. Davson.
DANIEL FINZI & Co. (Jamaica).	F. N. Martinez.	E. R. Davson.
EDMUND FINZI (Jamaica).	F. N. Martinez.	E. R. Davson.
ROBERT S. GAMBLE (Jamaica).	William Gillespie.	W. P. B. Shepheard.

We may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following 1st January. Thus, members elected in October, November and December next, will on paying their subscriptions not be required to renew them until 1st January, 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

THE CONFECTIONERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE SUGAR TAX.

At the eleventh annual meeting of the Confectioners' Association of the United Kingdom, held at the Royal Agricultural Hall on Wednesday, Mr. E. Edwards, of Leicester, after being re-elected President, expressed the opinions of confectioners and those engaged in kindred trades regarding the sugar tax. He said it was impossible for them to carry on their trade successfully when there was a tax on sugar equal to a third of its value. Their own and all similar societies ought to combine and



SOME INTERESTING CURIOSITIES

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

bring strong pressure to bear, not only on the Government, but on all members of Parliament to get the tax repealed. Some 400 or 500 members had already promised to vote for its abolition. Mr. Asquith, when appealed to last year, said he could do nothing, and this was probably correct, because he had no money, but when the next Budget came in he would have the money, and confectioners ought to have their share of the relief of taxes. If they could not influence the Chancellor of the Exchequer they could induce individual members to press him, and no Chancellor could resist a majority of the House. The question must be kept before the electors, and they must be reminded that they were paying a halfpenny a pound more for their sugar than they were before it was taxed. The Government must also be reminded that in September notice must be given to the Brussels Sugar Committee that the convention must be abrogated. It was to be hoped that England would never again enter into such a stupid convention as this, the only result of which had been to reduce the price of sugar on the Continent. It was decided to form a committee composed of delegates from this and kindred societies to work up opposition to the tax, and to form a "lobby committee" to see members of Parliament on the matter.

THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY IN NATAL.

Last year the Natal Government invited tenders for proposals regarding the erection and working of a central sugar mill in Zululand. Three tenders were received, and now we learn that the one of Sir J. L. Hulett, providing for all sugar lands between the Tugela and the Umhlatuzi, has been accepted. The factory to be put up will be capable of dealing with canes from 2,000 acres per annum, and will be ready for work by July 1st, 1908. As Sir J. L. Hulett has already met with good fortune in connection with his tea and sugar ventures in Natal, it is reasonable to suppose his latest scheme will be similarly successful. This new central factory is to be called "Amatikulu," and the well-known sugar engineering firm, the Harvey Engineering Company, Limited, of Glasgow, have secured the contract for providing the whole of the machinery for this factory. The milling plant is to consist of an extra strong nine-roller mill, with crusher in front, all driven by strong steel gearing and one powerful engine, with an overhead crane travelling over the whole plant. The rest of the machinery is to be of the most improved design and will be fitted with an extra large Harvey Patent Evaporator, also a battery of Laird's patent water-driven centrifugal machines. As the Harvey Engineering Company, Limited, have already supplied two complete central sugar factories to the order of Sir J. L. Hulett, we have no doubt that this third factory will prove equally satisfactory.

THE AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

Though no definite decision has yet been arrived at, it is possible that the next Agricultural Conference under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture will be held in Jamaica in January next. It will be remembered that last year the meeting was postponed owing to the absence of adequate facilities for conveying delegates from the Islands to Jamaica. It is now, however, proposed that the "Port Kingston," sailing on December 29th next, shall call at Barbados to pick up the various delegates and proceed to Jamaica. She will stop there for six days and return also *via* Barbados. In the event of this arrangement being carried out, it is probable that Sir Alfred Jones will take out to the West Indies a party of cotton spinners from Lancashire in the same steamer, to see for themselves the possibilities of the West Indies in the direction of cotton growing, and it is stated that the Duke of Marlborough will form one of the party. It is recognised that this will only give the visitors an opportunity of seeing one characteristic cotton growing Island, namely, Barbados, and it is hoped, therefore, that it may be possible to make arrangements for some of the party to visit St. Vincent, Antigua, Nevis and Montserrat.

VERY MANY YEARS AGO.

Spanish and British Slaves.

Towards the end of 1789 information reached the West India Committee that the Spaniards in Trinidad were encouraging negroes from British and French possessions to run away by promising them protection and special privileges in their Island. A meeting of the Committee was held, and it was resolved that a deputation should wait upon Mr. Secretary Grenville earnestly to remonstrate on this important subject, and "to request the immediate and express interference of our Court with that of Spain." At a subsequent meeting on the 6th of April, it was reported that the Duke of Leeds had caused a communication to be addressed to the Spanish Court,

through Mr. Merry, the Consul-General of Spain, and that an answer had been received to the effect that nothing was known of the proclamation at the Spanish Court, although Count Florida Blanca had admitted having received a similar complaint from the Court of France. As the result of this a memorial was drawn up to His Majesty's Ministers, a copy of which appears in the minutes of the meeting of April 6th, 1790. This memorial, which was of great length, showed

"That for a number of Years past Slaves from different British West India Colonies, either escaping as Runaways, or carried off by others, tho' under Mortgage for debt, have been received and protected by the Governors of His Catholic Majesty's Settlements in America and the West Indies. That Applications for Restitutions have been repeatedly made and persisted in, but, in almost every Instance, without Success: And that His Majesty's Ships, and the Officers sent on these Occasions have been sometimes treated with less respect than might be hoped for, from the justice of the Requisition they were making, or the dignity of the Sovereign whose Commission they bore. That various are the Excuses which have been made by the Spanish Governors; At one time, some old unrevoked Order of their Court being held out as a pretext for Delay, till the Complaint could be remitted to Europe, and there buried in Oblivion, and at another the Influence of the Church and its Zeal for Conversion being exhibited to sanctify the Detention. That from the Period that the settlement of Trinidad became a favourite Object with the Court of Spain, and Charters of extraordinary Privilege and Indulgence were granted to allure Adventurers to that Colony, these depredations on the property of British Subjects have become more gross and frequent. That that Island has been the common Asylum for Fugitives of every description, the slightest pretences of a new Settler carrying Slaves thither having been admitted by its Governor, against clear Proofs of the Act of Violation, by which he had robbed the British Creditor of his Security.

"That a regard to decency suggested for a while, the necessity of at least an ostensible ground of Refusal, and that some Governors even affected to lament the Losses sustained by the British Planter, whilst they pleaded their own want of Authority to restore the Slaves demanded.

"But that your memorialists have lately learnt, with the utmost astonishment and alarm, that in the Month of August last a Proclamation was issued in Trinidad, and they presume in the other Spanish Settlements, 'publicly inviting the Slaves of the British and French Colonists to desert their Masters, and promising them protection against all Claims, with the full enjoyment of Liberty on their Arrival in His Catholic Majesty's Dominions.' That the Accounts transmitted of this most extraordinary measure announce, that it was declared to be by Orders from the Court of Spain; But that respect for His Catholic Majesty, and nice sense of Honour which constitutes the Spanish Character, lead your memorialists to hope that Governors of distant Provinces in all the Instances referred to, may upon their own Authority have ventured on a Conduct, which must be reprobated by their Sovereign and their Nation. That from whatever source this Edict has issued, such is the danger it menaces to the neighbouring Islands, that the French Government has taken the alarm for its own Colonies; and that in Grenada, the Inhabitants have found it necessary to keep regular Night Guards on the Sea Side, and to support the heavy expence of two armed Vessels constantly cruising round the Coast, as the only effectual means of preventing a ruinous Emigration of their Slaves."

The memorial also suggested the adoption of a solemn treaty between the two nations to secure British rights in the matter. "Nine fair copies" of the memorial were directed to be made and presented to Mr. Pitt and the rest of the Cabinet. At the following meeting of the West India Committee on 15th April, it was reported that the Memorial had been presented, and that Letters had been received from the British Chargé des Affaires at Madrid, representing that

"The King of Spain and his Ministers had disavowed the having sent any such Orders to His Catholic Majesty's Governors in the West Indies on this Subject, and that if the Governors of Trinidad had issued any such proclamation it was without Authority, and that they would notify the same to him."

"WESTWARD HO! OUR COLONIES."

If there was any cause for regret at the entertainment so courteously given to our members by Mr. Alfred J. West at the Polytechnic on Monday afternoon, the 10th inst., it was that the animated pictures of the West Indies which he showed were so few, and that they came so near the end of the programme. However, everybody appeared to be more than well pleased, and Mr. West explained that the pictures which he was showing formed a part only of his West Indian series, which will be developed

and extended as the season progresses. The programme began with a series of views representing life in our Navy, which for excellence could not be surpassed. Following these came a capital selection of views taken on board the training ship "Port Jackson," which, it will be remembered, met with a collision in the Channel in the course of her voyage to Australia, Mr. West being lucky enough—as he considered himself—to be on board, and was thus enabled to take some characteristic views of the Lion's cubs, showing how well they behaved under trying circumstances, and their coolness in the moment of peril. The West Indian views were shown in the second part of the programme, under the title "Westward Ho! Our Colonies," and were received with great enthusiasm. They were mostly scenes of life, but it was understood that Mr. West has many views of scenery "up his sleeve" which will be shown later on. The entertainment is to be given daily at 3 o'clock throughout the winter season, and it will doubtless be well attended, as it was on the opening day. Among those present, at the invitation of the West India Committee, were the Agent-General for Victoria, the Agent-General for Tasmania, Hon. W. Fawcett, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Mr. A. W. and Mrs. à Beckett, Mr. W. A. Bovell, Mr. Edward Chambers, Colonel C. R. Crosse, Mr. D. C. Da Costa, Mrs. H. A. de Pass, Miss de Mercado, Mr. J. S. de la Mothe, Mr. E. H. G. Dalton, Mr. F. Everington, Mr. C. K. Gibbons, Mr. R. S. Gamble, Mr. John Haynes, Mr. W. B. Kingsford, Mr. J. Z. Maybaw, Mr. D. K. Nightingale, Mr. H. F. Previté, Mr. Hamilton Ross, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Dr. E. Sturridge, Mr. George A. Sealy, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. C. J. Tarring, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, and others to the number of over 150, whose names we were unable to obtain. It is to be hoped that those who were unable to be present will attend the entertainment in the course of the autumn, and by advising their friends to do so also, support Mr. West in his endeavours to popularise our Colonies.



A View in the Mountains.

Every photograph taken by Mr. Alfred J. West is a picture. Owing to the adoption of a thicker and unglazed paper which is more suitable for the reading matter we are compelled now to use coarser grained blocks for our illustrations. To get the full effect of the pictures they should be held further away than is usual.

CONSULAR REPORT.

Sugar and Cotton in Japan.

The importation of sugar into Japan continues to fall off steadily, the entries during 1905 being valued at only £551,312 against £997,341 in the previous year. The Japanese sugar refineries are expanding, and this fact, in conjunction with the increased consumption tax from the beginning of 1905, tended to restrict the import. Some of the importation during 1904, moreover, had been speculative in anticipation of the increased tax, with the result that 1905 opened with an overstocked market. Imports of raw sugar declined from £775,979 to £502,890, while the relative fall in refined sugar was still greater, from £219,438 in 1904 to £48,000 in 1905. The imports of raw and seed cotton were valued at £1,463,655, an increase of nearly £900,000 over the figures for 1904. The price of American cotton (which constituted half the total import) varied between £43 14s. 8d. per ton in January to £58 6s. 2d. in December; Indian cotton ranged between £39 8s. 11d. per ton in April to £49 14s. 8d. in December; Chinese cotton varied between £40 6s. per ton in May to £50 11s. 3d. in September.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Enterprise in Ceylon.

The Ceylon planters are evidently alive to the importance of not depending on one or even two industries. From the Report on the Colony for 1905—another belated but interesting document of this class—it appears that the Agricultural Society, which since its formation in 1904 increased its



A Diving Boy.

This sturdy young negro was "snapshot" by Mr. Alfred J. West in Kingston Harbour, Jamaica.

that from China rose from Rs. 13,500 to Rs. 39,000.

membership from 197 to 944, with 40 branch societies comprising 2,250 members, has been hard at work developing local industries and disseminating information regarding new products. The cultivation of rubber is being taken up with enthusiasm, and 40,000 acres were devoted to it in 1905 as compared with 7,500 in 1903, and in one year the value of the exports of this product were more than doubled. Camphor cultivation has been extended, and the output of citronella oil amounted to 1,242,800 lbs., an increase of 80,000 lbs. The cultivation of lemon grass for oil has been proceeded with, with fairly favourable results. Ceylon coca, of which the quantity exported has increased, now rules the world for quality. The export of cardamoms fell off; but an export duty has been placed on this product in order to provide a fund for finding new markets for it. Tobacco is extensively grown in the Northern provinces, and manioc is also produced in that part of the Island. Though it is the staple food of the villages, paddy is not grown in sufficient quantities to meet local demands. Among the imports into the Colony refined sugar from British possessions rose 25 per cent., that from Hong Kong increasing to Rs. 420,000 (43 per cent.), and sugar valued Rs. 44,000 being imported from New South Wales. Of foreign sugar the largest increase was in that from Java, from which the imports of 1905 were valued at Rs. 488,750 as against Rs. 35,000 in 1904 and nil in 1903. The value of Austrian sugar fell from Rs. 541,000 in 1904 to Rs. 460,000, of German from Rs. 42,000 to Rs. 13,000, while

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Since we last went to press we have received a general homeward mail from the West Indies, and also letters and papers from Jamaica by the R.M.S. "Port Royal," which left Kingston on August 30th, and arrived at Avonmouth on September 13th, among her passengers being Mr. A. Dewar and Mr. A. W. Farquharson. The R.M.S.P. "Tagus," which left Barbados at midnight on September 4th, reached Southampton at 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, September 16th, bringing with her Mr. W. E. Smith, who left Trinidad at very short notice to take up his appointment in West Africa, to which reference is made in another column, and Mr. Randolph Rust, who has returned after an absence of only six weeks in Canada, America and Trinidad in connection with the development of the Trinidad oil fields.

Barbados and the Horticultural Exhibition.

Writing from Barbados on September 2nd, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne pointed out that as the present temporary mail arrangement only gave a monthly service to the Northern Islands, it did not satisfy the conditions under which Barbados was willing to grant a subsidy up to £4,000 per annum, and he doubted whether the subsidy would be continued unless further modifications were

made. Facts had proved the correctness of the contention of the West India Committee that a satisfactory service could not be arranged without a contract. The Agricultural Society was anxious to send a good supply of yams, potatoes, eddoes and fruit to the Horticultural Exhibition on December 3rd, and the Society had written to the other Islands inviting their co-operation. The weather during August had been showery on the whole, with some very hot days in between. The rainfall had varied very much in different places, but the majority of estates had had from seven to eight inches. The canes were growing well, and there was a very large crop of Indian corn. The cotton worm had, as usual, put in its appearance, and it was especially bad in the parish of St. Philips. Everyone, however, was prepared for it, and the operation of dusting it with paris green was going on vigorously. The new tercentenary stamp was from Lady Carter's design.

British Guiana and the United Fruit Company.

A meeting of the Planters' Association was to be held on September 3rd, wrote Mr. J. C. McCowan on August 31st, when the question of banana cultivation would be discussed. This matter had been under consideration by the Surinam Government for some little time, arrangements having been made with the United Fruit Company of America for the purchase and delivery of the fruit. The weather was good and favourable for ripening the canes, which were soon to be reaped. A start would be made by some estates about the middle of September. Showers during the last two days should have the effect of bringing out the arrow. Crystals were quoted at \$2.15, at which price a small parcel had been sold, and some large lots had been sold in advance on private terms.

Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, has forwarded to us by the mail the following particulars of exports from the Colony for July:—

	July 1906.
Gold	4,684 ozs.
Diamonds	152 $\frac{1}{8}$ carats.
Timber: Greenheart, &c.	3,395 cub. ft.
Lumber	8,074 ft.
Charcoal	4,563 bags.
Shingles	309,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts	394
Woods, Firewood	439 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons.
Gums, Locust, &c.	232 lbs.
Balata	35,050 lbs.
Rubber	85 lbs.

Extension of lime cultivation in Dominica.

Mr. E. A. Agar, writing on August 24th, said that the weather had been fine for the season of the year. The lime crop was in full swing, and planters generally well satisfied. The Botanic Station had already sent out something like 50,000 lime plants, and probably twice as many had been raised and put out by planters themselves. He believed it was due largely to the efforts of the West India Committee in calling attention to their merits, that limes were beginning to sell better in London.

A new fruit company for Jamaica.

Prospects of the success of the proposed rum syndicate were not favourable in Jamaica when the mail left. It was stated that a new fruit company had been formed for shipping 15,000 stems of bananas from St. Mary to New York fortnightly. The Jamaica Tobacco Company had sold their branch office to Messrs. Melbado Brothers & Company, and proposed to devote their attention entirely to the wholesale trade.

No earthquake damage in St. Lucia.

Mr. George S. Hudson reported on August 8th that the weather continued wet and was hastening the growth of both canes and cocoa, eleven and a half inches of rain having fallen in July. There had been some high wind lately, and slight earthquake shocks continued, but neither had done damage.

Agriculture in St. Vincent.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Company said in their letter of September 1st how pleased all in the Island were to see one of the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamers again, and although the "Eden" arrived at St. Vincent after dark on Tuesday night, her coming to her buoy was the signal for great rejoicing amongst all classes, and several ringing cheers were sent up by stevedores, boatmen and porters assembled on the wharf. The weather had been very threatening for several days past, and the heat

excessive; in fact, they had not experienced such hot weather in Kingstown for many years. They hoped to get through the month all right, for they had a great dread of September so far as St. Vincent was concerned. The cotton cultivation looked exceedingly promising, Montrose Estate, on the outskirts of Kingstown, showing up to the pink of perfection. Mr. W. N. Sands, who wrote on September 1st, also stated that the return of a regular mail and passenger steamer on August 28th was very welcome. The past few days had been dry and very hot. At the time of writing a cyclonic disturbance, S.E. of St. Kitts, moving N.W. had been telegraphically reported from Porto Rico by the U.S. weather bureau. The wind there was southerly, the sky somewhat overcast, and a heavy sea swell on the leeward coast. The barometer was down about a tenth, but rising steadily, a good sign. Having got through August safely, it was sincerely hoped that September would not bring



A Banana Parade in Manchester.

In order to popularise the banana, costers' parades are organised by Messrs. Elders & Pyffes, Ltd., and the above illustration depicts the prize winners at such a gathering, prizes being awarded for general cleanliness and the manner in which the barrow is decorated.

with it any atmospheric disturbances likely to throw the Colony back again. Mr. Sands said that he had visited several of the young cotton cultivations during the past few days, and was pleased to see how well they looked generally. Provided no very heavy rains were experienced during the present and next month a record crop should be reaped. Other crops also looked promising. An Ayrshire bull and a donkey stallion for the stock-farm here had been landed at Barbados, from Canada and America respectively, and would be sent on by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, after being kept a few weeks there. Both animals, it was understood, were fine specimens of their kind.

The cocoa crop in Trinidad.

Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., whose letter is dated September 3rd, expressed satisfaction that

the efforts of the West India Committee to bring about a renewal of the intercolonial mail service had been successful. Every West Indian Colony benefited by this arrangement, which it was hoped might be carried yet further. The weather had, since last advices, greatly moderated and for the last two weeks had been fine with only occasional showers, mostly light or of short duration. The heat continued intense and was very trying. The cane crops promised well. In cocoa extreme buoyancy had characterised the local market during the three weeks under review, and aided by the small deliveries, prices had been raised \$1.50 per fanega. The whole of the available supplies had been taken for the United States, where stocks seemed to have been entirely exhausted. The firmness of the market in New York, coupled with the increased demand from European centres, had caused sellers to hold back, and no business of importance could be recorded in regard to the new crops. The weather had improved and the prospects were now more favourable. Some districts reported that cocoa would be available in October, but the consensus of opinion was that no supplies of importance would be ready for shipment before December. The strong turn in the Trinidad market had reflected on the Venezuelan grades, and high prices had been paid for the few small lots which had arrived from the Main. No sales of importance for futures had been made, owing to shippers being uneasy with regard to the future prospects of this market.

SHIPMENTS.				
Total at last report	118,705	Trinidad.	26,273	Venezuela.
Aug. 9th.—S.S. "Crown of Granada"	199	"	100	Europe.
" 13th.—S.S. "Maracas"	1,505	"	528	New York.
" 13th.—S.S. "Schaumburg"	450	"	—	Europe.
" 13th.—S.S. "Orinoco"	391	"	—	"
" 13th.—S.S. "Prins Wm. V."	259	"	320	"
" 14th.—S.S. "Ocampo"	15	"	—	Canada.
" 20th.—S.S. "Washington"	50	"	—	Europe.
" 23rd.—S.S. "Maraval"	1,205	"	249	New York.
" 25th.—S.S. "Prins Wm I"	100	"	—	Europe.
" 27th.—S.S. "Assyria"	300	"	100	"
" 28th.—S.S. "Dee"	150	"	150	"
" 30th.—S.S. "France"	47	"	675	"
Totals to date	123,536	"	28,395	"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR—In your very kind reference to my forthcoming book, "The Recollections of a Humorist," you say that you understand it will contain an account of my recent visit to the West Indies as the guest of Sir Alfred L. Jones.

As the paragraph is headed "The Comic Side," it is possible that the passage may cause misapprehension unless I offer an explanation. I certainly hope to refer to my delightful trip to Jamaica, where I was so well treated by every one, but not in the tone of a comic humorist. I shall claim in my book to be grave or gay as the humour seizes me. However, I hope I shall always be a good humorist. And as I am writing, I may, perhaps, be permitted to say that I was elected for the sixth (not the fifth) consecutive year Hon. Treasurer of the Institute of Journalists at the recent conference in Dublin. During the proceedings I did not neglect to refer to the excellent work of the Press in the West Indies.

Garrick Club,

10th September, 1906.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

ARTHUR W. à BECKETT.

OUR LIBRARY.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

We have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of "Barbados Blue Book, 1905-6." "Geological map of parts of the Essequibo and Cuyuni Rivers," with explanatory pamphlet by J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., &c., Government Geologist, 1906. "The Ordinances of Trinidad, 1900 to 1905." "The Laws of Barbados," Vol. VI., Part II., 1905-27 to 1906-25.

Liste Generale des Fabriques de Sucres, Raffineries et Distilleries. Paris: Bureaux du Journal des Fabricants de Sucres. 6½ x 4½. This book which is now published for the campaign 1906-7 has appeared annually for thirty-eight years. In addition to giving the names of the principal sugar factories, refineries and distilleries in France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Belgium, Holland, England, and different Colonies, this admirable little directory contains notes on chemical control in sugar factories, statistics of production and consumption, and on the sugar legislation and practise of the trade in France and the principal sugar producing countries. The editor invites suggestions and assistance, and we of the West India Committee might venture to suggest the inclusion of a list of sugar estates in the West Indies, which the West India Committee would gladly endeavour to provide in future issues. It speaks highly for the organisation of the sugar industry on the Continent that it should be possible to collate, in such a systematic form, such a mass of useful information.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

WHAT WAS IT? The Strand Guardians having found that the sugar which they were distributing to recipients of relief had the strange effect of blackening the consumers' tea—not teeth as stated by a contemporary—have, we are informed, decided to use "Demerara" sugar in future.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended September 13th, 48 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.10d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. Prices paid 6½d. to 15d.

AN ACCIDENT. We are sorry to learn that Mr. J. Russell Murray, of Montreal, met with rather a serious accident while out shooting during his holiday. The accident necessitated the loss of his left foot, but we are glad to be able to state that the doctor hopes that in a few weeks he will be about again and able to transact business.

EAST & WEST. Mr. Herbert Wright, Controller of the Government Experiment Station at Peradeniya, Ceylon, proposes to visit the West Indies in 1907 with a view to visiting, advising and reporting on the cacao and rubber estates, and preparing special reports on the selection of seed parents, methods of cultivation, manuring and other practical details connected with such estates.

A FEBRIFUGE. Statistics have been published in Rome which point to the efficacy of quinine in cases of malaria. In order to place the drug within the reach of the very poorest the Government took it over and sold it practically at cost price. In 1905-6 18,716 kilos were sold as compared with 2,246 in 1902-3. Conversely, the deaths from malaria have fallen from 13,000 to 7,838, though this result has been contributed to by the use of mosquito netting and other precautions against the attacks of the *anopheles* mosquito.

COTTON. Messrs. Wolstenholme & Holland state that since their last report, about 300 bales of West Indian Sea Island have been sold at steady prices. Being late pickings, they were mostly inferior in quality, and included St. Kitts 11d. to 12½d., Nevis 10d. to 13d., Antigua 14d. to 15d., Montserrat 14½d., Carriacou 10d. to 14½d., and stained cotton from various Islands 5d. to 8d. per lb. American crop accounts continue poor, and they expect that whatever the quantity may be, the quality will be poor, and this should help the West Indies, if the lint is clean and bright.

APPOINTMENTS. The attention of those of our readers who require managers, overseers, engineers, clerks, &c., for their estates, is called to the list of applicants for such appointments, which appears in the advertisement pages of alternate issues of the *West India Committee Circular*. The last list was given on p. vi. of No. 207, and the next will appear in No. 209. Full particulars regarding the insertion of advertisements under the heading "Appointments Wanted," or "Estates, &c., for Sale," can be obtained from the Advertisement Manager, the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

MARTINIQUE FACTORIES. The reports of the working of the Usine du Marin and the Usine du François for the season 1904-5, were published by *La Sucrerie Indigène et Coloniale*. At the Usine du Marin 9,669 tons of canes had been worked, the factory paying 13s. 6d. per ton. The average yield was 7.99% of sugar, and the loss for crop was £1,259. The Usine du François worked up 29,231 tons of canes, costing 13s. 5d. per ton, and only obtained 6.64 per cent. of sugar. The figures which are per metric ton, show poor work for West Indian cane. French Colonial sugar receives preferential treatment in France.

PLANTERS AND PUPILS. Being constantly asked for the names of planters willing to receive pupils or visitors on their estates for a small premium or weekly payment, it has been decided to insert advertisements from such planters for the nominal sum of 10s. per annum in a special column which will be provided for this purpose. It is believed that this will be the means of placing intending settlers into communication with the planters in the West Indies, and will prove of mutual advantage, and from the number of enquiries which have been received, there is no doubt whatever that this arrangement will prove advantageous if generally supported and taken up.

EVAPORATORS. Too large a pump attached to a multiple effect defeats the end of the apparatus, economy of fuel. There is a point in the relation of heating surface to pump power, beyond which, *ceteris paribus*, every additional pound of evaporation is done at a loss. Two causes are mainly concerned in this, the rate of transference of heat between the two sides of the heating surface, and the facility for liberation of the vapour from the evaporating liquid, whereby fresh surfaces are constantly being exposed. Film evaporation gives the maximum efficiency in this respect, and a film evaporator admits of far greater pump power in proportion to the heating surface on this account. A multiple effect with a big vacuum in the last vessel, therefore, is by no means necessarily an economical one, as the power taken to produce it may be out of all proportion to the increase of evaporation resulting.

JAMAICA CHURCH. The Archbishop of the West Indies has issued a statement showing the uses to which contributions amounting to £807 17s. 11d. which have been received from the Jamaica Church Aid Association in England have been put. £440 8s. 4d. were applied to grants to the poorer clergy—catechists, churches, schools, in aid of stipend, and to foster and stimulate local efforts. The Episcopal Endowment Fund received £70, the Special College Fund £51 2s. 8d., the Deaconess' Home and Theological College £61 each, and the Belmont Orphanage £17 3s. 5d. Hurricane rebuilding absorbed £7 3s. 6d., while £100 were reserved for the first months of 1906. About two-thirds of the buildings affected by the hurricane of 1903 have now been restored. Contributions for the Jamaica Church Aid Association, which is doing a good work, will be gratefully received by the Hon. Secretary, Miss F. Klein, 24, Belsize Park, London, N.W.

Mr. C. T. HUNTER. It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mr. C. T. Hunter, of British Honduras, who was run over by an express train while traversing the railway line at a level crossing at St. Albans on Tuesday, September 11th. Mr. Hunter, who was recently elected a member of the West India Committee—indeed, he visited the West India Committee Rooms on the day of his death—was a leading Colonist in British Honduras, where he carried on business as a timber merchant. He was a pioneer in the development of the Colony, and especially interested in railway construction, but though his proposals met with the support of the Legislature, they were not accepted by the Colonial Office. However, after repeated visits to this country he had at last brought negotiations to a successful point, and his proposals bade fair to be adopted in a modified form when he met with his tragic end. The death of Mr. Hunter will be a serious loss to the Colony, and will be felt also deeply by the many friends he made on this side.

"15, SIETHENESTRATE." City records speak of the street in which the West India Committee Rooms are situated as Siethenestrate, while Stow, the incorrigible old romancer, as he is called by that well-known writer, "Londoner," in the *Evening News*, goes so far as to assert that folk knew it as Sidon Lane at first. However that may be, it is certain that the place was well inhabited in ancient times. Sir John Allen, Mayor of London, Sir Francis Walsingham, the Earl of Essex—all notabilities of their time, occupied "fair and large houses" in Seething Lane. Strype, in 1720, referred to it as "a place of no great account." In Seething Lane stood the old Navy Office, now only a memory, but a hallowed one, for many familiar names would be found in its visitors' book, if such a record existed. At the time of the Great Fire, Samuel Pepys was living here, in charge of the Department. On September 5th, of that black year, "At about two in the morning," says he, "my wife calls me up and tells me of new cries of fire, it being come to Barking Church, which is at the bottom of our lane." But a greater than Pepys was destined to find shelter within the walls of the old house. Here young Nelson underwent the mental struggles which were to give him lieutenant's rank in his cherished profession, for at that time his uncle was occupying the official residence as Comptroller of the Navy.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the week under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Tues., Sept. 11th—Article in the *Standard*, "Lessened Prosperity in Jamaica."—Cuba: Martial Law established in Pinar del Rio, Havana, and Santa Clara. The United States' cruiser "Des Moines" sailed for Havana—88% beet, 9s. 8½d., firm.
- Wed., Sept. 12th—Letter in the *Standard*, "Prosperity in Jamaica."—Beet, 9s. 9½d., firm.
- Thurs., Sept. 13th.—Bank rate raised from 3½ to 4%.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., easier.
- Fri., Sept. 14th—Article on the "Lemon Famine" in the *Daily Mail*.—Cuban revolution: Santa Clara in the hands of the insurgents, Cienfuegos cut off, American marines landed at Havana—Beet, 10s. 1½d., steady.
- Sat., Sept. 15th—Heavy fighting near Alcaná, 10 miles S.W. of Havana—Beet (morning call), 10s. 2½d., steady.
- Sun., Sept. 16th—The R. M. S. P. "Tagus" reached Southampton from Barbados, at 9.30 p.m.
- Mon., Sept. 17th—Cuba: President Roosevelt's warning letter to the effect that the United States will be bound to intervene if insurrection continues, published: Mr. Taft, Secretary of War, and Mr. Bacon sent to Havana to confer with President Palma: Hostilities suspended.—Mr. W. Churchill's letter to Mr. Hamar Greenwood on Liberal Imperialism in the *Times*.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., fluctuating.
- Tues., Sept. 18th—Cyclone at Hong Kong.—Beet, 9s. 9½d., steady.
- Wed., Sept. 19th.—Report on Jamaica oranges in the *Times*.—Beet, 9s. 10½d., flat.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to the questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Wednesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

A. P. M.—We regret that in our list of arrivals and departures of the mails, we are no longer able to give the

destination of passengers by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., this information, for reasons which we have been unable to discover, being now withheld.

Naturalist.—The tapir or bush cow is found in British Guiana, but not in Trinidad. The only instance in which it has been bred in captivity was, we believe, at the Botanic Gardens, in Georgetown, by the late G. S. Jenman, and the zebra markings of the infant tapir point still further to its common ancestry with the horse. The child, soon weighing 2 cwt., was brought up on Mellin's Food, became exceedingly tame, and would come readily to all parts of the house when whistled for, tackling the polished floors with some difficulty with its multi-hoofed feet.

Evaporation.—Increased circulation, and consequently increased work, is claimed for the "appareil Neumann," the recently patented arrangement in connection with evaporators to which you call our attention. Below the drum, containing the ordinary heating surface, a further chamber is added, with the lower plate, conical in shape inclining upwards towards the central circulating tube, fitted with short tubes sloping outward. Thirty per cent. increase of evaporation is claimed by this system, which can be adapted to ordinary evaporators with centre circulating tubes.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. A. P. P. MACKAY has been gazetted a member of the Legislative Council of British Guiana, in the place of the late Mr. J. H. de Jonge.

Mr. J. CHALLENOR LYNCH has been appointed a Member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, in the place of Hon. J. T. Jones, deceased.

Mr. W. E. SMITH, General and Traffic Manager of the Trinidad Railway, has been appointed General Manager of the Gold Coast Railways. Mr. Smith returned to England from Trinidad in the R.M.S.P. "Tagus" on Sept. 16th, and expects shortly to take up his new appointment. Press and public in Trinidad have united in appreciation of the services of Mr. W. E. Smith, who brought the railway system of the Colony up to a high state of efficiency.

SOME WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

We shall be glad to include any other "West Indian Securities," which are officially quoted, in the following list at the request of any of our readers in the West Indies. The Bank Rate stands at 4 per cent. (changed on September 13th, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86 ½.

The New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd.

Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G., presided at the Ordinary General Meeting of this Company on September 11th. Before moving the adoption of the Report he referred to the loss sustained by the Board through the death of Mr. Robert K. MacBride, an original Director of the Company. He also referred to the death of Sir Robert G. W. Herbert G.C.B., one of the Trustees of the Debenture holders, and mentioned that the Debenture holders had filled the vacancy so created by the election as Trustee of Mr. H. F. Preville, one of the Directors, who was also associated in other directions with the Trinidad asphalt industry. In submitting the report and accounts the Chairman stated that the profit for the year after allowing for working expenses, depreciation, and the service of the Debenture debt amounted to £38,970 17s. 4d. which with the sum of £87,468 5s. 5d. brought forward, gave a total credit of £126,439 2s. 10d. After paying a dividend of 15%, and writing off as loss on stocks and bonds of other companies £6,082 18s. 11d., a balance was carried forward of £45,356 3s. 11d. The shipments of asphalt from the Pitch Lake during the twelve months ending January 31st, 1906, amounted to 102,353 tons, showing a decrease on the previous year of 7,104 tons. The shipments to Europe and South America showed an increase, the reduction being in the shipments to the United States, due to extreme competition, which it was hoped would not continue. Since the date of the concession, February 1st 1888 a total sum of £598,286 5s. 4d. had been paid to the Crown, which had gone to increase the revenue of the Colony of Trinidad. The business of the company continued to be satisfactory. Mr. Charles H. Moore seconding, the adoption of the report was carried. Sir Neville Lubbock, K.C.M.G., the retiring Director, was re-elected.

Floating Dock Company of St. Thomas, Ltd.

Mr. Edward Barnett presiding over the 29th Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday, September 11th, moved the adoption of the report, and congratulated the shareholders on the results shown in it. The board proposed to pay a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent., as compared with 3 per cent. a year ago. The dock during the period under review had been employed 83 days. It was not altogether an advantage to double the number of days which the dock was at work as had been the case during the past year. Many of the ships were in the dock for three, four, or five days consecutively, and, therefore, there was a smaller gain proportionately than when they were in the dock for one day. A sum of £826 had been carried to reserve and equalization of dividend fund, and certain securities, which had improved their position as a working company, had been bought. Some uncertainty had prevailed as to the effect of the changes in regard to the mail contract to the West Indies, but the company had received a fair amount of work from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Mr. C. Berg, their manager in St. Thomas, had succeeded in securing for the dock several ships which they had never had before. A shareholder in the Midlands had written asking whether an effort could be made to bring the dock to this country and sell it to the Government. In reply, he had to point out that most of the cruisers and large steamships here were too large for their dock, which was built in exceptional circumstances with a pontoon missing. He had asked Sir Frederick Bramwell whether it would pay the company to send out another pontoon. The reply was that the cost of such a proceeding would be £10,000 and that the expenditure was not advisable. However, the company had never yet had to deal with a ship which was too large for their dock. The board could not entertain the idea of having the dock brought to this country because they thought that too much risk would be involved in the operation. Mr. A. C. Miles seconded the motion, which was adopted, and a resolution was passed approving the payment of the proposed dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum free of income-tax.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

British Guiana (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), September 11th. "Weather continues favourable in Berbice." (Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.), September 11th. "Dry weather continues." (New Colonial Co., Ltd.), September 17th. DEMERARA: "Weather is dry." JAMAICA (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), seven days ended September 4th. PORT ANTONIO: Inc. KINGSTON: 30th, cloudy, 31st to 5th, fine. Temperature 83°.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. Laws), September 26th.—Mr. Robert Baker, Mrs. Beatrice Baker and child, The Venerable Archdeacon, Mrs. and Miss Bindley, Mrs. Maria Pinedo, Mr. H. Hamilton, Mrs. Glendinning, Mrs. Bunting and child, Mrs. Haynes, Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Mr. M. Gomes, Mr. F. Dias, Mr. C. Reynolds, Mr. Consul Hilbeck, Dr. Mimbela, Mr. Mrs. and the two Misses Stewart, Mr. Mrs. and the two Misses Pitt, Mrs. and Miss Howell, Miss A. Gilson, Mr. C. Nilson, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. FitzGerald, Rev. A. K. Brown, Rev. W. H. Mattinson, Rev. A. C. Dawkins, Rev. I. J. Hipioman, Rev. W. H. Richards, Rev. and Mrs. Geo. H. Ryves, Mrs. Reid, Miss Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Gall, Mr. Kohler, Mr. W. Gray, Mrs. Jas. Wilson, Miss Field, Miss M. Wilson, Mr. Ernest Seidler, Miss B. Beausoleil, Mr. Evaristo Obregon, Mr. Albert W. Meabam, Mr. and Mrs. Puerto, Mrs. Hudson, Mr. Koch, Mrs. Shields, Miss Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Scherrer, Miss Clark Holmann, Sister Syra Dayle, Sister Colombo O'Donnell, Sister Dubreuil, Mr. Julian Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Ybarra, Miss Santos Urbaneja, Mr. B. Rocha, Mr. W. A. Douglas, Mr. Horace Deighton, Mrs. and Miss Catherine Deighton, Mr. Pierre Balsana, Mr. German Paul, Mr. J. P. Murphy, Mrs. Hagan, Miss Murphy, Mr. R. Driver, Mr. J. O. Grubel, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Santos, Mrs. Geo. Garnett, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Stone, Mr. Stanley Stone, Miss Stone, Miss Hammacher, Mr. Emilio Robledo, Mr. Alfonso Robledo, Mr. H. G. Petersen, Mr. Frank Parsons, Mrs. Earls and children, Mrs. Bax Ironside, Rev. and Mrs. Symons, Mr. Christie, Chief Justice and Mrs. Udal, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. Frank Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mrs. de Freitas, Mr. H. de Gale, Mr. Jelin Copland, Miss de Gall, Miss Copland, Mr. Wilson, Miss Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Wallis and children, Mr. and Mrs. Saenz and two daughters, three Rev. Fathers, Mr. Todd, Mrs. Hollman, Miss Harding, Mr. Gneuther, Mr. F. E. Scott, Mrs. Williams and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Carthy, Rev. Donatien Jaray, Rev. Paul Bodin, Mr. Buckland, Mr. Todd, Mr. R. E. Rogerson, Mr. Adolph Vogt, Miss Bella Beausoleil, Mr. T. W. Thomson, Mr. D. Otero Fraser, Mr. Hermann Luria, Mr. and Miss Luria, Mr. Leon Aristisabal, Mr. Nolasco Betaneur, Mr. and Mrs. David D. Stiven.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. I. Boby), October 10th:—Sir Ernest and Lady Northcote, Sir H. and Lady Greaves, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stillwell, Mr. Ernest Peeder, Mrs. Boyce, Master Aubrey Cameron, Sir F. and Lady Hodgson, Dr. H. Alston, Mr. A. E. Harragin, Mrs. Casalta and three ladies, Miss C. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lambie and child, Mrs. A. Fernandez, Mrs. and Miss Rees, Lady Morris, Mrs. H. Caracciolo, Miss Alonzo, Mr. and Mrs. Abdy Anderson and child, Miss C. Awdry, Mr. J. Lamy, Mr. and Mrs. Arturo Lauria, Mr. and Mrs. J. Browne, Ven. Archdeacon Jones-Baleman, Miss C. Young, Mr. Harold Bullock, Miss Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Colley and child, Mr. and Mrs. Wieting, Miss M. A. Bratt, Rev. W. R. Parker, Mr. Wm. S. Cameron, Mrs. Selina B. Cameron, Miss V. Cameron, Miss L. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Duncan and two children, Mr. J. B. D. Sellier, Master A. Sellier, Master J. Sellier.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. J. G. Little), September 17th JAMAICA:—Mr. R. Bretter, Mr. Gilbert Brown, Master Clark, Mr. E. C. Davies, Mr. Alex. Dewar, Mr. A. W. Parquhaeson, Mr. H. H. Finch, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Findlay, Mr. A. D. Goffe, Miss Gardner, Miss Grayson, Mr. A. Harris, Miss Harris, Mr. E. A. Harvey, Mr. Geo. W. Kay, Mr. Leslie, Mr. LuKach, Mr. Harold G. Neumegeu, Mr. S. F. MacKway, Mr. McGull, Major Metcalfe, Mr. John McNish, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. deParnmitter, Mr. L. E. Starmer, Mr. Stott, Mr. A. W. Stott, Miss Violet Sallman, Mr. Arthur Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomson, Mr. Savoury, Mr. Taylor, Mr. R. Whites, Mr. G. Williams, Mr. Claud Notices, Mrs. Checkley.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Aug. 24 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Aug. 30 1906	1905	April 1 to Aug. 19. 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Sept. 3. 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to Sept. 1. 1906	1905
Sugar	44,844	33,275 Tns.	50,338	36,622 Tons.	7903	5706 Tons.	203,616	223,804 Bks. & Brls.	—	—
Molasses	50,728	61,000 Pns.	2910	1694 Casks.	—	—	2067	2887 Puns.	—	—
Rum	—	—	10,503	8794 Puns.	224,362	694,922 Galls.	140	178 Tns.	—	—
Cattle Food and Molassult	—	—	5689½	2517½ Tons.	—	—	80	165 Brls.	—	—
Cocoa	—	—	3300	37,126 lbs.	34,582	15,519 CWS.	21,038,860	28,761,023 lbs.	54,057½	61,645 Bags.
Coffee	—	—	—	—	13,832	10,063 "	16,640	11,930 "	—	—
Coconuts	—	—	51,028	240,471	2,301,865	1,710,831	7,631,005	6,257,369	—	—
Capra	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,716	7400 Bags.	—	—
Cotton	—	—	—	—	15,145	28,935 lbs.	—	—	1014½	703 Bales.
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5602	4745 Bags.
Aspnat	—	—	—	—	—	—	70,011	28,291 Tons.	—	—
Oranges	—	—	—	—	6,021,759	3,858,705	—	—	—	—
Bananas	—	—	—	—	7,441,500	7,130,656 Bchs.	—	—	—	—
Pimento	—	—	—	—	26,571	26,269 CWS.	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gold	—	—	34,500	60,088 ozs.	—	—	—	—	3106	4777 Brls.
Diamonds	—	—	1187	3916 carats.	—	—	—	—	515	597 ½ Brls.
									302	542 Cases
									135	171 Bags

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—F. O. Licht's Consumption, September/August, 12 months.

	1905/6.	1904/5.	1903/4	Tons.
Convention Europe	4,350,000	3,760,000	4,180,000	
America	1,950,000	1,830,000	1,820,000	
	6,300,000	5,590,000	6,000,000	

F. O. Licht's Visible Supply, 1st September, even dates.

	1906.	1905	1904.	Tons.
Known world	1,810,000	1,420,000	1,590,000	

Some considerable excitement has been manifested in the sugar Markets of the world, owing to the spread of the insurrection in Cuba, which is probably more serious than many of us are inclined to believe. Of course, uncertainty surrounds the future, but a calm view of the disposition of those engaged in the rebellion gives ample scope for serious thought, and it has without doubt now entered on a stage of plunder and bloodshed, although political influences may have in the first instance started the movement. Let it be borne in mind that Cuba's normal production has reached a total of 1,200,000 tons. A reduction of only twenty-five per cent. in the crop would mean a great deal in the prices of sugar for the coming season on which we are now entering. On the top of this, the European beet crops are evidently going to furnish us with a not inconsiderable reduction in sugar, the possible shrinkage in beet and cane being 1,000,000 tons. This, taken in conjunction with Licht's increase in Consumption in Convention Europe and America alone of 700,000 tons over last year and a visible supply of only 100,000 tons in excess of 1905, displays a position of surpassing strength, and one that may lead to anything, so far as prices are concerned. A very active trade and speculative demand has existed during the last fortnight, with numerous, and in a way, violent fluctuations, closing at the moment as follows:

The closing prices of 88% beet are:—September, 9s. 9½d.; October, 9s. 8d.; November/December, 9s. 7d.; Jan./March, 9s. 8½d.; May, 9s. 9d.; Aug., 9s. 10½d., and Oct./Dec., crop 1907 8, 9s. 4½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	1,470,000	1,020,000	1,390,000	1,700,000	1,690,000	
United States	240,000	190,000	150,000	200,000	170,000	
Cuba	50,000	190,000	30,000	190,000	170,000	
Africa	100,000	270,000	270,000	120,000	210,000	
Total	1,860,000	1,670,000	1,840,000	2,310,000	2,240,000	

Quotations of 88% Beet, 18th Sept:— 9s. 9½d. 8s. 8½d. 10s. 8½d. 8s. 8½d. 6s. 1d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—A very large business has been done in yellow crystallised at advancing prices, and the rise for the fortnight is fully 1s. 3d. per cwt., and nearly 2s. from the lowest summer prices, which is equivalent to the rise in 88% beet. The Trade have bought freely and with confidence. The closing quotations are: low to good yellow, 16s. 3d. to 16s. 9d., with average qualities 16s. 6d., and fine sugar in small quantities, 17s. to 17s. 6d. Deliveries continue large, as will be seen by the accompanying statement. In the absence of any business the nominal value of 96 test to Refiners is 11s. 6d., on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Some small lots of grocery Barbados on the spot have been sold at 14s. to 14s. 6d., and further supplies are needed. The nominal value of 89 test to Refiners is 10s., on floating conditions.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in good demand, values ranging from 10s. 6d. to 14s. 6d., duty paid. For 89 test to Refiners about 8s. 9d. in bond, is the nearest value.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903	1902	Tons
Imports	45,000	32,000	35,000	20,000	55,000	
Deliveries	35,000	29,000	36,100	31,000	31,000	
Stocks	19,000	12,000	12,000	17,000	37,000	
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised ...	16s. 6d.	17s. 0d.	18s. 0d.	16s. 0d.	13s. 3d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 8 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902	Galls
Home Consumption	—	2,360,000	—	2,247,000	2,372,000	
Stocks 31st Aug.	—	7,380,000	—	8,550,000	10,020,000	
Stocks in London:						
Jamaica	9200	10,000	11,500	—	11,800	Puns
Demerara	5300	5600	8800	—	7500	
Total of all kinds	20,800	23,900	28,000	—	29,400	

The Market is unchanged. In the absence of supplies business in Demerara is suspended, 10d. being the last value of fair Marks. Jamaica is steady at 2s. 2d. upwards, according to quality. Leewards and other Foreign kinds are quoted 9d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 8 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	Tons
Imports	17,924	16,736	20,658	—	—	
Home Consumption	14,679	12,917	14,041	—	—	
Stocks 31st August	4686	6332	6965	—	—	
Stocks in London:						
Trinidad	12,300	24,500	29,600	—	—	Bags
Grenada	7700	16,300	16,200	—	—	
Total of all kinds	64,800	91,500	99,300	—	—	

A large advance has been recorded again during the fortnight, but at the close the tone is quieter and prices are somewhat uncertain. Supplies in this market of West India Cocoa are practically exhausted. The latest sales have been on the following basis: Trinidad fair collected, 69s.; Estate Marks, 70s. to 75s.; Grenada fair 61s.; fermented, 61s. to 66s. From other Islands fair Native 60s., and fermented, 63s. to 65s. This rise was first started by bear sellers being caught and has not originated from the actions of manufacturers, who in this country hold ample stocks.

Coffee.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Steady with sales of West India 63's at 1s. 5d., 80's at 11d., 92's at 8d., 110's at 7½d., 120's at 6½d., 140's at 5½d., 172's at 5d., and in shell from 4d. to 4½d. **Mace.**—Good pale sold at 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d., and reddish at 1s. 4d. **Ginger.**—Nothing doing and prices nominal. **Pimento.**—Quiet at 2½d. to 3d.

Arrowroot.—Dearer, with a good business in manufacturing St. Vincent at 2½d. to 3½d.

Lime Juice.—Easier, value 11d. to 1s. 1d. Concentrated, value about £22 10s. to £22 15s. Hand Pressed, no alteration, quotation 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, scarce, value, 3s.

The . . .

West India Committee Circular

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Now that the fortnightly West Indian Mail Service has been resumed and the steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and the Direct Line sail for the West Indies within a few days of each other, the necessity for publishing the West India Committee Circular weekly instead of fortnightly no longer exists. It is proposed, therefore, to incorporate the eight pages of reading matter in what was the Mail supplement with the larger fortnightly issue as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed. From the views already expressed to us we feel confident that it will be in accordance with the wishes of our readers that we should do so, as under present arrangements the two Circulars are delivered in the West Indies by the same Mail and it will clearly be more convenient to our readers to receive the two Circulars, as it were, under one cover. Taking this step will involve some sacrifice on our part, through loss of revenue from advertisements in the smaller Circular; but our principal aim is to suit the convenience of our readers, and if we succeed in doing that we shall feel amply compensated. Of course, in the event of any radical change in the Mail arrangements necessitating the adoption of such a course, we shall revert to the publication of a Mail supplement.—ED.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Sept. 25th, 1906.

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8842 CENTRAL.

THE Revenue Bill of 1906, which has recently become law, puts into effect the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Industrial Alcohol, which sat two years ago. The Act divides methylated spirit into two classes, that sold by retail dealers and that for use for industrial purposes, and it differentiates between them by providing for the addition of a small quantity of mineral naphtha to the former, and at the same time reducing the proportion of wood naphtha for the latter to 5 per cent. instead of 10 per cent., the cost of methylating being thus appreciably lowered. Further, an allowance of 3d. per gallon will be given to all duty free spirit used for industrial purposes, plain or methylated, and on ordinary methylated spirits for exportation. This 3d. is based upon the export allowance for plain spirit. The effect of the Act will be considerably to cheapen alcohol for industrial purposes and consequently to extend its use and manufacture, and will be a decided advantage to British distillers. It will, however, in no way do away with the preferential treatment against the Colonial distiller by the operation of the surtax, and plain spirits can still only be imported into Great Britain, except for methylation in bond, at the full charge of 11s. 5d., or 11s. spirit duty and 5d. surtax. The 3d. export allowance, however, is interesting in view of the amount of the surtax on rum and plain spirits. As matters now stand, the export allowance for whiskey is 4d., for plain spirits 3d., while the surtax on rum is 4d. and plain spirits 5d. The export allowance is supposed to be given to place home made spirits on a fair footing with foreign, and to counterbalance the alleged cost to the home distiller of his excise disabilities; in fact, is the equivalent of the surtax and given with the same object in view. If, however, the disabilities are such as to make 3d. a fair equivalent of them, why is the export allowance on whiskey 4d., while on plain spirits, the manufacture of which is practically subject to the same regulations as that of whiskey, it is only 3d.? And why should the surtax on rum be 4d. and on imported plain spirit 5d., when 3d. is the export allowance on the latter? Whiskey and plain spirits are both subject to the same conditions of manufacture and supervision.

Both are rectified in bond, and if 3d. is sufficient in the one case, there is no reason why it should not be in the other. MR. T. J. BREENE, an authority on Home distilleries, writing in the *Wine and Spirit Trade Record*, says: "But are distillers entitled to the rate of export allowance stated by the Board of Inland Revenue? The prohibition against brewing and distilling may still, notwithstanding some relaxation in the regulations since 1866, be estimated to increase the cost of production to the extent of 1d. per proof gallon, and the prohibition against the mixing of worts may be estimated to increase the cost of manufacture by ½d. per proof gallon. . . . If we place the increased cost of production to the distiller due to the restrictions numbers 1 to 4 (in the Report of the Departmental Committee on Industrial Alcohol) at 1½d. per proof gallon, and allow ½d. per proof gallon for all other restrictions, we have an allowance of 2d. per proof gallon, and we do not see how this can be exceeded. An allowance of 2d. per proof gallon would be liberal, but let the distillers have the turn of the scale against the foreign rival." The more the question of the surtax is opened up, the more the injustice done to the Colonial distiller by the excessive amount of it becomes apparent, and we sincerely trust that the resolutions unanimously passed at the recent meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in favour of an impartial inquiry, will be acted upon by the Government, and this long standing grievance of the West Indian planters at last receive a chance of redress. As MR. BREENE says in another part of his article: "A portion of the present rate of allowance may be considered in the nature of a bounty, and the differential duties are decidedly protective."

THE WEST INDIA ASSOCIATION OF GLASGOW.

The annual meeting of the members of this Association was held at 111, Bath Street, Glasgow, on Thursday, 20th inst., Mr. Humphrey Crum Ewing, Vice-Chairman, presiding. The Secretary having read the Report of the Board of Directors, the Chairman, in moving its adoption, referred to the various matters which had engaged the attention of the Directors during the year, and spoke with apprehension of the attitude which might be adopted by the present Government towards the Brussels Sugar Convention. Of other matters affecting the interests of the West Indies, he specially referred to the benefit which would accrue if the duty free use of alcohol from our Colonies, for industrial purposes, was permitted in this country; as also to the question of the continuation of the grant to the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies which would have to be settled at no very distant date. The manurial experiments by Dr. Watts, together with the propagation and distribution of seedling canes, had been of great use to the sugar industry, and the establishment of cotton planting had proved an inestimable boon to the peasants and other small cultivators in the lesser Islands. The initiation of this new industry was entirely due to the Imperial Department, under the able direction of Sir Daniel Morris, and it would indeed be a calamity were its usefulness in any way hampered or curtailed. Mr. James R. Greig seconded, referring to the satisfactory state of the funds of the Association, and after a few remarks by Mr. W. N. Armour the report was unanimously adopted. An increase of the number of Directors was agreed to. Mr. Alexander Crum Ewing, of Strathleven, was again re-elected Chairman, with Mr. Humphrey Crum Ewing Vice-Chairman, the other members of the Board being Messrs. James R. Greig, Norman Lamont, M.P., George Christall, Robert Wilson, Thomas Prentice, Robert Harvey, George Brown, George Sheriff, George McCalman, and W. N. Armour. Mr. A. H. Donald was again appointed Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. John Ewing, Hon. Secretary.

COCOA-NUT BUTTER.

At the request of one of our readers we give the following particulars regarding the commodity known as cocoa-nut butter. The process of producing cocoa-nut butter or, as it was subsequently termed, "*palmin*," is said to have been discovered by a German professor, Dr. Schlinck, and developed by him at Ludwigshafen. He produced a pure vegetable fat which, it was claimed, for culinary and edible purposes, was much superior to butter, lard, or tallow, all of which contain acids which through heat form undesirable products.*

Dr. Therner, 2nd Physician of the Imperial Hospital, Vienna, pointed out in the *Centralblatt für die gesammte Therapie*, October, 1889, that a firm at Mannheim had also produced a cocoa-nut butter free of fatty acids, such as was suited for persons of impaired digestion. (*Journal Board of Trade*, June, 1901). The manufacture of these and such like butters was naturally very quickly extended, and indeed Messrs. Loder and Nacoline, Ltd., of Silvertown, London, claim to have

* *CC. Ind. Agri.* Sept. 17th, 1887; *New Bull.* No. CLXXIII., Oct. 1890, 422; *Besa in Journ. Agri. Hort.* 100, 101, 1890.

preceded even the German firms in producing cocoa-nut butter and cocoa-nut suet, which they called "Nucoline" and "Veju." Their sales are now on a very large scale so that their goods are coming daily into extended demand. "Vegetaline" is the name of the product as now manufactured at Marseilles. More recently Messrs. Gaudart and Company have commenced making what they call "Cocotine" at Pondicherry. Similar factories have also been established in America and elsewhere. §

Sir George Watt gives it as his opinion that there is an opening for Indian industries in this product which that country will be ill advised to neglect, and probably his remarks will be found to apply to the West Indies also. The importance to Europe of the discoveries briefly indicated lies in the fact that the cocoa-nut butter provides bakers and biscuit manufacturers with a substitute for butter which is not only pure and cheap, but even better suited for baking purposes than butter proper. One of its chief advantages is that it does not readily become rancid, and recently the use of this butter has been authorised for culinary purposes in the French army, a fact significant of the future demands of the world. The consumption of this product must in fact yearly expand and the traffic become of infinite value. Confectioners are said to find cocoa-nut butter an entirely satisfactory substitute for the more expensive cocoa butter, the imports of which into England have in consequence, for some years past, materially declined. Cocoa-nut butter is not, however, strictly speaking, a substitute or even an adulterant of dairy butter: but as the *Revue des Cultivateurs* of Colon (June, 1903, No. 126) pointed out, a substance that commands independent recognition. Pure cocoa-nut oil has for some time been used in part manufacture of margarine, and with advantage, since it supplies a certain amount of glyceryl salts, of fairly low fatty acids, whose absence from ordinary margarine constitute chemically the principal difference between that product and butter. For this purpose the characteristic odour of the oil is accordingly removed by treatment with alcohol and animal charcoal. (*Chemistry for Engineers and Manufacturers*, Blount and Bloxam, 1900, Vol. II., No. 238). The various methods and contrivances for producing vegetable butter—cocoa-nut butter more especially—may be said to have originated one of the many new aspects of value in this palm.

§ Cf. Madras Mail, Jan. 1904, 1905; Ind. Agriculturist, Nov. 1902, XXVII., 348, 350.

CANE FARMING IN TRINIDAD.

The following table, prepared by Mr. Edgar Tripp, has been issued by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad, now in process of re-organisation, giving statistics regarding the cane farmers' crop of 1906. The corresponding table for 1905 was given in *The West India Committee Circular* of September 29th of that year, page 392. It will be noted that the quantity of canes purchased from farmers for the 1906 crop exceeds all previous records.

ESTATE.	Total Sugar made, Tons.	Tons of Sugar made from Estate Canes.	Tons of Estate Canes Ground.	Tons of Canes Purchased.	Amount Paid for Canes.	No. of Farmer's.	
						East Indian.	West Indian.
Brechin Castle ..	4,170	3,880	37,919	2,996	\$ 6,078	170	155
Bronté ..	3,235	* 1,375	12,863	19,182	39,131	517	161
Caroni ..	4,773	3,297	31,747	15,218	31,060	386	416
Craignish ..	670	230	* 2,520	5,480	10,734	204	87
Esperanza ..	3,280	2,241	23,058	13,593	27,689	551	583
Forres Park ..	1,325	316	3,501	12,284	25,061	367	192
Hindustan ..	830	270	2,364	7,057	13,679	113	383
La Florissante ..	247	205	3,116	643	970	20	60
Mon Desir ..	350	* 180	* 3,143	2,055	3,422	* 55	* 45
Orange Grove ..	4,800	2,210	19,890	23,370	30,327	80	357
Palmiste ..	2,753	735	8,711	24,240	52,277	438	522
Perseverance (Cedro)	460	421	* 5,000	506	835	* 20	* 15
Reform ..	1,255	* 186	* 2,235	12,825	26,141	* 250	* 250
Tenants' Estates ..	9,799	6,810	64,900	28,409	58,920	671	517
Usine St Madeleine ..	16,042	† 10,756	103,725	59,477	103,450	1,793	1,254
Waterloo ..	4,350	* 4,000	47,900	4,926	9,458	95	125
Woodford Lodge ..	4,636	2,683	27,018	† 14,643	29,890	397	362
	62,975	30,735	397,912	237,844	\$ 469,122	6,127	5,446
Returns for 1905 ..	48,240		244,418	144,868	548,253	5,424	5,463
" " 1904 ..	59,744		385,015	171,947	360,046	4,646	4,685
" " 1903 ..		1,669	337,632	166,500	348,145	4,443	4,440
" " 1902 ..		4,379	337,911	184,867	327,183	4,306	4,850
" " 1901 ..		3,652	434,003	169,918	369,482	3,819	4,737
" " 1900 ..		1,286	364,355	105,996	227,865	2,826	3,591
" " 1899 ..			426,306	106,741	219,011	2,826	3,870
" " 1898 ..				105,753	202,901	2,326	3,824

* Estimated (approximately).

† This is simply the average calculated on all canes ground. The results obtained from carefully cultivated estate canes and that from

farmers' canes, the bulk of which are not carefully cultivated, cannot be determined as they go to the mill mixed.

‡ Besides 2,722 tons from Endeavour Estate, and 4,452 tons from Felicity Estate, for which payment was made in sugar.

CRYSTALLISATION IN MOTION.

Mr. Hartmann, the Chairman of Committee of the Hawaiian Chemists' Association, has communicated to the *Planters' Monthly* a report on the result of his investigations as to the merits of crystallisation in motion. The success of the process depends upon work done in pans, uniformity of the grain being a *sine qua non*. Next in importance is the cooling of the massecuite, which must keep pace with the exhaustion of the mother liquor. If the cooling be conducted too slowly, a portion of recoverable sugar will be retained in the mass, while if it takes place too rapidly, formation of false grain will be the inevitable consequence. In Java, the massecuite gives 97° polarisation sugar, and waste molasses, with apparent purity of a little over 30°. Grain is formed as low down in the pans as possible, and care taken that it grows regularly; when the desired amount of massecuite is made, it is boiled down to 95° or 96° Brix., and the temperature raised to 70° C. The molasses, previously heated to 80° C., are then drawn in. The crystalliser must be heated to 70° C. before the massecuite is allowed to run into it. After half an hour or one hour, cold water is admitted and allowed to run continuously for eighteen to twenty-four hours. As compared with crystallisation at rest, the following figures are given:—

	At Rest.	In Motion.
Purity of massecuite	84.1	83.4
„ molasses	44.0	46.4
Water, per cent. molasses	24.6	22.9
Sugar crystallised	66.3%	64%
Amount of sugar obtained in centrifugals	55.2	64
Loss of crystals in curing, per cent. sugar	16.7	0

SOME WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Trinidad Dock and Engineering Company, Ltd.

This Company has been formed to carry into effect an agreement under an ordinance of the Legislative Council of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago, for the provision of a floating graving dock and workshops, and for the payment by the Government half-yearly, for twenty-five years, of a subsidy to supplement the net earnings of the Company for securing the payment by the Company of interest at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the initial capital expenditure of £100,000. The whole of the subsidy will be charged in favour of the holders of the £75,000 First Mortgage debentures. The ordinary capital consists of 25,000 shares of £1. Subscriptions are invited for £75,000 debentures at £102. The debentures will be redeemable at £105 on December 31st, 1932, or at any time after the year 1916, on six months' notice. Provision will be made for the amortisation of the debentures in 1932 by means of a sinking fund policy, at fixed annual premiums, effected with the Commercial Union Assurance Company (Limited). The prospectus, which has just been issued, states that there is at present no dry dock in the British West Indies, and that the Island of Trinidad possesses a very considerable maritime traffic, but up to the present it has had no facilities for docking vessels. In consequence, vessels requiring docking have to go long distances, frequently to New York, involving a voyage of 5000 miles there and back, or to St. Thomas, in the Danish West Indies, involving a voyage out and home of about a week. The Company is to undertake to provide a self-locking floating graving dock, together with the tugs, machinery, plant, etc., and also to acquire the workshops of Messrs. Ellis, Grell and Co., Port-of-Spain, together with the goodwill of their business. The profits of Messrs. Ellis, Grell and Co.'s business have averaged £2250 for the years 1901 to 1905 inclusive. The directors are Mr. Mark J. Kelly, Mr. Maurice Ulocoq, Dr. Charles Tallent Spencer, while Lord Stanmore and Mr. Walter Murray Guthrie are trustees for the debenture holders. The debentures have been purchased by Messrs. Chalmers, Guthrie and Co., Ltd., of 9, Idol Lane, who offer them to the public at the price of £102 per debenture. The list of applications will be closed on or before September 27th.

The West Indies Plantations Co.

A company with this title has been incorporated under Ontario charter, with \$200,000 (£41,666 13s. 4d.) share capital, and these Toronto gentlemen as provisional directors: E. G. West, J. E. Black, J. A. McAlpine, C. D. McAlpine, A. T. Blackwell, George Crompton, and James Langmuir.

VERY MANY YEARS AGO.

Canadian Preference.

On the 3rd of March, 1786, a meeting of the West India Committee was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, Lord Penrhyn presiding, to consider the draft of a memorial to the Lords of the Treasury regarding certain subjects which were then exercising the minds of West Indians. Among these was the proposal that preference for molasses and rum in Canada and the British North

American Colonies should be granted. As will be seen from the following extract from the minutes, what was actually sought was prohibition and the exemption of these articles from duties:

"THAT YOUR MEMORIALISTS have farther to pray, that such proper measures may be taken, as shall contribute to secure to the British West India Islands the full enjoyment of the Market of Canada, and the other British North American Colonies, for vending their Melasses and Rum. That the embarrassments of the British West India Islands respecting the American Intercourse, both actual and apprehended, and which were incurred in a considerable degree to favour these particular Colonies, appear to entitle Your Memorialists to receive some indemnification, by the prohibition of the introduction into them of Melasses as well as Rum from Foreign Parts, and by the total exemption of Duties on their Importation of these Articles from the British West Indies, and by such farther regulations as shall seem expedient."

Lord Penrhyn, Mr. Samuel Long, and Mr. Beeston Long, afterwards Chairman of the West India Committee, were appointed a deputation to present the memorial to Mr. Pitt, and at the meeting of the 25th April, Lord Penrhyn "Made report of the Conference with Mr. Pitt on the Subject of the Memorial of the 3rd March," but nothing appears on the minutes as to the nature of Mr. Pitt's utterances on the subject.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Cotton Culture in Corea.

Experiments have been carried out in Corea with Upland Cotton, which seems admirably adapted to the conditions of climate and soil in that country, as much as 1368 pounds of unginned or 445 pounds of ginned cotton to the acre, having been obtained in one instance. It was found that by pinching out the superfluous shoots and non-bearing branches, as is done in Japan, a considerable increased yield was obtained. An excess of manure was found to be prejudicial. The experiments with manure at Mokpo gave the following results:—

Manure.	Quantity of Unginned Cotton per Acre. Lbs.	Proportion of Ginned Cotton. Per cent.	Quantity of Ginned Cotton per Acre. Lbs.	Relation, compared with Unmanured
1. Unmanured	903	32.9	297	100
2. Rice bran ash 990 lbs.	1285	33.5	430	145
3. No. 2, with 99 lbs. oil cake	1307	32	418	141
4. " " 188	1317	32.5	428	144
5. Rice bran ash 495 lbs., with animal manure 99 lbs.	1373	32.8	450	151
6. No. " with 99 lbs. oil cake	1508	32.1	484	163
7. " " 188	1406	32.5	457	154

The area of cotton cultivated in Corea amounts to about 298,200 acres, and with the present yield of native cotton of under 500 lbs. of unginned cotton per acre, amounts to 149,100,000 lbs. which is calculated as giving 26,862,000 lbs. of ginned cotton. It is expected that with the substitution of upland for the native cotton, and with improved cultivation, that this would amount to 72,000,000 lbs. of ginned cotton per annum, but as these figures are based on experimental results too much stress should not be laid on them. Mr. Ando, expert from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Tokio who reports on the subject, has been in charge of the experiments.

SOME HOMEWARD MAILS.

Nevis and the Mails.

In a letter dated August 29th, the Hon. C. A. Shand wrote that the new arrangements made for a temporary resumption of a Mail service did not, as far as the more northerly Islands were concerned, place matters on at all a satisfactory footing, as a monthly means of communication left much to be desired and was very far from a reversion to the *status quo ante*. The Governor was in St. Kitts. He appeared to be an able and energetic ruler, and had evidently the welfare of the Islands at heart. He purposed visiting Nevis on the following Monday and would remain until September 6th. He was particularly anxious to meet the members of the Agricultural and Commercial Society. Dr. G. B. Mason, who was in Anguilla, was to take over the district in Nevis vacated by the death of Dr. Bell. The weather during the past fortnight had been exceptionally hot and dry and rain was much needed. It was most unfortunate that the drought should be so persistent just at the crucial time when the crops required most moisture.

Unsettled Weather in St. Kitts.

When Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on September 3rd, that the dry weather had broken up, and the change was very nearly disastrous. The barometer began falling on Friday, August 31st, and did so continuously till 6 p.m. on the 1st inst., when the reading was 29.607, a fall of about four-tenths. A cable from the United States Weather Bureau in Washington practically set their minds at rest, as it indicated a disturbance to the E.S.E. of the Island, moving N.W. Rain had been falling spasmodically from early morning, but it was practically calm till about 4 p.m., when the wind started

from the west with heavy rains; the wind and rain continued all Saturday night and with varying strength all Sunday, backing all the time through S. and on the Monday morning blowing from the E.S.E. The maximum wind velocity recorded in Basseterre was sixty miles an hour, but this must have been an exceptional squall. On the side of the Island on which Brighton estate is situated, Mr. Adamson did not think it was anything like that, as beyond the upsetting of a few trees and a good many telephone posts, not much damage seemed to have been done to buildings or crops. The B208 cane had stood up remarkably well. In one thirteen acre field where there was a strip of three acres of Jamaica cane and the remainder B208, the latter were erect, while the former were all laid over. The variation in rainfall was extraordinary, ranging as it did from 4.12 to 13.05 inches. Before the rain came the crops were beginning to look very dry, with the exception of cotton, which was still marvellously fresh and green. The Governor presided at a meeting of the Agricultural Society on August 28th, when Mr. Ballou, the entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, spoke on the subject of cotton pests and the best ways of fighting them. The new Mail arrangements seemed worse than ever. It was not that there were not opportunities, but it was the irregularity and uncertainty that were vexatious to everyone.

Mail Troubles in Montserrat.

Mr. Conrad Watson, writing on August 24th, also complained of the Mail arrangements, as the Mails from London lay in Barbados for one week before the steamer left for the Northern Islands and they would also lie in Barbados for the same period before leaving for England, and therefore nothing was gained by the service except communication with St. Kitts and Antigua.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ELECTRIFYING. The Royal Securities Corporation, Ltd., of Canada, which is largely interested in various electric undertakings in the West Indies, has opened an office at 27, Clement's Lane, London, E.C., under the management of Mr. J. S. Harding.

LEMON GRASS OIL. Lemon grass can be grown down the rows between lines of rubber trees without interfering with the rubber roots, says the *Tropical Agriculturist*, and as the plant dries down in three years, and has then to be freshly propagated for further growing and extensions, it is very suitable as an early catch crop.

BRAZILIAN COFFEE. The *New York Herald* is responsible for the statement that a Bill is being brought before the Brazilian Congress prescribing that the countries which every year take four million bags of Brazilian coffee free of duty, will receive a reduction of 20 per cent. on the Brazilian import tariff, and those which take three million 10 per cent. On the other hand, countries which impose a tax on Brazilian coffee will have to pay a surtax of 10 per cent. This arrangement would be favourable to the United States, but operate against France and Italy.

PLANTERS AND PUPILS. Being constantly asked for the names of planters willing to receive pupils or visitors on their estates for a small premium or weekly payment, it has been decided to insert advertisements from such planters for the nominal sum of 10s. per annum in a special column which will be provided for this purpose. It is believed that this will be the means of placing intending settlers into communication with the planters in the West Indies, and will prove of mutual advantage, and from the number of inquiries which have been received, there is no doubt whatever that this arrangement will prove advantageous if generally supported and taken up.

AN AQUATIC GALA. The third annual aquatic gala of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Swimming Club, which was held at Westminster Baths on Tuesday evening, September 18th, was well attended and successful in every way. The programme was varied and of great interest. The sixteen fastest amateurs of the south of England competed in the 100 yards invitation handicap, the final heat having a close finish. Immediately before an exciting water polo match between the City Police Club and Nautilus Polo Club, the prizes were presented by Miss Curtis. They included the Philipps' Cup, presented by Mr. Owen Philipps, Chairman of the Company, for Club racing during the season, which has been won this year by R. G. Waine, and a handsome cup presented by Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, for the 88 yards Club Handicap. During the evening selections of music were played by the London Orchestral Band.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Thurs., Sept. 20th—It was announced that Mr. Chamberlain had returned to Highbury and was convalescent after a severe attack of gout.—Bank rate 4% unchanged.—Bect 9/6½ firm.

Fri., Sept. 21st—Bect 9/6½ quiet.

Sat., Sept. 22nd—Mr. Taft expressed himself hopeful of settlement being arrived at in Cuba.—Bect 9/9 firm.

Sun., Sept. 23rd—Anti-Negro riots in Georgia, U.S.A.

Mon., Sept. 24th—The Queen returned to London.—Prospectus of the Trinidad Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd., issued.—Bect 9/9½ steady.

Tues., Sept. 25th—Bect 9/9½ flat.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

MR. RALPH CHAMBERNS WILLIAMS, C.M.G., is expected to leave England about the middle of December to take over his duties as Governor of the Windward Islands.

MR. E. R. ANSON, Stipendiary Magistrate, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for six months from September 4th.

PROFESSOR J. B. HARRISON, M.A., C.M.G., etc., Government Analyst, British Guiana, has arrived in England on three months' leave of absence, during which time Mr. E. W. F. English, B.A., will act as Director of Science and Agriculture and Government Analyst.

CAPT. W. LE POER POWERS, Sup.-Inspector of Police, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from November 10th.

MR. JAMES CHALLENGER LYSON has been appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Barbados, pending His Majesty's gracious confirmation.

LIEUT. E. C. WRIGHT, West India Regiment, has resigned his appointment as Private Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of the Windward Islands, as from the 18th July.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR has accepted the resignation by Lieut. the Hon. A. R. Usher of his commission in the British Honduras Volunteer Force.

MR. HAROLD O. WHITE-MURRAY has been appointed Private Secretary to the Governor of British Honduras.

MR. T. LAWRENCE ROXBURGH has been appointed Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis in succession to the late Sir Robert Bromley Bart. Mr. Roxburgh, who was educated at Edinburgh University, has been in the Jamaica Civil Service since 1882. He was appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary on January 2nd, 1902, and he has also acted as Colonial Secretary.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados.—(Messrs. Wilkinson and Gaviller), September 19th, "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. Laws) sailing to-day, were given in *Circular* 208, p. 471.

FORWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Captain H. J. Boby), October 10th: Sir Ernest and Lady Northcote, Sir H. and Lady Greaves, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stilwell, Mr. Ernest Pedder, Mrs. Boyce, Master Aubrey Cameron, Sir F. and Lady Hodgson, Dr. H. Alston, Mrs. Casalta and three ladies, Mr. and Mrs. George Lambie and child, Mrs. F. Fernandez, Mrs. G. and Miss L. Rees, Lady Morris, Mrs. H. Caracciolo, Miss R. Alonzo, Mr. and Mrs. Abdy Anderson, Miss C. Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lamy, Mr. and Mrs. Arturo Luria, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown, Ven. Archdeacon Jones-Bateman, Miss C. Young, Mr. Harold Bullock, Miss Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Colley and child, Mr. and Mrs. Wieting, Mr. M. H. Bugle, Mrs. E. Johnstone, Dr. and Mrs. Seccombe, Miss M. A. Bratt, Rev. W. R. Symons, Mr. William S., Mrs. Selina B., Miss V. and Miss L. Cameron, Mr. J. D. D., Master A. and Master J. Sellier, Mr. D. C. Jurzman, Mr. and Mrs. I. Rubiano, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Duncan and two children, Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Forrest, Mr. Arthur H. Brebner, Mrs. R. G. Dix and three children, Mrs. R. S. Reid, Mr. Herman and Mrs. and Miss Luria, Hon. H. A. Alcazar, K.C., Mr. J. M. Templeton, Mr. John Williams, Mr. Allan Campbell, Mr. H. Singleton Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Hobson, Mr. H. Watson Taylor, Mr. Suraybah Sing, Mr. Ernest W. Harford, Mr. and Mrs. Paw and child, Mrs. Menzies and child, Mrs. Rosario, Miss M. and Miss L. George, Mr. S. Bickart, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Dreyfus and family.

FORWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Captain H. B. Triggs), October 24th: Mr. A. M. Duncan, Mr. James Smith, Mr. and Mrs. and the Misses Alston, Miss Johnston, Rev. F. Wilkes, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Müller, Mr. Fritz Walther, Miss Nestler, Mr. and Mrs. G. O. D. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. Dauch, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. and Mr. Raoul Maignot, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson.

FORWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Captain A. P. Dix), November 7th: Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Schreier and two children, Col. and Mrs. Lushington, Mr. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and child, Mr. W. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Cunningham, Mrs. E. C. Cummins, Mrs. C., Mr. C. H. and Miss H. Stollmeyer, Miss Mecham, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, jun., Mr. J. Chaloner, Mrs. Pinheiro, Mrs. Chaudler and family, Miss Harford, Miss Archibald.

Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.—SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Captain Owen Jones), September 22nd. **Jamaica.**—Mr. Lewis and Miss Ivy Anderson, Mr. E. P. S. Allen, Miss Branton, Mr. A. E. Chew, Mr. William Conran, Mr. D. G. Casseres, Mr. A. W. Clarke, Mrs. G. P. and Miss Helen Dewar, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. DaCosta and two children, Miss A. J. Douglas, Mrs. J. Edwards and infant, Hon. William Fawcett, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Griffith, Mr. John Hudson, Mr. H. S. Hoskins, Lieut. P. W. Justice, Capt. and Mrs. W. D. King, Rev. Canon H. H. Kilburn, Miss Leach, Hon. Geo. and Mrs. McGrath, Miss McGrath, Mr. H. Melloe, Mrs. W. D. Neish, Lieut. C. E. Price, Mr. C. H. B. Pritcham, Mr. T. J. R. Philippa, Mrs. Rock, Mrs. and Miss Robertson, Mr. Howard and Mrs. R. Smith, Mrs. H. J. and Miss R. Sturridge, Mr. T. G. Southby, Mr. W. Sanderson, Miss Tivy, Miss M. G. L. Taylor, Mrs. James Verley, Miss D. Verley, Mr. Daniel Wilson, Rev. A. Whitehouse, Mr. C. L. Walker, Miss E. Wright, Miss Walcott, Mr. John Caldwell, Mr. William Farquhar, Mr. James Irvine, Mr. Montgomery, Mrs. and Miss Smythe, Mr. J. Williams, Miss Agnes Wright.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Captain J. G. Parsons), October 6th: **Jamaica.**—Hon. Col. C. J. Ward, C.M.G., and Mrs. Ward, Hon. H. Clarence Bourne, C.M.G., and Mrs. Bourne, Mrs. C. L. Mais and Miss Mais, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Gamble, Miss Doris Tuckett, Mrs. E. W. Lucie Smith, Mr. F. L. Firminger, Mr. A. H. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. R. Craig, Mr. Robert Pashley, Mr. Ehrenstein, Dr. and Mrs. Turton, Mrs. Cochrane, Mr. W. H. Kerr, Mrs. and Miss Coulborn, Miss M. Coulborn, Mr. and Mrs. P. Haughton James, Miss Findlay, Mrs. and Miss Taylor, Mr. C. A. Farmer, Mr. A. M. Bullock, Mr. Eustace Greg, Miss Dorothy Moxay, Mr. and Mrs. Conran, Mr. Perkins, Dr. Brett, Mrs. Hutchinson, Miss V. Abrahams, Mrs. H. F. Kerr, Miss M. Abrahams, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey and child, Mr. J. P. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Wetherall, Mr. I. H. Cargill and Miss Cargill, Miss Sutton, Miss Kitchener, Mrs. Prentice, Mr. A. M. Mills, Mr. Belcher, Lieut. J. S. Bischoe, Mr. J. S. Robertson, Mrs. Wessel, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. Cousins, Mrs. Eves, Master Eves, Miss French, Miss Nowell, Miss Lockett, Mr. S. Comber, Dr. and Mrs. Rust, Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar. **Bermuda.**—Sir R. M. and Lady Stewart, Hon. Lucy Playfair, Lieut. Colonel and Mrs. Black, Mrs. Orde Brown, Hon. Ambrose Goshing, Mr. W. Smelle, Miss Masters, Mr. S. H. Grant, Miss F. S. Cooper. **Turks Island.**—Miss Mary Watkins, Judge G. P. and Mrs. St. Aubyn, Miss Aubyn.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—Violent fluctuations in speculative 88% beet have taken place this week, and at one time a fall of over 1s. per cwt. was registered, this being caused by the actions of outside speculators who know nothing about the true position of sugar. This clearing out was soon followed by a rapid and substantial recovery, but still the Market is very sensitive and quotations vary every hour. All circumstances point to an upward movement in prices, the extent of which will be determined by the course of events in Cuba. The outlook at present in that Island is about as gloomy as it well can be, and if the United States really send an army to attempt to occupy the country, no one can say what the coming sugar crop may produce. A reduction of 25% to 50% may well follow, and what this will lead to in prices of sugar takes a lot of consideration. Coming at the disturbances do in a season when stocks are normal and when a beet crop ahead of us is known to be deficient, their importance is intensified, and it will be well for consumers to face the situation and make themselves safe by holding maximum instead of minimum stocks as they have done ever since the late rise set in at the close of 1904. Sugar is still cheap, and only just over first cost of production, so the risk is insignificant.

The closing quotations of 88% are September, 9/9½; October, 9/6; November, 9/4½; December, 9/4½; January-March, 9/5; May, 9/6½; August, 9/8½; and October-December, 1907, 9/3, all free on board Hamburg.

Visible Supplies, uneven dates:—

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Europe	1,150,000	790,000	1,100,000	1,450,000	1,470,000
United States	320,000	180,000	150,000	180,000	170,000
Cuba	40,000	180,000	10,000	170,000	140,000
Afloat	100,000	250,000	250,000	100,000	180,000
Total	1,510,000	1,400,000	1,510,000	1,940,000	1,960,000 tons.

Quotations of 88% September 26th:—8s. 9½d. 8s. 10d. 10s. 11½d. 8s. 4d. 8s. 4d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Less business has been doing this week in yellow crystallised, and owing to the violent fluctuations in beet the Trade have abstained from any general buying. The sales made, however, from 16s.-17s., indicate firm prices, and the value of average qualities remains 16s. 6d. In the absence of anything offering the value of a 96 test cargo to Refiners is uncertain.

Molasses Sugar continues in good demand on the spot from 10s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. duty paid. For 89 test to arrive 8s. 9d. is the nearest value in bond on floating terms.

Muscovado.—Spot sugar is scarce and useful kinds are wanted. The value of 89 test on floating terms is uncertain.

West India Figures since Jan.:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Imports	46,000	32,000	36,000	20,000	55,000 tons.
Deliveries	37,000	30,000	37,000	32,000	32,000 "
Stocks, September 22nd	18,000	12,000	11,000	16,000	36,000 "

Quotations of average qualities, September 26th:—

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Rum. —Stock in London, September 22nd:—					
Jamaica	9,500	10,000	11,300	11,600 puns,	
Demerara	4,700	5,500	8,200	7,400 "	
Total of all kinds	21,000	23,600	28,000	29,500 "	

Demerara is firmer and the small lots here of fair quality have been selling from 10½d. to 11d., which is a shade better. Jamaica is in less demand, arrivals being liberal. Standard Marks are, however, still quoted 2s. 2d. Leeward and other foreign kinds are worth 9d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocon.—Stocks in London:—September 22nd.

	1906	1905	1904	1903
Trinidad	12,000	24,000	29,300	18,300 bags.
Grenada	7,100	16,000	15,000	11,200 "
Total of all kinds	63,000	90,000	97,600	69,800 "

At the time of writing a quiet tone continues to prevail and the stocks of West India in Importers' hands are too small to form a market. The few transactions taking place in second hand lots indicate steady prices viz., Trinidad, 68s. to 75s., and Grenada, 60s. to 65s. Quotations are somewhat nominal, viz., Trinidad, fair collected, 68s., Estate Marks, 69s. to 75s., Grenada, fair, 61s., and fermented, 64s. to 66s. From other Islands fair Native is quoted 60s. and fermented 63s. to 66s. The "bear" sellers are reported to have chiefly liquidated their engagements, and when this is all over another condition of things will have to be faced.

Coffee.—Unchanged; good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—Large sales of West India including 64's 1s. 5d., 72's 1s., 82's 10½d., 93's 8d., 102's 6½d., 118's 6d., 130's 5½d., 156's 5½d., and in shell, 4d.

Mace.—Good sales, fair to good, palish, 1s. 6d., 1s. 9d.; fair red, 1s. 4d., 1s. 5d.; dark red, 1s. 8d., and broken, 1s. to 1s. 3d.

Ginger.—Tendency easier; prices nominal.

Pimento.—Unchanged at 2½d. to 3d.

Arrowroot.—Firm and further sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2½d. to 2½d.

Lime Juice.—Slow at 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, easier 21 15s. Hand Pressed, scarce, moment's price, 2s. 3d. Distilled Oil, value, 3s. to 3s. 3d.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXVII.



Photo

Edinvalde.

His Excellency Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SKEPPING LANE, LONDON,

Oct. 9th, 1906

Telegrams: "GARDN, LONDON." Telephone: 0642 CENTRAL.

FROM time to time we have called attention in these columns to the beneficial effect of the abolition of Bounties upon the West Indies generally, and especially upon the Sugar Industry and the allied trades in this country, such as the engineers and machinery manufacturers, and we may now, therefore, refer to the sugar refining industry, which has also reaped some benefit from the stoppage of the unfair competition which prevailed under the system of foreign bounties and cartels. In looking at the figures published by the Board of Trade one is rather surprised to find that the increase in the output of the British refineries is apparently so small, but it must be remembered that it was not so much anticipated that a great increase would result to the home-refining, as it was felt that the abolition of bounties was necessary to save the industry from extinction. It was not, of course, the bounties on raw sugar to which the refiners in the United Kingdom objected so much as the increased bounty given on refined sugar, which amounted to from 4½d. to 6d. per cwt., and permitted the foreigner to sell at such a price that, had these conditions lasted for a year or two longer, sugar refining in

at such a price that, had these conditions lasted for a year or two longer, sugar refining in

this country would have reached a vanishing point. As a matter of fact competition with foreign refined sugar has been just as keen since the abolition of bounties as it was before, for the foreign refiners have larger outlets in their own countries than they had before the Convention, and it answers their purpose to sell their surplus to Great Britain without profit in order to keep their cost of manufacture low. It has been clearly proved that the abolition of bounties has had no part in the rise in price of sugar. It has been shown over and over again that the high price of last year was entirely due to short crops on the Continent, and this year, under normal conditions, the "free-on-board" price of sugar has been lower than the average for several previous years. That sugar is slightly dearer is owing entirely to the duty of 4s. 2d. per cwt. on refined—a duty which is far too high in proportion to the value of the sugar. If His Majesty's Government wish to withdraw from the Brussels' Convention, though it is hardly conceivable that such a retrograde step could be taken, notice will have to be given in September next year. It is, therefore, interesting to consider what the effect of such a withdrawal would mean, not only to the West Indies and the British sugar refiners, but also to the confectioners and others who so blindly opposed the late Government in their endeavour to restore free trade to sugar. As we have already pointed out, it does not follow that if England withdraws from the Convention all the other countries will do the same, in fact, most probably the course that they would adopt would be immediately to impose a still heavier tax upon all sugared products imported from this country on the plea that as we were not parties to the Convention we should be using bounty-fed sugar. The effect of this upon some of the large exporters of sugared products would be disastrous, although one firm, probably foreseeing the trend of events has already started a factory in Germany. If, on the other hand, the Government does not withdraw from the Convention, many of the sugared products which are imported into foreign parts from Great Britain, and are now taxed too high in proportion to the sugar contained in the goods, could obtain considerable reductions in the duties if proper representations were made, so that the confectioners have everything to gain by the continuance of the Brussels' Agreement. We are by no means certain that even if the Convention came to an end, foreign Governments would go back to the system of bounties, but they would probably impose a higher protective import duty. The refiners would again revert to cartels (the most iniquitous form of competition), and by surcharging their home customers would undersell the British refiners. The Austrian refiners would most certainly do this, Germany would undoubtedly follow, and France, in her own interests, would be forced to do the same. The consequence would be that the position, not only of the British refining industry, but also of the West Indian Colonies, would again be seriously menaced. Looking at the situation from a practical and unprejudiced point of view, there is no doubt that what is wanted is the abolition of the present high duty on sugar, or at any rate a considerable reduction in the same, from which the West Indian planters, the refiners, the confectionery trade, and also the consumer would benefit; and if such a remission is possible then sugar would be cheaper than it has ever before been, with this advantage, that under the protection of the Brussels' Convention sugar would be grown in all parts of the world at a price which would be regulated purely and simply by the cost of production, and without any fear of those violent fluctuations such as have taken place in years gone by.

THE forecast in our issue of August 29th, regarding the state of Cuba, is confirmed. Whether the United States annexes Cuba or not, intervention strengthens her position in the Island. Politically and strategically, she gained all she wanted by the war of 1898. Her present move, behind which is American capitalism, will secure her commercial ascendancy. That is to say another open door is to be closed to British trade as it was in Puerto Rico and Hawaii. To minimise the disaster is impossible since Cuba is ten times as large as the largest of

our West Indian possessions, and rich in proportion. In 1904 she took from us goods to the value of nearly two millions sterling, and our other interests in the Island are second only to those of the Americans. In these circumstances it is our duty to safeguard our position by action. We are, however, under the spell of Cobdenism, and sit still with folded hands. As this is our attitude towards every American aggression, we are in danger of losing our predominance in the Caribbean. Ten years ago it was as Nelson bequeathed it to us. To-day the United States is in Puerto Rico, and Cuba and Hispaniola are on the eve of practical annexation. By means of a revolution, engineered by American citizens, she is in possession of a strip of territory bordering the canal of the future. In this way Jamaica is isolated, and the short sea route to Europe and Canada, commanded not by Spain as of yore, but by one of our most pushing rivals. Whatever steps have been taken by us in this part of the world, "pre-eminently the domain of sea-power" have been retrograde. By the Pauncefote-Hay Convention we threw away without equivalent, our rights on the mainland. Consequently, we have no guarantee of any kind that freedom of trade in the Panama Canal will ever be ours. A subsidy to the all-British cable scheme has been refused, though rapid communication with the British West Indies is far inferior to that with the French and American West Indies and the cost is greater. We have withdrawn the fleet and garrisons in obedience to a naval policy, which is being rendered futile by the political and commercial strategy of the United States. In other words the trade basis necessary to its effectiveness is crumbling. To suppose that American expansion will stop short of the British West Indies is to live in a fool's paradise. They are even now being subjected to the same pressure as their neighbours, and, unless we abandon our present inactivity which is anything but masterly, the Caribbean will soon become an American lake. Between the "Blue Water School" and Cobdenism, the "Keys of Imperial strategy since the days of Charles V.," are slipping away from our feeble grasp into the hands of a Power which does not allow its sailors to adopt the doctrine of Mahan, and its statesmen the doctrine of passive resistance. The essence of the situation is that the United States has a definite aim in the West Indies, we have none.

THE announcement that certain Lancashire cotton spinners have purchased an area of 4,000 acres in the Southern States for the purpose of growing cotton, suggests at once the thought of why the West Indies were not selected for this purpose instead of a foreign country. We are afraid that the reason has been that their suitability for such industrial purposes is not yet fully realised. In times gone by the general idea of the West Indies which obtained in this country was that these fertile Islands were only adapted to the production of sugar and rum, and perhaps cocoa, produced under the easy conditions; but in a climate sooner or later fatal to Europeans. Colonisation in the true sense of the word could not be said to exist. The cloud that settled upon these Colonies after the emancipation of the slaves and the opening up of the Antipodean possessions, further drew attention away from the West Indies, and although between 1860 and 1880 fairly prosperous times were experienced commercially, yet the position of sugar, which, with cocoa formed practically the only agricultural products, was such as to discourage enterprise. Again, it has been too much the custom to take a purely sentimental view of the West Indies, to associate them with tradition and romance, with buccaneers and sea fights, with "Tom Cringle" and "Peter Simple," and not to look at their agricultural and commercial possibilities seriously. Times are changed—the West Indies have, it may be said, been re-discovered in recent years, the fear of disease and death has been removed by improved sanitation, and the mode of living is healthier. Tourists have brought home the realization that health and beautiful scenery can be found in them, ideas of their agricultural and industrial ineptitude have been dissipated by the development of industries, such as fruit, cotton, oil, &c., the clouds are lifting, and possibilities of remunerative investments, and a life of health amid ideal surroundings within easy reach of

home are being appreciated. The fertility of these Islands has never, we take it, been questioned, but now that these actual and fancied disabilities are removed, now that along with the old-established industries lucrative employment can be found in other agricultural industries, a future of active prosperity is assured. Agriculture in these Islands and in British Guiana is now on a thoroughly scientific basis. The admirable control of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the Islands and the Department of Agriculture and Science in British Guiana ensures that every scientific assistance is given to agriculturists, and the field for judicious investment in this direction is extending day by day. Reliable information and advice are also available on this side for intending investors, while their operations are guided and assisted in every way on the spot by the departments above mentioned. We must remind our readers that in British Guiana thousands of miles of country still practically virgin await exploiting, while old estates on the front and on the river banks, suitable for rice, fruit, cocoa, coffee, cotton, &c., can be obtained at low rates. The opening for rice alone is enormous, and there is no reason why this country should not only supply its own wants, but also those of the West Indies generally. Exports of this commodity are, indeed, already being made, and the estimated value of the production is already upwards of £200,000, as against the small amounts represented by isolated coolie growings twenty years back. In Trinidad, while the sugar industry is more than holding its own, assisted in no small degree by the development of peasant cane farming, cocoa cultivation has increased enormously, until at the present moment its value far exceeds that of the sugar. There is still room for more however, large areas being available for cultivation, while a petroleum industry, which is still in its initial stages is very promising. Jamaica, which does so well with the banana and orange industries, still has land for cultivation. Dominica is an ideal situation for fruit and cocoa, while the success of cotton in St. Kitts-Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat and St. Vincent has put the question of the value of this industry as an investment beyond any doubt. We should have liked, therefore, to have seen the Lancashire cotton spinners secure 4,000 acres for cotton in the West Indies, which are, generally speaking, peculiarly well adapted for its cultivation, rather than in a foreign country. There would have been no difficulty in obtaining this area in the cotton growing Islands, where the finest cotton in the world, whether Sea Island or Upland, can be grown there under conditions quite as cheap as in the Southern States.

H.E. SIR FREDERIC M. HODGSON, K.C.M.G.

Sir Frederic Hodgson, the Governor of British Guiana, who returns to the Colony to-morrow, entered the Imperial Post Office after a competitive examination in February, 1869, and was employed in the Secretary's office in connection with the transfer of the telegraphs to the State. In 1882 he was appointed Postmaster-General of British Guiana, a position which he occupied with ability for six years. In 1888 he became Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast, of which Colony he administered the Government on several occasions, being confirmed in the position of Governor in 1898. He returned to the West Indies in October, 1900, as Governor of Barbados, and on July 16th, 1904, he was appointed Governor of British Guiana. Sir Frederic Hodgson's outspoken statement at a meeting of the West India Committee on Wednesday, October 3rd, to the effect that during the recent riots his action was in no way influenced by any special feeling towards any section of the community, but by a desire to check lawlessness, will, we hope, be accepted in the proper spirit by all classes in British Guiana, who will, we hope, now work together side by side in promoting the welfare of the Colony. Sir Frederic Hodgson was created a Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1891, and a Knight of the same Order in 1899.

BENDALL'S STREAM.

Antigua is an Island which suffers very much from drought: but Bendall's stream, depicted on another page, from a photograph by Mr. José Anjo, supplies the factory of the same name with an unfailing supply of water. It contains many deep pools, which in years of drought when the main flow of the stream has dried up, can be relied upon for a water supply. It may be mentioned that the estate is now generally known as Bendal's, with one "l," but we have adopted the spelling used in the old maps of the Island.



Photo by Joe Anjo.

Copyright

**BENDALL'S STREAM,
ANTIGUA.**

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, Oct. 4th, Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G., presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
WILLIAM W. HEWITT.	J. D. Adamson.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
HOWARD R. SMITH (Jamaica).	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford.
ERNEST D. R. CLARKE (Trinidad).	H. Hamel Smith.	F. I. Scard.
HON. J. M. FARQUHARSON, C.M.G. (Jamaica).	R. Craig.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
GEORGE F. WIGHT (Trinidad).	Thomas Boyd.	G. M. Frame.
JOHN JEFFREY & Co.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.	R. Rutherford.
E. C. JACKMAN (Barbados).	Hon. Forster M. Alleyne.	G. Carrington.
HON. W. H. LASCELLES (Grenada).	Cyril Gurney.	H. A. Trotter.
H. E. PITTAM.	W. E. Smith.	Sir Nevile Lubbock, K.C.M.G.
H. C. MORCOM (Trinidad).	W. E. Smith.	F. I. Scard.

We may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following 1st January. Thus, members elected in October, and in November and December of this year, will, on paying their subscriptions, not be required to renew them until 1st January, 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates' may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

CANADIAN SUGAR IMPORTS.

In our issue of September 12th we gave a summary of the Canadian sugar imports for the year ending June 30th, 1905, and we are now in a position to give those for the corresponding period of 1905-6. As, however, the quantities entered have not yet been divided between the eastern and western ports it is not as yet possible to give the actual proportion of these, but it may be taken that these are relatively the same as last year. The figures given are, as before, for the quantities entered for consumption.

For the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1906, the total quantity entered for consumption was 200,430 tons, valued at \$10,237,164. Of the total, 12,738 tons, valued at \$901,772, were sugars above 16 D.S. in colour, including all refined, and 187,692 tons raws not above 16 D.S., valued at \$9,335,392. Under the preference from all sources and all kinds, the total quantity was 165,644 tons, valued at \$8,323,313. The West Indies and British Guiana contributed for entry under the preferential tariff 144,533 tons, valued at \$7,068,677, and in addition there were 192 tons, valued at \$20,726, entered from these Colonies under the general tariff, which did not get the preferential rebate, probably because they did not bear properly certified documents to entitle them to enter under the preferential tariff.

From Great Britain under the general and preferential tariffs, the total was 12,397 tons, valued at \$874,290. 11,832 tons, valued at \$834,632, were above 16 D.S., and got the preferential rebate. 532 tons, valued at \$37,934, were above 16 D.S., and paid full duty under the general tariff. 33 tons, valued at \$1,724, were not above 16 D.S., and paid full duty under the general tariff. The total quantity of all kinds and from all sources, under the general tariff which paid the full duty, was 34,785 tons, valued at \$1,913,833. Of this total other countries than Great Britain contributed 297 tons above 16 D.S., valued at \$24,433, and 33,923 tons not above 16 D.S., valued at \$1,849,742, including the quantity noted above from the West Indies and British Guiana. There was a trifling quantity of 446 lbs., valued at \$18, entered under the surtax tariff, above 16 D.S.

The important thing to note in comparing 1906 with previous years, is the notable gain in the quantity consumed, being 46,000 tons greater than in 1905, and 26,000 tons in excess of 1904, which was the previous highest point of consumption to the last fiscal year.

It will be noted that of the total the West Indies and British Guiana sent 145,025 tons and Great Britain contributed 11,832 tons, under the preferential tariff, all of which was the produce of raws grown in the West Indies and British Guiana, so that these Colonies gave Canada 156,857 tons, equal to 78% of the total of 200,430 tons entered for consumption. Of the remaining 43,573 tons, 6,587 tons not above 16 D.S., valued at \$269,080, went to Vancouver, B.C., from Fiji, and were entered under the preference tariff, and 2,688 tons, not above 16 D.S., valued at \$150,741, came from other countries, probably Mauritius, and got the benefit of the preferential rebate. The quantity of refined was 64% of the total, so the refiners had 93½% of the imported sugar trade of the Dominion during the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1906.

RECENT PRACTICE IN CANE-SUGAR MACHINERY.

We noticed several prominent Members of the West India Committee at the meeting of the Society of Engineers at the United Service Institution on Monday evening last, October 1st, when Mr. Perry F. Nursey, Past President, read an interesting paper on "Recent Practice in Cane-Sugar Machinery." Mr. Maurice Wilson presided, and there was a large attendance.

At the outset the lecturer first referred to his previous paper of 1865 on the subject, which constitutes a correct exposition of sugar-mill engineering practice at that date. Since then, he observed, with the exception of a paper on American sugar mills, read before the Institution of



American influence in the West Indies.

We reproduce this map, which has been specially drawn for the West India Committee, in order to show the remarkable increase of American influence in the West Indies which has taken place in recent years. It will be seen at a glance how largely American influence preponderates in the Caribbean, and it will be noted that the United States have only to acquire Mole St. Nicolas at the eastern end of Hayti, and they will then have the Windward passage to Canada completely under their control, and Jamaica will then virtually be cut off from our North American possessions.

Mechanical Engineers in 1902, and a few newspaper articles, there had been an absolute dearth of information upon the subject. He did not propose to follow in detail the development of sugar machinery during the forty years interval, but to show the general trend of improvement as exemplified by the recent practice of sugar-mill engineers.

He then described an ordinary cane sugar-mill plant of the present day, and pointed out that from the 16-h.p. 3-roller mill of 1865 we had now reached an 11-roller plant, which included a pair of preliminary breaking rolls known as Krajewskis, being so named after their inventor. This was followed by descriptions and illustrations of examples of the present practice of various sugar machinery manufacturers as regards cane mills, both steam and electro driven. The firms represented included the Murrells Watson Company, the Harvey Engineering Company, Manlove, Alliott & Co., Ltd., D. Stewart & Co., Ltd., and Messrs. George Fletcher & Co. Centrifugal machines were represented by those of Messrs. Pott, Cassels and Williamson, which firm also manufacture Patterson's classifying apparatus. This is an ingenious contrivance for separating the washings from the syrup discharged

from the centrifugal baskets, so that the washings may be returned to the vacuum pan to produce the same grade of sugar instead of passing away with the syrup into a lower grade.

Evaporators and vacuum pans as made by the Mirrlees and the Harvey Companies next came in for notice with illustrations, and included the Meyer Film evaporator, which is made by Messrs. Fletcher. It consists of a revolving arm which sprinkles the juice over the heating surface in each evaporator vessel, and is applicable to existing evaporating apparatus. The author observed that although several improved systems of evaporation had been introduced since 1865, and the shape of the vacuum pan had been greatly altered, the old vacuum pan in the form of an oblate spheroid was still held by a few users to be preferable to some of the newer types on the grounds of common sense and scientific correctness.

The plant for the Naudet process of extraction and filtration of cane juice, as put down in Trinidad by the Harvey Company, was next described and illustrated. This process is one of diffusion or maceration by forced circulation, by means of which treatment it is claimed that within 0.50 of the total sucrose in the cane is recovered. It is stated that in Trinidad during the last crop the average extraction per 100 of sucrose in the cane was 93 per cent., and on the weight of cane the sucrose content was 12.86 per cent., and the recovery in juice 11.93 per cent., leaving a loss in extraction of 0.93 on the weight of cane, or 7 per cent. on the 100 of sucrose in the cane.

The author then entered upon the consideration of the question of central factories. That system, he observed, constituted the most important advance of modern times as regarded the general conditions of sugar production, central factories having proved most successful, especially in connection with small estates. They were alike satisfactory to the owners of such estates, who sold their cane crops to the factory companies, and to the latter, who made the sugar and placed it on the market. The author described the Antigua central factory, the inception and inauguration of which were mainly due to the untiring exertions of the Hon. Francis Watts, C.M.G. It was erected and fitted under contract by the Mirrlees Watson Company in 1904, and the author pointed out that the report of the directors of the Central Factory Company for 1905 showed that the working of the factory for that year resulted in a net surplus of £3,956 9s. 8d. This result was obtained notwithstanding a prolonged drought; a saving point, however, was the somewhat advanced price of sugar during the early part of the year. The author then submitted a detailed specification of the plant and machinery of the Antigua factory, the cost of which, inclusive of several miles of light railway connecting up the various estates with the factory, was £42,408. The factory was handed over under steam to the company by the contractors within eleven months of the acceptance of the contract, and was publicly opened on December 19th, 1904. A modern Cuban central factory was then described, as erected and fitted by D. Stewart and Co., Ltd., and Mr. Nursey concluded by stating that the Harvey Engineering Company had carried out contracts for no fewer than nine central factories in the East during the past five years.

The discussion was opened by Mr. Llewellyn Jones, who, after pointing out his prominent association with many important sugar experiments in the West Indies, such as efforts to apply carbonatation to the sugar cane juice, to make paper stock out of megass, exhaustive experiments *re* diffusion of the sugar cane, the adoption of water tube boilers, &c., deplored the absence of literature in connection with the cane sugar industry. As to mills, he expressed his preference for hydraulic instead of togglegear attachments, and after alluding to evaporators in their various types, pointed out the absence of any allusion to the centrifugals of Messrs. Watson, Laidlaw & Co. by Mr. Nursey. Speaking of the Naudet process, Mr. Jones pointed out that it was only a variation on diffusion. He suggested that the figures given by Mr. Nursey should be considerably modified to agree with actual results, and considered that several very important points have yet to be satisfactorily settled before the Naudet process can be considered as anywhere near fulfilling the claims made on its behalf.

THE SUGAR POSITION.

Sugar, says M. G. Dureau, in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, of the 26th September, is entering on an interesting phase. The events which have marked the last sugar campaigns are in the memory of all. In 1903-4, the year of the putting in force of the Brussels' Convention for the abolition of bounties, the several Continental Powers lowered their customs and excise taxes on sugar, the price of sugar diminished in a marked manner, and consumption took a leap upwards. In 1904-5, the European beet crop, strongly tried by the drought, showed a heavy shortage, stocks were reduced, speculation took place and controlled the market, and prices were forced up to a high figure. Carried away by the rise, factories paid a high price for beet, and cultivation was extended in a corresponding proportion. The European crop, thanks to favourable weather united quantity with quality.

As the result of this combination of circumstances, the market became heavily depressed. The

European crop prospects appeared favourable, showing an excess over its predecessor of 2,200,000 tons. With stocks carried forward from the previous crop, coupled with the cane sugar production, consumption could count on considerable resources to draw upon. This, which had gone back in a great measure in 1904-5, by reason of the high prices, resumed its progress upwards thanks to the cheap sugar. Large deficiencies of sugar were shown in the United States, Europe, England and the extreme East. The European exportation, Austrian and German especially became unusually active: the cane crop, on the other hand, was deceptive. Cuba did not reach the big figure expected and gave no more than the preceding year. Java was short, and the British East Indies, also showing a deficiency, saw themselves under the necessity of importing large quantities of European beet sugar.

From the effect of these different factors, the statistical situation becomes healthy beyond all expectation, and it is with a visible world's supply relatively moderate (2,180,000 tons in 1905 and 2,096,000 tons in 1904 to the same date) that the season 1905-6 ends. On the other hand, the low price of sugar during last spring has had its effect on the beet cultivation; the sowings of 1906 have, from this cause, undergone a general reduction estimated at 27.6% for France, 5.9% for Germany, 7.9% for Austria-Hungary, 16.2% for Belgium, 9.1% for Holland. For the whole of Europe, the diminution amounts to only 4.6%, which, without doubt, would have been insufficient to lead to an improvement in the market if the crop of beet had been abundant. But that is not the point: the drought has hindered the growth of the beet, and the crop of Europe is stated on the whole to be markedly short of that of 1905-6, which was abundant and of excellent quality.

M. Dureau predicts a shortage of 370,000 tons for France, and says that for the rest of Europe a diminution of production to the extent of 10%, or somewhere about 700,000 tons, is generally admitted. Even should events in Cuba not interfere with the crop, the latter is not expected to exceed the figures of its predecessor. That is to say, may be 1,200,000 tons. United States refiners are therefore expected to buy largely in the European market during the next season.

COTTON IN ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The *Agricultural News* of September 8th, gives interesting particulars regarding the cotton cultivation in St. Kitts-Nevis. During the recent seasons some 3,300 acres were planted in cotton, in St. Kitts 800 acres, Nevis 1,500 acres, and Anguilla 1,000. The following table giving the returns of cotton reported for 1904 and 1905, and also for the first quarter of 1905 and 1906, shows the progress which has been made.

Island.	1904.		1905.		First Quarter.	
	lb.	...	lb.	...	1905. lb.	1906. lb.
St. Kitts ...	24,107	...	87,070	...	47,633	83,993
Nevis ...	28,449	...	144,721	...	47,008	56,530
Anguilla ...	1,661	...	31,977	...	17,200	71,800
Total ...	54,217	...	263,768	...	111,841	212,323

At St. Kitts, the system of planting cotton as a catch crop has proved very remunerative, and as far as can be seen, the succeeding cane crops have not suffered in any way. The general prices for St. Kitts cotton have ranged from $1/2$ to $1/3$ per lb. lint. The returns at Anguilla have been good—and average yield on some estates to 318 lbs. of seed cotton per acre. There are three ginneries at work in Anguilla. During the season the Central Factory turned out 191 bales of 200 lbs. each, including 131 bales from seed cotton sent in by peasants. At Nevis, while the average yield from 1000 acres was less than 200 lbs. seed cotton per acre, that on the experimental plot of the adjoining experiment station was 1210 lbs. The best results were obtained with planting $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

BANANAS FROM DUTCH GUIANA.

A contract has recently been made between the Government of Dutch Guiana and the United Fruit Company regarding the purchase and delivery of bananas, and the following terms have been agreed upon, both by the Government of the Colony and planters combined on the one part and the United Fruit Company on the other.

The planters bind themselves to start planting bananas on 2,470 acres, and to increase within three years to a minimum of 7,410 acres. For a minimum of 20,000 bunches a boat of the company will proceed to Dutch Guiana to buy and transport the same. The service will be a fortnightly one, and later on, as the supply increases, a weekly one. The prices for which bananas will be brought

will be as follows. During the first two years there will be paid: (a) For a bunch of nine hands 35c. during the months of March, April, May, June, November and December; and 20c. during the other months. (b) For bunches of eight hands there will be paid 23c. during the months of March, April, May, June, November and December; and 13c. during the other months. After the first two years for a bunch of nine hands: 25c. in March, April, May and June; 30c. in November and December; 20c. in the other months. For a bunch of eight hands: 23c. in March, April, May and June; 20c. in November and December; 13c. in the other months. For a bunch of seven hands: 17c. in March, April, May, June, November and December. In the other months they are not wanted at all. Thirty-six hours after arrival of steamers will be given to cut and transport the bananas. The prices quoted are American currency. The contract has to be approved of by the Netherlands' Government, and it is understood that the labour required will be imported from India.

VERY MANY YEARS AGO.

The Welfare of the Slaves.

In 1822 the agitation as to the condition of the negro slaves, which ultimately culminated some years later in their emancipation, was beginning to become general in Great Britain, and the West India Committee in sympathy with the movement, took further steps to improve the position of the negro. While the Committee held that there was no cause for complaint as to the general welfare of the negroes, they felt that with the assistance of the Colonial Legislatures, something might be done to put them on a still better footing. A sub-Committee was consequently appointed, and on April 26th, 1823, in accordance with their report, the following resolutions were passed—

Resolved: "That it would be proper that Sunday Markets should be abolished throughout the West India Colonies—and that the local Authorities should appoint some other sufficient time for the Markets and for the Negroes to work in their grounds; according to the different local usages, necessity and convenience of different Colonies, and different Districts in Colonies.

"And, for the purpose of giving efficacy to the intention of the above Resolution, That it be submitted to His Majesty's Ministers that the Government should take upon itself the providing and supporting a sufficient religious Establishment of the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches of England and Scotland, for the Negroes on every plantation to receive religious instruction, once at least, on every Sunday—such addition to the religious Establishment of the Colonies being to be placed, as the present religious Establishment is, under the local Governments."

Resolved: "That the use of the Whip in the field as a stimulus to labour be prohibited, and that some other symbol of authority be substituted for it. That Flogging be no longer used as a punishment for Women," and "That no punishment by the Whip be inflicted except in the presence of the Overseer and some other white person belonging to the Plantation; or, if there be not two white persons on the Property, then the person in charge of the Property shall call in as a Witness, some other white person, or free person of colour. And that every punishment be registered in a book to be kept for that purpose, with a specification of the Name of the Slave, and of the witness, the nature of his fault, and the number of lashes. And that such return be sworn to quarterly by the Overseer, and submitted to the inspection of the Magistrates in vestry or, in the Colonies where there are no regular vestries of Magistrates, before some other competent Authority."

Resolved: "That the practice of holding personal Property be secured to the Slave by Law, on condition that the Individual is married, with power of Inheritance to a married person, or to Children born in marriage."

As the result of these recommendations, Mondays were given up to the slaves in order to enable them to work on their own provision grounds, and it is easy to trace from this the origin of the disinclination of the negro to do estate's work on that day; but now unfortunately it generally means no Monday's work at all. The prevalence of religious practices among the black and coloured races in the West Indies is also traceable to the above action of the West India Committee.

MEETING WITH SIR FREDERIC HODGSON.

Following our usual practice when West Indian Governors visit this country, a special general meeting of the West India Committee was held on Wednesday, October 3rd, at 3.30 p.m., to meet Sir Frederic M. Hodgson, Governor of British Guiana, prior to his return to the Colony. Sir Henry

Davson presided, and among those present were: Sir E. Noel Walker, Col. Lushington, Col. Trollope, Col. W. Tolson, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Miss Bratt, Mr. C. A. Campbell, Mr. Ernest D. Clarke, Mr. Cyril Davson, Mr. E. R. Davson, Mr. G. A. Dillon, Mr. M. Garnett, Mr. G. Hughes, Mr. Lionel Jacob, Mr. A. McCunnell, Mr. W. Macdonald, Mr. J. Monro Nicol, Mr. D. Keith Nightingale, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. Hamel Smith, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Mr. E. C. Whitaker, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary.

Sir Henry K. Davson, after a few preliminary remarks, said: Sir Frederic, it is very kind of you to consent to meet us in this informal manner. It is of great advantage to the West India Committee and to the Colonies generally, that they should have opportunities of meeting the different Governors and comparing notes as to the prospects and requirements of those Colonies. We are all aware of the difficult period you went through before you left the Colony on account of the riots; it was a most anxious time and might have been attended with very serious results but for the prompt measures adopted to put them down. I trust that I am not premature in expressing a hope that the effects of the riots are now over, and that the feeling of disloyalty to the Government and of personal animosity to the Governor and to those who carry out his instructions for the suppression of disorder has given place to a better understanding. I hope, also, for the early extinction of the altogether erroneous idea which appears to exist in some quarters that because of immigration the planters are unfavourable to the employment of black labour. Immigration was commenced some sixty years ago, and since that time there have been some twenty Governors and Acting Governors, one and all of whom, although they have differed in a great many points, have supported it and expressed their opinion that unless immigration is continued, the staple industry of the Colony must cease, and with the cessation of the staple industry the Colony must necessarily collapse. I do not mean by that—far from it—that the industry of sugar is the only one to be supported, but I maintain that on the staple industry depends to a great extent those minor industries in which you, Sir, and the West India Committee are so deeply interested. The staple industry is the great source of the general prosperity of the Colony and that general prosperity creates the means by which the minor industries are founded. We had great hopes at one time of a revival of the cotton industry, under which the Colony prospered many years ago, but that hope is at present in abeyance so far as British Guiana is concerned. The rice industry, however, which I may mention was given its first start by the resident labourers on the sugar estates, is growing apace. The cocoanut industry also seems to be growing and the cattle industry. All this, I maintain, is through immigration. Immigration promotes population. Population promotes development, and development gives employment to all classes alike. We have great possessions in the Colonies, and there is the Hinterland, which can only be developed by population, and if the labouring classes would only see it in the same light, they would realise that as the Colony gets extended, so will their opportunities of employment be created.

We are aware that before you left the Colony, Your Excellency appointed a commission to make proposals in connection with land settlement, giving allotment to the blacks and thus creating a peasant proprietary, which is a blessing to every country. How far that will succeed, I suppose we are not in a position to know at present, but we hope that it may be successful. There is the gold industry, too, which has not been going ahead as fast as we could have wished, and is still in its infancy, but there is no doubt that there is immense wealth lying in the Hinterland to be developed, and we hope that under your auspices it will be developed, at all events partially, during your term. Then there is also the subject of cable communication. This is a very serious matter, both as regards the Government and the business people. It is impossible to estimate the loss caused to the latter by the breaking of the cable, especially in crop time. We are all heartily glad that the Secretary of State has approved of your action in connection with your administration during the time you have been there. We are pleased that you are returning to the Colony, and we wish you every success in your administration. (Cheers).

The importance of immigration.

Sir Frederic Hodgson, who was received with applause, said that the sugar industry must still be regarded as the backbone of the Colony, and that until the native population gave continuous labour the immigration of East Indians must continue. He wished it to be clearly understood that, at the time of the recent regrettable riots he was in no way influenced by any special feeling towards the planting interests, but by a desire to limit the area of lawlessness and to prevent the loss of life and property, and that if any other body but the native population had been involved he would have acted in a precisely similar manner. Referring to small holdings, Sir Frederic pointed out that the acquisition of land under the present regulations was by no means a costly matter; a homestead of five acres could be obtained for \$2.50, and of 100 acres for \$52.50, such charges being sufficient only to cover the expenses to which the the Government was put in respect to surveying the land, &c. Referring to minor industries, he said that the number of industries which could be undertaken was of course,

dependent upon the population, and that the population at the present time was, roughly, 320,000, of which number 90,000 were resident on the sugar estates, and that the rice industry, which had an assured future, absorbed a large number and would absorb still more, as it was developing very rapidly. The cultivation of cotton had not been overlooked. It had unfortunately been proved that Sea Island cotton was not a commodity which could be as satisfactorily grown in British Guiana as in other places, but every attention was being turned to the possibility of other kinds being cultivated.

Referring to mail communication, he said that though the matter had now been put right, it was not altogether in the best form, but that the existing mail service was better than nothing at all, and he believed that it would answer its purpose for the present. He recognised that the question of cable communication was extremely important. He said that he had been sitting on a committee at the Colonial Office which was presided over by Mr. Winston Churchill, upon this subject. That committee had not come to any decision, but there was a feeling that it might be possible to introduce wireless telegraphy with advantage, placing all the Islands in communication with Jamaica, and thus securing communication with England through Canada. Tenders had been called for, which he believed had to be sent in by September 30th. There was a general desire to improve communication in the West Indies, and he would do all in his power with regard to it, because he recognised that British Guiana was worse off than all the British Colonies in this respect.

Mr. Rutherford said that he was rather surprised to hear from Sir Frederic Hodgson that the West Indies were likely to be dependent on wireless telegraphy, and as one of the sub-committee appointed to consider cable communication, he wished to say that he did not look at all favourable upon such proposals. He felt that it had by no means been proved a success, and as merchants were largely dependent on the cable for business communication, they hoped that before the Government adopted wireless, they might be allowed to say a word about it.

Sir Frederic Hodgson said that the committee at the Colonial Office was only putting out feelers to ascertain if wireless communication were possible. Representatives from the different companies had attended, and all said that they would guarantee to effect such communication, but he doubted if anything would be done without some communication with such an important and representative body as the West India Committee. The matter was in the hands of the Colonial Office, and nothing definite had been decided.



The West Indian Section at the Toronto Exhibition.

Exhibits from most of the West Indian Islands were displayed at the Canadian Industrial Exhibition, held at Toronto, from August 27th till September 10th last. From their variety and great interest they proved a constant source of attraction and we are indebted to Messrs. Pickford & Black, who contributed so largely to the success of the Exhibition by receiving the specimens and carrying them freight free, for the photograph from which this illustration is taken.

THE WEST INDIES IN CANADA.

The representation of the British West Indian Islands at the Canadian Industrial Exhibitions at Toronto and Halifax, N.S., this autumn, should do a great deal towards furthering the trade relations between Canada and the West Indies. The exhibition at Toronto was opened on August 27th and closed on September 10th, and on one day alone 100,000 people paid for tickets and passed the turnstiles. The Halifax Exhibition opened on September 22nd, and the West Indian exhibit proved a

constant source of attraction. These are the first exhibitions of any sort in which the newly-formed Permanent Exhibition Committees of the West Indies have taken part, and it is greatly to the credit of those bodies, no less than to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, which has taken such a great interest in the matter, that such successful results have been attained. It is much to be hoped that, stimulated by the interest awakened by these exhibitions, the Committee will endeavour to render an equally good account of themselves at the Horticultural Exhibition at Westminster on December 3rd, 4th and 5th. Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent and St. Kitts have already expressed themselves favourably disposed towards the exhibition, and the former Island is endeavouring to secure the co-operation of the remainder. The West India Committee are willing to do everything they can to make the exhibition a success, but time is short, and it will be necessary for our friends in the West Indies to take the matter up immediately.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Beet Sugar in Italy.

Beet cultivation in Italy occupies about 40,000 hectares of land only, as the consumption of sugar in the interior is not more than about 3 kilos. per inhabitant. Attempts have been made to increase the industry by employing the root for the manufacture of alcohol, but it has been alleged that this industry cannot be remunerative unless means can be found to combine with it the making of sugar and molasses. There are at present in Italy 33 sugar factories and five refineries, giving employment to about 12,000 workmen during the crop season and about 5,000 during the whole year.

Cotton Cultivation in Palestine.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Jaffa (Mr. J. Palanga) has forwarded a further report on this subject. He expresses the opinion that this cultivation would, if properly carried out, give good results. The soil is rich and convenient for the purpose. The climate is mild in winter and moist in summer. Between Jaffa and Haiffa there are great quantities of flat land which can be purchased or rented, and where irrigation can be obtained if necessary. The value of land for cotton culture is ten times lower than it is in Egypt, viz., approximately £8 per acre. Hand work is cheap, at the rate of one shilling per day for a man, and sixpence for a woman.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. "Port Kingston" which left Kingston, Jamaica, on September 13th, arrived at Avonmouth on September 25th, and among her passengers were Mr. C. Reid Campbell, Mrs. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. A. Pawsey and Mr. E. Lucie Smith. The R.M.S.P. "Atrato" left Barbados at 7 a.m. on September 19th and reached Southampton at 5.40 a.m. on October 1st. Hon. W. M. Gordon and Mr. C. M. Goodridge were among those who travelled by her. We extract the following from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Drought after rains in Antigua.

When the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on August 29th, the crop was almost over, except on a few belated estates, where the wet proper reaping seasons prevented manufacture progressing at the right time. The higher prices for sugar would be some compensation for the loss caused by not reaping in the best months. The unusually wet reaping season had been succeeded by very dry weather at a time of year when frequent showers were supposed to prevail. A long spell of drought at this time of year would be a very serious matter, for they were passing through the hottest months, in which growth would be most rapid if rain fell. Quite a large area of land prepared for cotton planting was waiting for the soaking which was necessary to make the planting of the seed possible. The longer this was delayed the later would the cotton be, and the more uncertain the return.

The Barbados Sugar Crop.

Writing on September 16th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne stated that Mr. J. Challenor Lynch had been appointed a member of the Legislative Council in the place of Mr. J. T. Jones, deceased, while Mr. J. O. Wright replaced Mr. Lynch as member for Bridgetown in the House of Assembly. He regretted to announce the death on September 15th after a long illness of Mr. Fred Browne, Attorney and Manager of Carrington Plantation, the property of Mr. George Carrington. He had also to mention the death of Mr. Frank Moore, of Stockton, a well-known and respected member of the community, who left a widow and several children, with whom universal sympathy would be felt. It was only a few months since his sister Miss Moore died after a brief illness in England.

The export of sugar for the current year was given to date as 47,839 tons of sugar and 59,604 puncheons of molasses. This was largely in excess of what was estimated at the beginning of the crop, and even of the writer's amended estimate letter. To this had to be added several thousand tons which would be held for local consumption, for the labourers now consumed sugar largely, where formerly they used molasses.

It was supposed to be the season for plover, "long-legs" and other migratory birds, but as yet they had been far from plentiful, and there had been more bridge than shooting on the swamps. The emigration to Panama seemed to have ceased for a time. A good many of the emigrants had returned with bad malarial fever, and this seemed to have discouraged others. The splitting up of estates into small holdings was still going on, and villages had sprung up where a short time ago there was hardly a house. The Governor and Lady Carter were expected to return from the U.S. about September 25th.

The heat during the month of September had been very great; whether the earthquakes felt in the neighbouring Islands had had anything to do with it was not known. On September 1st there was a disturbance to the north somewhere about St. Kitts, and there was a slight blow in Barbados for some hours. With that exception there had been hardly any breeze, but intense stillness and fierce suns. The leeward and northern sides of the Island had been blessed with fine rains, and some estates had recorded as much as 5 ins. for the month up to date. The canes were growing rapidly, and there was a promise of an excellent crop. It was unfortunate, however, that Christ Church and St. Philips on the whole had been almost entirely passed over, and many estates had not marked so much as an inch. At Porter's the plant canes still continued to grow nicely, but the ratoons seemed to have received a check. Cotton was making a good show, and there was hardly an estate without one or more fields of it. It was, however, attacked by no less than four different kinds of disease, and the vigilance of the planter had to be incessant. It was noticed that there had never been seen such quantities of moths, butterflies and all kinds of pests as had been prevalent this year. Not only cotton had been attacked, but potatoes, Indian corn, imphee, and all kinds of green dressing; some fields had been entirely destroyed. It was hoped that these pests would be lessened after the expiration of September, and in the meantime every effort was being made to subdue them. The amount of Paris green which had been used was enormous.

Rice in British Guiana.

The half-yearly meeting of the British Guiana Bank had taken place, the Directors reporting a balance for the half-year of \$148,885 as compared with \$128,662 for the corresponding six months of last year, although business generally had been considerably retarded from the effects of the drought and low sugar prices. The gold and diamond business was spoken of as improving.

The Demerara County Agricultural Show had been held on September 12th and 13th, and proved a great success. The show was opened by the Acting-Governor, Mr. C. T. Cox, who alluded to the possibilities of the Colony as regards minor industries. From the small output of rice of fifteen years ago, the area under cultivation had now risen to 30,000 acres, and the value of the product to \$1,000,000.

Some sales of crystals in advance were reported, and the quotation when Mr. J. C. McCowan wrote on September 15th was \$2.27½. The weather was very hot and dry, and showers would be acceptable. Canes were ripening up, but the arrow was backward.

A new industry in Dominica.

In a letter dated September 7th, Mr. E. A. Agar complained that the revised working of the mail service was worse than ever, but they had great faith in the ability of the local R.M. agent so to arrange the "Yare's" trips to Barbados that they should not be so much inconvenienced. The incipient trade in green limes with London, which really was beginning to make a start this season, had, of course, been put an end to. This was most regrettable, as it would mean beginning almost *ab initio* next year. To cut off the supply just when the demand was becoming appreciable was fatal to the trade, and it was a trade that might mean a great deal to the carriers as well as to the growers of the fruit in a few years.

In the previous week the weather conditions for a day or two looked very stormy, but the disturbance passed north of the Island, and they suffered nothing worse than a stiffish breeze and a heavy sea. At the time of writing the weather was very dry.

It might be remembered that some time ago it was mentioned that Mr. Administrator Bell was experimenting with a sawmill, believing that the timber of Dominica could be worked at a profit. It was proved to be a commercial success but the Government left off working. Mr. Agar was pleased to announce that the timber business was now being taken up by private enterprise, and it was believed that dressed timber could be sold at an enormous reduction on the prices at present ruling.

for imported stuff. Among the timber felled there would be a large assortment of cabinet woods which might meet with a good demand with furniture makers at home.

In a subsequent letter dated September 14th, Mr. Agar stated that the Free (Carnegie) Library was open to the public. The books from the Victoria Memorial Library had been transferred to the former building, and while the library was free to the public for reading, the rules under which the V.M. Library was managed remained in force at present with regard to taking books and papers away from the building.

An ice famine in Grenada.

When Mr. C. Falconer Anton wrote on September 15th, the cable repairing steamer "Henry Holmes" was still at the Island. Her next move, unless a break occurred, would probably be St. Lucia to coal. The S.S. "Maracas" which arrived from New York on September 7th, encountered some very heavy weather, and unfortunately lost, among other things on deck, the supply of ammonia for the ice factory, which was anxiously expected to relieve a partial ice famine which had prevailed on and off for the last few months.

A farewell dinner to the Governor was to be given by the members of the St. George's Club on September 26th, and it promised to be quite a large party. Lady Llewelyn would be At Home for the last time at 4.30 p.m. on that day. A meeting of the Legislative Council had been summoned for the 25th, and there was to be a Council dinner at Government House in the evening of the same day.

The extreme dry weather which had prevailed for the past two or three weeks had been relieved by some light showers since the 13th. The cocoa trees gave promise of a good crop. There was a rather sharp shock of earthquake at 4.55 a.m. on the 7th, but no damage was done.

Cotton healthy in Montserrat.

On September 1st the first heavy squalls from the north-west and later from the south-west, together with a low barometer, indicated that there was bad weather to the north, but Mr. Conrad Watson, writing on the 7th, stated that any slight damage to the crop was compensated for by a rainfall of from four to six inches. The young cotton plants looked healthy, and with the ordinary rainfall the Island would make a good crop.

A shipment of limes which has been sent by sloop to Dominica for the S.S. "Yare" to take to Barbados for shipment by the Royal Mail was returned, as the "Yare" did not take it, and it was quite evident that lack of proper and regular steam communication would kill such industries.

Stormy weather in Nevis.

Hon. C. A. Shand, on September 15th, reported that since he last wrote there had been a great change in the weather. On Saturday, September 1st, there was every appearance of a gale and they had a strong southerly blow with violent rain squalls until Sunday afternoon, when the wind moderated. No harm was done to growing crops beyond the earlier planted cotton being knocked about a bit, and the rain was a perfect Godsend, as it was much needed. They had from seven to nine inches. The Governor was to have visited Nevis on the 3rd, but could not get there until the 5th, and even then he had a very rough passage across. He remained in Nevis until Friday and was present at a meeting of the Agricultural Society at which he presided, and during his stay he saw most of the Island.

St. Kitts and the Mail Arrangements.

Writing on September 14th, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson stated that since last advices the Island had enjoyed lovely growing weather, nice showers, hot sun and no wind, of which everything had taken advantage, not leaving out the mosquitoes. There was a curious over-lapping of crops this year. In several places the 1905-6 crop was not finished, and others were already started on the 1906-7 harvest.

The Permanent Exhibition Committee of the Agricultural Society had decided to make a contribution towards the expenses of the exhibition to be held in London on December 4th and 5th next, but it was extremely unlikely that the Island would be able to show anything, on account of the utter absence of means of communication. The mail question became more and more vexatious with time, change on change and all for the worse. What they wanted was certainty, if not fortnightly, at least monthly. The Imperial Government had, apparently without reluctance, contributed 50% towards subsidising the Canadian service, by which they were assured of a roundabout way of getting their letters home, but they never knew when they were going to receive any. Then it was not everyone

who wanted to go home *via* New York and Halifax, and to avoid doing so it was necessary either to charter a sloop to Dominica (to catch R.M.S. "Yare") or travel to Barbados in a cargo tramp at some extra expense and considerable extra discomfort. And yet they were told to think Imperially!

His Excellency the Governor, after installing Mr. W. M. Wigley in the Commissionership at Anguilla, and a visit to Tortola, would distribute the prizes at the Grammar School on the 15th, afterwards proceeding to Antigua by S.S. "Korona." The rainfall since last mail had varied from one to six inches, but had nowhere done damage.

Dry weather in St. Lucia.

Hon. Sydney D. Melville stated on September 15th that they had had a spell of dry weather since the last two weeks, and the heat was great. The crops, however, were still promising.

Cotton prospects in St. Vincent.

With their good name for producing Sea Island cotton, and the price of arrowroot keeping up, Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co., in a letter dated September 17th, said that all that remained to bring back prosperity to the Island was the opening up of the Carib country by putting back the water supply, which would encroach but very little on the balance of the Eruption Fund.

Mr. W. N. Sands, writing on September 14th, reported that the weather had been very dry during the past fortnight, which was unusual for the time of year, but when he closed his letter a heavy shower was falling, and it looked as if the dry spell had broken. The cyclonic disturbance mentioned in last letter did no damage in the Island.

The early planted cotton had come on well and was flowering freely. The later plantings had been kept back by the dry weather but should now push ahead. That undesirable pest, the cotton worm, had made its appearance on several estates, but so far no serious damage had been done. Planters had been put on their guard, and would deal promptly with the insect with suitable insecticides should necessity arise. Mr. Sands learnt that the cotton in the Carib country was not looking well; he hoped to visit the district during the next few days. The large amount of ash and the dry weather seemed to have acted against it. All in St. Vincent were anxious to see the devastated area soon producing some remunerative crop again, and if cotton would give fair returns, there was some hope.

The Government were forming a quarantine station in Kingstown, under the supervision of the newly appointed Government veterinary surgeon. This station would enable stock to be shipped to neighbouring Colonies under certificate after fourteen days isolation.

The Permanent Exhibition Committee had under consideration the question of taking part in the exhibition of Colonial fruit in December next, and also the Colonial exhibition to be held at Liverpool, in March, 1907. Of course, everything depended on the question of funds, but the Government and the Imperial Department of Agriculture would be asked to assist in the matter.

A buoyant cocoa market in Trinidad.

The Acting Governor had returned from Tobago and was entertained to dinner by the Union Club on the 14th September, he being, in the absence of the Governor, the Club's President. Sir Henry Jackson was taking an extension of leave for a fortnight, and would not leave England until October 10th.

When the Hon. G. T. Fenwick wrote on September 17th, he stated that the weather continued as reported by last mail—fine with occasional showers mostly light or of short duration. The heat was intense.

Good accounts came from all the sugar growing districts. As regards cocoa, the phenomenal strength of the London market during the past ten days had accelerated the extremely buoyant tone of the Trinidad market report in his last letter. The principal buying had been of an entirely speculative nature at prices much above the parity of London's present advanced price. The exceedingly small deliveries had favoured the operations of this speculator, who claimed to have cornered the Trinidad stocks throughout the world. It was doubtful whether this manoeuvre would be successful in maintaining the present famine prices, because owing to the good weather during the past three or four weeks planters were more hopeful of early supplies. Under these circumstances no business had been possible for future shipment, and the chief exporting houses were standing by awaiting the development of this speculation. The supply of Venezuelan grades during the past fortnight had been very small, and in consequence, little change was to be reported in the market. The speculation in Trinidad had not extended to this grade of cocoa, and consequently it could now be purchased at cheaper rates than inferior Trinidad. Reports with regard to the crop were fairly favourable, and shipments might be expected to arrive in time for January deliveries.

conclusions drawn, based on the figures given in the report. Mr. Martineau's criticism is accompanied by some interesting figures relative to the East Indian Sugar Industry. Mr. H. Pellet contributes an article on "Uniform Methods of Analysis of Cane Factory products," while among the excerpts of unusual interest may be mentioned a description of "Some Hawaii Sugar Factories." Rules adapted from the United States *Bulletin* for the extermination of mosquitoes are also given.

The Story of Trinidad Electric, Halifax, N.S. The Royal Securities Corporation, Ltd.—What strikes one most on looking at the illustrations which decorate this pamphlet is the remarkable improvement effected in recent years in the architecture and means of locomotion in and around Port-of-Spain. Pictures are shown of Mr. Agostini's (why Agostini?) palatial residence, the Archbishop's Palace, Queen's Royal College, and Mr. C. Stollmeyer's (not Stobmeyer) house, which would be considered stately and imposing in any European capital. As to locomotion, a full description, with illustrations and plan, is given of the elaborate tramway system maintained by the Trinidad Electric Company. Among the portraits given are excellent likenesses of Mr. William Gordon Gordon (Vice-President of the Company), Mr. C. H. Caban, and Mr. F. W. Teale, the General Manager.

Britain, Wake up! by Tom Neill. Exeter: Besley & Dalgleish, Ltd. 1s., post free 1s. 3d. In a preface to this book, which is published as a reply to a pamphlet entitled "England's Ruin," issued in the interests of Free Importers, Mr. J. Chamberlain, in a letter dated June 22nd, 1906, says that it will provide for all serious enquirers a full account of both sides of the greatest and most urgent political problems of the day. A glance at the index shows what a mass of information Mr. Neill places at the disposal of his readers. He takes the assertions contained in the pamphlet above referred to *seriatim* and ruthlessly tears them to pieces until not a shred remains. Though it may fairly be claimed that the abolition of bounties was in the interests of Free Trade, a certain section of politicians argued that it was otherwise, and consequently Mr. Neill has devoted many pages to this aspect of the question. For this we are thankful; so well has he performed his self-allotted task. We are glad also to find our old enemy, the Rum Surtax, tackled in a manner which must cause a shudder to run down the backs of English distillers who have for too long enjoyed protection as against their Colonial brethren. Judging by the accuracy of Mr. Neill's notes regarding sugar alone, we should be satisfied that he has added a useful and important commentary on an absorbing topic. This work, small in bulk but full of concentrated matter, should be read and treasured by all who take an active interest in one of the most burning questions of the day. It furnishes a complete and perfect handbook and *vide mecum* on the subject.

The Canadian War of 1812, by C. P. Lucas, C.B. Oxford: Clarendon Press. The author in his preface declares that this very interesting volume is only intended to be an instalment of Canadian history which has been compiled as far as possible simply from the despatches on both sides relating to the war. This is a modest estimate of the work, as Mr. Lucas' services as reviewer and compiler are most valuable. Six out of the eight maps which accompany the letterpress are contemporary American maps from an atlas by John Melish, published in Philadelphia in 1813. A comparison of the despatches of the rival armies shows that they do not invariably tally, although both evidently strive after the truth. It was well that this work was undertaken, as the author points out that this really important chapter in the Empire's history has been studied by very few. It might have sunk into absolute oblivion had not the fight between the "Shannon" and the "Chesapeake" kept its memory green. "It was a war between kindred peoples, which wrought no immediate profit to either, and which apparently had no result whatever—for the combatants ended as they had begun—beyond increased bitterness between the two sections of the British race." And the Nation at the time was engaged in an incomparably greater struggle, which ended in the glorious records of the Peninsula and Waterloo. It was an unpopular war from a British point of view, and one to be quickly forgotten, for its chief incidents did not add to the reputation of the Navy. But for all that, as Mr. Lucas points out, the British Empire owes a debt which can never be over-estimated to the war of 1812. It gave to Canada for all-time her status as a Nation. To quote the author's words, speaking of the district between Lakes Erie and Ontario, "Here the Loyalists and their descendants lived; here they fought for their own; and then witness to-day, delightful to all who have the good fortune to visit it, is the little capital which was twice taken and raided—the great, bright city of Toronto." It will be seen that in spite of the bounds created by official despatches, Mr. Lucas has dealt with his subject with the grace and enthusiasm that might have been expected from so accomplished a writer. From cover to cover the book is full of interesting matter which will hold its own even in these days of sensational war journalism. Mr. Lucas is to be congratulated upon the result of his patriotic labours.—*Arthur a Beckett*

An Account of the Donations for the Relief of Sufferers by Fire at Bridge Town in the Island of Barbadoes, in May and December, 1766, and of the application of the same. Printed by S. Goadby, Stationer, at the Royal Exchange, London. On the title page of this old book, for the gift of which to the West India Committee we have to thank Mr. Edward Chambers, is an etching representing the City of London presenting a bag of money to Barbados, who sits *in statu naturæ* besides a hoghead in the midst of the ruins of her chief town. Sugar-canes lie at her feet, and below is written "Freely, Speedily, Amply." George Walker, Treasurer of the Relief Fund, explains in an "advertisement" at the beginning of the book that "The respectable Names, connected with the Island, who join'd in giving their Assistance, at the beginning of the book that 'The Reality of the Distress' ... Opportunity was taken of acquainting the Publick with fervent to manifest to the World, the Reality of the Distress' ... Opportunity was taken of acquainting the Publick with the remittances to the Island, which were made immediately after the Collection of any considerable sum." Of course "the contribution, ample as it may appear," was "very inadequate to the Loss." "The Distributions were made to the indigent Sufferers only and even from these, an Account upon Oath was required." The list of donations which amounted to £10,740 10s. 7d., include the King (George III.), £500. Card Party, intended to have been spent in a Day of Pleasure, £5 4s. 6d., Beeton Long, Esq. (Chairman of the West India Committee), £21; Lottery Ticket, drawn a Blank, £5 5s. 6d., Mire of a London Curate, £1 1s.; Servants of a tradesmen's family, 5s. 9d.; Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, £100; the West India Merchants (now the West India Committee), £300; and numerous Gentlemen, Ladies, and Persons unknown. The invoices of shipments of Gold are reproduced in full, and it appears that the aces of them were effected with the Royal Exchange Assurance. From the list of Disbursements it is shown that Advertisements were inserted in the *St. James Chronicle* and *Lloyd's Evening Post*, and one of the items was 6d. for searching at the Lottery Office at Whiteball for the fate of the Ticket given to the fund. An Alphabetical List of the Sufferers with the Amount of their Losses, and the sums given to each of them, discloses the fact that *sufferers* to the extent of £70 and under were paid in full, and others being given what was judged by Messrs. Gedney Clarke, Sampson Wood, Timothy Blenman, James Butler Harris, and John Luke, proper to award them. The local expenses included £300 for Engines and Fire Buckets for the Fire Companies in Bridgetown; £1 for a Trunk to keep the papers in, and 5s. for 100 quills. Reference to Schomburgk's History of Barbadoes tells us that the fires in question broke out at half-past eleven on the night of May 13th, 1766, and burnt until nine next morning; 440 houses, including the Custom House, and other public build-

ings were destroyed, and the damage was estimated at £300,000 sterling. The greater number of the houses which were spared in this conflagration fell a prey to the flames on the 27th of December following, when a fire broke out in the store of Messrs. Bedford & Co. between eight and nine at night, and continued until the following morning.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MORE THAN ENOUGH. A recent advertisement for an overseer for an estate in the West Indies resulted in 450 applications being received!

ACKNOWLEDGED. We omitted to mention that the portrait of the Hon. Robert G. Duncan, which appeared in our issue of September 19th, was from a photograph by Messrs. Elliott & Fry.

HIGH AWARD. The Stirling Boiler Company have been awarded a gold medal for a Marine Stirling Boiler erected by them at Milan for the purpose of supplying steam to that Exhibition.

THE CONVENTION. The Danish Ministers of Finance have introduced into the Folkething, a Bill modifying the provisions for the taxation of sugar in such a way as to enable Denmark to join the Brussels Sugar Convention.

SUGAR IN INDIA. The imports of sugar into British India for the four month's ending July 1906, were 176,605 tons, of which Mauritius contributed 30,878 tons, Java 17,317 tons, Germany 65,729 tons, and Austria-Hungary 50,599 tons.

FAIR TRADE SWEETS. Maynards, Ltd., the well-known confectioners, who for each of the last three years ended June, 1905, paid a dividend of 6 per cent. have not only increased their dividend to 10 per cent. but have placed £3,000 to reserve, as compared with £1,000 a year ago, while no reduction is made in the carry forward.

A NEW CARTEL. The Austrian sugar refineries, which formed themselves into a ring two years ago, are negotiating with the raw sugar factories and the Hungarian refineries for their inclusion. It is stated that the ring has no intention of raising prices, its only object being to prevent the erection of any new sugar factories.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended October 4th, 4 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.65d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. Prices paid 6d. to 14½d.

STILL ONE BETTER. Our esteemed contemporary, the *Argosy*, which pays us the unique compliment of describing us as "sedate," referring to our recent note regarding the man-eating mosquito of Berbice, states that it is an established fact that the telegraph wires have more than once been cut by the habit which the mosquitos have of sharpening their beaks on the metal!

MR. G. F. BURN. Under Mr. G. F. Burn's management the Barbados Light Railway has acquired a good name for punctuality. According to a return recently issued, 92.1 per cent. of the trains arrived punctually within ten minutes of the schedule time, only 6.8 per cent. of the trains were over ten minutes but under twenty minutes late, and only one train was over twenty minutes late.

SOME LIME HINTS. Experience shows that those limes which are wrapped in stout paper keep longer than those in the very thin tissue paper. Shippers would do well to bear this in mind. The desirability of adopting the plan of a Sicilian lemon exporter, who has some two dozen uses of the lemons for medicinal and other purposes printed on the wrappers of his fruit, is also worthy of consideration.

IN OCTOBER. "This Month finish your Hoeing, and entirely employ your Time in planting Canes, and get in at least three-fifths of the 100 Acres planted. People were formerly fond of planting Corn in their young Canes, which if possible ought to be omitted, as that Corn is certainly of Prejudice to the Canes, and may be better provided for in Manner I shall hereafter advise."—*Treatise on Husbandry or Planting by William Belgrave, 1755.*

A SERIOUS HANDICAP. The Trinidad Cocoa Manufacturing Company have decided to suspend operations in view of the discriminating duty between manufactured and raw cocoa entering the United Kingdom. The Company was formed to manufacture cocoa from the bean in Trinidad, but it has been felt that to compete with the home-made cocoa would, under the circumstances, be useless, and work will not be resumed until the duties are equalised.

WHY NOT IMPERIAL? A syndicate of Lancashire cotton-spinners has, it is reported, bought a tract of land in Brownsville, Texas, to the extent of 4,000 acres, in order to cultivate the growth of cotton. For a number of years English spinners have been looking about for a suitable place to grow

raw material, believing that the cost would be thereby reduced. A few months ago several Manchester employers visited the cotton belt and made careful inquiry into the culture of cotton. More land is intended to be bought if the present experiment succeeds.

A WATER CURE. Sir Alfred L. Jones, whom we have to congratulate on his restoration to health, has apparently been having a high old time with the civic dignitaries in Harrogate, where he has been taking the waters. On Tuesday, September 18th, he entertained the members of the Corporation to dinner at the Grand Hotel, with the object of ventilating various suggestions for bringing Harrogate into closer touch with the Colonial public. The proceedings were characterised by several amusing speeches, which are reported at some length in the Harrogate press.

AN OLD STORY. The state and condition of the indentured immigrants, says Commander Coombs in his annual Report on Immigration, continues to improve, and convictions for breach of indenture were less than during the previous year, but those for absconding were still numerous. This has been due, not to the immigrant being dissatisfied or ill-treated upon the estates, but to the golden visions of the Eldorado which lies only a few hours journey across the narrow belt dividing Trinidad from the Spanish Main, which are shown to the coolies by evil-disposed persons anxious to take them across for the sake of the "passage money," which generally means taking them across and robbing them of all they possess, and the bonus which is given them on the other side for each labourer.

OUR VISITORS. Among recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms have been Mr. G. A. Sealy, who will not leave for Barbados until November 7th, Mr. Randolph Rust whose record visit to England in a year is nearly over; Mr. L. P. and Mrs. Wrench, and Mr. Abdy F. Anderson of Dominica; Mr. Fred E. Scott and Mr. Ernest D. Clarke of Trinidad; Mr. Robert Craig and Mr. R. S. Gamble, who sailed for Jamaica in the "Port Kingston" which, also had as passenger Hon. Lt. Col. C. J. Ward, and the Hon. H. and Mrs. Bourne. Among the passengers leaving to-morrow in the "Atrato" are Sir Henry and Lady Jackson, Sir Frederic and Lady Hodgson, the Hon. R. G. Duncan and family, Hon. H. A. Alcazar, K.C., Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, who will be accompanied by Mr. Allan Campbell a cousin of the former, Mr. J. B. D. Sellier, and Mr. Carl Wieting.

OLD TIME SUGAR The sugar-cane and its uses have been known in India, its native home, says the *Globe*, from time immemorial. It is, perhaps, the earliest source from which sugar was produced, and all other modes of manufacture have been borrowed from or based on it. It was the Arabs, those great carriers from the East and the West, who introduced the cane in the Middle Ages into Egypt, Sicily, and South of Spain, where it flourished abundantly until West Indian slavery drove it out of the field for a time, and sent the trade in sugar to Jamaica and Cuba. Egyptian sugar was carried to London in Plantagenet times by the Venetian fleet. Early in the sixteenth century the cane was taken from Sicily to Madeira and the Canaries. Thence it found its way to Brazil and Mexico, to Jamaica and Hayti. Cane-sugar was well-known in Italy about the second century, and has been common in England since the Tudor period.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Wed. Sept. 26th.—Mr Chamberlain's health, announcement in the *Times*.—*Beet*, 9s. 10d., firm.
- Thurs., Sept. 27th.—Bank Rate 4 per cent., unchanged.—Cuba: Moderate Party agreed to discuss peace terms with the rebels.—*Beet*, 9s. 10½d., quiet.
- Fri. Sept. 28th.—Cape Colony address presented to Lord Milner.—Mr. Deakin announced that a treaty of reciprocity had been arranged between Australia and South Africa.—Cuba: a Reuter's telegram stated that the leaders of all parties had decided to yield everything rather than submit to intervention.—Programme of the Tariff Reform League in the *Times*, page 7. *Beet*, 9s. 9½d., steady.
- Sat. Sept. 29th.—Cuba: the United States intervened and Mr. Taft proclaimed himself provisional Governor of the Island.—Mr. Lloyd George at Llanelli criticised the House of Lords.—Alderman Sir W. Treloar elected Lord Mayor of London.—*Beet* (morning call) 9s. 11½d., firm.
- Sun., Sept. 30th.—President Castro reported to be dangerously ill.
- Mon., Oct. 1st.—Cuba: Mr. Taft, speaking at Havana, said that American intervention had been undertaken solely to enable the Cubans to establish self-government. All the troops of the 1st American occupying force en route for Cuba.—Prospectus of the "British Guiana Rubber Corporation, Ltd.," issued. *Beet*, 9s. 7½d., steady.
- Tues., Oct. 2nd.—The Executive of the Moderate Party of Cuba issued a strongly worded manifesto condemning American intervention.—*Beet*, 9s. 6d., flat.
- Wed. Oct. 3rd.—General Funston appointed to command the United States troops.—General meeting of the West India Committee to meet Sir Frederic Hodgson.—*Beet*, 9s. 4½d., quiet.
- Thurs., Oct. 4th.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—*Beet*, 9s. 5d., steady.

- Fri., Oct. 5th.—Letter from Mr. Chamberlain read at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Tariff Reform League, dealing with the progress achieved by the cause of fiscal reform.—R.M.S.P. "Trent," New York for Southampton, left Jamaica 8 a.m.—Beet, 9s. 3¹/₂d., quiet.
- Sat., Oct. 6th.—Letter from Sir Alfred Jones on British cotton growing, in the *Times*, page 5.—Beet, 9s. 0¹/₂d., steady.
- Mon., Oct. 8th.—London School of Tropical Medicine. Inaugural Address of the winter session by Col. Kenneth MacLeod, the Duke of Marlborough presiding, Seamen's Hospital Society.—Beet, 9s. 4¹/₂d.

COMING EVENTS.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

Wed., Oct. 24—Lecture on the West Indies by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, at Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

Thurs., Oct. 25—Lecture on "The Fate of the Roman Dutch Law in the British Colonies," by Prof. R. W. Lee, B.C.L., University College, London, at 6 p.m.

Dec. 3, 4 and 5—Show of Colonial fruits, Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Wednesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Canner.—The best size and style to adopt in placing canned pineapples on the English market are round tins containing 1 lb., 1¹/₂ lb., 1³/₄ lb., 2 lb., 2¹/₂ lb., 2³/₄ lb. and 3 lb. (2) Whole, sliced and chunks are the kinds for which the demand is greatest. (3) The percentage of sugar is largely a question of taste, but the examination of a tin of Straits or Singapore pine should satisfy you on this point. (4) There is a steady and strong demand for tinned pineapples; but Singapore and the cheap grades have now a firm hold on the market. (5) The wholesale prices of tinned pines are 3s. 3d. per dozen 1¹/₂ lb. tins to 7s. per doz. 3 lb. tins; chunks: 3s. 3d. per dozen 1 lb. tins, 3s. 9d. 1¹/₂ lb., 6s. 2¹/₂ lb., and 6s. 9d. 3 lb. tins.

Enquirer.—In reply to your comprehensive list of enquiries, cotton has not yet been taken up in Jamaica to any considerable extent, but there are large tracts of good land suitable for it in Vere (in St. Catharine's parish especially), and other districts. Cocoa is principally grown in St. Mary and St. Catherine, and to a lesser extent in St. Thomas and Portland. The chief coffee parishes are St. Andrew, St. Thomas, Manchester and Clarendon, while there is much land suitable for the growth of tobacco on the south side of the Island, from the Blue Mountain valley in St. Thomas to the borders of Hanover and Westmoreland, in valleys or on gently sloping flat lands. Small quantities of Crown lands from five to fifty acres in extent are offered for sale at from £1 per acre and upwards to small settlers, the payment being spread over ten years, and a refund of one-fifth of the purchase money being made to any purchaser who within ten years brings one-fifth of his acreage into good bearing in permanent crop producing plants. Such land is now only sold in places where roads exist. The Crown lands are situated in the north-east portion of Portland and the central parts of Trelawney and St. Anne, and embrace some of the finest coffee land in the Island. It is impossible to give the price of land already cultivated, as it must, of course, vary considerably according to the nature of the cultivation and locality, but if you will mention any particular part of the Island, we will endeavour to supply you with the information. Good ordinary Jamaica coffee is quoted 40/- to 42/- and Blue Mountain 65/- to 110/- per cwt. in London. The average yield of coffee from a well pruned and well kept tree is three-quarters of a pound. 700 lbs. of Sea Island cotton have been yielded per acre in Vere, and the average yield of Sea Island cotton per acre in the West Indian Islands is about 300 lbs. lint to the acre. Rasse has not been cultivated in Jamaica on a commercial scale, owing to the difficulty in finding a suitable machine for its decortication.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

The Hon. T. H. SHARP, Member of the Legislative Council, Jamaica, has returned to the Island.

Mr. F. N. MARTINEZ has returned to Barbados and resumed his duties as Consul for the Republic of Panama.

Mr. FRANK FOWLER, Commissioner of Lands and Mines, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence.

Mr. A. W. BARTLETT, B.A., B.Sc., F.L.S., Government Botanist and Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his office.

The Hon. JOSEPH E. GODFREY, M.B., C.M., Surgeon-General, British Guiana, has been appointed a member of the Executive Council of British Guiana, during the absence on leave of the Hon. C. B. Hamilton, C.M.G.

Subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, Mr. WILFRED MURRAY WISLEY, Barrister-at-Law, has been appointed Magistrate of Anguilla and Deputy Judge of the Summary Jurisdiction Court in the rooms of Dr. G. B. Mason.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs. Wilkinson & Gavillet), October 4th. "Seasonable weather." British Guiana (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), September 27th. "Weather dry, some showers would be acceptable." (Messrs. Booker Bros. McConnell & Co., Ltd.), October 3rd. "Weather continues too dry." Jamaica (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ending September 26th. PORT ANTONIO: 20th to 24th heavy rains, 25th to 26th fine. KINGSTON: 20th cloudy, 21st and 22nd rainy, 23rd stormy, 24th fine, 25th and 26th fine."

SOME WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

We shall be glad to include any other "West Indian Securities," which are officially quoted, in the following list at the request of any of our readers in the West Indies. The Bank Rate stands at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (changed on September 13th, 1906), and Consols ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) are quoted 86 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Present Amount.	Stock or Shares.		Paid.	Dividend.	Price.
100,000.	Stock.	Antigua - - 4 per cent. Redeemable 1919-44...	100	4%	100 102
375,000.	"	Barbados - - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " 1925-42...	100	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	99-100
194,500.	"	British Guiana 4 " " " 1935...	100	4%	106 108
123,670.	"	Grenada - - 4 " " " 1917-42...	100	4%	102 104
1,098,997 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Jamaica - - 4 " " " 1934...	100	4%	108 110
85,479 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	St. Lucia - - 4 " " " 1919-44...	100	4%	101 103
422,593 $\frac{1}{2}$.	"	Trinidad - - 4 " " " 1917-42...	100	4%	100 102
600,000.	"	Trinidad - - 3 " " Inscribed Stock 1922-44...	100	3%	86 88
100,000	20	The Colonial Bank	£6	7%	61-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
15,000	100	Royal Mail Steam Packet Company	95	5% on pref.	61-63
600,000.	Stock.	" " " " " Ord. Stock	100	—	51-53
700,000.	Stock.	" " " " " Pref. Stock	100	5%	91-93
203,400	Stock.	Imperial Direct West India Mail Service 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	89-91
26,763	5	New Colonial Co., Ltd.,	5	—	8- $\frac{1}{2}$
46,874	5	" " " " 5% Non-Cum. Pref.	5	—	23-3 $\frac{1}{2}$
347,500.	Stock.	" " " " 4% 1st Mtge. Deb. Stock red.	100	4%	81-83
345,000	100	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 6% Deb.	100	6%	99 102
5000	1	The West Indian Produce Association, Ltd	£1	—	—
165,000.	Stock.	Demerara Railway Company Original Stock	100	—	19-22
115,000.	Stock.	" " " " 7% Preference	100	4%	103 106
31,250	10	" " " " 4% Extension Preference...	10	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	8-9
70,000.	Stock.	" " " " 4% Perpetual Deb. Stock	100	4%	96 98
65,500.	100	Direct West India Cable Co., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Reg. Debs. (within Nos. 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	100 102
12,000	5	Direct West India Cable Company, Ltd.	£2 10 0	6%	—
37,900	100	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1st Mtge. Deb. (within 1 to 1200) red.	100	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	100-102
10,000	5	Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.	5	5%	—
88,321	10	W. I. & Panama Tel. Company, Ltd. Ordinary	10	—	8- $\frac{1}{2}$
34,563	10	" " " " 6% Cum. 1st Pref.	10	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	61-67
4,660	10	" " " " 2nd " " "	10	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
80,000.	100	" " " " 5% Deb	100	5%	99-102

The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.

The Directors in submitting to the shareholders their report for the year ended June 30th, stated that the net result of the year's working was a profit of £3,113 7s 7d., as compared with £4,182 1s. 2d. for the previous year. An interim dividend of 3 per cent., free of income tax, had already been paid, and it was proposed to make a further equal payment, free of income tax, which would leave £1,313 7s. 7d to be carried forward. This would increase the amount to the credit of revenue account to £36,124 13s. 2d. The Company's cables continued to work efficiently. During the year debentures had been paid off to the amount of £9,000, leaving £65,500 outstanding. Mr. Thomas Skinner and Mr. Fred. Ward, Directors, and the Auditors, Messrs. Gribbon, Holroyd and West, retired on this occasion, and, being eligible, offered themselves for re-election. The report and statement of accounts were adopted unanimously at the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Company on Thursday, September 27th.

The Halifax and Bermudas Cable Co., Ltd.

The Directors in their report for the year ended June 30th, 1906, stated that the net result of the year's working was a profit of £3,273 18s. 3d., as compared with £2,698 8s. 5d. for the previous year. An interim dividend of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., free of income tax, had already been paid, and it was proposed to make a further equal payment, free of income tax, which would leave £773 18s. 3d. to be carried forward. This would increase the amount to the credit of revenue account to £18,010 2s. 3d. The Company's cable continued to work efficiently. During the year debentures had been paid off to the amount of £8,600, leaving £37,900 outstanding. Mr. Thomas Skinner and Mr. Fred. Ward, Directors, and the Auditors, Messrs. Gribbon, Holroyd and West, retired, and being eligible, offered themselves for re-election. The report and statement of accounts was laid before the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 27th, and carried unanimously.

The Colonial Bank.

The accounts of the Colonial Bank for the half-year ended 30th June last, which was submitted at the 137th half-yearly general meeting, showed a credit balance of £45,668 12s. 11d. The directors recommended a dividend of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the half-year, free of income tax, leaving £24,668 12s. 11d. to be carried forward. The directors state that, as anticipated, the out-turn of sugar throughout the West Indies has been but moderate. There has also been a great falling off in the shipments of cocoa. On the other hand, prices of both these articles now show material improvement. The cultivation of cotton continues to extend. In Jamaica there has been a large crop of bananas, which have realised good prices to the growers, and in this island tobacco planting is also making progress, the tobacco being of excellent quality. The weather so far has been favourable for the growing crops, and the immediate outlook is unusually encouraging. The directors announce with deep regret the death of another much esteemed colleague, Mr. Rodolph A. Hankey. His seat on the Board will be filled up at the general meeting in April next. Mr. H. H. Dobree, presiding, said the past year had

been a distinctly bad one in the West Indies. The sugar crops had been but moderate, and had been for the most part realised at low price. In Trinidad, the largest producer, the cocoa crop in June was an absolute failure, so that there was only one crop in the year instead of two. But he was glad to say that a change had now come, and the present price of sugar was considerably above that of the past six months, while cocoa had advanced 75% per cwt. What they as bankers wanted was a larger field in the West Indies for investment, but they would not get this until the general conditions improved. With their strong financial position they could assist legitimate enterprise. Though the West Indies were mostly agricultural, there were signs of industrial enterprise springing up. There was the logwood extract factory in Jamaica, which was a distinct success, and there was another factory in course of construction. Then there was a future which some of them perhaps could hardly realise for fibrous plants. West Indian fibres were particularly good, and were being largely utilised. It was quite possible, too, that before many years the stem of the banana might be of more value than the fruit itself. Then, under favourable conditions, pulp could be largely produced from the refuse of the cane. He thought a previous failure in attempt in this direction was due to an effort to go too far and make paper. There was possibly also a great future for the oil industry of Trinidad. The report and accounts were adopted.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), October 1st.—Mr. E. Aspiaga, Mr. Roy Blaise, Mrs. Juana de Boinz, Mr. J. W. Barranco, Mr. C. Zunk, Mr. Naman Zugarbi, Master A. Cameron, Major May, Mr. G. O. Potter, Mr. A. Petit, Mr. E. R. O. Robertson, Captain G. Smith, Miss F. Simpson, Mr. E. Sutherland, Mr. R. Stanton, Dr. J. Tullock, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. J. Troillet, Mr. F. de Andrade, Mr. R. M. Bell, Miss Bald, Mrs. T. Burke, Mr. S. Bonill, Mr. Coppin, Master C. Cox, Miss Cracknell, Mr. A. Clark, Mr. G. Fitzpatrick, Mr. R. W. Fernant, Hon. W. M. Gordon, Mr. C. Greig, Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. J. Hooper, Miss N. Herriot, Mr. W. Jackson, Masters J. and T. Irving, Mr. A. Knott, Mr. P. MacLaren, Mr. Mackintosh.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), October 10th.—Sir Ernest and Lady Northcote, Sir H. and Lady Greaves, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Stilwell, Mr. Ernest Padder, Mrs. Boyce, Master Aubrey Cameron, Sir F. and Lady Hodgson, Dr. H. Alston, Mrs. G. Reis, Miss L. Reis, Mr. and Mrs. Arturo Luria, Mr. and Mrs. J. Browne, Ven. Archdeacon Jones-Bateman, Miss C. Young, Mr. Harold Bullock, Miss Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. Wicing, Mr. M. H. Bugle, Mrs. E. Johnstone, Dr. and Mrs. Seccombe, Miss M. A. Bratt, Rev. W. R. Symons, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. S. Cameron, Misses V. and L. Cameron, Mr. J. B. D. Sellier, Masters A. and J. Sellier, Mr. D. C. Jutzman, Mr. and Mrs. Rubiano, Mrs. Mercedes Rubiano, Mrs. J. Rubiano, Mr. Rubiano, Mr. and Mrs. Mathos Ybarra, Mr. R. N. Christian, Mr. Hilbury, Mr. Louis Kohler, Mr. Herbert Cadmar, Mr. Dacrede Crondece, Rev. Louis Maxot, Mrs. Casalta, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lambie, Mrs. A. Fernandez, Lady Morris, Mr. H. Caracciolo, Miss R. Alonzo, Mr. and Mrs. Abdy Anderson and child, Miss C. Awdry, Mr. and Mrs. Lamy, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Forrest, Mr. Arthur H. Brebner, Mrs. Dix and child, Mrs. Reid, Mr. Herman Luria, Mrs. and Miss Lucia, Mr. H. A. Alenzar, K.C., Mr. J. M. Tompton, Mr. Jno. Williams, Mr. Allan Campbell, Mr. H. Singelton Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Hobson, Mr. H. Watson Taylor, Mr. Surayballi Sing, Mr. Ernest W. Harford, Mr. and Mrs. Pow and child, Mrs. Menzies and child, Mrs. and Miss George, Miss M. George, Miss L. George, Mr. S. Bickart, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mrs. Stollmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. S. Dreyfus and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Wm. Fletcher, Miss Pollard, Miss Fletcher, Gen., Mrs., two Misses and Master Velubini, Mr. A. Gentin, Mr. C. Gregg, Mr. T. Sellmann, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Gillespie, Miss Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Lambotte, Miss Greaves, Mr. Carl Dallmaier, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Threlfall.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. H. B. Trigge), October 24th.—Mr. A. M. Duncan, Mr. Jas. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. L. and two Misses Alston, Master Alston, Miss Johnston, Rev. T. Wilkes and family, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Miller, Mr. Fritz Walther, Miss Nestler, Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dauch, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Maignot, Mr. Raoul Maignot, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. E. Hallmann, Mr. and Mrs. A. Tello and two children, Mr. W. Kosa, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Hobson, Miss E. D. Hobson, Miss de Martini, Mr. H. Rode.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Trout" (Capt. A. P. Dix), November 7th.—Mr. and Mrs. Schreier and two children, Col. and Mrs. Lushington, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sealy, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Oliver Smith, Miss Hunt, Bishop of Guiana, Mr. Geo. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and child, Mr. W. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Cunningham, Mrs. E. C. Cummins, Mr. and Mrs. R. Arthur, Jun., Mr. G. Challenor, Mr. Pinheiro, Mrs. Wm. K. Miss H. Master and Miss S. Chandler, Miss S. Harford, Miss Archibald, Mr. I. S. Fernandes, Miss H. Fernandes, Mr. Clifford Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gordon Gordon, Dr. and Mrs. Adolph Ulrich and child, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Miss E. Ulrich, Miss I. Ulrich, Mr. A. E. Haragin, Mr. and Mrs. Hinkson, Mr. Fred Hotchkiss, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Stollmeyer, Miss E. Kendall, Rev. Fr. Cantwell.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), September 25th. **Jamaica:**—Rev. W. Baillie, Master F. W. W. Baillie, Major Barlow, Mr. H. R. Borough, Mr. J. B. Brooks, Mr. P. A. Craven, Mr. C. Reid Campbell, Misses Reid Campbell, Mr. T. W. Clark, Mrs. W. G. Clark, Miss Mary Clark, Master Willie Clark, Miss R. Cooling, Mr. F. M. Deighton, Miss M. Delisser, Miss G. Dunn, Mr. W. Panton Forbes, Mrs. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. G. E. Fawcus, Mr. R. B. Greenbough, Mr. and Mrs. A. Greenbough, Master W. B. Goswell, Miss Haughton, Mr. A. L. Harkness, Mr. Leslie C. Levy, Master H. de Mercado, Mr. Manning, Master V. Melhado, Master O. Melhado, Master C. Melhado, Mr. P. A. Openshaw, Mr. A. Towsey, Miss Tawsey, Mr. H. R. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Parker, Mr. E. Lucie Smith, Master F. Samuels, Mr. F. Gordon Smith, Mr. E. Smith, Mr. R. Somerset, Mrs. Stocks, Mr. H. F. Tomkinson, Hon. J. R. Watson, Mr. J. G. Watson, Mr. T. A. Wright, Mr. W. R. M. Woolf, Miss Westmoreland, Master Westmoreland, Mr. Christopherson, Miss Heathcock, Q.M.S. Potter, Mr. E. G. O. Smith and Misses Smith.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Little), October 6th. **Jamaica:**—Two Misses Abrahams, Mr. H. M. Arthur, Hon. and Mrs. H. Clarence-Bourne, Mr. A. H. Baker, Mr. A. M. Bullock, Dr. F. Brett, Mr. J. P. Brown, Mr. R. G. W. Belcher, Lieut. J. S. Biscoe, Mr. and Mrs. Craig, Mrs. M. J. Cochrane, two Misses Coalborn, Mr. and Miss Conran, Mr. A. Clodd, Mr. J. H. and Miss Cargill, Mr. H. O. Carter, Mr. H. H. Cousins, Mrs. W. G. Clarke, Mrs. Coles and three children, Miss G. Denny, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Dawe, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Dick, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dunbar, Mr. S. Ehrenstein, Mr. F. L. Firminger, Miss E. Findlay, Mr. C. A. Farmer, Mr. R. S. Mrs. and Miss Gamble, Mr. Eustace Greg, Mr. H. E. McGill, Mr. W. H. Goss, Mr. A. W. Greenwood, Mrs. Hutchinson, Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Harvey and child, Mrs. L. A. Isaacs and child, Mr. C. D. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. P. Haughton James, Mrs. H. F. Kerr and two children, Miss M. F. Nitchener, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lane, Miss E. E. Lockett, Mr. H. J. Long, Mr. John

A. Morrison, Mrs. C. I. Maus, Miss K. Maus, Miss D. Maus, Miss Mais, Miss Dorothy Moxey, Dr. A. M. Mills, Misses Gladys and Master Chas. Moffatt, Miss E. B. Newell, Mr. R. H. and Mrs. Otto, Mrs. and Miss Oliver, Mr. Robert Pashley, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Prentice and infant, Mr. Palmer, Miss I. Peet, Lieut. A. R. Priestley, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. D. Rust, Mr. J. S. Robertson, Miss Sutton, Mr. R. G. Service, Mr. J. R. Smith, Miss D. Tuckett, Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Furton, Mrs. G. G. and Miss E. Taylor, Col. and Mrs. C. J. Ward, C.M.C., Miss Sybil Ward, Mrs. Wetherall, Mrs. Louis and Miss Hilda Wessels, Mr. H. T. Wulf. **Kingston**—Mr. A. E. Ades, Miss Boyd, Mr. A. Sykes, Mrs. M. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wills and two children. **Bermuda**—Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Block, Miss P. Block, Miss Orde Browne, Miss H. Cooper, Lieut. G. R. de la C. Corbett, Hon. Ambrose Gosling, Mr. S. H. Greet, Miss E. Heyl, Miss Masters, Mr. B. T. Parker, Hon. Lucy Playfair, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert M. Stewart, K.C.B., R.A., Hon. Lady Stewart, Capt. L. Saltan-Symons, Mr. W. Smellie, Mrs. C. Attwood, Miss M. E. Coulson, Mr. E. Stoneham. **Turks Island**—Judge and Mrs. G. P. St. Aubyn, Miss St. Aubyn, Miss Mary Watkins.

Forward Bookings per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Kowe), Oct. 20th. **Jamaica**—Major A. E. Barchard, Rev. W. Baillie, Miss F. M. Coke, Mr. W. M. Cochran, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Chisholm, Miss Delisser, Lieut. J. A. Edgeworth, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. M. D. Harrell, Mrs. Harrell and infant, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. A. Henderson, Doctor, Mrs. and Master Joslen, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kerr and two children, Miss H. M. Kerr, the Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Doctor W. Petter, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Parker, Mr. Pratt, Mr. R. Simmons, Miss Shannon, Mr. J. E. Sherlock, Mrs. Vinea, Lieut. C. E. Wright, Mr. P. V. Young, Mrs. Young, Mr. F. B. Hole, Mrs. Hole and child, Mr. H. Nutt, Mr. A. T. Rowland, Mrs. Rowland, Mr. C. Reid-Campbell.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company announce that, commencing with the R.M.S.P. "Segura" sailing from Southampton on 20th October, they will re-establish their passenger services from Southampton to Cuba and Mexico. The hour of departure from Waterloo of the special train in connection with the Outward Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Steamers from Southampton, has been altered from 9.35 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Oct. 10	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"	Oct. 9, mdn't.
" 16	Barbados (for Demerara and West Indian Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Logician"	" 10, "
" 19	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Serrana"	" 19, noon.
" 20	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"	" 19, 7 p.m.
" 20	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	"Thordis"	" 19, 6 p.m.
" 20	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Barbadian"	" 19, 6 p.m.
" 24	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	" 23, mdn't

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Oct. 10	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"
" 15	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P. Co.	"La Plata"
" 24	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"

* Letters to be addressed per S.S. "Serrana," via Dartmouth.

† In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 30 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Sept. 15 1906	1905	April 1 to Aug. 26. 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Sept. 15. 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to Sept. 15. 1906	1905
Sugar	47,830	36,000 Tns.	50,403	38,563 Tons.	8074	5779 Tons.	505,016	275,840 Bgs. & Brs.	—	—
Molasses	50,604	38,110 Tns.	2970	2024 Casks.	—	—	2581	2827 Puns.	—	—
Rum	—	—	10,605	8846 Puns.	898,178	715,262 Gall.	102	178 Tcs.	—	—
Cattle Food and Molasses	—	—	6018	3556 Tons.	—	—	707	349 Puns.	—	—
Cocoa	—	—	15,977	27,126 lbs.	35,052	15,920 Cwts.	21,138,596	29,551,185 lbs.	50000	60,700 Bags.
Coffee	—	—	—	—	24,547	11,168 "	16,060	11,920 "	—	—
Coconuts	—	—	51,088	240,471	2,577,195	1,800,981	8,081,805	6,323,249	—	—
Copra	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,085	7702 Bags.	—	—
Cotton	—	—	—	—	11,169	28,935 lbs.	—	—	1014	703 Bales.
Cotton Seed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5692	4745 Bags.
Asphalt	—	—	—	—	—	—	91,132	84,706 Tons.	—	—
Oranges	—	—	—	—	8,004,773	4,944,445	—	—	—	—
Bananas	—	—	—	—	7,716,471	7,671,879 Bchs.	—	—	—	—
Pimento	—	—	—	—	20,072	30,655 Cwts.	—	—	—	—
Spice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gold	—	—	61,223	62,405	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diamonds	—	—	1928	3926 Carats.	—	—	—	—	137	184 Bags

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

SUGAR.—Average price of 88% for 10 years.

Crops.										
1905/6.	1904/5	1903/4.	1902/3.	1901/2.	1900/1.	1899/1900.	1898/9.	1897/8.	1896/7.	
8s 5½d.	12s 7½d.	8s 11½d.	8s 1d	8s. 6½d	9s 2d	10s 3d	10s 2½d.	9s 2½d	8s 11d.	
Beet Crops.										
6,970,000	4,700,000	5,850,000	5,600,000	6,850,000	6,100,000	5,510,000	4,980,000	4,830,000	4,910,000	Tons
Cane Crops.										
4,880,000	4,500,000	4,200,000	3,940,000	4,010,000	3,600,000	3,010,000	2,910,000	2,860,000	2,840,000	..
Total Crops.										
11,850,000	9,200,000	10,050,000	9,540,000	10,860,000	9,700,000	8,520,000	7,890,000	7,690,000	7,750,000	..

The closed season of 1905/6, which has now taken place, has displayed a low average price for 88% beet, viz., 8s. 6½d. As will be seen by the table of averages printed above, this has only been surpassed, from a depressed point of view, twice during the last ten years, and these were the occasions when not only were the Foreign Bounties in existence but the Cartels were at their greatest vigour. Considering the enormous production of last year, which exceeded that of any season on record, it is eminently satisfactory to find the average not even still lower than 8s. 5½d., as it undoubtedly would have been had not an extraordinary expansion in Consumption taken place, which has relieved us of all this surplus production, exceeding 2,500,000 tons, and left us with visible stocks only fractionally in excess of last year. That the position of sugar, quite outside the question of Cuba, is one of undoubted strength, few, if any, people can be found to question, and as the Continental beet crops bid fair to show a more or less important reduction as compared with last year, whilst Consumption at present prices should not be interfered with, the existing range of values may well be considered reasonable and susceptible of some improvement when trade revives, as it must. It is not possible to write anything definite about Cuba at the present moment, but the future may produce some startling revelations.

The moment's quotations of 88% beet, viz., on the 8th October, are as follows:—October, 9s. 3½d.; Nov., 9s. 2½d.; December, 9s. 2½d.; January/March, 9s. 3½d.; May, 9s. 5½d.; August, 9s. 7½d., and October/December, 1907, 9s. 1½d. all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	1,130,000	760,000	1,100,000	1,470,000	1,440,000	Tons
United States	190,000	210,000	150,000	150,000	160,000	..
Cuba... ..	40,000	160,000	10,000	150,000	120,000	..
Afloat	130,000	190,000	300,000	150,000	210,000	..
Total	1,390,000	1,320,000	1,560,000	1,920,000	1,830,000	..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 8th Oct. :—	9s. 3½d.	8s. 10½d.	11s. 1d.	8s. 9d.	7s. 1d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Our buyers of yellow crystallised maintain an attitude of reserve in the fluctuating and uncertain condition of the beet root market, and only small sales have taken place during the fortnight at unchanged prices, the value of average qualities remaining 10s 6d. The stock in Importers' hands does not exceed five weeks' consumption. The nominal value of a cargo of 96 centrifugals is 11s. 3d. on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Is in brisk demand from 10s. 6d. for low dark, to 11s. 6d. for good brown qualities. For 80 test to arrive, about 8s. 9d. remains the value on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Useful grocery kinds command attention, the value ranging from 14s. to 14s. 6d. The approximate value on floating terms of 89 test is 10s.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.						
	1906.	1905	1904.	1903	1902.	
Imports	46,000	32,000	36,000	20,000	55,000	Tons.
Deliveries	38,000	32,000	38,100	33,000	33,000	..
Stocks, 1st Oct.	17,000	10,000	10,000	16,000	35,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, crystallised	16s. 6d	17s. 0d.	18s. 6d.	18s. 0d.	13s. 9d.	

Rum.—Stocks in London, 1st Oct. :					
	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Jamaica	9500	9600	11,200	11,500	Puns.
Demerara	4000	5300	7900	7100	..
Total of all kinds	20,668	22,124	28,075	29,489	..

In the absence of supplies of Demerara in Importers' hands, prices are somewhat uncertain, but with the small stocks indicated above, from 11d. to 11½d. proof, may be considered about the value of fair Marks. Jamaica remains quiet and is in liberal supply, but 2s. 2d. is the Market quotation for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other Foreign kinds are quoted 9d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London, 1st Oct. :					
	1906.	1905	1904.	1903	
Trinidad	12,100	23,500	28,700	17,600	Bags
Grenada	6600	13,400	14,400	10,600	..
Total of all kinds	61,700	87,300	95,800	67,900	..

The tone of the Market remains quiet, and in so far as British West India cocoa is concerned, the supplies are so much reduced as to be too small to form a Market. In the meantime the few sales have been at about steady prices, viz.: Trinidad fair collected, 68s., Estate Marks, 69s. to 75s.; Grenada fair, 61s., and fermented, 61s. to 65s. From other Islands fair is quoted 60s., and fermented up to 66s. The Market is still in a measure dominated by the *best* sales made on the Continent and elsewhere, rendering the position very uncertain.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 40s. to 42s.

Nutmegs.—A good business has been done in West India, including 60's at 110 7d., 70's at 111. rd., 75's at 10½d., 85's at 101., 95's at 7d., 110's at 6½d., 115's at 5½d., 125's at 5½d., 150's at 5d., and 174's at 4½d. **Mace.**—Steady. Fair to good pale realised 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7d., fair to good red, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., and broken, 1s. 2d. **Pimento.**—Easier. Value, 2½d. to 2¾d.

Arrowroot.—A moderate business has been done in St. Vincent at firm prices, and the value of good manufacturing is 2½d. Stocks are much reduced, being 4350 barrels, against 8670 barrels last year.

Lime Juice.—Unchanged at 11d. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, steady, value, 421 17s. 6d. Hand Pressed, value 3s. Last mail's quotation should have been 3s. 3d. Distilled Oil, lower, now quoted 2s. 8d.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXVIII.



Photo by

Stollé & Fry.

Sir Ernest Augustus Northcote.

Chief-Justice of Trinidad.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEBTHING LANE, LONDON.

Oct. 22nd, 1906

Telegrams: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8842 CENTRAL.

THE Colonial Conference which is to be held in the spring of next year, the first of a series of consultations between the Imperial and the Colonial Governments for the interchange of views on subjects of mutual interest, will mark a new era in the Imperial relations with the Colonies. It will be remembered that during the *régime* of the late Government, when Mr. Chamberlain held the reins at the Colonial Office, a conference was held with the Premiers of the self-governing Colonies; but it was not until the later years of that Government that it was decided that these conferences should be of regular occurrence, and it was then proposed to hold the first of them during the present year. The change of Government fortunately did not block the scheme, the new holders of office recognising the advantages to be derived from regular intercommunication of ideas on the subject of Imperial economy, but for reasons of convenience the date of the first conference was postponed until the spring of next year. At present the Colonial representation is confined to the self-governing Colonies; those who manage

their domestic concerns independently of, but owe their allegiance to, the Mother Country, in distinc-

tion from those which, under the direct control of the Colonial Office, are called Crown Colonies, or those possessing representative institutions, but subject to the veto of the Colonial Office. Although the interests of the two latter are small in many respects as compared with those of the large autonomous Colonies, yet as part and parcel of the Imperial scheme they are quite as important for no chain is stronger than its weakest link. Although therefore, the smaller Colonies are still under the paternal rule of the Colonial Office, it is advisable from the point of view of Imperialism, that they should be permitted to be represented at the meeting of the Conference. The large self-governing Colonies can look after themselves, and are powerful enough to make their voice heard in an authoritative manner; but in the case of the smaller Colonies, the position is very different for they have not the same means of expressing their views. There are many matters which are of vital interest to them, and which require to be put forward, and if the West Indies were represented at the Conference, many questions in relation to the trade and maintenance of the Empire, which closely affect them, and which it would be to the advantage of all to ventilate might be discussed. In these circumstances we sincerely trust that the Government will see their way to admit the West Indies and British Guiana to representation. Their doing so need not in any way interfere with Colonial Office control, and we cannot conceive that, if the Conference is to be conducted on the lines of true Imperialism, the inclusion of the lesser Colonies could be productive of anything but good. Were it merely a question of sentiment alone the West Indies, from their long and close association with the history of Great Britain, have a claim to representation. They are the oldest possessions of the Crown—the *dozen* of British Colonies—and any Colonial Conference would be strangely incomplete without them. But apart from this the West Indies are now emerging from a period of depression. Every effort is being taken by them to develop their industries and trade, and their inclusion in the approaching Conference would not only be a recognition of their rising position in the world of commerce, but also a material help to them in the splendid struggle which they are making.

THE criticism of the temporary West Indian mail arrangements which appeared in our Issue of August 22nd last, has been fully justified by the subsequent course of events. Our view of the situation may be summarised by saying that, while we felt that half a loaf was better than no bread, and while we recognised that so long as the transatlantic service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was continued, Grenada, St. Vincent and Trinidad would be as well-provided for as before; the people in British Guiana would have too short a time for replying to their correspondence; Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis would be placed at a very serious disadvantage, mails and passengers for and from these Colonies being detained for nearly a week in transit at Barbados, while Dominica and St. Lucia would be dependent on a steamer of such limited tonnage that many refuse to travel by her. Moreover, generally speaking, intercolonial communication would still be far worse than it was in 1897, when the West Indies were visited by the Royal Commission, the members of which laid special stress on the need of improvement being effected in mail communication, saying that such means of communication "will assist or even create trade in local products," and "will tend to remove that condition of isolation which exists at present," &c. The home-coming steamers have brought a shoal of complaints regarding the present condition of affairs, and many concerned with the Colonies affected who are resident in this country, have also not been slow in protesting against the inconvenience which is being caused. The present arrangement is, as we have already announced, terminable at short notice, and those connected with these Colonies may reasonably ask what steps are being taken to place mail communication on a more satisfactory basis. For people travelling to and from the Northern Islands, the absence of mail opportunities is particularly embarrassing. Though Barbados is an agreeable and healthy

Island, it is extremely inconvenient for those having business relations, let us say, in St. Kitts, Montserrat or Antigua, to be compelled to wait there for a week before proceeding to their destination. In a recent issue, we had occasion to speak of the dearth of fresh limes in this country at a time when there was a famine of lemons, and a magnificent opportunity afforded itself for introducing limes to the British public. We now learn that the failure of the planters to supply fruit at the critical moment was in a large measure due to the absence of proper shipping facilities. Thus, MR. CONRAD WATSON, our Hon. Correspondent in Montserrat, writing to us on September 7th, informed us that a shipment of limes which was sent by sloop to Dominica for the S.S. "Yare" to take to Barbados for shipment home, was actually returned to the Island, as that vessel could not take it, and he added that it was "quite evident that the lack of proper and regular steam communication will kill such industries." It is easy to imagine the feelings of the shippers in Montserrat! MR. E. A. AGAR, one of our Hon. Correspondents in Dominica, in a letter of the same date, also wrote that the revised working of the mail service was worse than ever, and complained bitterly of the serious check given to the trade in green limes in London, which was really beginning to make a start. He added, "this is most regrettable, as it will mean beginning almost *ab initio* next year. To cut off the supply just when the demand is becoming appreciable is fatal to the trade, and it is a trade that might mean a great deal to the carriers as well as to the growers of the fruit in a few years." We give these two instances to show that the action of the late Government in depriving the Colonies of the mail service which they have enjoyed for so many years, is not only aggravating but is also seriously hindering trade, and causing, moreover, actual monetary loss. It is impossible to help feeling that if some of the gentlemen responsible for the present state of affairs, to whom no doubt it is a matter of little or no importance whether their mails reach them regularly or not, were to feel the pinch of the present system from a financial standpoint, the unfortunate Northern Islands would not have the bitter cause for complaint which they undoubtedly have at present. Now, with regard to the remedy. We pointed out that the solution of the difficulty would seem to lie in the addition to the present service of a second inter-colonial steamer to ply up and down the Northern Islands, and meet the mail steamer at Barbados, and in the case of British Guiana by a modification of the dates of departure and arrival of the mail steamers, and this point was emphasised by the HON. WILLIAM PETER, Member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, at the General Meeting of the West India Committee on Thursday last. We do most sincerely hope that the Colonial Office will direct their attention towards securing some arrangement on these lines with a view to improve matters.

SIR ERNEST AUGUSTUS NORTHCOTE.

"Our Celebrity," in our present issue, who recently returned to Trinidad after a holiday in this country, holds the important post of Chief Justice of the Colony. Sir Ernest Northcote was educated at Westminster and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he received the honorary degree of LL.B. in 1873. As a member of the Middle Temple he was called to the Bar in 1875 and went the Oxford Circuit, and attended the Worcester and Usk Sessions. In 1882 he was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate in British Guiana and two years later he was appointed Sheriff of Essequibo. From April 1884 to September 1885 he acted as puisne judge in the Colony, and in 1886 he was appointed puisne judge in Jamaica. In that Island he acted as Chief Justice on various occasions so ably that in 1903 he was appointed to the position which he now holds.

THE CRUCIFIX FISH.

The publication in our issue of the 19th ult. of an illustration showing some of the curiosities in the possession of the West India Committee has resulted in several gifts being received towards the collection. Among the most recent of these is a very fine specimen of a Crucifix Fish, presented by Mr. J. D. Adamson. A representation of its skeleton forms the subject of our full-page illustration.

This fish is a cat-fish belonging to the genus *Arius*, which includes a large number of tropical fish, most of which are marine or estuarian, and which attain to a great size. The remarkable feature about it is that the under part of the head shows the distinct outline of a crucifix, in a more realistic manner, perhaps, than the photograph would make it appear, while on the other side, on the top of the head, is a figure with outstretched arms, which is taken by the negroes to represent Pontius Pilate. Again, when the fish is shaken a loose bone in the head rattles, and this is supposed to be dice, which are associated in the mind with the crucifixion. What is now wanted is a suitable show case in which to place these treasures. Possibly some reader of these few lines may be prompted to present one to the West India Committee. By doing so he would earn our sincere gratitude and thanks!

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, October 18th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconded.
A. DAVIDSON GOFFE (Jamaica).	R. Rutherford.	E. L. Marshall.
A. E. GAY (Grenada).	L. F. Hudson.	E. L. Marshall.
S. MEDFORD (Trinidad).	Ernest D. R. Clarke.	H. Hamel Smith.
JULES ANDUZE (Trinidad).	Ernest D. R. Clarke.	H. Hamel Smith.
L. H. SCHOENER (Trinidad).	Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G.	Wallwyn P. B. Shepheard.
W. J. VON WINCKLER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (British Guiana).	Sir Henry K. Davson.	Wallwyn P. B. Shepheard.
HON. WILLIAM PRYER (St. Lucia).	E. L. Marshall.	R. Rutherford.

We may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following 1st January. Thus, members elected in October, and in November and December of this year, will, on paying their subscriptions, not be required to renew them until 1st January, 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

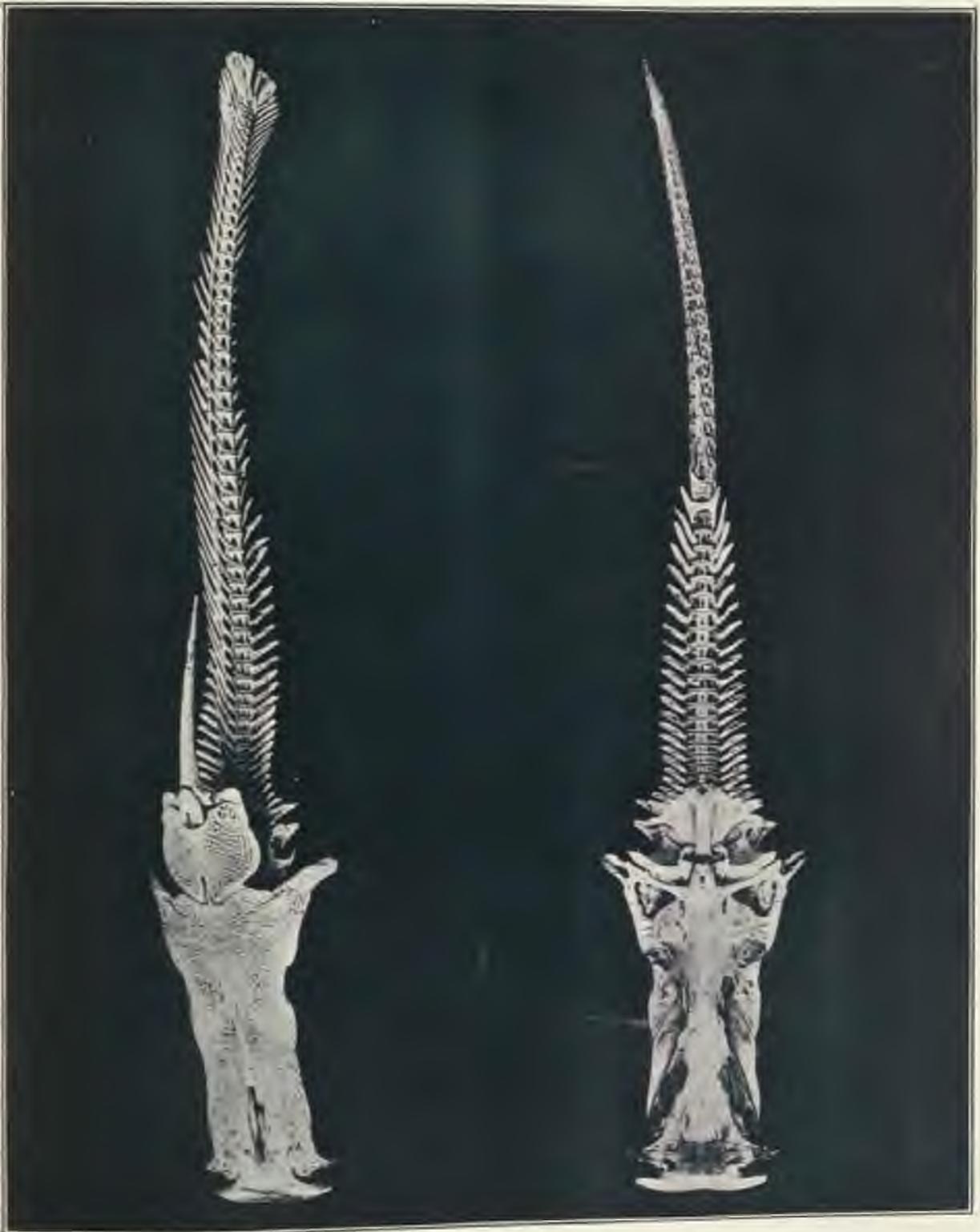
THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN MADEIRA.

By J. DE FREITAS MARTINS.

On the left bank of the rivulet Santa Luzia, which divides the splendid amphitheatre surrounding the town of Funchal almost in the centre, rises the foremost manufacturing establishment of Madeira, as a vigorous and useful monument of enterprise. It is magnificently situated in the superb valley which, to the westward, is suddenly arrested by precipitous steeps of basalt crowned by the Government Powder Magazine, while to the eastward appear tier upon tier of villas and fertile plantations. This completely equipped manufactory of sugar and alcohol, shaded in front by the majestic plane trees of the Rua das Arvores, at the foot of which fall streams of water amidst luxurious "mahames," is a lively proof of the highest industrial progress in the most beautiful spot on African territory, or, perhaps, in the most glorious garden in the world.

Established in 1859 by the late Mr. William Hinton, one of the worthiest and most highly respected Englishmen who have settled in this "Pearl of the Ocean," the "Torreão" factory has been, during nearly half-a-century, owing to the discretion, initiative, credit and capital of its esteemed proprietors, the solid and resistant element on which has depended the preservation and equilibrium of the two traditional cultivations—cane and wine—of the Archipelago. Of the many enterprises started to develop the cane industry, there alone remains that of Messrs. Hinton, and their task has been a difficult one. It has been, and is necessary to overcome the obstacles presented by an exhausted soil, expensive cultivation, and substitution of old plants by more resistant descriptions. The greater proportion of the cane now grown consists of the "Yuba" variety, of which a quantity of plants were brought from Natal a few years ago by the present proprietor, Mr. Harry C. Hinton.

All the cane is cultivated on land owned by hundreds of small holders, who eventually sell to the manufacturer at prices fixed by the Government, and it is of interest to note that these prices average about eight times those of cane in the West Indies. The "Torreão" factory is equipped with the most modern machinery, and it was in this factory that the Hinton-Naudet patent process of



THE CRUCIFIX FISH.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

diffusion by forced circulation was first invented and applied with astonishing results. This process, which is a modification and improvement by Mr. Harry C. Hinton of the Naudet system of diffusion of beet, is now well known, and the importance of the fact that all sugar is extracted with a loss of 0.30 to 0.40%, that the juice is obtained in at least $\frac{1}{10}$ th of its original density, that the cost of extraction is much lower, that clarifiers and filter presses are abolished, and that white crystals ready for consumption are obtained direct in one operation, is being forcibly brought home to the sugar world.

The "Torreão" factory has to-day a frontage of some 200 yards, and motive power is derived from three Babcock and Wilcox boilers, furnished with a special furnace for burning bagasse. During the season, which lasts about 100 days, working day and night, some 200 tons of cane are dealt with daily, and all operations are conducted under rigorous chemical control, for which purpose a completely equipped laboratory is installed. No sugar is exported from Madeira. The molasses produced is sent on to the thoroughly up-to-date distillery, where neutral spirit is produced for the necessities of the local wine industry.

FRENCH SUGAR CROP OF 1905.

The following French sugar statistics for the year 1905 are taken from the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* of October 10th. The raw sugar delivered from the factories from January 1st to December 31st, 1905, amounted to 904,252 tons, or about 868,349 tons in refined. The polarisation of this sugar varied between 80.50% and 99.77%, and the "rendement" between 64.22% and 99.53%. The rendement is calculated by deducting from the percentage of sugar indicated by the polariscope twice the weight of the glucose and four times the weight of the soluble ash. The sugar of low saccharine strength contains a notable proportion of glucose, this ranging in 1905 from 258% for sugar of 79% rendement to .002% for 97% rendement. Above this figure the sugar contained no glucose. Sugar at 99% rendement formed the greater part of the sugar turned out for 1905, 658,338 tons on a total of 904,252 tons. It might be said that 70% of the home sugars were of almost absolute purity. To show the progress made in this direction during the past year, the following table is given:—

Year.	Actual Quantity. Tons.	Quantity expressed as refined. Tons.	Mean rendement refined.
1905	904,252	868,349	96.3
1904	602,179	576,695	95.7
1903	716,292	685,337	95.7
1902	861,615	823,111	95.5
1901	1,010,302	962,680	95.2
1900	983,449	937,518	95.3
1899	828,897	788,320	95.1
1898	746,530	709,181	95.0
1897	758,422	716,306	94.4
1896	637,228	603,912	94.7
1895	633,330	597,124	94.3

It will be seen that the purity of the home sugars has gone up steadily during this period. The total Treasury receipts from sugar and molasses amounted to 114,434,533 francs.

The French Colonial sugar imported during the year amounted in 1905 to 78,806 tons, of which 33,699 tons were by French, and 45,107 by foreign shipping. The duties from this source came to 16,955,670 fr. Expressed as refined, this sugar was equivalent to 75,120 tons at 93.1%. The polarisation of this sugar has varied from 81.3% to 99.5%, their glucose content from 7.62% to 0.04%, and ash from 1.52% to 0.6%. In this connection it is seen that the Colonial sugars are less pure and presentable than the home products. From outside countries France imported altogether 1,073 tons, of which 267 tons came from Egypt, 308 tons from San Domingo, and 447 tons from British possessions in America, other than those of North.

French sugar exports have been fairly maintained. In 1902 28,453 tons of French Colonial sugar were exported, as against 9,320 tons in 1905, and of refined sugar in loaves and *agglomerés* which constituted the bulk of French sugar exports, 127,767 tons in 1905, 145,520 tons in 1902, 127,957 tons in 1903, and 129,273 tons in 1904. M. Dureau concludes that while the quality of the home sugar has improved, that of the French Colonies has gone back, and considers that the figures show that, contrary to prediction, the export trade in sugar has not been ruined by the Brussels Convention, but on the other hand still plays an important part in the outside trade of the country.

AN AUSTRIAN VIEW OF EAST INDIAN SUGAR.

M. G. Dureau, in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre* for September 12th, reviews an enquiry by Dr. Karminski, the Commercial Secretary to the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Commerce, as to the result of the imposition of countervailing duties on bounty sugar in British India in 1899. Dr. Karminski points out that the effect of this legislation has had no effect in increasing the internal production or raising the price of sugar in India, and since the imported sugar all along has not been more than a few per centages of the total consumption, thinks that there was no justification for what he considers such violent measures. As a matter of fact, as has been pointed out in the *West India Committee Circular*, the action of the Indian Government was a direct gain to Mauritius, as is evidenced by the fact that for the four years after, the imports of cane-sugar from that Colony and Java showed an increase of 50,000 tons per annum over those for the four years prior to the countervailing duties. But apart from this; had these duties not been imposed there is no saying to what extent the East Indian sugar industry would not have suffered from the cartels of subsequent years. The British East Indian sugar industry stands in a different position to that of other countries, the bulk of the sugar being produced by small cultivators of a race which clings to its traditional agricultural methods. The evolution of such an industry must necessarily be gradual, and had India not acted in the manner she did, a great deal of damage would have been done to the future of the Indian sugar industry from competition with cartel beet, while the British Colony of Mauritius would not have been benefited in the manner it has done.

EUROPEAN SUGAR CONSUMPTION.

The consumption of sugar in the principal countries of Europe which were signatories of the Brussels Convention, has been, according to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, for the years 1904-5 and 1905-6, as follows. It will be noted that the figures show a considerable increase in consumption for the latter year:

	1905-6. Tons.	1904-5 Tons.	Tons. Increase.
France	583,546	542,314	41,232
Germany	1,121,575	962,855	158,720
Austria-Hungary	524,274	445,016	79,258
Belgium	72,804	66,682	6,122
United Kingdom	1,726,974	1,533,998	192,976
Low Countries	98,419	90,147	8,272
	4,127,592	3,641,012	486,580

TRINIDAD CACAO.

In order to allay any apprehension which may have been caused by a report issued by Mr. Stockdale in July last regarding cacao disease, Mr. J. H. Hart, Superintendent of the Public Gardens of Trinidad, has forwarded to us the following memorandum on the subject, which he has drawn up for publication:—

"It may be of interest to refer to previous works on the subject as published, firstly in the 'Kew Bulletin,'* secondly, in the 'Bulletin of the Botanical Department,' Trinidad, and the 'West Indian Bulletin,'* published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. In the 'Kew Bulletin' for January and February, 1900, two diseases were described by Mr. Massee, the official mycologist of the Royal Gardens, from materials sent from the Trinidad Botanical Department, viz., *Phytophthora oenocarpa* and *Nectria Bainii*, n. sp., the first causing 'black pod' and the second 'canker.'

"In the 'Trinidad Bulletin,' April, 1899, it is shown that in 1898 the diseases were under examination of the office of the Botanical Department, and a preliminary report by Mr. Massee on material forwarded was published, and remedial measures suggested (p. 167 to 168 of the Department Bulletin). In July, 1899, further information was received, together with a description of the 'canker' disease caused by *Nectria Bainii*, named after Mr. J. P. Bain of Ortiocola, who first called attention to its existence. In this article it was mentioned that further study was necessary as we are not yet advised as to the extent of its distribution.

"At the Agricultural Conference held in Barbados in January 1900, a paper was read by the writer at the request of Sir Daniel Morris, in which the 'black pod' and 'canker' diseases were fully discussed. This article was illustrated with the drawings prepared at Kew by Mr. Massee for the 'Kew Bulletin.' In January, 1900, further specimens of the canker disease were reported upon by

* These publications can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

Kew, when Mr. Masee observes 'the symptoms appear absolutely identical with the cacao disease in Ceylon, but as no scientific report has yet appeared it is impossible to state whether the West Indian *Nectria* is specifically identical with the one causing damage in Ceylon.'

"At the Agricultural Conference in 1901 at Barbados the subject of these diseases was again taken by the mycologist to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, Mr. A. Howard, who, in addition to those already described, included one new pest, *Diplodia cacaoicola*. Mr. Howard, in treating on *Nectria* or canker, says, 'This fungus can hardly be said to be of great economic importance, and further study of its life history and distribution is needed. It is extremely probable that it could easily be kept in check if the simple precautions of burying all old 'husks' or 'shells' of the cacao pods were adopted as part of the estate routine, and if attention were directed to the prompt destruction by burning of all diseased pods found on the trees.' Mr. Howard's article also gives the name of the Ceylon fungus to be *Nectria ditissima*, an allied species to that causing canker on Trinidad plantations.

"The remedies suggested by Mr. Howard are identical in principle with those which had already been suggested, namely, preventive. At the Agricultural Conference held in Trinidad, 1905, Mr. Lewton Brain, the successor of Mr. Howard, read a paper on cacao diseases in which he describes 'Canker' in Trinidad, Grenada and Dominica, and makes the same remedial suggestions as two predecessors. Mr. Stockdale, who recently reported is in full accord with them. He states that he found *Nectria* or Canker; it is destructive, and that the remedies he and his predecessors have suggested 'will keep the disease well in hand and systematic removal of all diseased branches, &c., and tarring of all wounds should overcome the disease eventually.' From the foregoing it will be noted that *Nectria* or Canker has been observed since 1898, and that provided the measures suggested by Masee, Howard, Lewton Brain, Stockdale and the writer be systematically carried out, there is no cause to be under any serious apprehension at the outcome of its attack, the appearance of which during the present year has been accentuated by continuous heavy rainy weather."

CACAO IN DOMINICA.

Special interest is attached to the report of the Botanic Station at Dominica, just issued by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, on account of the results of the manurial experiments on cocoa which it contains. The results at the Experimental Station have been summed up by Dr. Watts, the figures representing four years' work. The total area of the experimental area was 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres divided into five plots, treated respectively with no manure, basic phosphate and sulphate of potash, and "mulched" with grass and leaves. The cacao trees were about ten years old and planted 18 feet apart. The chemical manures were applied once a year. The use of basic phosphate and potash without nitrogenous manure did not prove beneficial, but when a nitrogenous manure, dried blood, was added, a striking increase in the yield was shown. The application of dried blood, 4 cwt. per acre, gave a gain of 308 lbs. of wet cocoa, or 4.4 lb. per tree over the no-manure plot. The great interest of this experiment, however, centred in the plot mulched with grass and leaves, the sweepings of the lawns at the Botanic Station, which gave results below the manured plots in the past year, although higher than the no-manure plot, but in the third year far surpassed all the other, giving yields 66 %, greater than that obtained from the no-manure plot. For the fourth year the result was even more striking, the gain being over 77 % on the no-manure plot. Reckoning 100 lbs. of wet cacao as yielding 42 lbs. of dry cacao, and 134 trees per acre, the "grass" plot gave an equivalent of 2191 lbs. of dry cacao per acre, as against 1722 for the dried blood, phosphate and potash plot, and 1238 lbs. for the no-manure plot, and showed a net profit on manuring, with cacao at 6d. per lb., of £20 16s. 6d., as against £8 os. 4d., for the blood, phosphate and potash plot. The grass "mulch" was not buried or forked into the soil, but allowed to incorporate itself by natural agencies, its thickness rarely exceeding one inch. In other experiments at Clark Hall, the manuring consisted of pen manure, dried blood and phosphates, and dried blood alone, and basic phosphate alone. The pen manure gave the biggest return, and the basic phosphate also appears to have had a beneficial influence.

An extensive series of experiments on a large scale has also been started by Messrs. Rowntree & Co., on their estate "Picard" which has just completed its first year. In these, 270 pods were gathered from the un-manured plots, and 787 from the sulphate of ammonia and basic phosphate plot, the pen manure and dried blood plots giving 626 and 635 pods respectively. The results of further reaping however, will have to be obtained before definite conclusions can be drawn.

COTTON AND OUR COLONIES.

In our last issue regret was expressed that the Lancashire cotton spinners, who are reported to have purchased an area of 4,000 acres in the Southern States for the purpose of growing cotton, had not chosen a British Colony as the scene of their operations. Following on the report of the Lanca-

shire Private Cotton Investigation Commission, which recently visited America and reported favourably on the cotton fields there, and the opportunities for their development, Mr. J. Arthur Hutton, Vice-Chairman of the British Cotton Growing Association, has addressed a letter to the Press, stating the position of that body in the matter. Apart from the limitations imposed upon it by its Charter of Incorporation, which confined its operations to British territory, he gives



Centrifugals in the Torreeco Factory, Madeira.

(p. 508).

reasons, by publishing a letter addressed by him to a firm in America, why energies should be directed to our own Colonial fields, in which it is now known that, given sufficient capital, the most sanguine expectations can be realised. In the letter referred to, he pointed out that the aim of the Association is not to fight the United States, but to help ourselves and the whole world by broadening the basis of supply, for if we obtain our supply of cotton, half from the United States and half from elsewhere, a disaster to the crop will have less serious effects on the cotton trade than it has under the present conditions, under which we are dependent on the United States for 70% to 80% of our supply. He adds that when cotton growing is encouraged in the British Empire, nearly every pound that we pay for cotton comes back to us in the form of orders for manufactured goods, while as compared with this, the United States, owing to their prohibitive tariff, are not as good customers to this country as our own Colonies are, and it stands to reason that it will pay us better to establish cotton cultivation in the British Empire, where, by enriching the population, we shall be building up new markets for our own goods. Mr. Hutton, in conclusion, denies the contention that the United States are better able to grow cotton than any other part of the world, adding that in the West Indies the efforts of the Association have been so successful that the West Indian Sea Island cotton is to-day commanding higher prices on

this market than similar qualities of cotton grown in the United States.

DOMINICA LIMES.

The Curator of the Botanic Station in Dominica reports that the demand for lime plants has become so great that it is no longer possible for the station to furnish the number required. During the past six years over 200,000 common lime plants and 12,000 spineless lime plants have been distributed from the station. It is not difficult to make a rough calculation of the area thus planted with lime trees. After allowing a percentage for failures, this number is sufficient to plant, at 15 feet apart, 1,000 acres. During the year 1905-6 over 41,000 lime trees (including 5,970 of the spineless variety) were sent out from the station. The time has now arrived when established plantations should organize their own nurseries and so allow the Botanic Station supplies to be reserved for new settlers. If the trade in fresh limes with the Mother Country is to be satisfactorily developed, it is absolutely essential, as was pointed out in the *West India Committee Circular* of September 19th last, that the supply should be more closely regulated to meet the demand, and the market neither kept too short nor flooded. At the time of writing there was not a fresh lime to be obtained in London, and now, despite our warning, of which those handling limes in this country should have taken heed, there has since been a glut of the fruit, which will, it is feared, cause the planters some disappointment when they receive their account sales. It is only fair to the planters to add that they could not have received the warning when the shipments were made, and the loss of the market when the prices were so high was largely contributed to by the inadequacy of mail arrangements and consequent lack of facilities for shipping the fruit. But the error lay in waiting for the demand to arise without being pre-

pared for it. The period of maximum consumption is, of course, the summer months, especially the hottest part, and shippers should provide for this. Moreover, the lemon market should be watched very closely. It now remains for planters and their representatives on this side to set to work in real earnest to endeavour to popularise this fruit during the winter, so that the way may be prepared for stimulated consumption in the summer. Year in and year out lemons are used, and there is no reason why lemons should not be used also, though it must be obvious to anyone who knows anything about such fruit, that the demand must be less in winter than in summer.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS.

Sir Nevile Lubbock presided over a general meeting of the West India Committee on Thursday afternoon, October 18th, convened to meet the Hon. Ralph Williams, who leaves for Grenada on January 2nd next, to assume the Government of the Windward Islands. Among those present were:—Sir E. Noël Walker, Colonel W. Tolson, Mr. G. G. Brown, Mr. P. O. Cornwell, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis, Mr. Edward R. Davson, Mr. G. A. Dillion, Hon. E. DuBoulay, Mr. T. DuBuisson, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Elliott, Mr. W. Goodwin, Mr. J. S. Harding, Mr. Christopher Head, Mr. J. H. Huett, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford, Mr. E. L. Marshall, Mr. F. McConnell, Mr. D. Keith Nightingale, Hon. W. Peter, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mrs. Senhouse, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. H. K. Franklin Smith, Mr. C. J. Tarring, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, Mr. J. H. Wilkinson and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinal, Secretary. A letter was read from the Hon. Macaulay Browne, expressing regret at his inability to attend.

Sir Nevile, introducing Mr. Williams to the meeting, said that he would find the Windward Islands slowly emerging from a period of acute depression. To St. Vincent, the Sea Island cotton industry had been a godsend. In Grenada the cocoa industry was prospering, and the sugar estates in St. Lucia had benefited through the abolition of bounties. With regard to the latter he was pleased to notice that the confectioners were not so much opposed to the Convention, and he hoped that they would realise that the continuance was as much in their interest and that of the consumers as it was in the interest of the British Colonies and the sugar refiners. With regard to the St. Vincent Eruption Fund, which was collected for the specific purpose of the relief of the sufferers from the volcanic eruptions of 1902, an unexpended sum of over £30,000 still remained, of which £25,000 was retained as a permanent investment, the interest being devoted towards defraying the cost of poor relief and the principal retained as a reserve for future emergencies, and he thought that a portion of this sum might very fairly be applied towards resuscitating the canal in the Carib country, thus providing the necessary water supply, so that agricultural operations might be resumed in that district, which was formerly the most fertile in the Island. Another matter which would require the attention of Mr. Williams was the Land Acquisition Ordinance in St. Lucia, to which the strongest possible exception had been taken by the inhabitants of that Colony, and he could not help feeling that the unfortunate *contretemps* regarding it, which led to the withdrawal of the unofficial members from the Council, might have been avoided. The District Board of Grenada had protested against the non-inclusion of St. George's among the ports of call of the Canadian steamers under the new itinerary, but it was understood that the omission was due to the small amount of trade between that Island and Canada, which made the call unprofitable, and to the small prospect that was held out of any increase. Sir Nevile also touched on the cable question, pointing out that with regard to the proposal to establish wireless telegraphy, no evidence was obtainable as to the successful use of this system for commercial purposes in any part of the world. Moreover, inasmuch as it did not appear to be workable during heavy rains, he was afraid that for the West Indies it would be of little avail, as it was essential that communication for commercial uses should be absolutely regular and quite free from interruption.

The Hon. W. Peter said that he wished to refer to the inadequacy of the mail arrangements for St. Lucia and the Northern Islands, and he pointed out that passengers and mails for these Colonies were now detained for a week in Barbados before proceeding to their destination. He could not help feeling that the Government, while helping the larger Colonies, was sacrificing the smaller, and St. Lucia was now isolated from the other Islands of the Colony of the Windward Islands. The solution of the difficulty appeared to him to be the addition of a second intercolonial steamer, which he felt to be an absolute necessity.

Mr. W. P. B. Shephard said that as the Committee had assisted in the collection of the St. Vincent Eruption Fund, they were naturally anxious to know how it had been administered, and should insist that it was applied to the specific purposes for which it was subscribed.

Mr. Ralph Williams, after expressing the great pleasure with which he met the West India Committee, assured the Committee that all the points raised should have his serious and careful

attention. Speaking as a former Colonial Secretary of Barbados, he reminded those present of the dark days through which they and he had gone while combatting the difficulties of that Colony, and he assured them of his confidence that though much remained to be done, sufficient progress had been made to warrant them all in believing that a sound and permanent prosperity was in store for the West Indies. He expressed his regret at the withdrawal of the troops, which, however, it appeared was unavoidable, and he trusted that frequent visits of ships of the Navy to the West Indian Colonies would still be maintained, as nothing more conduced to kindly goodwill between our Colonies and the Mother Country. Mr. Williams trusted that he might be found to do his duty in the Colony which he was called upon to administer, and assured the Committee that he would do all in his power to gain the goodwill of the people and to increase the prosperity of the Windward Islands.

VERY MANY YEARS AGO.

An Influential Membership.

In the year 1830 the West India Committee Rooms were situated at 60, St. James's Street, and it is recorded how those making use of that thoroughfare complained of the block caused by the carriages of the West Indian proprietors, who at that time represented the wealthy class in this Country! In order to convey to our readers some idea of the influential character of the West India Committee even in those days, we may mention that at a meeting held on the 19th of June, there were no less than eighty members present. The Marquis of Chandos, M.P., who was the Chairman of the West India Committee, presided, and among those present were the Earl of Harewood, Viscount St. Vincent, Lord Rivers, and no less than seventeen Members of Parliament, their names being: Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., M.P., Sir Edward East, Bart., M.P., Hon. Edward Lascelles, M.P., Hon. Col. Cust, M.P., Sir Bethel Codrington, Bart., Sir Michael Stewart, Bart., M.P., Joseph Marryat, M.P., Joseph Birch, M.P., W. R. Keith Douglas, M.P., Henry Bright, M.P., Ralph Bernal, M.P., W. Dickinson, M.P., Sir Rose Price, Bart., W. Manning, M.P., G. H. Dawkins Pennant, M.P., John Irving, M.P., and Robert Gordon, M.P. Among others who attended on this particular occasion, the names of the following will be familiar to most of our readers, L. John Daniels, Thomson Hankey, Junr., Charles McGarel, James Greig, James Colquhoun, Roger Kynaston, James Allbony, James Cavan, Colonel Delap, Claud Neilson, Boyd Alexander, James Bogle Smith, and Charles Payne, who formed one of a deputation from Bristol on this occasion. Sir Henry Martin, Bart., James Innis, Petty Vaughan and W. Beckford, were among those who attended the next meeting, which was convened to consider matters in connection with the Budget and the sugar and rum duties.

COLONIAL GARRISONS.

The following letter, under date Oct. 10th, has been addressed by the West India Committee to Mr. A. G. Wise, Secretary of the St. Helena Committee, which has recently been formed to protect the interests of the Colonists in that Island. Mr. Wise invited the support of the West India Committee in endeavouring to persuade the Government to reconsider their decision to withdraw the troops from St. Helena, or to take measures for the relief of the Colonists, in the event of the decision being adhered to:—

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that your letter of the 27th ult., with regard to the threatened withdrawal of the Imperial troops from St. Helena, has been duly considered by my Executive Committee.

As you are doubtless aware, we strongly protested last year against the determination of His Majesty's Government to withdraw the Imperial troops then stationed at Barbados, St. Lucia and Jamaica, with the result that their decision was modified to the extent of a small body of white troops being retained in the Island of Jamaica.

While my Committee are opposed to the principle of reducing the British garrisons in our Colonies, they realise that every case must be judged on its merits. Thus, in the case of the West Indies, the representations of the West India Committee were entirely based on Imperial grounds and on questions regarding the safety of the Colonies from internal disorders. But in the case of St. Helena, the position seems to be somewhat different, it appearing that the inhabitants of the Island are likely to be reduced to a state bordering on poverty in the event of the removal of the garrison, which is at the present time the main source of their livelihood. The question of relief measures in the event of the troops being withdrawn, becomes therefore a matter for serious consideration, to which the attention of the Government is, as we understand, very properly being drawn by the St. Helena Committee.

Inasmuch, however, as the operations of the West India Committee are confined by the terms of their Royal Charter of Incorporation to the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras, my Committee, while sympathising with the people of St. Helena, regret that they cannot see their way to make representations on the subject to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Trusting that a satisfactory settlement of this matter may be arrived at,

I have, &c.,

ALGERON E. ASHALL, Sec.

Lord Elgin has since informed the St. Helena Committee that the decision to withdraw the troops must be adhered to.

THE STATE OF CUBA.

The cyclone which struck Cuba on October 17th, appears to have been somewhat severe, though, fortunately for the Cubans, the area affected was confined to the western end of the Island, the centre of the disturbance being near Havana, which suffered very much in consequence.

There is still a remarkable lack of political news from the Island. The views of the American press appear to be against annexation. Thus the New Haven *Register* says "History is being made altogether too fast to suit the digestive organs of the nation." The Troy (N.Y.) *Times* states, "The United States, deeply sympathising with the Cuban people in their troubles, is going to help them out once more and to give them a chance to make another start in self-government." The Pittsburg *Despatch* remarks that "Talk of annexation is without sanction of law or warrant of popular approval in either country." The Philadelphia *Press* says, "The task of eight years ago has again to be undertaken and with less hope. It is not possible now, as from 1898 to 1903, to turn to a united Cuban people." And in the Buffalo *Courier* we find, "The affair is grave. It may bring a long train of trouble." On the other hand the Philadelphia *North American* believes that Cuba, "By all the rules of the older nations, should long ago have been a dependency of this Republic."

With regard to the condition of the Island, Mr. Charles W. Parish, presiding over the general meeting of the Cuban Submarine Telegraph Company on October 17th, said that, it was difficult here exactly to gauge the situation or the causes which had prompted the outbreak. He had been told, on the one hand, that it had been expected, while from others he had heard that it had come as a great surprise and disappointment. There seemed, happily, to have been but little real fighting, with its dire consequences, though he feared that much damage was done to properties in some parts of the Island. The action of the United States appeared to have been moderate, fair and firm, and they could only hope that a peaceful and prosperous period might follow the storm which had passed away.

The report of the directors of the Cuban Central Railways states that, "The recent political disturbances in Cuba were particularly felt in the district served by the company's lines, and, for a time, the traffic was entirely suspended on some sections. In addition to the loss resulting from the interruption to business, the property in the Cienfuegos district suffered damage to the estimated amount of £34,000." It further adds that, "The disturbances having now passed, it is confidently anticipated that business will promptly return to normal conditions, and that the approaching sugar crop will be in no way affected. Meanwhile, it is impossible not to express surprise at the absolute lack of interest shown in the matter by the British press."

THE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The inaugural address on the occasion of the opening of the winter session of the London School of Tropical Medicine on Monday, October 15th, was delivered before an appreciative audience by Colonel Kenneth Macleod. In the course of his remarks he said that the School which was opened on October 3rd, 1899, continued to prosper. During twenty-one sessions the aggregate number of students amounted to 617, of whom 235 belonged to the Colonial Medical Service, for whose benefit and for the benefit of the Colonies in which its members were destined to serve, the school was originally designed and organised, under the administration and personal initiative of that great Colonial Minister, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain.

The hospital had been enlarged and could accommodate fifty patients. The new wards were spacious, clean and well ventilated, fitted with every appliance and supplied with every requisite for the treatment of the sick. The school building adjoining the hospital, with its large and well-stocked laboratory, lecture-room, museum and library, was well adapted and provided for the instruction of forty students; and, in addition to accommodation for the staff, provided quarters for twelve students who were thus enabled to devote the whole of their time to their studies and practical work. The arrangements were well suited to their purpose and reflected credit on all concerned; but they were by no means complete, and the school must be looked upon as in a state of adolescence, and immaturity. Effort and money were still necessary to enable it to accomplish all the good which its promoters and well-wishers desired.

For these and other purposes more money was wanted. Sir Patrick Manson, who the orator referred to as the Brahma and Vishnu, the creator and sustainer of the School, estimated that £100,000 were required to place the school on a satisfactory and permanent basis. Of this sum about £40,000 had been received. The remaining £60,000 would form an endowment which would expand the operations and enhance the usefulness of the School. Surely the wealthiest city and busiest port in the world might reasonably be expected, when the want was known, to contribute handsomely to the support of an institution whose work was designed to mitigate the loss of health and life, which interfered so greatly with the industry and commerce of our tropical Colonies and dependencies, from

which the wealth of London and of England was so largely drawn, and caused such a waste of time, labour and money.

The necessity of special instruction in the diseases of tropical countries required no argument or proof. Insects, more especially blood sucking insects, the mosquito, for example, had been found to fulfil an important function in the conveyance of infective disease, and the harbouring and transmission of disease germs, and knowledge on this subject imperatively claimed to be imparted and extended. He trusted, therefore, that a pathological entomologist might in the early future be added to the School.

In the evening, the annual banquet of the School was held at the Hotel Cecil. In the absence of the Duke of Marlborough, Sir William Treacher occupied the Chair, and among those present were Sir Patrick Manson, Sir Francis Lovell, Dr. Daniels, Dr. Kerr, Dr. Anderson, Dr. W. Von Winckler of British Guiana, while the West India Committee were represented by Mr. Edward R. Davson and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall.

THE BRITISH GUIANA RUBBER CORPORATION, LTD.

Lord Elgin has repudiated the statement made in the prospectus of the "British Rubber Corporation, Ltd., which was recently issued, that the Government has undertaken to grant fifteen new licences covering a certain area for fifty years from the expiration of a lease or licence for five years from June 21st, 1905, to collect rubber over that area. In connection with statements in the prospectus referred to, in which it was alleged that the *Hevea brasiliensis*, or Para Rubber, was indigenous in a certain part of British Guiana, the following extract from the report of Mr. A. W. Bartlett, Government Botanist of British Guiana, on his recent visit to North-west District of the Colony, will be of interest. "The true Para rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*, Mull. Arg.) has not yet been found, but the species *H. confusa*, Hemsl. *H. Spruceana*, Mull. Arg., and *H. pauciflora*, Mull. Arg., are plentiful in the Pomeroun district and the Essequibo and Massaruni rivers above Bartica. The Arawack name for Hevea-rubber is 'Hattie.' Analysis of the latter, collected at different times of the year from the native Heveas, by the Government Analyst, Professor Harrison, show that it contains too small a proportion of caoutchouc to be of any value.

"All the rubber of any value which has been collected in the Colony has been obtained from trees known by the Caribeei as Touchpong. Botanically, they belong to the genus *Sapium* and comprise several specimens (*Sapium aucuparium* Jacq. *S. Jenmani* Hemsl. *S. paucinerium* Hemsl. and *S. biglandulosum*, Mull. Arg.) the value of the latex of the individual species not being known. They appear to be uniformly distributed throughout the forests not far from the coast. The rubber appears to be of good quality and the specimens sent to England and Hamburg have been well reported on. It would be both useful and interesting to obtain further particulars as to the yield of the trees, the seasons for tapping and the best methods of tapping and preparing the latex, &c. The present method adopted by the Indians of winding off the rubber after it has coagulated in strings, would appear to be lengthy and wasteful and would render the rubber liable to contamination with dirt and foreign matter, which would much reduce its value.

"It seems probable in the future that the main source of rubber will be from cultivated plantations. The clean condition in which rubber can be obtained from cultivated trees enables it to obtain a price in the market 50% higher than that obtained from the forests and at the same time the cost of collection is much reduced. Ceylon and Singapore have very large areas under rubber trees and the cultivation is quickly increasing especially in the latter place. In the West Indies in the Island of Tobago 90,000 *Castilleja elastica* have been planted. At present the supply of rubber from all sources is not enough to meet the demand which is continually increasing, as new uses are discovered for the rubber. Should there come a time when the supply keeps pace with or exceeds the demand an inevitable fall in value must follow. This will affect both the wild and the cultivated product, but in all probability the former will suffer most, until it will no longer pay for the trouble and expense of its collection. The net profit derived from rubber plantations appears to be sufficiently high to allow for a considerable fall in prices. Hence whilst it behoves one to endeavour to search for fresh areas and previously undiscovered trees as sources of rubber, at the same time it is of equal or greater importance to establish plantations of the trees from which the rubber can be obtained at less cost and commanding a higher price. The supply from the former will serve until that from the latter becomes available.

"A short distance inland from the coast where the full force of the trade winds is not experienced, the conditions of both the soil and climate in this Colony appear to be very suitable for planting rubber trees, especially the *Hevea brasiliensis*. At a small cost a few of each of the rubber trees available might be tried and three or four or at the most five years would clearly show whether

the conditions were favourable for more extended planting. Both in Venezuela, Tobago and Ceylon, *Castilloa elastica* has been tried as a shade tree for cocoa. From all three places come favourable reports of the experiment and especially from the first, but I think that a longer trial is required before the general adoption of this practice can be advocated."

NATURE NOTES.

MAURITIAN MOLASCUIT. A planter in Mauritius, according to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, who has fed a part of his cattle on cassava and acacia beans, and the rest on molascuit, finds that the latter are in much better condition than the former. Not only are they fatter and stronger, but better able to resist the "surra" disease.

JAVA SEEDLING CANES. The Audubon Park Station in Louisiana, has received some seedlings from Java to experiment with. These have shown in Java characteristics likely to suit Louisiana conditions, as they tend to grow rapidly and come to maturity very early, resembling in this particular the Demerara Seedlings D. 74, and D. 95, which have done so well in Louisiana.

BERMUDAN BANANAS. The Canary Island Banana *Musa Cavendishii* thrives exceedingly in Bermuda, and probably better than in any part of the world, even including China which is its native habitat. Planted ten feet by eight feet apart, and given even less care than is bestowed upon potatoes, an acre of bananas could be made to yield in Bermuda quite 2,000 bunches per annum.

A NEW RUBBER. In Venezuela and other South American countries occur several plants belonging to the family Loranthaceae (Mistletoes) which produce rubber. These plants have been much spoken of in Germany lately, and some writers see a great future in this new source of rubber. It may be possible to utilize these plants to some extent, but the collecting of Mistletoe growing in the branches of high forest trees will always be a matter of difficulty. As the rubber is obtained from the fruits it will be seen that we need not fear a flooding of the market from this source.

CEYLON RUBBER. According to Mr. Carruthers, the Director of Agriculture, the area alienated for the planting of Para rubber is some 100,000 acres, of which about 38,000 acres has already been planted. Most of the Para rubber trees of the age of five years or more have been planted 200 to the acre; some estates have as many as 300 to the acre. On the more recent clearings the average is probably 175 to the acre. The number of trees of all ages in the Federated Malay States may perhaps be put at six to seven millions. The rubber production of 1905 is estimated to have been 300,000 lbs.

SEEDLING CANES. Seedlings raised in Trinidad are gradually growing into favour in that island, numerous applications being made for plants of seedling kinds, which produce good crops on land where the older cane refuses to thrive, but the practical disappearance of the "Cane rot" caused by various fungi has led to a retention of the Bourbon. Planters, states Mr. Hart, are strongly of opinion that the prevalence of disease in past years was largely due to a succession of seasons unfavourable to cane growth, while at the same time suitable for the development of parasitic fungi.

MONSTERA DELICIOSA. This plant thrives well in Trinidad and fruits annually on the lands of the Botanical Department, planted against larger trees on which it climbs to twenty or thirty feet in height. A plant at the Experiment Station, says Mr. Hart, in the Bulletin of Trinidad Botanical Department for July, gave several fruits during the month of March 1906, which were of excellent quality and were much appreciated as a rare table delicacy. For the first time perfect seeds were ripened in some of these fruits, and seedling plants have been raised from them. The name has recently appeared in the newspaper paragraphs as *Monstio-de la-Cosin*, an easily explained corruption in a Colony where the French language is so commonly spoken.

CAMPHOR DISTILLATION. Mr. Bamber, the Ceylon Government chemist speaking of the distillation of camphor, mentions that with shoots from estates at elevations ranging from under 2,000 feet to over 6,000 feet elevation, yields of camphor varying from 1.16 to 1.71 per cent. were obtained. Leaves and twigs distilled separately shewed that the ratio of the camphor content was about 3:1. In distilling the camphor it is necessary that when the distillation commences the heat should be reduced to a minimum, so that very little steam passes over with the camphor, also that the condensing water be cold and abundant, and flow in the opposite direction to the distillate. When the condensed camphor is impure and discoloured it can be easily obtained pure white by re-distillation, but this should be unnecessary if the first is properly conducted. The red liquid obtained from the shoots in the retort was analyzed and found to contain tannin, a yellow dye, and an ash rich in manganese.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Turks and Caicos Island.

The report on the Blue Book of Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1905, which has only just disentangled itself from the red tape of the Jamaica Government and the Colonial Office,

shows that there was a deficit of £1,036 in the finances of the year's transactions, which was consequently reduced on January 1st, 1906, to £7,579 4s. 9d. The revenue and expenditure for the past five years has been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
1901	9,030	7,989	1,041	—
1902	8,693	8,006	687	—
1903	8,678	8,910	—	232
1904	6,466	8,001	—	1,535
1905	6,243	7,279	—	1,036

During the year the yield of salt at Grand Turk was short. At Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour the salt yield was satisfactory, being estimated at 440,000 bushels and 686,000 bushels respectively, but for Grand Turk no more than 141,000 bushels, as compared with an annual average of 700,000 bushels, the crop being wasted by rain more or less throughout the year. The bulk of the salt is exported to the United States, and Canada is the next in importance of the recipients of it. The exports during the year are valued as follows:—Salt, £14,604; Sisal Fibre, £5,803; Sponges, £2,223; Conchs, £656; Turtle-shell, £533.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Manures in Japan.

In the manure trade generally there has been a considerable increase, amounting to £583,000, mostly in sulphate of ammonia and oil cake. The import of the former is recorded as being almost entirely from the United Kingdom. Four-fifths of the total import into Japan were delivered at Kobe.

Tobacco and Rubber in Borneo.

The planting industries of British North Borneo consist almost exclusively of tobacco and rubber cultivation. The former occupies estates (owned by some three companies) which have been under cultivation for several years, and are the survival of some twenty concerns that have started there from time to time to cultivate wrapper tobacco. The industry shows no sign of expansion; on the contrary two estates were closed during 1905. With one exception the rubber estates have all been recently opened and are still under development. In order to stimulate public interest in these ventures, the Chartered Company has devised an ingenious scheme by which the proprietors are paid an annual dividend of 4 per cent., while the estates are in course of development. In addition to the above, cocoa-nuts are being more freely planted than formerly, and in a few years' time the output of them should be considerable.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" which started from Kingston, Jamaica, on September 27th, reached Avonmouth on October 10th, and the R.M.S.P. "La Plata," which left Barbados on Wednesday, October 3rd, arrived at Southampton on Monday, October 15th. Among her passengers were Mr. E. C. Jackman and Dr. Greenidge, both from Barbados. The mail brought the sad news of the death in Trinidad of Mr. Valleton de Boissiere, who was mourned for by a large circle of friends. Climatic conditions were decidedly rainy and on one estate in St. Kitts a yard of rain was likely to be recorded as having fallen during September.

Copious rains in Antigua.

Writing on September 14th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that lately the Island had been favoured with all the rain which the driest of estates could require. On August 31st there were signs of a cyclonic disturbance, and on September 1st the heavens opened and a rainfall of five to ten inches according to locality descended, filling up all the ponds, flooding the creeks and saturating the soil. Since then, following showers had fallen which proved most favourable for the lighter and better drained estates, but rather too much for places where the land was flat and the soil a heavy clay. Writing later he said that September was likely to prove a record rainfall month in the Island. The rainfall for the month to the 26th, the date of a subsequent letter from Mr. Spooner, had varied from twelve to twenty inches already according to the locality, the heaviest fall of which the writer had any record since June, 1889, when 17.6 inches fell on the Belvidere estate. The rain had been of great value on the light limestone estates, especially as it had enabled the cotton crop to be thoroughly established, but on heavy estates like Belvidere it had done a good deal of harm, the waste silting up the trenches and so rendering the land water-logged.

The wind started in the north-west on August 31st and worked round to south and south-east, thus

indicating a cyclone passing to northward on a north-east to south-west course. Fortunately, it did not appear to have passed directly over any Island, and so no damage was reported. The rain had enabled cotton planters to get a sowing opportunity at last, and from all accounts a large acreage was being put in. On the limestone soils of Antigua very high class "Sea Island" could be grown, and the low prices and uncertain prospects of the sugar industry, especially with the denunciation of the Brussels Convention hanging over their heads and preventing the investment of capital for developing the sugar industry, were sure to drive an increasing area into cotton. But, however favourable this policy might be to the landowner, it would not probably be as well for the labourer or for the revenue as if the land were in sugar cultivation. It was interesting to note that in spite of the high wages paid to labourers at Panama, a number of recent emigrants were returning to Antigua, and these gave no very favourable accounts of their experiences. It was understood that more would return if they could, but that the Panama Canal authorities having paid their passage there, provided against desertion by some system of deferred pay, allowing the labourer enough wages to pay for food and lodging on account, but not enough for him to pay his passage back. The rule that a labourer for six days a week must either be at work, in hospital, or in prison, was not one that commended itself to many of their labourers, who in Antigua worked for estates when the spirit moved them or when no other means of living presented itself. The new mail arrangements had not been hailed with any display of gratitude in Antigua. Letters arrived on Thursday and the homeward mail closed on Saturday morning. This mail had then to wait in Barbados until the ocean steamer passed. Letters posted *via* America or Canada would in many instances reach Britain sooner than letters carried in this way.

The Central cotton factory, which had been successfully conducted up to that time by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and to the success of which Dr. Watts had greatly contributed, was, upon the initiative of Sir Daniel Morris, to be taken over from the British Cotton Growing Association by a local syndicate. The factory would probably be enlarged so as to deal with the very much larger crop of cotton which might be expected this season. It was to be hoped that the Imperial Department of Agriculture would continue to take the same active interest in the cotton factory as it had done up to the present time, an interest to some extent answerable for the relatively high prices which Antigua cotton had fetched in comparison with that of most of the other Islands. As cotton areas became larger on the estates, no doubt many private ginneries would be set up, especially as the tendency was rather towards planting cotton than sugar, at the prices that had ruled this crop for the latter staple. The limestone estates were very suitable for the cheap production of high grade Sea Island cotton; those estates off the limestone formation were either less suitable or not suitable at all, and the cotton from them did not sell at as good prices and cost more to grow per acre.

The "Love Vine" in Barbados.

In his letter of October 1st, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne reported that on Sunday, September 23rd, the long-wished for heavy rain fell generally over the Island. In most places it began about 7 a.m. and lasted with little intermission till 10 p.m. During these hours the generality of estates got four to five inches, but some as much as seven or eight inches. It was a steady downpour, but gave little or no wash. The gutters were running as they had not done the whole year, and the waterfalls were pouring over the hills. The canes, which had suffered much in the drought of the first three weeks of the month, had greatly improved, but it was feared that the check was too severe to allow the ratoons to give satisfactory results. This applied chiefly to St. Philips, Christ Church and St. Michael's, where, however, some fine first crop canes might be seen. In the leeward parishes and St. Lucy's, St. Peter's and St. Thomas had hardly suffered showers fell much more continuously, and St. Lucy's, St. Peter's and St. Thomas had hardly suffered for want of rain all the year. The rainfall for September had varied from seven to fourteen inches. The cotton fields were growing fast, and it was hoped that the heavy rain would mitigate the pests which had been so prevalent. Every effort was being made by the planters to keep them in check, and all sorts of bellows and powder guns for disseminating Paris green had been largely imported. Lest any cotton grower should be careless about his cotton, or keep it too long or in a diseased state so as to be a source of danger to his neighbours, a large committee of the Agricultural Society had been formed to take cognizance of such cases, and it was hoped that by influence and remonstrance they would soon be put an end to. On September 28th, at the meeting of the Agricultural Society, Mr. J. R. Bovell brought in specimens of the "Love Vine" which had been found in the valley of St. George's. Trinidad had passed a special ordinance giving power to destroy this extremely noxious and dangerous creeper, which sucked the life out of every plant with which it came in contact, where it was found. A committee was at once formed to consider the best steps to be taken to destroy the pest. The price of sugar, though slightly lower than when Mr. Alleyne last wrote, seemed hopeful and encouraging, but unfortunately many months must elapse before they could have any to put on the market. The question of the prohibition of the colouring of rum was a very serious one for the

West Indies, and they were all glad that the West India Committee had taken up the matter. The weather had been less sultry since the rain, and pleasant breezes had generally prevailed.

A small strike in British Guiana.

Mr. J. C. McCowan stated in his letter of September 28th, that there had been a small strike of wharf porters and boys during the week, but nothing serious. It was probable that they might have further trouble when the crop got into full swing and they had steamers loading one after the other. A meeting of the Court of Policy had been held, and the East Coast of Berbice Drainage Ordinance had passed its second and third reading. The value of crystals was \$2.27½. The weather was hot and dry, and while suitable for reaping operations, showers would be very acceptable for young cultivation. The arrow was still backward, and consequently juice was not as good as it might be, but this would improve in the course of another fortnight.

Dominica's Lime products.

Mr. E. A. Agar, writing on September 29th, expressed satisfaction that the price of cocoa was now advancing. The exceedingly heavy rains they had been having during the past week had, it was feared, somewhat spoiled the prospects of this crop, but there was no reason to anticipate a shortage. Even had the proceeds of lime juice not been so good, lime planters would have cause to congratulate themselves on this year's results. The new electric light lamps were being installed, and there was every prospect of this pattern being a success.

Farewell to Grenada's Governor.

Mr. C. Falconer Anton, writing on September 29th, informs us that Bishop Swaby arrived from British Guiana by the R.M.S. "Eden" on the 17th, and had held confirmation services in all the parishes except St. John, St. Mark and St. David. His Lordship was leaving for Barbados by the outgoing mail on October 1st. On Monday, the 24th, a series of dinner parties was started by one at the rectory for the Bishop. On Tuesday the Governor had a Council dinner, on Wednesday His Excellency was the guest of the St. George's Club, on Thursday the Governor and Lady Llewelyn were the guests of the Attorney General, and on the same evening the Bishop was the guest of the Chief Justice. The Governor and Lady Llewelyn were leaving for St. Vincent in the R.M. Steamer on Monday, October 1st, to return on or about the 11th. The Legislative Council met on September 25th and 26th, and, among other matters, passed the new licenses ordinance shorn of most, if not all, its objectionable parts, and a vote of a sum of £25 to the Agricultural Society in aid of their representation at the Liverpool Exhibition, 1907. At the close of business on the 26th, the Governor was presented with a farewell address. On the same day there was a general meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, at which a resolution was passed recording its appreciation of the valuable work done by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and the increasing benefits it was deriving from the Department's present work in Grenada, and requesting that the grant-in-aid given by the Imperial Government, which expired in 1908, might be continued. Mr. Anton added that things agricultural had most certainly very much improved in Grenada since the advent of Mr. R. D. Anstead, the Agricultural Superintendent. In this connection he had to record with regret that their Agricultural Instructor, Mr. G. F. Branch, had been laid up for some weeks, and although somewhat better, was anything but well yet, and probably would not be fit for work for some little time longer. The weather continued very dry, and some of the cocoa planters were grumbling. If it continued dry much longer it was feared that the young cocoa pods would suffer.

The increasing prosperity of Jamaica.

Mr. J. L. Ashenheim, writing on September 27th, said that fine rains were falling, which must be invaluable from an agricultural standpoint. Mr. George Solomon had communicated to the local press an important letter on the subject of the representation of Jamaica at the coming Colonial Conference, suggesting that Sir Nevile Lubbock should be selected as the representative of this part of the Empire. The annual report of the Merchants' Exchange, which was presented and adopted at the annual meeting on September 28th, Mr. S. Soutar presiding, deals with many matters of agricultural and commercial interest. It was mentioned that the Council had resolved to approach the Governor to permit a reduction in duty on gasoline, in order to encourage automobilists to visit the Colony, but His Excellency replied that he did not see his way to accede to the request. Reference was made to the death of Mr. F. B. Lyons, who was for many years Vice-President of the Society, to which he rendered valuable services, and Mr. C. E. de Mercado was elected Vice-President in his place. The Treasurers reported that the accounts showed a balance on the year's transactions of £52 2s. 9. The following members of the Council retiring by rotation were all re-elected:—Messrs. E. A. H. Haggart, F. L. Myers, W. H. Johnson, Capt. Forwood, E. X. Leon, Chas. DeCordova and

R. S. Gamble. Mr. R. E. H. Melhado was elected a country member. Messrs. David Henderson and G. Eustace Burke were elected as members of the Council, *vice* Mr. C. E. de Mercado who has been elected a Vice-President of the Society, and Mr. Horatio Corinaldi, resigned. Mr. J. L. Ashenheim was elected a life member of the Society.

The following return of horses and mules exported from the Island during the last ten years was published in the *Gazette* :

Number.			Value.		Number.			Value.			
			£ s.					£ s.			
1896-7	...	25	...	679	0	1901-2	...	115	...	1,982	0
1897-8	...	8	...	179	0	1902-3	...	65	...	1,040	0
1898-9	...	46	...	973	0	1903-4	...	50	...	1,823	0
1899-1900	...	42	...	721	0	1904-5	...	96	...	1,696	10
1900-1	...	53	...	559	15	1905-6	...	237	...	3,408	10

This publication also contained an important statement regarding the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the first three months of the financial year. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905-6, the revenue showed the substantial increase of £12,813, the total revenue being £201,577, the most important items being the Customs, which increased by £2,811; licenses, excise, &c., by £4,609; stamp duties, &c., by £1,875, and the railway by £2,986. This increase is particularly satisfactory as it is for three of the duller months of the financial year. The receipts from parochial taxation were £3,877 more than during the same period last year. With regard to expenditure, there was a decrease of £13,000, but no positive deductions can be drawn from this statement, as certain sums not spent during the first three months, will certainly be expended later and have only been deferred, but in any case a smaller expenditure is estimated for this year than any of the three preceding years. It is only at the end of a year that it can be known how much saving had actually taken place. The increase in the exports of nearly £62,000 during the first three months of the financial year is very satisfactory, but against this the imports showed an increase of £4,000. This proportion of exports and imports is unlikely to be maintained during the remainder of the year. The following is a table of the value of products exported in the first three months of—

	1905.	1906.
Cocoa	£19,268	£42,430
Logwood	15,348	20,613
Logwood extract	16,956	19,917
Sugar	60,704	51,505
Bananas	265,557	278,477

These figures would seem to show that Jamaica is steadily approaching a better financial position.

A Yard of Rain in St. Kitts

The absurdity of the mail service was demonstrated by the fact that in St. Kitts, on September 27th, the date of Mr. A. D. C. Adamson's letter, letters had already been received, letters posted in London on the 6th, but those that left London over a week earlier would not be delivered till some time on the 27th. Since last advices the weather had been wonderful; during the whole time the sun had scarcely been seen and rain had been incessant. The rainfall for the month to date varied from fifteen to thirty inches, and a neighbouring estate was likely to record a yard! In spite of the enormous amount of moisture, comparatively little damage had been done either to roads or cultivation, but grinding operations had been paralyzed. The cane crop all round was looking excellent, but some hot sunny weather was badly wanted now to turn late rains to good account. The forward cotton fields, in which picking had begun, had suffered, as the seeds had begun to grow in the open bolls.

The Clergymen's Holiday in St. Vincent.

Messrs. D. K. Porter & Company reported in their letter of September 29th that the weather had been favourable to all the crops. On Sunday, the 23rd, they had an unprecedented rainfall for that day of the week, giving all the different clergymen a holiday, but they had not heard of the rains doing any damage to cultivation or otherwise.

Mr. W. N. Sands stated that cotton prospects continued bright, when he closed his letter on October 1st. The total area planted was now estimated at 1,600 acres, the largest acreage so far planted in Sea Island cotton at St. Vincent. Another fact worthy of more than passing note was that practically all the lands planted were recently in arrowroot and sugar. If the cultivation of cotton was the means of bringing down to some extent the over-production of arrowroot, it would be a good thing for the Island. Owing to small stocks, arrowroot starch was much firmer in price at that time, but whether the firm price would be the means of encouraging growers to adopt the unwise practice of digging the roots before they were ripe, in order to catch the market, remained

to be seen. It was noticed that on one estate recently unripe roots were being dug. A few days previously Mr. Sands visited the Carib Country and was pleased to note the improvement in the general outlook. The slopes of the Soufrière appeared to be covered with vegetation to a height of quite 2,000 feet. The country generally looked green, and on the estates near Georgetown the cane and arrowroot crops were promising. About 100 acres had been planted in cotton, but the plants were very backward and did not look as if they would yield much. The season for cotton had not been a good one in that part of the Island.

Trinidad cacao still advances.

Writing on October 1st, the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., stated that a meeting was recently held at Princetown of representatives of sugar estates and cane farmers, at which yet one more effort was made to come to some definite understanding between the sellers and purchasers of canes. The work of drawing up proposals for a general agreement was entrusted to a committee. It was to be hoped that Mr. H. E. Murray, representing the new Colonial Company, and Mr. Wilson-Jones, representing Messrs. Tennant, Sons & Co., would succeed in effecting what it had hitherto been impossible to accomplish. During the past fortnight showers had been rather more frequent than during the previous week, and some of them had been rather heavy. The intense heat continued. It was perfect weather for canes and also very favourable for cocoa, and although the trees were undergoing a charge of lead, planters were hopeful of beginning new crop pickings at the end of November. Although London had recorded no rise during the past fortnight, the local market had continued to advance. Buying continued to be of an entirely speculative nature, the bulk of the shipment going to the U.S.A., where there was little or no visible supply of Trinidad kinds. There had been some demand from the Continent for immediate shipment, but with local prices much above their parities, and with a market bare of supplies, business had been impossible. Since last advices Venezuelans had, in sympathy with Trinidad, gone much higher, some fine lots having realised prices equal to Trinidad estates. The arrivals from the mainland had been small and crop conditions were similar to those existing in the Colony.

SHIPMENTS.						
Total at last report	...	125,395	Trinidad.	28,904	Venezuela.	
Sept. 15th.—S.S. "Maracas"	...	677	"	372	"	New York.
" 18th.—S.S. "Atrato"	...	63	"	—	"	Europe.
" 22nd.—S.S. "Prins der Nedlin"	...	22	"	16	"	"
" 26th.—S.S. "Maraval"	...	220	"	64	"	New York.
" 27th.—S.S. "Orinoco"	...	75	"	—	"	"
Totals to date	...	126,371	"	29,356	"	

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sugar Refiners and the Brussels Convention.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR.—In reference to your remarks as to the effect of the abolition of bounties on the British sugar refining industry, I wish to point out that since September 1903, the margin between the prices of raw and refined sugar has distinctly improved. As to the quantity of sugar refined in this country, I think, speaking from recollection, that it also has slightly increased. I venture to predict that both these improvements will continue to progress.

Gomshall, October 10th, 1906.

I am, Sir, &c.,

GEORGE MARTINEAU.

[We are pleased to receive Mr. Martineau's assurance as to improved outlook for British refiners.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Political and Social Disturbances in the West Indies, by Frank Cudall, F.S.A. London: H. Sotheran & Co. Since the days of emancipation only forty-four disturbances of any consequence have taken place in the West Indies and British Guiana, including a few associated with the coolies in British Guiana and Trinidad, twenty-eight of which occurred in Jamaica. It is a summary of all the disturbances which Mr. Cudall gives us in a neat pamphlet of 28 pp.

Biographical Annals of Jamaica, by Frank Cudall, F.S.A. London: H. Sotheran & Co. This is a brief history of the Colony, arranged as a guide to the Jamaica Portrait Gallery. Mr. Cudall gives an interesting account of the many celebrated men and women connected with the Colony from the time of Columbus to the present day, including such world renowned names as Sir Hans Sloane, Smollett, "Peter Pindar," Lord Howard of Effingham, and Bishop Coke. A chronological outline of Jamaica history is also appended.

Primer on the Commoner Tropical Diseases, by T. S. Kerr, M.B., B.Sc., late Principal Civil Medical Officer, Straits Settlements. London: Luzac & Co. The object of this little book is to teach a few simple facts about some of the commoner diseases of the tropics, and to show how, by acting on a knowledge of their causes, such diseases may be avoided. The subject is dealt with in a popular manner, and the book should prove very suitable for use in schools in our tropical possessions. It has many excellent illustrations from etchings by the author, of which characteristic specimens are given on this page.

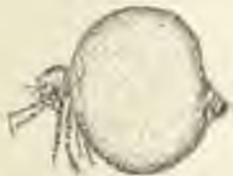
Chapters on the Law relating to the Colonies, by C. J. Tarring, M.A., late Chief-Justice of Grenada, 3rd Edn., 1906. London: Stevens & Haynes, Bell Yard, Temple Bar. Professional and lay readers of the *West India Committee Circular* will alike welcome the appearance of the third edition of this useful work. Wide in its scope but with sufficient detail to ensure special value as a work of reference on legal questions relating to the Colonies (India not being included), the simplicity of language which has contributed so largely to the success of the previous issues is maintained in the edition now published, and will doubtless secure for it a place among the books necessary for both lawyer and merchant with Colonial connections. After an historical survey of the various laws to which British Colonies are or may be subject the author reviews fully the nature of the executive power in Colonial governments, proceeding from this to a detailed description of the legislative power as exercised in the Colonies falling within the scope of the work. It will hardly be necessary to remind members of the West India Committee that so far as the West Indies and British Guiana are concerned these are subjects of material importance to which the attention of the Executive Committee is constantly directed: we believe Mr. Tarring's book is the only comprehensive attempt to define and contrast the legislative and executive functions of Colonial Govern-

ments as Sir William Anson has done with the Supreme Imperial authority, and for this reason its value will be apparent. There is no special reference in this respect to the new South African Colonies, but perhaps under present conditions this was hardly practicable. The somewhat lengthy chapter on the relations between the Judiciary and the Bar will more particularly interest professional readers, and we may suggest for the consideration of the author that the chapter on the details of procedure in Colonial appeals to the Privy Council might be curtailed or omitted: there is an official publication from which this information can be obtained while the remainder of the work is practically unique. The Topical Indexes which have proved such a valuable feature of the earlier editions are enlarged and brought up to date. We believe they contain the only general compilation of Imperial Statutes specially affecting the Colonies, and if we have a suggestion to make it is that the author should supplement them by a list of all relevant Orders in Council. In the West Indies especially the application of the Imperial Law is largely based on such Orders, and although the author refers to many in the text and in notes, a complete list, if it is possible to obtain it, would be invaluable to Colonial practitioners and provide the necessary complement to extant editions of their laws published by Colonial governments, but containing at best only a partial reference to material Orders in Council. We may, perhaps, be permitted to ask why the list of Imperial Statutes relating to particular Colonies contains no reference to British Guiana.



Chigger (male).

The chigger is an insect of a reddish-brown colour, not unlike the common flea. It lives chiefly in dry earth or in the dust or dirt of huts. It attacks birds and animals as well as man. The daily bath, with plenty of soap, is a good preventive, and any chigger found in the skin should be carefully removed.



Chigger (female distended with Eggs.)

When a female chigger is ready to lay her eggs, she bores her way under the skin of the first person or animal on which she jumps. Lying hidden under the skin, she lives on the blood. She grows rapidly to about the size of a pea. About this time her eggs are ripe; when laid the eggs fall on the ground. Here the eggs hatch out, each producing a small worm. After a time the worm encloses itself in a sort of woolly covering or cocoon, from which in ten days the chigger comes out. It is the presence of the chigger under the skin that causes itching, swelling, pain, and it may be sores.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

MAURITIUS SUGAR. The shipments of sugar from Mauritius, have been 191,764 tons in 1905-6, as against 137,899 tons in 1904-5, and 218,532 tons in 1903-4. Of this, India has taken 113,529 tons, as against 77,163 in 1904-5, and 141,501 tons in 1905-4.

ANTIPION EXCLUDED. In Germany, the Custom Houses have been instructed to refuse to admit a new artificial sugar—Antipion. This product, which is manufactured in London, is said to possess a sweetening power 200 times greater than that of refined sugar.

AN OPPORTUNITY! Proprietors of small sugar estates desirous of improving their methods of manufacture at a minimum cost will have an opportunity of bidding for a second-hand vacuum pan, an advertisement regarding which appears on page xvi., of present issue.

RUM GOES AHEAD. While the consumption of rum for the first eight months of the present year was 120,698 gallons more than for the corresponding period of last year, the consumption of brandy was 20,173 gallons less than for 1905, and 81,104 gallons less than for 1904.

AN ENGAGEMENT. The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Philip Stewart-Mackenzie, eldest son of Mr. William Reiersen Arbuthnot, of Plawshatch, East Grinstead, and Ada Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. William John Evelyn, of Wotton, Surrey.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT We should mention that we are indebted to Mr. R. Anderson, of Messrs. Robert Crooks & Co., of Montreal, for the figures of the imports of sugar into Canada for the year ended June 30th, 1906, which appeared in our last issue. Such information from our readers is always welcome.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended October 18th, 4 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.85d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13d. per lb.; fine, 14d. per lb.; and extra fine, 15½d. per lb. Prices paid 9d. to 11½d.

FINE SCOTCH ALE. Time was when Scotch ale was the favourite form of malt beverage consumed in the West Indies, and we are glad to welcome as new-comers in our advertisement pages (p. viii.) Messrs. John Jeffrey & Co., the old-established brewers of Edinburgh, who are well qualified to satisfy the wants of the West Indies in this direction.

IMMIGRATION RETURN. According to the consolidated half-yearly return of immigrants in British Guiana, it appears that the total number of immigrants under indenture of service to or residing on plantations, for the half-year ended March 31st, 1906, were 42,323 males and 28,832 females, and in public establishments 829 males and 188 females, making a grand total of 43,152 males and 29,020 females.

SWEET TRADE. The steady improvement in the Confectionery Trade, which has been noticeable for some time, says *Confectionery*, is more marked than ever now that the hot weather has passed, and the severe competition of fresh fruit is being felt less severely than it was a couple of months ago. The dearness and scarcity of fruit are evidently helping the confectioners, who are getting very weighty and substantial orders for all sorts of confectionery. One of the largest makers in the trade declares that it is a long time since he had such good orders as have come to hand.

WEST INDIAN CLUB. Mr. Robert Schult, presided over the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Wednesday, October 17th, and amongst those present were: Mr. W. P. Simon, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. Astwood, Mr. F. Berger, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. C. L. Berger, Mr. C. L. Wingrove, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. Edward Chambers, Mr. E. C. G. Chambers, Mr. John Harrison, Dr. Davis Waite, Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Senor Romulo Franco, Mr. Harry Meinhardt, Mr. A. D. Goffa, and Mr. A. W. Farruharson.

OUR VISITORS. Among recent visitors to the West India Committee Rooms from the "other side" have been Hon. William Peter, and the Hon. E. Du Boulay, Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. Ellis Grell, Mr. E. Chambers, and Mr. W. B. Parker, the news editor of the *Jamaica Gleaner*. Mr. Du Boulay, who has just returned from a visit to France tells us that in the neighbourhood of Clermont Ferrand, in the Auvergne districts the sugar beets were suffered very much from drought, the beets which he saw on the railways were very small in size, and at one factory he visited only half a crop was expected to be made. Among the passengers by the "La Plata" sailing to-morrow, will be found the names of Mr. Randolph Rust, Mr. Alston and Mr. Maingot.

COLONIAL DRIED MILK. We have received from the Imperial Dry Milk Co., of Wellington, New Zealand, whose London agents are Messrs. Joseph Nathan & Co., a sample of their dried milk. This is the first time we have seen this product; but we have submitted it to a practical test, and find it a most excellent preparation. It is in the form of a powder, which smells rather of biscuits, and is obtained by passing fresh milk over revolving cylinders heated to 230 degrees F. The dried product thus obtained is then bacteriologically sterile. When made into a paste and stirred like cocoa with water heated to 170 degrees F., it produces a fluid almost exactly like fresh milk. We are assured that it keeps well in the Tropics, and we should imagine that for use on ship board and in those countries where fresh milk is not easily obtainable it will be found preferable to the tinned varieties.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Tues., Oct. 9th.—Strong feeling of dissatisfaction manifested in Newfoundland at the agreement between the United States and Great Britain concerning the fisheries.—Beet, 9s 4½d., quiet.
- Wed., Oct. 10th.—The Newfoundland question: Official statement published by the Foreign Office.—Invitation of tenders for the completion of the Panama canal issued.—Report of a Commission of Lancashire cotton spinners on the American cotton fields, in the *Standard*.—The R.M.S.P. "Atrato" left Southampton for the West Indies.—The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" from Jamaica arrived at Avonmouth.—Beet, 9s 4½d., steadier.
- Thurs., Oct. 11th.—Cuba: Announced that Mr. Taft had issued an amnesty to cover offences arising from insurrection. Mr. Magoon, Mr. Taft's successor, reported to have arrived at Havana.—Mr. Winston Churchill addressed a Liberal meeting in Glasgow on Colonial matters.—The Australian Bill granting preference on British goods was passed, with the proviso insisting upon white labour being obligatory.—Bank rate raised from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent.—Beet, 9s 5½d., quiet.
- Fri., Oct. 12th.—Cuba: The last troops for the 1st Cuban expeditionary force sailed from Newport for Havana.—Fiscal Reform: Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Austen Chamberlain at Nottingham.—Beet, 9s 5½d., steady.

Dr. W. J. VON WINCKLER, District Medical Officer of British Guiana, is undergoing a course of studies at the London School of Tropical Medicine.

The Hon. RALPH WILLIAMS will, as at present arranged, leave for Grenada to assume the Government of the Windward Islands on January 2nd, 1907.

The leave of absence granted to the Hon. E. BATESON, Attorney-General, St. Lucia, has been extended to three months, and a further period of leave for two months has been granted.

Mr. THOMAS IRELAND, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for two months and sixteen days from November 16th.

During the absence of the Hon. B. DUBOULAY and the Hon. W. PETER, from St. Lucia, Mr. S. D. Melville, J.P., and Mr. G. Lafitte have been appointed to act as Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council.

SOME WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 6 per cent. (changed on October 19th, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 85½.

The Demerara and Trinidad Electric Companies.

The gross earnings of the Demerara Electric Company for August, 1906, amounted to \$10,505, an increase of \$577, and the net earnings to \$4,108, being an increase of \$986 over the corresponding month in last year. The total increase in net earnings for the seven months of the present year amounts to £7,126 over the corresponding seven months of last year. The gross earnings of the Trinidad Electric Company, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, for August, 1906, amount to \$15,949. The net earnings amount to \$8,283.

The Demerara Railway Company, Limited.

The report of the directors for the half-year ended June 30th, states that the gross revenue was £22,690 6s. 10d., and the gross expenditure £15,782 11s. 3d., and, leaving, after providing £1,400 debenture interest, the net revenue was £5,507 15s. 7d. Including the Government subsidy and the sum £6,250 brought forward, there is £12,274 18s. 10d. available, and after providing the dividend for the half-year on extension preference shares the directors propose to pay an interim dividend for the half-year at the rate of 5% per annum on the 7% preference stock, to appropriate to renewal fund £1,500, and carry forward £1,649 18s. 11d. The number of passengers carried during the six months under notice was as follows—Demerara Railway, 156,831, against 137,124 in 1905; Berbice Railway, 27,767, against 20,581 in 1905; West Coast Railway, 52,164, against 50,473 in 1905. The tonnage of goods was—Demerara Railway, 23,679 tons, against 16,308 tons in 1905; Berbice Railway, 3,214 tons, against 2,301 tons in 1905; West Coast Railway, 3,913 tons, against 1,475 tons in 1905. The balance on the Revenue account of the old railway is larger than it has been in the corresponding period for many years. While this is due primarily to a greater volume of traffic, it is satisfactory to know that the changes and improvements recently effected, and which have enabled the undertaking to be worked more economically, have also materially contributed to this result. Recent advices from the Colony point to a continuance of good traffics during the current half-year, and in the whole circumstances the board have felt justified in recommending an increase in the interim dividend on the preference stock at this time.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller), October 19th. "Heavy rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), October 20th. "Weather dry with local showers." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ending October 10th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "fine." **KINGSTON**: 4th, 5th, 6th, fine; 7th, cloudy; 8th, 9th, fine; 10th, cloudy.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. H. B. Trigg), October 15th:—Mr. G. Stewart Croshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Poeti Marentini, Mr. Godfrey Haggard, Mr. J. Romero Sanson, Mr. Juan Magdaleno, Mr. Rivas Santana, Mr. Manuel Formuy, Mr. Samuel A. D. Punch, Mr. J. I. de Boissiere, Mr. E. C. Jackman, Dr. Greenidge, Mr. W. D. Nash, Mr. J. Rodriguez, Mr. J. Starkey, Mr. A. H. McIntosh, Mr. Scott, Mr. Petre, Mr. A. R. Macdonald, Mr. Jas. Herbert, Mr. H. Herbert, Mr. J. Bolding.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "La Plata" (Capt. H. B. Trigg), October 24th:—Hon. E. DuBoulay, Mr. W. Ross, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Hobson, Miss de Martin, Mr. H. Roda, Sr., Senora Manuel Dias and child, Mr. H. Westermann, Mr. David Lang, Mr. E. J. Parker, Dr. Inman Welsh, Mr. Randolph Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Weiser, Master G. de Verteuil, Mr. G. L. Schwabe, Mr. G. C. May, Professor Boulger, Mr. A. M. Duncan, Mr. Jas. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Alonso and family, Miss Johnson, Rev. T. Wilkes and family, Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Miller, Mr. Fritz Walther, Miss Nestler, Mr. and Mrs. G. O. D. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. Walther Dauch, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Maingot, Mr. Raoul, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mr. E. A. Holmann, Mr. and Mrs. A. Tello and two children, Mr. A. T. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. Rangel, Mr. F. Piers, Mr. E. Destange, Mr. Sulley, Mr. Feldwick, Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Alexandre Steiner, Mrs. Wright, Mr. A. C. Croosa, two Masters Gibbons, Mr. John Madkos, Mr. John Jenkins, Mr. John Roberts, Mr. Robert Hughes, Mr. Juredini, Mr. Hugh McArdle, Mr. Geo. Carrington, Mr. and Mrs. Pelham Young, Miss Varsoul, Mr. G. Oliver, Mrs. Wilkes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Mr. Young, Mrs. Grell, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Whysall.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), November 7th:—Mr. and Mrs. Schreier and two children, Col. and Mrs. Lushington, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Sealy, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Smith, Miss Hunt, Mr. Geo. Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and child, Mr. W. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Cunningham, Mrs. B. C. Cummins, Mr. and Mrs. R. Arthur, Mr. G. Challenor, Mrs. and two Misses Chandler and Master Chandler, Mrs. Pinheiro, Miss S. Harford, Miss Archibald, Mr. L. S. Fernandes, Miss H. Fernandes, Mr. Clifford Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gordon Gordon, Dr. and Mrs. Adolf Ulrich and child, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, two Misses Ulrich, Mr. A. E. Harragin, Mr. and Mrs. Hinkson,

Mr Fred Hotchkiss, Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Stollmeyer, Miss E Kendall, Rev Fr Cantwell, Mr. M. Goodridge, Rev. Herwald R. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. de Lewis and Miss E. de Lewis, Mr and Mrs Goodville, two children and maid, Mrs. Zapata, Rt. Rev Lord Bishop of Guiana, Mr. D. K. Jardine, Rev. O. Reilly, Mr John S. Burn, Mr. M. Wright, Mr. Carl Vogeler, Mr. John Recco, Mr. and Mrs. Aguilar and child, Rev. Thos Dermady, Mr. H. Stanton, Mr. Julien Opstacle, Mr. Wm. Ross, Mr. O. Harley, Mrs. Jas. Schoener, Mr. Carl Barthing, Mr. Jas. Mills, Mr. Carl Sterzl, Master Geo. Owen, Miss Martin.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. L. R. Pearce), November 21st:—Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashley Bovell, Miss Gooding, Mr. and Mrs. Picher, Mrs. Tredgood, Mrs. McEwen, Mr. W. Clarke, two Misses Clarke, Sir Kenneth W. Cumming, Bart., Mrs. Seabrook, Miss Woolcombe, Col. and Mrs. Bridges, Mr. Michael Barrett, Rev. J. S. and Mrs. Wilson.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), October 10th Jamaica:—Capt. Griffiths, Mr. D. L. Kerr, Mr. A. E. Myers, Mr. J. D. Mitchell, Miss C. G. Pearman, Mr. J. E. Sharp, Gunner Garrard.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), Oct. 20th. Jamaica:—Captain Anderson, Rev. W. Baillie, Mr. J. Banks, Major A. E. Barchard, Mr. C. Reid-Campbell, Miss P. M. Coke, Mr. P. A. Craven, Mr. W. M. Cochran, Mr. H. H. Cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Chisholm, Miss Delisser, Lieut. J. A. Edgeworth, Mr. J. W. Gordon, Mr. R. S. Haughton, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. A. Henderson, Mr. W. E. Hollands, Mr. A. S. Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Harrell and infant, Dr. and Mrs. H. Joslen and Master Joslen, Mr. W. H. Johnson, Master Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kerr and two children, Miss H. M. Kerr, Rev. and Mrs. S. Loveridge, Mr. W. J. McLean, Mrs. McFarlane and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Macpherson, the Hon. J. W. Mitchell, Dr. W. Peter, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Parker, Mr. Pratt, Miss Shannon, Mr. J. E. Soerlock, Mrs. E. W. Lucia Smith, Mr. R. Simmons, Mrs. Vinen, Lieut. C. F. Wright, Mr. P. Chotel, Mr. F. Gaze, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Hole and child, Mr. C. P. Morgan, Mr. H. Nutt, Mr. T. Robinson, Miss J. M. Smith. **Kingston:**—Mrs. Noble and two children, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Rowland.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Oct. 24	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"	Oct. 23, mid'n.
Nov. 1	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool ...	Loyland Line	"Yucatan"	" 31. "
" 4	Demerara and W. I. Islands (Jamaica excepted)	Glasgow ...	Direct Line	"Crown of Castille"	Nov. 1, 6 p.m.
" 2	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Saba"	" 2, noon.
" 3	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"	" 2, 16 p.m.
" 7	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	" 6, mid'n.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Oct. 24	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"
" 29	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P. Co.	"Trent"
Nov. 6	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"

* Letters must be addressed "Per Private S.S. Crown of Castille."

† To E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Sept. 24 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Sept. 29 1906	1905	April 1 to Sept. 16 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Sept. 29. 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. 1906	1905
Sugar	40,686	37,074 Tons.	90,403	41,957 TONS.	2549	6571 TONS.	505,021	279,224 Bgs. & Brls.		
Molasses	84,419	33,119 Pns.	2910	2024 Pns.	...	...	2581	2887 Pns.		
Rum	10,818	9120 Pns.	956,903	726,332 Galls.	802	178 Tns.		
Cattle Food and Molasses	6048	3737 TONS.	...	...	1130	349 Pns.		
Cocoa	11,077	45,247 lbs.	25,749	16,422 Cwts.	21,320,670	30,468,075 lbs.	52,244	64,319 Bags.
Coffee	15,560	12,564 "	16,960	11,950 "	...	...
Coconuts	51,088	244,271	2,063,457	1,116,231	8,754,145	7,433,017	...	...
Copra	13,085	8247 Bags.	1084	703 Bales.
Cotton	15,165	28,935 lbs.	...	...	502	4745 Bags.
Cotton Seed	106,010	29,466 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt
Oranges	25,826,630	18,000,745	...	...	...	...
Bananas	8,827,282	8,785,890 Bchs.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	36,127	33,475 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice	5493	5159 Brls.
Gold	66,006	65,542 ozs.	...	...	...	...	602	694 1/2 Brls.
Diamonds	1907	3916 carats.	...	...	...	...	278	648 Cases
Rice	708,032	30,195 lbs.	...	...	...	...	132	215 BgB

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—The first three estimates of the present European beet crops, as they are now supposed to look, issued by the usual prophets have appeared, and they do not vary to any important extent, the smallest deficiency in Convention Europe being given at 710,000 tons and the largest at 890,000 tons. For all Europe the deficiencies were placed at 380,000 tons and 580,000 tons respectively. What concerns this country chiefly is Convention Europe, and if the reduction in this group, as given above, is borne out, the position of sugar is undoubtedly very sound. Of course, no definite reliance can be placed on these estimates, made so early in the season, and they may have to be modified as time goes on. Here are the figures—

	F. O. LIGHT.		OTTO LIGHT.	GIBSECKEN.
	1905 8	1906 7	1906 7	1906 7
Convention Europe	5,550,000	4,840,000	4,715,000	4,660,000 Tons.
Russia and other countries	1,400,000	1,730,000	1,685,000	1,810,000 ..
	6,950,000	6,570,000	6,400,000	6,470,000 ..

These figures are causing many fluctuations in the prices of 88% beet, and are variously considered by the *bulls* and *bears*, who unfortunately rule the sugar markets of the world. The present season may well be one of many surprises, revolutions and cyclones, and the old landmarks of comparative prices and comparative stocks may prove of little value, except inasmuch as they furnish a history record. The following figures may be useful therefore from this point of view, if from no other.

Opening Quotations of 88% beet, 1st October:—

1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.	1900.	1899.	1898.	1897.
9s 7½d	8s 8½d.	11s. 4½d	8s. 9½d.	6s. 8d	7s 6½d	10s 0d	9s 5½d.	9s. 8d	8s 7d.
991 0 000	1,117,000	1,170,000	1,530,000	1,480,000	736,000	404,000	670,000	717,000	931,000 Tons.

The feature here is the increase of *Visibles* we have carried over the last five years, which is of less importance now than it would have formerly been, bearing in mind the expanding consumption of the world.

The moment's quotations of 88% beet on the 22nd October were as follows:—October, 9s. 2½d.; Nov., 9s. 1½d.; December, 9s. 1½d.; January/March, 9s. 3d.; May, 9s. ½d.; August, 9s. 6½d., and October/December, 1907, 9s. 0d. all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Europe	710,000	580,000	770,000	1,160,000	1,130,000 Tons
United States	180,000	230,000	150,000	140,000	170,000 ..
Cuba... ..	20,000	130,000	—	130,000	100,000 ..
Afloat	100,000	110,000	230,000	110,000	140,000 ..

Total	1,010,000	1,070,000	1,150,000	1,530,000	1,840,000 ..
Quotations of 88% Beet, 22nd Oct.:—	9s. 2½d.	8s. 2½d.	10s. 1½d.	8s. 9½d.	7s. 6½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—The demand for yellow crystallised remains somewhat languid, the Trade waiting for the new Demerara, now beginning to arrive. The Importers who hold only a small part of the existing stocks in London do not press sales, and the value of average qualities remains 16s. 6d., with a general range of 15s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. For a cargo of 96 centrifugals to Refiners, 11s. could possibly be obtained on floating terms.

Molasses Sugar.—Continues in good demand at 11s to 11s 3d. for low qualities, with 2s. duty, and at 12s. to 13s. for small lots of grocery. To arrive, 8g test is worth about 8s. 9d. in bond, on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—There is very little doing, and prices of grocery kinds are somewhat uncertain. To Refiners, 8g test is worth somewhere about 9s. 9d. on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Imports	46,000	33,000	36,000	20,000	56,000 Tons
Deliveries	39,000	33,000	39,000	34,000	35,000 ..
Stocks, 1st Oct.	16,000	9,000	9,000	14,000	33,000 ..
Quotations of average qualities, 22nd Oct.:	16s. 6d	16s. 0d.	18s. 9d.	15s. 9d.	13s. 0d.

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 9 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Home Consumption	2,590,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,620,000 Galls
Stocks 30th Sept.	7,340,000	8,270,000	9,670,000 ..	9,670,000 ..
Stocks in London, 15th Oct.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	9300	9300	10,900	11,100 Puns.
Demerara	3600	4900	7200	6800 ..
Total of all kinds	19,700	22,200	25,700	28,300 ..

There are still no arrivals of Demerara and consequently no business. Better prices may be hoped for when the crops come in. In the meantime, values are quite nominal. Jamaica is steady at 2s. 2d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other Foreign kinds are quoted 9d. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 9 months:

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Imports	19,635	18,168	21,956 Tons.
Home Consumption	15,638	14,557	15,340 ..
Stocks 30th Sept.	4886	5755	6605 ..
Stocks in London, 15th Oct.:	1906.	1905.	1904.
Trinidad	11,300	21,400	25,300
Grenada	5200	12,400	13,200
Total of all kinds	60,100	80,400	94,300

Prices remain steady, but the tone of the market is quite uncertain. The trifling available lots of West India are competed for by the smaller manufacturers, but the chief ones display no anxiety about the future. Speculators are the only supporters of the markets of the world. The nominal quotations are as follows: Trinidad fair collected, 68s.; Estate Marks, 69s. to 75s.; Grenada fair, 61s., and fermented, 63s. to 66s. From other Islands fair is worth 60s., and fermented up to 60s.

Coffee.—Steady. Good ordinary Jamaica, 42s.

Nutmegs.—In good demand. West India 64's to 68's sold at 1s. 3d., 80's at 1½d., 91's at 1½d., 105's at 1½d., 110's at 1½d., 124's at 1½d., and smaller, 3d. to 5½d. **Mace.**—Fair to good pale sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d., fair redish, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d., dark, at 1s. 2d., and broken at 1s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Steady. Value of fair, 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Quiet, and no sales have recently transpired, prices being nominally unchanged, viz.: 2½d. for good manufacturing St. Vincent.

Lime Juice.—Quiet, value, red. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, unchanged, at £21 17s. 6d. Hand Pressed, lower value, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. Distilled Oil, weak, value, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d.

The . . . West India Committee Circular

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No LXXIX.



The Right Rev. Bishop Mitchinson,
D.C.L., D.D., F.C.S.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SERRING LANE, LONDON,

Nov. 5th, 1906

Telegrams: "CABLE LONDON." Telephone: 6642 CENTRAL.

THE Report on the Blue Book of Jamaica for 1904, the belated appearance of which was recently the subject of criticism in these columns, continues to go the rounds of the Press. The daily papers were good enough to insert a letter from the Secretary of the West India Committee explaining the exceptional causes which gave rise to the gloomy and despondent character of the report, and calling attention to the remarkable resiliency shown by the revenue and industries of the Island since the close of that year. Now, however, the monthly papers have taken up the cry, and we find the *Journal of the Society of Arts* stating that the Island "is in anything but a prosperous condition;" "Jamaica does not thrive," and so forth. Considering that the report was unaccompanied by any explanation of the causes which brought about a year of depression, the *Journal* may be well excused for being under a misapprehension as to the financial position of the Island which is, at the present time, extremely satisfactory. In this connection the report of the Hon. A. H. Miles, Collector-General of Jamaica, on the excise, internal

revenue and customs for the financial year ending 31st March last is important reading, giving, as it

does, encouraging proofs of the increasing prosperity of the Island. The Customs collection for the year 1905-6 amounted to £389,509, an increase of no less than £39,933 on the previous year, and this result was achieved in spite of the repeal of the 6 per cent. surtax at the end of February, which affected the Customs for the last month of the official year. A noticeable feature in the receipts was the decrease of about £7,000 on food-stuffs, and the large increase in proceeds of the *ad valorem* duties of £21,821, pointing as it does to the people not having to depend so much upon imported food, while their outside purchasing power has increased. The total value of the imports amounted to £1,837,774, an increase of no less than £252,926 on the figures of the preceding year. But little change was noticeable in the distribution of the imports between the countries from which they came, although there was a slight diminution in the proportion coming from the United States, the percentage being 39% as against 42.8% for 1904-5, and an increase from Canada of 8.1% as against 5.9%. Mr. Miles alludes to the value of the increasing tourist traffic, and reckons the expenditure of the tourists in the Island as £10 for each of the 7,000 tourists, or £70,000 per annum—an appreciable amount. The value of the exports amounted to £1,843,180, an increase of £406,455 on the preceding year, the distribution of these being in the proportion of 19.3% to the United Kingdom; 57.4% to U.S. America; 6.1% to Canada; and 17.2% to other countries. Fruit occupies the most important position in the exports, amounting to 55% of the value of the whole; coffee coming next with 7.6%; sugar following with 6.9%, and rum with 5.6%. Mr. Miles mentions the stimulus given to the sugar industry by the abolition of bounties, which has resulted in the erection of better machinery and in closer attention to manufacture, and the following gives the value of the principal exports for the last three financial years:—

	1905-6.	1904-5.	1903-4.
Fruit	£972,273	£601,816	£718,525
Coffee	134,283	85,173	112,005
Sugar	122,328	116,366	121,722

The banana industry rose to an export of 14,981,147 bunches, as against 8,903,739 for 1904-5, but Mr. Miles alludes to the character of the bananas and fruit now shipped, which is inferior, in spite of an increasing world's demand for fruit, and when the cultivations of Central America are now threatening to reduce the importance of the Jamaica plantations. This depreciation in quality is a most serious matter, and requires the urgent attention of the growers, but we see no reason why, now that attention has been called to it, a return to former excellence should not be brought about. Of the above quantity shipped for the year under review, the U.S. of America received 13,703,363 bunches, the United Kingdom 1,217,901, and Canada 57,611 bunches. Speaking of the orange industry, Mr. Miles, while maintaining that Jamaica is capable of supplying oranges which need not fear rivalry, says that it is an industry in which there is keen competition, and which can only come to full development by being jealously safeguarded by the adoption of the most intelligent methods of marketing. The principal markets to which oranges were sent are:—

	1905-6.	1904-5.	1903-4.
United Kingdom	21,640,730	18,683,600	12,160,650
United States America	44,801,671	47,441,518	64,225,690
Canada	7,479,875	6,150,640	4,515,850
Other Countries	581,275	777,350	1,728,350
Total	74,503,551	73,053,108	82,630,540

The distribution of the lands of Jamaica is stated to be:—

Tilled land	246,373 acres.
Guinea Grass	125,687 ..
Commons	445,151 ..
Wood and Rinate	1,261,900 ..
	2,079,111

This represents an increase of 28,477 acres, or 13% on tilled lands; 3,868 acres, or 4% on

pastoral land; and a decrease of 34,878 acres, or 2% in wood and rinate. The classification of the tilled land is given as—

							Acres.	Acres.
							1905-6.	Average of 4 years.
Canes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,838	25,858
Coffee ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,765	27,223
Cocoa-nuts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,318	11,646
Bananas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59,958	36,846
Cacao ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,021	4,421
Ground Provisions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	113,029	110,650
Minor items ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,444	1,252
							246,373	217,896

The increase in grass land points to greater attention being paid to cattle raising, and a hope is expressed that the recently developed demand for cattle in the neighbouring Republic of Cuba may lead to a definite trade in that direction. Altogether Mr. Miles' report shows a most satisfactory position in the agricultural development of Jamaica, a position which there is every reason to believe will be strengthened year by year. We may, therefore, look to the future with confidence.

THE *Maritime Journal*, a Canadian periodical, has something to say in a recent issue as regards the relation of the West Indian planters to the Canadian refiners in connection with the preferential tariff, and our articles thereon. As to the stipulation that payment of any of the preference by the refiners on West Indian sugars over those coming from foreign countries should be conditional on such sugar being carried by Messrs. Pickford and Black's steamers, our contemporary considers that this condition was inserted in the contracts not only from business, but also from patriotic motives, and is in line with the resolution discussed at the last session of the Canadian Parliament, proposing to limit the preference on British goods to those imported through Canadian ports. If the latter was the object of the stipulation, surely the end would have been attained equally as well by stipulating that the sugar should be delivered at Canadian ports as by insisting on any particular line of steamers. As a matter of fact we have every reason to believe that the refiners had more in view their own convenience as to the supply at that particular period than any patriotic motive, and did not wish to have too much raw sugar on hand at the time. Again, it is stated that the dissatisfaction in the West Indies with the result of the operation of the preference was due to the growers of sugar contending that they should benefit to the full amount of the preference. This is not the case. For some time, in fact until the last crop, owing to the large excess of supply over demand, the growers received little or none of the benefit of the preferential tariff. The West Indian planters never claimed the whole of it, but they did and do expect to get their proper share. Our recommendation that a refinery should be established in Canada, by and under the control of the West Indian planters, is, says the *Maritime Journal*, based upon ignorance of trade conditions in Canada, as it is only in the last year or two that the refiners have ceased to lose money, and even now they seldom operate full time, while a West Indian refinery would be handicapped by the preference given to the Canadian refineries by the wholesale trade. In reply to this, we may say that a refining interest with practically complete control of the sugar entitled to the preference to the extent of over £1 a ton, would be a formidable antagonist in the way of competition. We trust, however, that matters will not go so far as this, and hope to find the solution of the question in the rapidly increasing consumption of the Dominion. Last year this amounted to 200,000 tons, out of which 145,000 tons were from British Guiana and the West Indies, and as soon as the demand increases to an extent sufficient to call for the entire West Indian supply, say, 200,000 tons of refining sugar in the eastern ports, the West Indian planters will be in a position to control the situation and to claim an equitable proportion of the preference without resorting to such an extreme measure as opposing the Canadian refiners on their own ground. We must again point out, and state in no indecisive terms, that the West Indian planters look for a fair and

proper share of the preference. To expect and hold out for the whole under ordinary conditions would be unreasonable and impolitic, as the refiners would, in that case, have no special inducement to prefer West Indian sugars. But the want of true reciprocal feeling which the refiners have manifested will not improve matters when West Indian planters have that voice in the question that increased Canadian demand will give them.

MR. HAROLD HAMEL SMITH, the editor of *Tropical Life*, in an article which he has contributed to our columns, raises an interesting question as to how it is that the production of cacao in Trinidad shows such a much smaller increase of late years than that of the Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Príncipe, which is increasing very rapidly. In spite of the fact that the area of these two Portuguese Islands, is only 420 square miles, as compared with Trinidad's 1,754, the exports of cacao from San Thomé and Príncipe are now practically double those of Trinidad's record year, which was 1903-4. MR. HAMEL SMITH is unable to arrive at any definite conclusion as to how this state of affairs arises, and we confess that we also are unable satisfactorily to account for it, unless the cause can be attributed to the immense stimulus given to the cacao industry of San Thomé and Príncipe by the system of practical slavery which we have shown to exist there. This system naturally would give planters not only greater profits, but increased facilities for cultivating the land, while labour in Trinidad is very much more costly, and by no means too plentiful. The question is a deeply interesting one, and we hope that the leading cacao planters will favour us with their views regarding it, to which we shall be extremely pleased to give publicity in our columns. It is possible that the natural conditions in San Thomé and Príncipe may be more favourable for producing quantity, though Trinidad can fairly claim pre-eminence in the matter of quality, in spite of the somewhat alarmist report of MR. STOCKDALE regarding cacao disease, to which we referred in our last issue.

THE RIGHT REV. BISHOP MITCHINSON.

The subject of our portrait in the present issue has occupied the position of Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, and Canon of Gloucester since February, 1899; but he is best known to West Indians in connection with Codrington, the beautifully situated college on the windward coast of Barbados, as Principal of which he has acted; as Bishop of Barbados and the Windward Islands from 1873 to 1881, and Coadjutor to the Bishop of Antigua from 1879 to 1882. He was educated at Durham College and the college of which he is now Master. To put it in the Oxford vernacular, he is a treble first, having taken firsts in Mods, in Litteræ Humaniores and in Natural Science. He was elected a Fellow of his College and President of the Union. On leaving the 'Varsity he became Assistant Master in the Merchant Tailors' School, and subsequently Headmaster of the Kings' School, Canterbury, 1859-73. From 1871-99 he was Honorary Canon of Canterbury, and for three different years select preacher at Oxford, and Ramsden preacher in 1883, and Oxford in 1900. When he left the West Indies his interest in his old associations did not cease, and he was a signatory to the appeal for funds for the sustentation of Codrington College, Barbados, which were collected by the West India Committee at the instance of the Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, one of its members.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, November 1st, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
C. W. DANIELS, M.B., M.R.C.S.	Dr. W. von Winckler.	C. A. Campbell.
BENJAMIN THOMPSON (B. Guiana).	F. N. Martinez.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
HENRY J. RUDOLF (Jamaica).	W. Gillespie.	E. A. de Pass.
GEORGE S. HUDSON (St. Lucia).	E. L. Marshall.	R. Rutherford.
DR. J. M. DE FREITAS (B. Guiana).	F. N. Martinez.	Sir Henry K. Davson.
R. J. SIMPSON (St. Lucia).	A. C. Seale.	S. D. Melville.
LEONARD M. ROACH (B. Guiana).	F. N. Martinez.	Edward R. Davson.
WILLIAM PITCHER (Barbados).	F. N. Martinez.	Edward R. Davson.
J. S. HARDING.	F. I. Scard.	Spencer H. Curtis.

We may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, sub-



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GATHERING LIMES IN DOMINICA.

scriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following January 1st. Thus, members elected in November and December of this year, will, on paying their subscriptions, not be required to renew them until January 1st, 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

CANE SUGAR OR BEET?

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

In the following remarks on the relationship of cane and beet sugar, it is not my intention to go into technical details regarding the two products, but rather, as simply as possible, to review the principal points of the two industries, pointing out briefly the salient conditions which lead to variations in manufacture and difference in value of the products, and to the present position industrially of the two.

The early history of the sugar cane is shrouded in obscurity. It appears to have been well known to the ancients. Herodotus knew of it, and Theophrastus alludes to it as the "sugar reed" of Egypt, although it is quite possible that this might have been one of the sorghum family. In the 7th century, Paulus Aeginetus speaks of sugar as "Indian salt," and from the evident Sanskrit origin of the word sugar, there is little doubt that the far East must have been its place of origin. The Crusaders came across it in Syria, and one of them, De Vitriaco, described the process of manufacture by squeezing and boiling down the juice. The sugar cane was brought into Spain by the Moors, and to the Spaniards is due its introduction into Hispaniola or Cuba, where in 1578 there were as many as twenty-eight sugar works in operation, and thence to the other West Indian islands.

Like all members of the "grass" family, the sugar cane is capable of propagation from seed, but in those varieties which have been cultivated industrially, it has been the custom to reproduce them from cuttings, each joint having a bud, which in the growing part of the cane is capable, under suitable conditions, of development into a new cane. In this way the natural methods of reproduction had been lost sight of until quite recently, so much so that it had been generally accepted that the sugar cane could not be propagated from its seed.

Recent researches have shown, however, that although cultivation had considerably diminished the fertility of the seed, it has been possible to raise canes therefrom, the difficulty, however, increasing with the degree to which the cane has been cultivated, e.g., the Bourbon, which is probably the most cultivated cane grown, being the most difficult to reproduce in this way. This re-discovered power, however, is now being utilised in the direction of the raising of new varieties of cane, which up till recently could only be done by careful selection. So developed is the tendency of the sugar cane to hark back to old types from previous haphazard fertilisations, that this process is attended with an infinity of trouble. It is not an uncommon thing among the hundreds of seedlings, which may germinate from the sowing of a single "arrow," for them to show almost as many different features, and the following of these seedlings through the earlier stages of their life, the selection of the fittest during the observation of several years in the nursery and educational periods until the best are sent out to the estates for practical trials, forms one of the most arduous studies of the tropical chemist and botanist. It is not too much to say that the dozen or thereabouts of new varieties which are being cultivated on estates in the West Indies represent selections from hundreds of thousands of seedlings. Recently, however, the Imperial Department of Agriculture have been able to see their way to cross-fertilise known varieties, a botanical feat the difficulties of which have hitherto been looked upon as insurmountable, and it is hoped that in this way an enormous amount of labour may be saved, and definitely pedigreed canes obtained, although the tendency to atavism mentioned already will always be a source of trouble.

The Origin of the Beet Industry.

Beet has little of the romance and mystery of the sugar cane. It has been among us for generations, belonging to the order Beta, which includes our old friend, the mangold wurzel. It sprang, however, into prominence at the time of the first French Empire, when Napoleon, seeing the supply of sugar cut off from France as the result of the war of the Revolution, conceived the idea of an internal sugar industry, which would ensure sugar for France and at the same time render that country independent of the British Colonies in this respect; and he offered a prize for a practical method of utilising the known sugar qualities of the beet for the purpose, which led to its first manufacture by Chaptal in 1829. The result of this countermove to the onslaughts of British cruisers has been the development of an industry which has more than anything else tended to injure the British West Indian Colonies. It is the unexpected that generally happens, and even Napoleon with

all his dreams of the future, could not have foreseen this practical realisation of his animosity to Great Britain.

The sugar beet belongs essentially to a temperate climate; all that it requires is a fair rainfall and moderate conditions of soil, with manurial treatment. It is an excellent example of what can be done in the direction of improvement by science stimulated by trade requirements. The sugar content of the beet has been nearly doubled by careful selection and cross fertilisation, while at the same time the weight of the individual beet has been increased; but in comparing the progress of the beet improvement with that of the sugar cane, it must not be forgotten that in the beet exist the most favourable conditions for scientific work, while with the sugar cane the difficulties, for reasons already given, are enormous. Anyhow, it now happens that the beet frequently contains more sugar than the sugar cane.

As beet is grown from seed and is not liable to the same eccentricities of variation that the sugar cane is, the ordinary method of obtaining new varieties by cross fertilisation is easily carried out, and the great progress made in its improvement—which, I may say, appears to have reached pretty nearly high water mark—is due to this cause.

Comparing the composition of the sugar cane and sugar beet in a ripe condition, it may be said that under present conditions the cane contains about the same amount of sugar as the beet, two or three times as much albuminous matter, and about one-third or less of fibre. An essential difference lies in the cane invariably containing a small amount of glucose, or uncrystallisable sugar, varying with the degree of ripeness of the cane, while beet contains practically none. Another distinctive item is in the beet containing an appreciable amount of gummy matters, an objectionable feature in manufacture, and from which a good ripe cane is practically free. The beet also contains a higher percentage of mineral matter than the sugar cane.

So much for the plants themselves. We now come to the question of the respective juices, which contain the soluble portion of the constituents of the cane, and apart from the ordinary chemical characters, we at once strike a difference of the greatest importance to the subject—the difference of flavour. The great characteristic of cane juice is its lusciousness, a flavour quite different to the cold sweetness of the beet juice. In fact, the juices seem to have assimilated the characteristics of the climates to which they belong, the one warm and glowing, the other cold and disheartening; and particular attention should be drawn to this question of flavour of the juice, as it has an important bearing on the essential differences between the two classes of sugar. Cane juice forms a charming and refreshing drink, especially if it has been allowed to become slightly sour, and it is frequently given, when the opportunity presents itself, to consumptives. No one, however, would think of beet juice as a drink either for pleasure or for dietetic reasons.

Advantages in Cane Sugar Manufacture.

Regarding the utility of sugar cane and sugar beet for manufacturing purposes, and taking one consideration with another, it may be said that while to the first treatment of the extraction of sugar in the form of juice, beet lends itself better than cane, the subsequent working of the juice is easier with cane than with beet juice, owing to the absence of the gummy matters and large amount of salts which the latter contains.

The generally adopted mode of extraction from cane is by crushing, double or treble mills, a previous "crusher" being occasionally used, and water employed to moisten the crushed canes between the last mills; while for beet the principle of diffusion is almost invariably employed. In this the beet is sliced up into small pellets, "cossettes," and these subjected to successive infusions in water. The most exhausted slices coming in contact with the water itself, while the weak juice solution thus obtained goes to extract the less exhausted and so on—this with the view of reducing the quantity of water used to a minimum. The residue from the mill treatment of cane is used as fuel, for which it is well adapted, while the beet product forms a valuable food for cattle. Recently a combination of the two systems has been employed for cane, the crushed cane, or "megass" from a single crushing being diffused as with beet, and the residue further crushed in order to prepare it for the furnaces.

When the treatment of the juice obtained by either of these processes is come to the different composition of these necessitates a far more complex process for beet than for cane juice, and here again a powerful factor occurs in depreciating the value, from a dietetic point of view, of the beet, the composition of the juice rendering the use of lime necessary to such an extent as not only to destroy any good inherent flavour in the juice itself, but also to give rise to an objectionable condition of the raw sugar, which renders it particularly repugnant and unfit for direct consumption. The use of this high amount of lime is obligatory by reason of the large quantity of gummy and albuminous matter present. It is used in two separate clarifications, in what is termed double carbonatation, the excess of lime being removed at each stage by carbonic or sulphurous acid. In this way the

gums and albuminous matters are got rid off, but the effect of the excess of lime on the latter is to develop a considerable quantity of ammonia and ammoniacal products, which convey the impression as to the raw sugar that its proper position in life is the manure heap. On the other hand, cane juice, which should be practically free from gums, and contains a much smaller proportion of albuminous matter, requires a relatively small amount of lime for clarification, which is fortunate, as the glucose, or uncrystallisable sugar it contains—and which the beet does not—would prohibit the use of an excessive quantity of lime on account of the coloration produced. The result of being able to produce a satisfactory clarification with a small amount of lime is that the flavour, the naturally rich flavour, of cane juice is more or less preserved, and is traceable right through the manufacture, appearing in the sugar to an extent which depends upon the degree to which it is refined. In fact, with the class of sugar termed "Demerara" crystals, the whole aim of the manufacture, and to which end phosphoric acid is used, is by restoring the acidity of the juice after neutralising with lime, to reproduce the natural flavour characteristic of the juice, and maintain it throughout the manufacture.

The beet molasses also contains a much larger proportion of potash salts than the cane, and these, which interfere largely with crystallisation, require removal before satisfactory results are obtained.

(To be continued).

SUGAR IN MAURITIUS.

The report of M. Boname, the Director of the Agricultural Station of Mauritius for the year 1905 has been published. Speaking of the sugar crop M. Boname observes that although this did not reach to that of 1903, it can still be classed among the good ones in view of returns, the yield of cane more than compensating for the poorness of the juice. Unhappily the prices of 1904 were not maintained, and hopes based upon them consequently not realised. The tonnage of sugar received up to April 15th, as compared with the rainfall was as follows:—

	RAINFALL			Sugar. Tons.
	For the year.		For the cultivation season.	
1895	69.8 inch	...	67.1 inch	141,000
1896	80 "	...	88.0 "	152,000
1897	49.1 "	...	30.7 "	123,000
1898	56.5 "	...	71.0 "	183,000
1899	67.5 "	...	69.9 "	159,000
1900	42.6 "	...	40.1 "	187,000
1901	48.6 "	...	46.8 "	153,000
1902	68.4 "	...	71.0 "	139,000
1903	54.6 "	...	62.5 "	212,000
1904	56.9 "	...	56.5 "	139,000
1905	80.9 "	...	82.3 "	185,000

The juice manipulated was generally inferior in sugar content, but towards the end of the crop it improved much, although at the finish the rains had brought about a fall. As regards rainfall, it is necessary to go back to 1896 to find a year equally wet. In that year the total was swelled by a cyclone which gave 25 in. in two days. In 1905 there was no similar flooding, and although the land was, perhaps, less open, it was not the less soaked by the rain of January and March. The cultivation of seedling canes had continued at the Experimental Station, and plants from preceding selections distributed to the planter. Some laboratory experiments are given in the report in connection with the use of sulphate of ammonia in the fermentation of molasses, and this reagent recommended in the case of slow fermentations. Sulphate of ammonia, it may be remarked, has been used in the British Guiana distilleries for over a quarter of a century for this purpose, but M. Boname has apparently omitted the conjoint use of sulphuric acid, which is indispensable for good attenuations with it.

TRINIDAD'S CACAO OUTPUT.

By HAROLD HAMEL SMITH.

In 1888 the Portuguese Islands of San Thomé and Príncipe exported between them 38,097 bags of cacao, and since that period with only two exceptions, 1894 and 1903, the output of cacao from this source has increased by leaps and bounds, until last year the total exports amounted to no less than 423,000 bags, or over eleven times the quantity shipped during the previous seventeen years. For the crop year 1887-8, our own West Indian Island of Trinidad shipped 105,360 bags, and had its output increased in the same proportion as that of her Portuguese rival, she would have exported during the crop year just ended, over 1,000,000 bags of cacao, whereas she only shipped

193,000 bags, or less than double the quantity of the exports in 1887-8. Even if we go back to 1903-4, the record year, when 222,000 bags were exported, the increase in all those years is very small, and one might say, most disappointing compared with the progress made by the other centres.

This state of affairs is not brought about in any way by Trinidad's area being more limited than that of San Thome and Principe, for it is the other way about. Not only is our own Island four times the size of the two Portuguese Islands, having 1,754 as compared with 420 square miles, but also the area planted in Trinidad since 1887 must surely have exceeded that planted in the Portuguese Islands since that date. I say this, because one has to take into consideration in the case of Trinidad, the much larger area which there is to plant, and the expansion which has undoubtedly taken place, thanks to the extension of the railway, the increase in the population and other reasons which are lacking in the West African Isles. Unfortunately, whilst our Blue Book gives the area under cacao in Trinidad, I have been unable to ascertain how many acres are planted in the Portuguese Islands. The owner of the well-known Boa Entrada Estate, to whom I applied for information on this point, could only tell me that he estimated the average yield per tree to be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., and on that basis he would place the area planted at about 70,000 to 80,000 hectares (the hectare being equal to 2.471, or say $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres), of which 4,000 to 5,000 are in full bearing and the remainder either bearing a little, or as yet not at all.

This however is neither conclusive nor, I should hope, correct, for if only four or five thousand, out of some 70,000 hectares can turn out so much cacao, it is troublesome to think what will be the output when the total area is in full bearing, even after allowing for land that has become exhausted. Let me however approach the matter from another point of view. The 423,118 bags shipped last year, if worked out at 120 lbs. to the bag, would give 50,774,000 lbs. This weight, at $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. to the tree, would mean that there were at least 34,000,000 trees planted and giving the average yield. Planted with 300 trees to the acre, this would, therefore, mean that some 110,000 acres were under cacao in the two Islands, and as the total acreage works out at 268,000 acres, or, say 420 square miles at 640 acres to the mile, this is a very likely proportion after allowing for town and building spaces, mountainous and wooded districts, &c.

Now Trinidad with its 190,000 acres, although it has always been a leading cacao producing centre, only turned out 220,000 bags in its record year, which taken at 175 lbs. to the bag, would give 38,850,000 lbs., or only 200 lbs. to the acre of 300 trees. That is to say, the average yield per tree to-day is two-thirds of a pound, supposing all the 190,000 acres were planted with trees, which is not likely. I can, however, arrive no nearer to the actual facts, or rather I am unable to do so. The figures given, tend to show that the Portuguese Islands have increased at a rapid and regular rate, and further have a big reserve force wherewith they can continue to increase for some years to come. On the other hand it seems as though Trinidad cannot produce cacao in as abundant a manner, and further, that whilst with a much larger area, probably under cacao, or at any rate at her disposal for cacao, she has not been able to produce such a regular and certain output as manufacturers who depend on that growth for their supplies must wish to see. Again, there is no reason why, if San Thome and Principe have been able to increase their output over eleven-fold in the seventeen years since 1888, Trinidad should not have done the same. Instead of this, according to the figures of the crop year just closed, she has not doubled her output of 1887-8, and when the January-December figures this year are made up, this lack of increase will be much more marked.

OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Science and the West Indies.

At a meeting of the West India Committee on the 5th of May, 1796, Lord Pearbryn informed those present that Mr. Ellis had witnessed some experiments made by a Dr. Higgins for the improvement of muscovado sugar, and that that gentleman was prepared to go out to the West Indies under the patronage of the Committee. At a further meeting on the 10th of the same month it was decided that Dr. Higgins should be engaged to go to Jamaica, with the view of experimenting with sugar and rum. On the 26th the following entry appears in the Minutes with regard to his remuneration:—

“Whereas the General Meeting of the 19th Instant have agreed with Dr. Higgins to grant him an Annuity of One Thousand Guineas p. annum for the space of Three Years, in consideration of his embarking for, and going out to the Island of Jamaica, and remaining there, or in any other British West India Sugar Island, for that period, for the sole purpose of improving the Quantity and Quality of Sugar and Rum, and without any prejudice to the Emolument that he may derive from the Legislature of any Colony that he may be resident in at the Time, by Patent, or otherwise. This Agreement we, the Committee, put our Signatures to.”

In order to provide Dr. Higgins' salary, which represented a large sum in those days, a levy of one shilling

on each cask of sugar and puncheon of rum imported into the port of London was made. It was stipulated that, although Jamaica was selected for the purpose of the experiments, all the Islands should be equally benefited by his work. That Dr. Higgins duly started is made clear, for record is made of the sum of £500 having been paid to him before his departure, and a subsequent payment the following April to his Attorney. No subsequent entry whatever appears as to the result of Dr. Higgins' experiments. It is quite possible, however, that in Jamaica some record of his visit and work may exist, and we shall be greatly obliged if any of our Jamaica friends will endeavour to throw some light on this matter. Dr. Higgins may be said to have been the first scientist in connection with the sugar industry to visit the West Indies, and his engagement forms another instance of how anxious the West India Committee were to utilise science so long ago as the end of the eighteenth century, when the application of scientific research to industrial improvement was comparatively in its infancy, and some years before the first Napoleon turned his attention to the scientific evolution of the sugar beet.

THE JAMAICA RUM SYNDICATE.

We learn on good authority that the Colonial Traders' Association have now entered into contracts for the purchase of about 75% to 80% of the common clean rum production of Jamaica, including all the well-known Wedderburn and Plummers estates, thus providing for upwards of 1,000,000 to 1,100,000 gallons at the average price of approximately 2s. 1d. per gallon paid in Jamaica. The company hopes to be able, by handling this large quantity, materially to reduce freights and other charges, so that the price to the consumer need not necessarily be raised. We believe that two propositions with regard to the marketing of the rum are under consideration, these being the possibility of dealing direct with the public-house trade or continuing to allow the rum to pass through the hands of the wholesale trade, who have been accustomed to handle the spirit for a number of years. It is also proposed to hold over for maturing from about 1,500 to 2,000 puncheons of rum every year, in order to cater for the better class trade. The working capital of the company will be £150,000, and the planters of Jamaica hold an option to secure from 25,000 to 30,000 £1 shares at par. In this connection, it is an interesting fact that at the present time the best Jamaica rum is fetching retail as high a price as the finest Highland malt whisky, while on the other hand the latter is being sold wholesale at from 4s. to 5s. per gallon, thus pointing to the possibility of a substantial profit.

GATHERING LIMES IN DOMINICA.

Our full page illustration is reproduced from a photograph, for the loan of which we are indebted to Mr. Hugh G. Rose. It represents labourers gathering the lime crop on an estate in Dominica. The women pick the limes and collect them in round baskets, which, in accordance with the prevailing West Indian custom, they carry on their heads. The fruit is then conveyed to the estate buildings in carts drawn by bullocks. In view of the recent increase in popularity of fresh limes in this country, this picture should prove of particular interest. Dominica is now by far the largest lime exporting Island in the West Indies, but hitherto the trade with fresh limes has been almost entirely to the United States, where the fruit is more fully appreciated.

AGRICULTURE IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

One of the most interesting documents issued of late by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies is the Report of the Experimental Station attached to the Virgin Islands. These small Islands, out of the beaten path, have done practically nothing in the way of systematised agriculture since the days of slavery, and the inhabitants have subsisted on a small cattle industry and such haphazard planting of provisions, &c., as was needed for their wants. Now, however, the Islands have been taken in hand, and experiments in cocoa, cotton, onions, pineapples and various agricultural products are being carried out. Tortola at one time used to export sugar, but it is recognised that it is useless to hope for any export trade in this commodity. Seedling canes are, however, being cultivated with the view of the Island producing enough sugar for its own requirements. Indeed, the Department operates a small set of muscovado works for the tenants and others owning land near the Station, which made 85 barrels last crop, 20 of which were retained for the cost of manufacture. As regards cotton, this is reported as making slow headway among the people. A small ginny is run by the Department, who purchase the seed cotton from the small growers at a price calculated to leave a small profit. In the cotton crop of 1905-6, 6,975 lbs. of clean lint of medium quality were shipped, an increase of 14 bales on the preceding year, and it was a gratifying feature that a large proportion of the money paid for cotton goes to Anegada and Virgin Gorda, where little else can be grown successfully. Considerable interest was being taken in cocoa, and an excellent opening appeared to exist for the cultivation of

fibre-yielding plants, which now grow in a wild or semi-wild state in the Virgin Islands. An Agricultural Show had been held, with no less than 800 exhibits. The efforts of the Imperial Department to provide agricultural cheer for these out-of-the-way Islands, would appear to have every probability of being successful, and is not by any way the least, if one of the smaller, of their good works.

FRUIT CANNING.

The *Farmer's Bulletin* of the United States Department of Agriculture gives some interesting details of the results attained by Mr. E. J. Watson at the Louisiana Experiment Station in the canning of fruits with an outfit which cost only \$10. The plant had a capacity of three hundred 2 lb. cans and two hundred 3 lb. cans per day. It consisted, essentially, of a specially constructed galvanised iron boiler made to fit either a No. 7 or 8 kitchen stove, a basket or carrier that fitted inside the boiler, can tongs, and soldering irons. When high grade peaches or pears were put up in 3 lb. cans, the cost of labour and material for a day's work was as follows:—

For labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	\$5.40
Four hundred 3 lb. cans, at 3 cents each	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.00
Fifty pounds sugar, at 6 cents per pound	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.00
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.40

For this grade of goods \$1.75 was received per dozen cans or \$58.33. This left a balance of \$37.93 for the fruit used. Peaches were also put up without sugar, using simply clear water. This grade sold as pie peaches and brought \$1 per dozen.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

Parliament re-assembled after the recess on Tuesday, October 23rd, but beyond the questions with regard to the salary of the Governor of Bermuda and the Northern Islands mail service, which are given below, no matters directly concerning the West Indies have engaged their attention during the fortnight, and interest regarding the Sugar Convention seems to have reached vanishing point. On Friday, October 26th, proceedings were enlivened by the appearance of a West Indian, who gives his name as J. Emanuel, of Trinidad, who rose in the Strangers' Gallery, in a purple robe, and with right hand uplifted said that he had come from the Almighty, and was then hustled out of the House.

The Salary of Bermuda's Governor.

Mr. Bellairs asked on October 23rd whether, having regard to the diminished importance of Bermuda in view of the withdrawal of the North American fleet, the reduced establishment of the dockyard, and the reduction of the garrison, the question of the governor and commander-in-chief will be reconsidered, in conjunction with the War Office, seeing that his salary of £2,190 is charged to Imperial funds, and that the duties are, during the leave of absence of the governor, performed by the colonel in command of the troops. Mr. Churchill in a written reply said: His Majesty's Government consider that the present moment is inopportune for inviting the Colonial Legislature to agree to pay a larger proportion of the Governor's salary than is now paid by the Colony. But the altered situation has not been lost sight of, and the question of future arrangements is under consideration.

The Northern Islands' Mail Service.

In answer to a question by Mr. Mitchell-Thomson in the House of Commons on October 29th, the Postmaster-General said: "A contract was recently concluded by the Crown-Agents for the Colonies providing for a regular monthly mail service to the Northern Islands of the West Indies from Barbados; and I have not been made aware that the service, which has not been arranged by the Post Office, is found to be inadequate by the West Indian communities. Mails for these Islands are, as a matter of fact, despatched fortnightly from the United Kingdom to Barbados for onward transmission by any opportunity which may arise in addition to those afforded by the Intercolonial Packets under the contract referred to."

NATURE NOTES.

QUICK GROWTH.

Some seeds of Caravonica Cotton, planted by Mr. Barclay in Jamaica, gave plants which were almost 2 feet high in one month.

A SNAKE STORY. In Tobago, a middle-aged black hen, with a nice lot of 10 chicks, was put in an old sugar tayche to keep the chicks from straying. One morning a "horsewhip" snake $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, which had paid her a visit, was found pecked to death by the hen.

SUGAR IN PERU. The Peruvian Government has decided to establish an experimental sugar station at Lima. Chemical analyses and researches will be made and field experiments carried out in connection with manures and irrigation. Several of the sugar estates have arranged to collaborate with the experimental station, which will be under the direction of Dr. J. P. Sedgwick, whose report on the sugar industry of Peru was recently referred to in these columns.

CANE TRASHING. Director C. F. Echart, of the Experimental Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, has recently been experimenting on the effect of "stripping" or "trashing" canes upon the yield and price. One trashing gave a gain of 2.8 per cent., two trashings a loss of 3.9, and three a loss of 12.1 per cent. The highest sucrose determination was with the canes that had two trashings, the lowest with those that had three, and both of these plants gave considerably less yield of cane per acre.

LEMONS IN DOMINICA. Much interest has lately been shown in the lemons grown at the Botanic Station, says the Annual Report. Two kinds, the Villa Franca and an Italian lemon, are under cultivation, both being budded on sour orange stocks. The fruits are large, smooth-skinned, and juicy. The London report on them was not altogether favourable, as they were, among other things, described as sweet lemons. The juice tested by Dr. Watts showed a greater acidity than that of limes grown in the wet districts of Dominica. It is possible that a small experimental cultivation will be started.

HUMAN ANT EATERS. The Indians of British Guiana are stated by Mr. C. W. Anderson, who has recently returned from the Brazil Boundary Expedition, to be extremely fond of ants as an article of diet. The only thing that would break down the Indian imperturbability and make him forget himself, was a flight of ants. Loads would be dropped and the porters would rush wildly after the insects, grabbing them in handfuls, stuffing pockets with them, and eating them either raw or grilled, with avidity. One man used to fish in a nest with a long piece of grass, patiently waiting until he got a bite, then hauling up the big-jawed soldier ant and biting off its head. The ants are said to taste like fat pork.

INCORRIGIBLE. Our planting friends who perused Nature Notes in our last *Circular*, will have been somewhat mystified by the cryptic utterance that "Cane 201" had practically disappeared, and that this had led to the retention of the Bourbon in Trinidad! As a matter of fact, the printer's devil was in an unusually dangerous state of activity and insisted upon the substitution of "cane 201" for "cane rot." From the same cause, in the article dealing with the French sugar crop, the range of glucose in the sugar was stated to be from 258 per cent. to .002 per cent.! Needless to say that .258 per cent. is the proper rendering.

FRENCH BEET. The area under cultivation in France for the crop 1905 amounted, according to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, to 262,866 hectares (649,342 acres), as against 191,160 hectares (473,276 acres) for 1904, and 234,260 hectares (578,856 acres) for 1903. The yield for 1905 was 30,730 kilos per hectare (12.3 tons per acre) as against 22,945 kilos and 27,462 kilos per hectare (9.2 tons and 10.9 tons per acre) for the two previous years respectively. The return of sugar (refined) was 12.18 per cent. of the weight of the beet, as against 12.05 per cent. and 11.57 per cent. for 1904 and 1903. The yield per acre of sugar was thus 1.5 tons for 1905, 1.15 tons for 1904 and 1.25 tons for 1903.

COLONIAL REPORT.

Increasing prosperity of Barbados.

The Hon. S. W. Knaggs, Colonial Secretary of Barbados, in his report on the Blue Book of the Colony for 1905-6, which is commendably punctual in its appearance, is in the agreeable position of being able to show that the Treasury Balance of £6,595 with which the year opened, had on March 31st, 1906, been increased to £17,954. For purpose of comparison we have drawn up the following table showing the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years.

	Revenue	Expenditure.		Revenue	Expenditure.
1901-2	£179,973	£175,350	1904-5	£185,056	£178,797
1902-3	161,585	194,346	1905-6	192,291	180,932
1903-4	180,831	176,309			

The revenue was £13,706 in excess of the average of that of the five preceding years, and when sufficient time has elapsed to enable an estimate to be made of the effect on the Colonies of the withdrawal of the troops, and the loss of a subsidized line of mail steamers, it is to be hoped that it may be possible to effect a gradual reduction of these extra duties. Regarding the increase of

expenditure, Mr. Knaggs says that a Colony where the revenue has probably reached its greatest limit of expansion demands the very serious consideration of all concerned in the administration of the finances of the Island, and in order to show the direction of expenditure a table is appended to the report comparing the current official salaries and outgoings for the various Government Departments for 1880 and 1905-6. The public debt of the Colony on March 31st, 1906, stood at £416,000, of which £375,000 represented the loan for water works and £41,000 the unredeemed balance of the loan of £60,000 raised from time to time for various other public works. The sinking fund accumulations now amount to £58,642, and in addition to this there is an unexpended balance of the water works loan, £25,906, invested in inscribed stock. Practically, then, the Public Debt of the Colony amounts to £331,452.

The value of the imports of the year 1905 was £1,042,562, and that of the exports £935,844. The imports, as compared with those of the previous years, show a decline in value of £26,750, but the exports increased by £74,862, of which £69,152 was for produce.

The sugar crop fell short of that of the previous year, the quantities exported having been 47,097 hogsheads of sugar and 39,379 puncheons of molasses, less by 16,507 hogsheads and 5,682 puncheons respectively than the exports of 1904; but owing to the better prices for sugar prevailing during the earlier part of the year the value of the produce exported in 1905 shows an increase of £69,152, under the following heads:—

Articles.	1904.	1905.	Increase
	£	£	£
Sugar	440,208	451,491	11,283
Molasses	144,195	177,205	33,010
Cotton	9,593	17,211	7,618
Other products	33,682	50,923	17,241
Totals	627,678	696,830	69,152

The figures in the following statements, which extend over a period of 46 years, show that while in that time there has been but little variation in the sources from which the imports are drawn, the export of products to the United Kingdom has gradually diminished in favour of the United States and British North America. It is somewhat disappointing to find that, notwithstanding the large increase in the export trade with Canada and the facilities offered by the contract service furnished by the Pickford and Black Line of steamers, there is but little growth in the value of the imports from that country.

IMPORTS.

Country.	1860.	1870.	1880.	1890.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United Kingdom ...	44 63	38 68	37 99	42 61	42 68	45 29	43 71	44 09	44 86	42 72
United States ...	33 57	32 08	37 85	35 73	34 20	36 71	32 51	35 47	33 01	32 30
British North America	8 06	6 78	8 94	8 01	7 45	7 87	9 30	9 52	7 10	8 02
Other Countries ...	13 74	22 46	15 22	13 65	15 67	10 13	14 48	10 92	15 03	16 96

EXPORTS (Local Products).

Country.	1860.	1870.	1880.	1890.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United Kingdom ...	67 75	55 95	43 22	10 84	7 42	3 65	5 12	3 18	9 41	17 87
United States ...	5 65	11 32	24 83	16 00	54 53	74 37	63 58	60 10	45 44	35 30
British North America	3 01	6 49	14 25	13 44	15 98	18 22	27 42	32 21	29 67	39 54
Other Countries ...	23 59	26 24	17 70	14 72	22 07	3 76	3 88	4 51	5 48	7 29

In 1902 the Imperial Department of Agriculture made an effort to establish a trade in bananas with the United Kingdom, the Barbados banana being of the same variety as that so largely exported from the Canary Islands. "In 1902 the Department shipped 18 bunches; in 1903, 6,691 bunches; in 1904, 15,326 bunches; and in 1905, 35,439 bunches. Up to the beginning of July, 1905, the banana industry seemed to be fairly established, the fruit was arriving in good condition, the planters were getting good prices and were in consequence increasing the areas under cultivation. From that date, however, in consequence of defects in the shipping arrangements, the bananas began to arrive in England in bad condition, and the planters lost so heavily on their shipments that they have practically abandoned the attempt to grow the banana for export, and the industry which commenced with such promise may now be said to have almost ceased to exist." In this connection it is interesting to learn from the *Agricultural Reporter* that during the current year the Department of Agriculture exported 103 bunches in June and August, which received prices varying from 63 cents to 76 cents per bunch. Those who have kept their plots in order are now obtaining some fine fruit. Bunches were seen in St. Lucy with fingers on them quite as large as what may be looked for in the hill parishes, and these were being sold to hucksters at sixpence per hundred.

In his general observations Mr. Knaggs refers to the celebration of the tercentenary of the Island, the withdrawal of the troops, and the mail question, stating with regard to the latter that

the public generally and the commercial community in particular, have been greatly inconvenienced by the want of a regular mail service with the United Kingdom since the termination in July, 1905, of the contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. Barbados, owing to its geographical position and the other means of communication which it in consequence possesses, has probably suffered to a far less extent than the other West Indian Colonies, but even here many disadvantages and drawbacks have been experienced since the suspension of the contract service.

CONSULAR REPORT.

Cotton Cultivation in Peru.

The German Consulate at Piura states that in earlier years the cotton crop of Peru was very uncertain, for with the exception of the narrow strip close to the river bank which is flooded every year, cotton could only be raised if heavy rains and considerable inundations made further areas cultivable, and this could only be expected about once in seven years. Since 1891 there has not been a rainy year and several land-owners have, in consequence, resorted to artificial irrigation. Steam pumps were next tried but seldom with satisfactory results. Steps were then taken for the construction of canals leading direct from the river, especially in the low-lying stretches near the mouth, and good crops resulted, with a moderate outlay. There arose in the course of the last eight years in the broad valley between Piura and Sechura quite a system of canals which now irrigate between 5,000 and 6,000 hectares and are still being extended. This system, however, lacked technical supervision. Each grower planned his canal where it best suited him, with the result that between the various canals large areas were left which could not be watered. It is expected that in the course of 1906 the area sown will be doubled, but the placing under cultivation of all the land actually cultivable will only be possible if the Government interferes and constructs, in place of numerous small existing canals, one large canal which will furnish water to everyone in a practical manner. Considerable interest is being taken in cotton-growing enterprises. A German firm has bought suitable land in the neighbourhood of Piura and obtained a concession for the construction of an irrigation canal. On the Chira river a company has under construction an extensive irrigation canal which, when ready, will make about 30,000 hectares ready for cultivation. The new areas will not all be planted with coarse cotton. On the Chira river good results have been obtained with a soft cotton similar to one of the North American varieties but rather more valuable.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

Captain A. P. Dix brought the R.M.S.P. "Trent," which left Barbados at 1 a.m. on Thursday, October 18th, to Southampton at 7.10 a.m. on October 29th. Among her passengers were Sir Robert Llewelyn, who has relinquished the Government of the Windward Islands, and Lady Llewelyn. An interesting feature of the letters of our Hon. Correspondents is the estimate of the coming crops which several of them contain, and which will, we hope, in future be given regularly. It is, of course, not easy to make any very accurate prediction; but it surely should not be so difficult in the limited areas of cultivation in the West Indies as it is in the vast beet fields of Europe which are the subject of frequent estimates. The mail brought news of the death of Mr. P. H. R. Hill, who recently retired from the post of Assistant Stipendiary Magistrate of Georgetown, Demerara, and also of the Hon. James M. Farquharson, who was only recently elected a Member of the West India Committee. The R.M.S. "Port Royal," from Kingston, Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth on October 24th.

The Barbados "Love Vine."

The Hon. Forster M. Alleyne, writing on October 14th, said that if an additional inter-colonial steamer were provided, it would go far towards reconciling Barbados to the existing mail arrangements.

Dealing with the weather, he said that since the rains it had been generally cool and pleasant. Until the rains ceased hardly a day since last mail had passed without good showers, many of which had been very heavy. There had, however, been little wash, except on the roads, where the trenches had not been kept open. From eight to ten inches of rain had fallen generally during the month to date. The canes in the leeward parishes, in the Scotland districts and in St. John's were very good, but those in Christ Church and St. Philip's seemed to find it difficult to get over the check which they received in the first three weeks of September. The plant canes were growing, however, and it would soon be seen if the ratoons would adequately respond. It was his opinion that if cotton gave a good return, ratoons would no longer be cultivated in that district, but that estates would be divided between plant canes and cotton. There had been a marked diminution of the cotton pests in October; many fields were ripening up, and cotton picking had begun. It was hardly possible to

estimate what the coming sugar crop would amount to, and if he were to say 50,000 tons with seasonable weather, it would be little more than a guess. It must be taken into consideration also that the immensely increased acreage planted in cotton must have diminished that under cane.

The Governor had issued a proclamation calling attention to the spread of the "Love Vine" or "Dodder" (*Cuscuta Americana*), and requesting all householders to destroy it wherever it appeared. It was hoped that it might be possible to eradicate it, as at present it seemed to be confined to districts within a short distance of Bridgetown. The proclamation ran:—

"It is desired to impress upon planters and householders generally the desirability of taking the earliest steps to eradicate this vine when observed, and for this purpose it is necessary to tear down and utterly destroy (preferably by fire) every particle of the vine (which can easily be recognised by its orange colour and by its being practically devoid of leaves) when found upon hedges, trees, or other vegetation. Serious damage has already been done in some parts of the Island (notably in the neighbourhood of Welches, St. Michael's) to various plants, particularly to hedges of the plant known locally as "Bread and Cheese," for which the vine appears to have a special attraction. If left undisturbed the vine (which is a parasite) completely destroys the plant on which it climbs, and it is, therefore, most important to extirpate the vine radically immediately it is noticed, taking care to burn, or at any rate to bury every particle of it.

"The Governor earnestly asks for the co-operation of every man, woman or child in the Island in the destruction of this pest, and parents should especially caution their children against carrying about portions of the vine, and experimenting with it in the gardens or elsewhere, as its vitality is such that detached portions will grow on other plants without care or trouble, and thus become a serious menace to plants of economic value.

"Much damage has already been done in Trinidad by this vine, and it has been found necessary to legislate specially in regard to it.

"In view of the manifest importance of this matter to the agricultural interests in this Island, it is hoped that this pest will be vigorously combated by all concerned, without loss of time, and where the public highways are involved and considerable areas are attacked, it is requested that all persons observing the vine will assist the Government by notifying the locality to Mr. J. R. Bovell, of the Imperial Agricultural Department, who will co-operate with the Government in using every effort to extirpate the pest."

British Guiana Mining and Forests Exports.

When Mr. J. C. McCowan closed his letter on October 12th, the sugar market was weaker, and the quotation was about \$24. Estates were all in full work; but the juice continued wretchedly poor. The weather had been too dry and good showers were wanted for young cultivation generally. There was a good deal of sickness prevalent throughout the Colony.

The financial results of the recent Agricultural Show were very satisfactory, the Government grant only having to be called upon to the extent of \$150.

Mr. T. S. Hargreaves, the Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, forwarded the following return showing the exports for the month of September:—

	1906.	1905
Gold	11,806 ozs.	5,454 ozs.
Diamonds	810 carats	—
Timber, Greenheart, &c.	861 cub. ft.	20,151 cub. ft.
Lumber	4,966 ft.	856 ft.
Charcoal	4,871 bags	6,418 bags.
Shingles	164,050	60,000
Wallaba and hardwood posts	80	945
Woods, Firewood	280 tons	433 tons
Gums, locust, &c.	345 lbs.	605 lbs
Balata	169,738 lbs.	115,440 lbs.

The financial statement of the Colony of British Guiana for the year 1905-6 shows satisfactory and continued improvement. The Public Debt stands at \$3,785,856, to which has to be added the further sum of \$960,000, moneys borrowed for immigration purposes. The assets and liabilities show that the deficiency, which in 1904-5 amounted to \$171,380, has been reduced to \$73,045. It will be remembered that this deficit in 1901-2 amounted to \$572,528. The total expenditure for the year was \$2,429,631, as against a revenue of \$2,507,966. The Customs receipts fell considerably below the estimate, the actual revenue collected amounting to only \$1,554,614 as against an estimate of \$1,605,000. Under the head of Excise the sum realised was \$475,989 as against an estimate of \$443,100, and against \$435,748 for the preceding year. \$581 were realised for the sale of Crown lands, the disposal of which must have made a small impression on the 99,000 square miles available. The balance at the credit of the Immigration Fund was \$58,057. Altogether the statement gives an encouraging idea as to the financial prospects of the Colony.

Development of British Honduras.

Writing on October 19th, the Hon. A. R. Usher reported that a severe gale prevailed on the Belize Coast during the 12th and 13th, and a good deal of damage had been done to the several plantations and boats, and also houses on the Cayes and Mainland. Three steamers which were towing mahogany had lost their rafts. Mr. Joseph Lewis, an enterprising American, had made proposals to the Government to build a wharf and dredge a channel to it, so that large vessels could

lie alongside; also to build warehouses and a tramway, which if carried out would no doubt be a great convenience to shipping coming to Belize. With regard to navigation of the Belize River, a steamer was now making weekly trips to the Cayo, and within a very short time two or three more steamers would be put on the river, which would be a great convenience to travellers, as formerly the traffic was carried on by Pitpans, which took about fifteen to twenty days to reach their destination. The new Governor had not made any move yet to carry out any of the schemes that had been prepared for the development of the Colony, and the inhabitants were getting anxious about the matter and would like to see something done.

Floods were reported generally all over the Colony, and a good deal of mahogany should be available shortly for shipment.

Dominica lime shipments.

In a letter dated October 12th, Mr. E. A. Agar explained that the fact that the London market had recently been ill-supplied with limes was due to two causes: firstly, that the London brokers on the whole had not kept their correspondents sufficiently well posted as to market requirements; secondly, that planters had not been able to obtain boxes.* As matters stood it took from two to three months to get an order for boxes executed in the U.S.A. or Canada, and when it was learnt that the season was likely to be a good one it was too late to order. The planters would, however, shortly be in a position to cut up their own boxes, and thenceforth there would be no difficulty in coping with a sudden demand, provided they were informed of the probability of its arising in good time.

Where so much young cultivation was coming into bearing year after year, it was not easy to estimate crops; but the cacao output would probably be about the same as that of last year, *i.e.*, 1,350,000 lbs., while lime products should increase by about 15% to two million gallons of raw juice, of which perhaps 20,000 barrels would be classed as fruit. [One barrel yields roughly seven gallons raw juice.—ED.]. Other exports were negligible. Small shipments of budded oranges—Washington Navels, Jaffa, &c., were being made, but it would depend on the results shown by the fruit already planted whether the industry became important or not. There might be 100 acres planted in budded oranges, but not more, and the next two or three years should show the value of this cultivation.

The fortnight under review had been extremely hot.

Grenada's exports for 1905-6.

Writing on October 13th, Mr. P. J. Dean stated that the cacao crop finished on September 29th and had turned out 10,000 bags short of the previous one. This was partly due to a dry spell in September and October last year, and to the fact that the trees which had been bearing well for the previous crop, required some rest. This falling off had been serious and felt all round, especially during the last six months. It was impossible as yet to predict what the coming crop would amount to; but prospects were promising, though the crop would be a late one.

We are indebted to Messrs. Jonas Browne & Sons for the following table giving the exports from Grenada and the Grenadines for the five years ended March 31st last:—

Crops.		Cocoa.		Spice.		Cotton.		Cotton Seed.
1st Oct. 30th Sept.		Bags.		Packages.		Bales.		Bags.
1905—1906	...	54,381	...	6,709	...	1,019	...	6,316
1904—1905	...	64,328	...	6,994	...	705	...	4,745
1903—1904	...	67,296	...	6,022	...	1,041	...	6,594
1902—1903	...	63,019	...	6,195	...	1,028	...	7,125
1901—1902	...	61,285	...	4,770	...	951	...	5,799

of which the following were shipped to North America:—

Crops.		Cocoa.		Spice.		Crops.		Cocoa.		Spice.
1st Oct. 30th Sept.		Bags.		Packages.		1st Oct. 30th Sept.		Bags.		Packages.
1905—1906	...	10,686	...	1,491	...	1902—1903	...	9,766	...	1,642
1904—1905	...	12,258	...	1,407	...	1901—1902	...	4,552	...	749
1903—1904	...	13,830	...	909	...					

and the remainder to Europe.

Jamaica labour for Panama.

Writing on October 11th, Mr. J. L. Ashenheim said that Mr. Jackson Smith, Manager of the Labour Department in the Panama Canal zone, was paying a visit to the Island in order to make arrangements, if possible, for securing regular supplies of fruit and vegetables for the large and

* With regard to the first of these causes it cannot be said that the West India Committee were backward in warning those accustomed to handle limes of the probability of an increasing demand, and our contemporary the *Produce Market Review* was equally emphatic on the subject.—ED.

increasing number of Americans on the Isthmus. He hoped, also, to discuss the labour problem. At present there were 33,000 labourers on the Isthmus, of whom 25,000 were on the books of the Canal Commissioners. The men were being paid 10 cents per hour in American gold, and artisans were receiving from 16 to 40 cents per hour, according to the nature of the work done.

Mr. E. Astley Smith had returned to the Island and was about to establish a branch of Thomas Cook & Sons' Agency in Jamaica. He spoke hopefully of the coming tourist season, which was expected to establish a record. It was announced that many automobiles were to be brought down from America by tourists, and that the roads would be in good order in time.

The first steamer of the new fruit company, the Page Steamship Co., left Kingston on October 10th for New York, with 20,000 bunches of bananas. The company was to run one ship a fortnight, but another vessel would be placed on the trade in March.

Cotton in Montserrat.

In a letter dated October 4th, Mr. Conrad Watson reported that the month of September had been very rainy, some estates having recorded seventeen inches for the month. The cotton crop looked fairly well, although some fields had suffered from attacks of an aphid, which were sufficiently injurious to necessitate spraying with kerosene emulsion. A few cotton worms had been noticed, but had not yet appeared in sufficient numbers to damage the crop.

Nevis cotton prospects.

The Hon. C. A. Shand, in a letter dated October 7th, said that the rainfall for September had been somewhat heavy, but all the same it was a great improvement on the drought which prevailed last year, and with a few hot days' sunshine everything would recover. The only real sufferers would be those cotton growers whose crops were in so advanced a stage that the bolls were already in bearing, and saturated by the persistent moisture. The seeds developed unnatural germination, thus of course entirely destroying the cotton, which would otherwise soon have been in a condition for reaping. Fortunately, the crop in Nevis was, generally speaking, backward, so that the major portion of it escaped from this fate, but it was said that in St. Kitts they were very hard hit. It had been decided by the St. Kitts' Agricultural and Commercial Society to hold an agricultural and industrial show early next year, and it was rather doubtful whether the annual show in Nevis would not have on that account to be abandoned. If reasonable facilities could be given to exhibitors from Nevis which would place them on the same footing as intending exhibitors in St. Kitts, it would be extremely interesting to make the show to some extent interinsular, as it would tend towards a healthy spirit of competition between the two Islands, and the show might subsequently year by year be held alternately in the two Islands. With the seasonable rains, ground provisions ought to be of exceptional quality by January or February next.

Dr. G. B. Mason had taken up the medical district in Nevis vacated by Dr. Bell, deceased, and those in the Island had done their best to extend to himself and his wife such welcome as the Colony could afford.

In a subsequent letter dated October 16th, Mr. Shand reported that the event of the past week had been the arrival of Sir Daniel Morris, who was at present paying the Island a visit. On the 15th he had a private meeting with all the growers of cotton (planters), and afterwards there was a meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society, at which Sir Daniel presided, and in his address made many valuable suggestions for the safeguarding of the cotton industry. Fine growing weather had been experienced latterly and the crops were looking promising generally.

The rains in St. Kitts.

With regard to the cotton crop, we are informed by Mr. A. D. C. Adamson, who wrote on October 9th, that it was difficult yet to know what the effect of last month's heavy rains would be; but at the time of writing there was no doubt that the early plantings had suffered severely. As he closed his letter he had just measured 81 in. of rain which fell in the night. Numberless after-shoots had sprung up in place of lateral developments, and it yet remained to be seen whether these would develop their bolls before the time came for the plants to be removed to make room for the cane crop. Mail arrangements were very bad and not in any way conducive to Imperialism.

Crop prospects in St. Lucia.

Mr. George S. Hudson, who wrote on October 15th, said that the weather for the fortnight had been extremely wet. The rainfall for the month of September amounted to thirteen inches, including four inches within an hour and a half on September 25th, which damaged roads considerably, but not plantations to the same extent. During the first half of October ten inches of rain had already fallen and cacao drying under this climate was very difficult and shipments of "weathered" cacao might be expected. The first two hot-air cacao drying machines introduced into St. Lucia

The weather continued very favourable for both canes and cacao. During the past fortnight the market for cacao had been excessively quiet; some small lots had changed hands, but at somewhat reduced prices. The new leaves had begun to mature, and in this process some damage was being done to very young fruit, but to what extent it was impossible to estimate; the first pickings of new crop should be offering for sale in the Colony early in December. There had been some bids from the Continent, but little disposition was shown to make fresh contracts, and with the exception of a small lot of Venezuela for immediate shipment, nothing had been possible. Regarding Venezuelans, owing to the rise, as advised in last report, quite a number of small lots had come on the market, and in consequence prices had receded. There might be one or two lots still to come from the mainland, but the entire crop of these grades could now be considered as having been marketed.

SHIPMENTS.

Total at last report	...	...	...	125,371	Trinidad.	29,356	Venezuela.	
Sept. 30th.—S.S. "Martinique"	...	...	...	—	..	525	..	Europe.
Oct. 1st.—S.S. "La Plata"	...	...	...	387	..	—	..	..
.. 3rd.—S.S. "Constantia"	...	...	...	200	..	—	..	..
.. 6th.—S.S. "Prins Willem IV."	...	...	...	134	..	100	..	..
.. 8th.—S.S. "Grenada"	...	...	...	329	..	167	..	New York.
Totals to date	...	...	...	127,421	..	30,148	..	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Crucifix Fish.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—No photograph of the Crucifix fish, as you state, can fully convey the realistic impression produced by seeing the actual skeleton. Is there not a little slip in saying the negroes take the figure with outstretched arms to represent Pontus Pilate? I have understood their idea was that it represented "Judas Iscariot," which seems more in harmony with the fable. I believe the fish when caught is buried in the sand, and the ants eat off the flesh and produce such a perfect skeleton as you have now added to your collection of curiosities.—Yours, &c.

October 25th, 1906.

A CONSTANT READER

["Constant Reader" is correct in his surmise. The figure at the back, on top of the head of the fish, is really generally called Judas, though from its impressive attitude it might well pass for Pilate. We were not aware of the method of cleaning the fish, which "Constant Reader" describes.—ED.]

Mosquitoes and Malaria.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

DEAR SIR,—In view of the very great importance of preventing malarial fever in British Guiana and the West Indian Islands, I would suggest that in your Journal information might be furnished regarding the best kinds of precautionary measures to adopt against mosquitoes, &c. Those who have studied the mosquito malarial theory are unanimous in stating that the mere expedient of making a room mosquito proof at night, will considerably lessen the danger of contracting malaria, and I am confident that all matters relating to the well-being of residents in malarial countries will have your earnest consideration. While on this subject, it would be interesting to learn from your various members abroad what precautions are being taken in the various Colonies and Islands in this matter of malarial prophylaxis. It would act as a guide I am confident, to the many intending passengers desirous of wintering in the West Indies, and also relieve their minds as to the exaggerated notions of the unhealthiness of British Guiana and some of the West Indian Islands.

Yours, &c.

A MEMBER

[We are afraid that in houses constructed as are those in the West Indies, the guarding of rooms against mosquitoes after sundown would be a difficult matter, but efficient bed-nettings are a *sine qua non* as a protection against the insidious *anopheles*. These, and veils on hand for exceptional conditions during travelling, should always be provided. Perhaps some of our readers who have had experience of other mosquito countries will let us know their experiences of malarial prophylaxis.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

Beauty Spots in the West Indies. Book 1, price 3d. This elegant little book, which consists of six coloured picture postcards of Jamaica bound together, and each charged with a view of one of the steamers of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Company, by which it is issued, furnishes a striking example of the advance which has been made in the art of colour printing of late years. On the cover there is a beautiful view of the "Kearney River Falls."

The Quarterly Journal of the Liverpool University Institute of Commercial Research in the Tropics, September 1906. This is the third number of this useful and interesting publication inaugurated in June last. Mr D

Edwards-Radclyffe contributes an article on "The Possibilities of Ramie," in which its value and the various uses to which it can be applied are set out, but the writer quite omits to mention the difficulty in decorticating the fibre which has retarded this industry so greatly. Viscount Mountmorres gives a description of the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture and its Experimental Stations, while Mr. E. Castaing treats of the Agricultural Products of the Ivory Coast.

The Laws of the Empire. By F. H. M. Corbet. London: Kegan, Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd. The reprint now published is one of an article contributed by its eminent and learned author to the "British Empire" Series. It was, therefore, written in a popular style; but although thus adapted to the general reader it is none the less valuable as an authority in its exposition of "the relation of the laws of the Empire to natives of the United Kingdom going to British Dominions beyond the Seas." The general principles affecting the status of British subjects settled in the Colonies are well expounded, and should be mastered by every one interested in the peace, welfare and development of our Colonial possessions.

The Journal of the Society of Comparative Legislation. Vol. XV. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street. The latest publication of the Society of Comparative Legislation includes in its review of the legislation of the Empire in 1904, summaries of the Public Acts and Ordinances of the West Indies and British Guiana passed in that year. As regards the legislation of the several West Indian and British Guiana Legislatures, the abstracts have been contributed as follows—Bahamas, by the Bar Association of the Bahamas; Barbados, British Honduras, Turks and Caicos Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, by Wallwyn P. B. Shephard, Esq.; British Guiana, by Sir Thomas Rayner, A. G.; Jamaica, by Albert Gray, Esq., K.C.; Windward Islands, Grenada and St. Lucia, by Charles J. Tarring, Esq., ex-Chief-Justice of Grenada; the Leeward Islands, the Federal and the Several Acts of its five Presidencies, by Alexander Manson, Esq. The Society of Comparative Legislation was formed in 1895 under the auspices of the late Lord Herschell, L.C., with the support of a number of eminent jurists. The members of the Council now include Lord Rosebery (President), Lord Davcy (Chairman), and Sir Courtenay Ilbert (Vice-Chairman), Lord Alverstone, Sir W. R. Anson, Bt., Lord Halsbury, Professor Dicey, Lord Loreburn (Lord Chancellor), Lord James of Hereford, Sir Frederick Pollock, Bt., Professor Westlake, the Hon. J. Choate, late U.S. Ambassador, and many other equally eminent and distinguished jurists and publicists. Every year since its foundation the society has published in its journal a critical summary prepared by specially qualified persons of the legislation of the Empire, to which is now added an account of the legislation of the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and other countries. Such an authentic annual collection of legislative enactments is of great value to statesmen, politicians, and jurists. The volumes find a resting place on the shelves of many of the public as well as of the University and law libraries of the Empire and the United States: and thus are an available record for reference, which becomes historically more and more valuable each year.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

ANGOLA ASPHALT. A British syndicate is, says the *Indian Trade Journal*, about to work three concessions in Angola for the production of crude petroleum and asphalt.

OWLPEN MANOR. A descriptive article on Owlpen Manor, Gloucestershire, the property of Mr. Trent-Stoughton, a member of the West India Committee, is given in *Country Life*, of October 6th.

CHESS 501 Two chess matches of six games each between Mr. J. H. P. Ibbot and Mr. Weeks, of British Guiana, and a Mr. J. P. Murray, in London, have now been in progress for over three years. It is estimated that it will be over four years before they are completed.

THE NEW RUBBER. The *Mexican Herald* announces that a factory to work the new Guayule rubber is being created and is nearly completed, at Saltillo. A small sample of this rubber may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

WHITE LABOUR TROUBLES. The Australian sugar planters, who have been forced to employ white labour to the exclusion of the Kanakas, are already having trouble. Four strikes are reported from the Childers district in as many weeks, and a fire which is alleged to be the work of incendiaries.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended November 1st, 14 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.40d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, medium fine, 13½d. per lb.; fine, 14½d. per lb.; and extra fine, 16d. per lb. Prices paid 7½d. to 13½d.

SWEDISH SUGAR DUTIES. The following modifications have been made in the Swedish sugar import duties. The duty on unrefined, up to No. 18 Dutch standard has been altered to 1.41d. from 1.43d. per lb. No. 18, and above to 1.81d. from 1.99d. per lb., and refined, including candy, loaf, and powdered sugar to 1.81d. from 1.99d. per lb.

MEXICAN SUGAR. The production of sugar in the Republic of Mexico during the year 1904-5 amounted to 10,038,785 kilos (107,000 tons), while the production for 1905-6 is estimated at only 105,000 tons. The export of refined sugar in the past two years has been: 1903-4, \$2,594,178; 1904-5, \$3,717,446. Of this 85 per cent. finds its way to the United Kingdom.

U.S. SUGAR CERTIFICATES. The United States Treasury Department have issued a Circular stating that it has been determined by the Department that the interests of the revenue no longer require that these certificates shall state the date or year when the sugar was produced. Certificates in which the date of production of sugar does not appear will, therefore, be accepted, provided the other particulars required be therein stated.

IMPERIAL ENTERPRISE. A new cotton ginning factory is to be erected in the West Indies, which will be the largest either in the American Sea Islands or the West Indies. It will, we understand, contain 24 gins,

made in Oldham, and the machinery, buildings, &c., are all to be placed with English firms, and there will be no American work about the factory at all. We hope to be in a position to give further particulars of this new enterprise in due course.

HYDROSULPHITES. The cheapening of the manufacture commercially of hydrosulphites has led to the considerable employment of these powerful reducing agents in sugar manufacture on the Continent. When the hydrosulphite in the form of the soda salt is employed with the raw juice after liming, the decolorised juice from carbonatation filters very rapidly. "Redo," a preparation of it, costs 0.80 fr. for the kilo, or say 3½d. per lb. Especially good results are claimed from hydrosulphite of alumina.

FOR BERMUDA. The R.M.S.P. "Severn," which will leave Southampton on November 20th, will take out a detachment of the 2nd battalion of the Hampshire Regiment and other details to Bermuda. The troops thus relieved will be brought home by the R.M.S.P. "Segura," due to arrive just before Christmas. This movement of troops has been facilitated by the re-establishment of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's passenger service, on which the above steamers are engaged, to Cuba and Mexico.

IMPERIAL LANCASHIRE. As a result of observation in the American cotton fields last spring by a commission of Lancashire spinners a second commission invested with larger powers has left Liverpool to re-visit the southern cotton fields. The object is to gain further data and experience by observing the actual process of cotton-picking. The commissioners, Messrs. H. W. Macalister, W. J. Orr, and A. Niven Whyte, are authorised to purchase suitable land on behalf of certain Lancashire spinners, and to make practical experiments in growing their own cotton.

TRINIDAD OIL. Mr. A. Beeby Thompson, of the firm of Messrs. Thompson & Hunter, Consulting Engineers and Petroleum Experts, of London, leaves for the West Indies to-morrow by the R.M.S.P. "Trent." Mr. Thompson proceeds to Trinidad in the interests of the Trinidad Petroleum Co., Ltd., a company formed by an influential group to prospect certain Crown lands in the southern part of the Island. Very complete and modern machinery has been ordered and will shortly be shipped to Trinidad for the purpose of efficiently conducting the operations.

OUR VISITORS. Among the visitors at the West India Committee Rooms during the past fortnight have been Mr. E. C. Jackman, Mr. H. E. Garraway, Mr. William Gordon Gordon, and the Hon. George Goodwille, who return to Trinidad by the "Trent" to-morrow. Mr. A. E. Harragin, another of our visitors, the last of the West Indian cricketers, also leaves by the same steamer. Mr. Goodwille, who takes a keen interest in educational matters in Trinidad, as indeed he does in the welfare of the Colony generally, has secured the services of Miss Summers as headmistress of the Trinidad High School for Girls. This accomplished lady is a graduate of Cambridge and is fully qualified to occupy the position which she will assume.

CENTRAL FOR JAMAICA. It is with much pleasure that we learn that Messrs. E. A. de Pass & Co. have placed with the Harvey Engineering Company, Ltd., a contract for a complete sugar factory to turn out 3,000 tons of sugar. The factory, which will be the entire design of the Harvey Engineering Company, is to be erected on the Vere Estates Company's property in Jamaica in time to take off the crop of 1907-8. A railway 12 miles in length of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge will be constructed to transport the cane to the factory, and a set of Fowler's steam ploughing tackle will also be imported for tillage purposes. This will be practically the first crystallisation of the several Central Factory Schemes which have been proposed for Jamaica. The inception of the Factory will mark an era in the history of the Jamaica sugar industry.

W.I. CLUB DINNER. The fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club took place on Wednesday, October 31st, at the Club Rooms, Howard Hotel, Mr. A. E. Messer presiding. After dinner the First Round of the Annual Billiard Tournament took place. Among those present were:—Dr. H. E. G. Boyle, Major-Gen. Sir John Campbell, Bart., C.B., Mr. Max Diermissen, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. R. A. J. Goode, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. L. F. Hudson, Mr. J. Huett, Mr. E. C. Jackman, Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, Mr. Arthur Johnson, Mr. F. Langford, Mr. F. R. Leistikow, Mr. Harold de Pass, Mr. E. G. Fern, Mr. William Peter, Mr. H. Powell Rees, Mr. Joseph Rippon, Capt. J. B. Saunders, Mr. J. A. Sellers, Capt. W. F. Wardroper, Major Waterlow, D.S.O., Mr. J. H. Wilkinson, Mr. Charles Wilson, Señor Federico Witting and Mr. T. B. Younger.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Tues., Oct. 23.—Parliament re-assembled.—Women Suffragists on the warpath.—Naval reorganisation (the *Times*, p. 12)
—88 % Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.

- Wed., Oct. 24.—Sentence on Women Suffragists.—The R.M.S. "Port Royal" from Jamaica arrived at Avonmouth.—
—Beet, 8s. 10½d., quiet.
- Thur., Oct. 25.—Cuba: Thousands of rifles said to have been surrendered by the rebels and cast in the sea.—A company incorporated in New Jersey for tunnelling under the Lehring Straits.—Beet, 8s. 10d., quiet.
- Fri., Oct. 26.—The United States and Japan (the *Times*, p. 3).—Mr. Haldane responded for the Imperial Forces at the Colchester oyster feast.—Mutiny of convicts at Gloucester prison.—The hero of the Kippenick raid arrested.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., quiet.
- Sat., Oct. 27.—Demonstration against the Education Bill in Trafalgar Square.—The escaped convicts from Gloucester recaptured.—Beet, 9s. 0½d., quiet.
- Sun., Oct. 28.—Railway disaster near Atlantic City, U.S.A.
- Mon., Oct. 29.—The House of Lords considered the Education Bill in Committee.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., steady.
- Tues., Oct. 30.—Lord Cranbrook died.—Review of the proceedings of the Wireless Telegraphy Conference (the *Times*, p. 5).—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Wed., Oct. 31.—The King received the remnant of the disbanded Guards and accepted their colours.—Beet, 8s. 6½d., quiet.
- Thurs., Nov. 1.—The Municipal Elections.—Beet, 8s. 7½d., quiet.
- Fri., Nov. 2.—Political speeches: Mr. Asquith at Manchester and Mr. Balfour in London. Mr. Austen Chamberlain at Canterbury delivered a stirring message from his father regarding the progress of Tariff Reform.—
Beet, 8s. 7d., quiet.
- Sat., Nov. 3.—Wireless telegraph Convention signed at Berlin.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 7½d., quiet.
- Sun., Nov. 4.—It was announced that Commander Peary, of the U.S.A., had touched the furthest point north ever reached.
- Mon., Nov. 5.—Beet, 8s. 7½d., quiet.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Tuesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Barbadian.—Though the end of 1624 or 1625 is generally given as the date of the first settlement of Barbados, there seems to be good reason to believe that 1626 was actually the year in which the "John and William," commanded by John Powell, arrived in the Island and established James Town, which is now called Hole Town. We believe that Mr. C. P. Clarke, who has made a study of the records of the Island, has satisfied himself that the actual date of settlement was 1626.

Colonel.—Crude camphor, as it comes over when first distilled, is really a mixture of camphor, camphor oil, and water, and the usual process adopted is then to take it and re-distil it after most of the oil has been allowed to drain away. It has been suggested that centrifugal machines might be used for this operation, as is the case with sugar and molasses; but hitherto they have not been so employed. After being re-distilled, crystals of white camphor are formed, and these are usually compressed into blocks. The camphor requires very powerful pressure steam or hydraulic for this purpose, and it is not a process which can be done on a small scale. In Formosa, whence a large amount of camphor is exported, the compression is effected in big central factories. It is doubtful if the operation could be efficiently or profitably conducted on a small scale.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 1st. "A few light showers have fallen, but more rain would be acceptable." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), November 1st. "Weather very dry." **Trinidad** (C. W. Stevens, Esq.), November 2nd. "Weather is unfavourable for growing crops." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ending October 24th. **PORT ANTONIO**: "18th to 23rd, fine; 24th, rainy. **KINGSTON**: 18th to 20th, fine; 21st to 23rd, rainy; 24th, fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), October 29th:—Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., Lady Llewelyn, Mr. O. A. Deffaa, Mr. P. Lejeune, Mr. L. Caceres, Mr. H. Ellis, Mr. F. Tracey, Mrs. H. Walton, Mr. G. Saravia, Mr. and Mrs. Esquerre, Mrs. V. Vargas de Rueda, Mr. and Mrs. G. Valentiner and family, Mrs. de Boissiere and two children, Capt. and Mrs. Wheeler, Mr. C. C. Kenrick, Mr. C. Stewart, Miss H. Clavier, Mr. H. Barnard, Mr. C. H. Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. H. Walker, Mrs. W. Birch, Mr. T. Lee, Mrs. J. de Freitas and child, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Bruyn, Mrs. W. Bayot, Miss Francis, Mr. W. Lessey, Miss Wainwright, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Bascom, Miss Lescocq, Mr. G. Bontheur, Mr. E. Heidler, Mr. and Mrs. G. Fayad and child, Mr. W. A. Brown, Supt. and Mrs. P. Coppin, Mr. J. Lamb, Mr. Thaby, Mr. Thologos, Mr. T. Partridge.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trent" (Capt. A. P. Dix), November 7th:—Miss S. Harford, Miss Archibald, Mr. and Miss Fernandez, Mr. Clifford Hart, Mr. and Mrs. William Gordon-Gordon, Dr. and Mrs. Adolf Ulrich and family, Mr. A. S. Kernahan, Mr. A. E. Harragin, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hinkson, Mr. Fred. G. Hotchkiss, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Churchill, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Stollmayer, Miss Moeham, Miss Kendall, Rev. Fr. Cantwell, Rev. Herwald Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. de Lemos and Miss E. de Lemos, Hon. and Mrs. Geo. Goodville and two children, Mrs. Zapata, Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Guiana, Mr. D. R. Jardine, Rev. Fr. O'Reilly, Mr. M. Wright, Mr. Carl L. Vogeler, Mr. and Miss Reece, Mr. and Mrs. Aguiar and child, Rev. Thos. Dermady, Mr. Henry Stanton, Mr. Julien Opstaele, Mr. William Ross, Mr. O. Hurley, Mr. J. M. Schoener, Mr. Carl Bartling, Mr. Jas. Mills, Mr. Carl Sterzl,

Master Geo. Owen, Miss Martin, Mrs. Driver, Miss Quinn, Mr. Wilhelm Koch, Rev. Edward Fitzsimmons, Mr. A. MacAndrew, Mrs. and Miss Jochmamovitz, Mr. K. Jensen, Mr. E. Bowen, Mrs. Carry, Mr. Wm. R. Hunt, Miss Taylor, Miss Moffatt, Mrs. Cimbrle, Mr. and Mrs. Holler, Mr. Jules Haas, Mr. Arno Schubert, Mr. Wm. Smart, Mr. Heinrich Hager, Mr. Harold Dalzell, Mr. G. W. Bremner, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Whitfield, Miss Joyce, Mr. C. M. Goodridge, Mr. R. Allerding, Dr. Carl Bovallius, Mr. J. Maurice Duke, Mr. Louis Bacaro, Mrs. Gallardo and infant, Mr. Bernard Perrenoud, Mr. and Mrs. G. Aubray Goodman, Mr. Arturo Poper, Mr. J. W. Wilson, Rev. P. Leimann, Mr. W. C. Kenny, Mr. Harry Marver, Mr. Mackintosh, Miss Mayre, Mr. and Mrs. Mayres, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander, Mr. Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Prentice and family, Mr. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Hunter, Mr. Edward Bateson, Mrs. Trigeres, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Gamble North, Mrs. Casalta, E. Borja, Mr. Henry Woodall, Mr. A. Beely Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Alexander, Mr. Chas. Wm. Grant, Mr. M. C. Goodridge, Mrs. Colvin and child, Mr. Wm. R. MacDonnell, Mr. Harry Mawer, Mr. Jas. Grant Mackintosh.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. I. R. Pearce), November 21st:—Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashley Bovell, Miss Gooding, Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher, Mrs. Tredgold, Mrs. McEwen, Sir Kenneth W. Cumming, Bart., Mr. W. Clarke, two Misses Clarke, Mrs. Seabrook, Miss Woolcombe, Col and Mrs. Bridges, Mr Michael Barrett, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Wilson, Miss M. Homborsley, Mr and Mrs. de Grandville, Rev. J. W. Binnie, Mr. A. Kobrich, Dr. Geo. Masson, two Misses Berkeley, Mr Boissy, Mr. H. T. Ross

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagua" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), December 5th:—Lt.-Col. H. C. Burrowes, Miss E. Holt, Miss Mather, Mr. C. A. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Collymore, Mrs. Haddock, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. A. Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Garner, Mr. and Mrs. Ashley Bovell, Mr. and Mrs. Lowe, Mr. George Longstaff, Messrs. H. and T. Wollmer, Mr. Roland Bateman, Mr. Roger Schunck, Dr. Von Winckler, Mr. Thomas Garraway, Mr d'Aiguebelle.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt Owen Jones, October 24th). Mr. E. G. Cooper, Mr. A. N. Dixon, Mr. J. H. Haigh, Master M. G. Heron, Mr. P. H. Morris, Mr. H. Mellor, Mr. C. Pringle, Mr. H. J. Rudolf, Capt. and Mrs. Stenhouse and infant, Mr. J. A. G. Smith, Mr. H. W. Davics, Miss Rosamond Phillips.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), November 3rd. **Jamaica**:—Mr. S. F. Ashby, Mr. and Mrs. P. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Astwood and two children, Mrs. and Miss Biscoe, Miss Booth, Mr. James Dawson, Mr. L. H. Facey, Miss J. E. Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Hall, Mr. J. A. Kay, Mr. and Mrs F Lehmann, Dr. P. M. Lyon, Lieut. A. Power, Mr. C. F. Kawson, Mrs. Shortridge, Mr. N. Vincent-Townend, junr., two Misses Turner, Hon. Justice Vickers, two Misses Vickers, Mr. Beath, Mr. and Mrs. Drew, Mr. I. J. Galloway.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Little), November 17th. **Jamaica**:—Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Browne, Mr. F. R. Bates, Miss Buckley, Mr. Cresswell, Mr. J. F. Collins, Miss Davy, Mr. Finzi, Miss Groat, Rev. R. W. Hay, Mrs. and Miss Hastings, Mrs. Jay, Hon. and Mrs. Errington Kerr, Mr. Geo. W. Kay, Miss Loveband, Mrs. Lopez, Maj. and Mrs. McGillycuddy, Master McGillycuddy, Miss McGillycuddy, Col. E. W. Malcolm, Mr., Mrs., Master and Miss Pringle, Mrs. Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Syer, Capt., Mrs. and Miss Stuart, Mr. S. L. Schloss, Mrs. Sale, Miss M. Geddes-Smith, Rev. and Miss Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Townley, Mrs. Vernon, Hon. J. R. Watson **Bermuda**:—Lt.-Col. and Mrs. C. D. Durnford, Miss Heycock, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Hamilton, Mr. Stuart Hamilton, Master Frederick Hamilton, Miss Mathison, Miss N. H. Roberts, Mr. L. E. Starmer, Staff-Surgeon and Mrs. H. M. B. Shewell.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Our readers are reminded that the latest date for the despatch of Christmas letters and parcels to the Colonies, are as follows:

Destination.	Letters, &c. Date of despatch to secure arrival about (see footnote)		Parcels. Date of despatch to secure arrival about (see footnote)	
	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.
Bahamas	Dec. 5	Dec. 19	*Nov. 30	*Dec. 14
Bermuda	Dec. 8	Dec. 8	*Nov. 30	*Dec. 7
British Honduras... ..	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	*Nov. 23	*Nov. 23
West Indies (British), Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts	Nov. 21	Dec. 5	Nov. 20	Dec. 4
Barbados, Dominica, Demerara, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, and Trinidad	Dec. 5	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 4
Jamaica	Dec. 5	Dec. 14	Nov. 30	Dec. 14

* Despatched from Liverpool the following day.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Nov. 7	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Trent"	Nov. 6, mda't.
" 7	Demerara	Liverpool ...	Liverpool Line	"Frednes"	" 6, 6 p.m.
" 10	Barbados (for Demerara and W. I. Islands)	Liverpool ...	Harrison Line	"Barrister"	" 9, mda't.
" 16	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Ayr"	" 16, noon.
" 17	Bermuda, Turk's Island & Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 16, 16 p.m.
" 21	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"	" 20, mda't.

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—We have now the four first estimates by the usual prophets of the present beet crops before us, and on the face of them they are encouraging as to the future course of prices for this season, although the temporary set back through realisations caused by dear money and other circumstances is for the present uncomfortable. These are the figures, and they show more or less important reductions in the crops as compared with last year.

Convention Europe Crops	1905/6.	1906/7.	1906/7	1906/7.	1906/7.
	CROP.	F. W. LAMM.	OTTO LICHT.	CISECKER.	FACTORIES.
	5,550,000	4,840,000	4,715,000	4,660,000	4,450,000
Deficiencies	...	710,000	835,000	890,000	1,100,000
Crops in all Europe...	6,950,000	6,570,000	6,400,000	6,470,000	6,150,000
Deficiencies	...	380,000	550,000	580,000	800,000

In addition to the above we started with a minus of 100,000 tons in the visible supply on the 1st October this year, which makes the figures all the more striking. Messrs Willett & Grey, the eminent American Statisticians, estimate the cane crops of the world, *with favourable weather*, at 4,919,000 tons, against 4,908,000 tons last year, and these figures may have to be reduced unless all goes well with the crops from now till September. From this it is perfectly clear we are not going to be overdone with sugar this season, whilst at anything like 9s. to 10s., basis 88, Consumption should not be interfered with. To write in a hopeful tone about sugar at the present moment needs courage, but whilst we are now looking at the gloomy side caused by outside circumstances, the picture may well assume a fairer aspect when these have passed away, as they probably will. The situation may be summed up by the simple statement that as matters look at present we are promised sufficient sugar for the world's Consumption this year, but there should be no overplus after reckoning on the necessary visible supply on the 1st October, 1907, of about 1,000,000 tons, which is approximately one month's Consumption.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 5th inst. were:—November, 8s. 7½d.; December, 8s. 7½d.; Jan./March, 8s. 9½d.; May, 8s. 11d.; August, 9s. 0½d., and October/December, 1907, 8s. 10½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902
Europe	730,000	590,000	770,000	1,170,000	1,110,000
United States	140,000	210,000	140,000	120,000	160,000
Cuba	10,000	120,000	—	120,000	50,000
Afloat	60,000	70,000	160,000	90,000	100,000
Total	940,000	990,000	1,070,000	1,500,000	1,450,000

Quotations of 88% Beet, 5th Nov.:— 8s. 7½d. 8s. 0½d. 12s. 9½d. 8s. 7d. 7s. 4½d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Like all other grades, business in yellow crystallised remains suspended. Only retail lots selling at somewhere about late prices. Quotations are uncertain, and probably not over 16s. could be obtained for any quantity of average qualities. Refined imitations are offering at 15s. 3d., on our terms of sale. Peruvian 96 centrifugals having been sold to Refiners at 10s., on floating terms, about 10s. 3d. is now the value of West India.

Molasses Sugar.—Low qualities are in demand on the spot at 11s., duty paid for 76 test, duty 2s. To arrive, Peruvians have been sold at 8s. in bond, for 89 test.

Muscovado.—There is practically no business to report, grocery kinds on the spot ranging from 14s. to 15s. To Refiners 89 test is worth about 9s. on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Imports	47,000	33,000	36,000	20,000	56,000
Deliveries	41,000	34,000	40,000	35,000	37,000
Stocks, 29th Oct.	15,000	8000	8000	13,000	32,000

Quotations of average qualities, 5th Nov.:— 16s. 0d. 15s. 0d. 20s. 8d. 15s. 9d. 14s. 3d.

Rum.—Stocks in London, 29th Oct.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Jamaica	8800	8700	10,600	10,800
Demerara	3000	4800	6100	6600
Total of all kinds	11,800	13,500	16,700	17,400

Stocks of Demerara in Importers' hands being exhausted, there is still no business to report. Prices are entirely nominal and had better not be suggested. This much may be said, that the first arrivals should command satisfactory rates. Jamaica is steady with a value of 2s. 2d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other Foreign kinds are quoted red. to 1s. 2d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London, 29th Oct.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Trinidad	9900	19,300	27,400	16,100
Grenada	4600	10,000	12,400	8300
Total of all kinds	54,900	78,100	91,000	59,800

The necessities of our smaller Manufacturers are compelling them to pay high prices for the trifling available lots of West Indian cocoa at present here, and a further advance has been established for these small supplies. Continental and American consumers appear also to want cocoa, and the general tone of the Market is firm. The *beans* seem still short, and this helps matters. To-day's quotations of West India cocoa in small quantities are: Trinidad fair collected, 70s., Estate Marks, 71s. to 76s.; Grenada fair, 63s., fermented, 66s. to 69s. From other Islands fair Native is worth 62s., and fermented up to 68s.

Coffee.—Quiet. Good ordinary Jamaica, 42s.

Nutmegs.—The latest sales of West India include 68's at 1s. 6d., 81's at 11d., 86's at 9½d., 94's at 8d., 120's at 6d., 129's at 5½d., and in shell, 4d. **Mace.**—Fair red realised 1s. 3d. and broken, 1s. 1d. **Pimento.**—Quiet. Value of fair, 2½d.

Arrowroot.—Easier. Moderate sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2½d.

Lime Juice.—Unchanged, value, red. to 1s. 2d. Concentrated, steady at £22. Hand Pressed, again easier, value, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d. Distilled Oil, quiet but firm at 2s. 6d.

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No LXXX.



Sir Charles James Tarring.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15 SEETHING LANE, LONDON.

Nov. 19th, 1906

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 6042 CENTRAL.

IT is gratifying to learn from the second Annual Report of the British Cotton Growing Association for the twelve months ended August 31st last, what excellent progress has been made in the work of rendering Lancashire less dependent upon foreign countries for the supply of raw materials for her great Cotton Industry and consequently stimulating the cultivation of cotton in our Colonies and dependencies. "The time for mere experiments has passed" says the report, "The case is proved. All the cotton Lancashire requires can be grown within the British Empire." In the West Indies, cotton growing is established on a sound commercial basis, and the production this year is estimated to reach £100,000 in value; the Indian Government is now alive to the necessity of action; in West Africa, nearly 10,000 bales have been produced this season, and the industry in Lagos is already a commercial success; in East Africa, appreciable quantities of excellent cotton are being produced, while the attention of the whole of the British Empire has been aroused. Why then

this anxiety on the part of certain Lancashire spinners to purchase land for growing cotton in the

United States of America? This is a question which, as it seems to us, may very fairly be asked; but there is another equally pertinent and that is: Why does the Association and the work of Mr J. E. NEWTON, the chairman, Mr. J. A. HUTTON, and their Council, not receive a greater measure of support from Lancashire herself. Can it be that the lessons of 1902 are already being forgotten. It looks very much as if this were the case. But, be that as it may, it is a matter for regret that of the £500,000 asked for by the Association, only £247,273 should have been subscribed. Taking into consideration the fact that Lancashire was losing nearly a million a week during the time of the cotton famine, it should not be much to expect the County to make one payment of half that amount now that times have improved. Though it primarily concerns Lancashire, the matter has rightly been described as National and Imperial, so closely is the welfare of this country and her Colonies wrapped in the prosperity of the Cotton Industry. It therefore behoves every British subject to do his utmost towards developing the cotton growing movement, whether by forwarding his subscription, or by growing cotton for the Manchester looms, as so many of our readers in the West Indies are now doing. If the newly established Imperial Cotton Industry is to be made an absolute success, it will require care and fostering for many years to come, and it is therefore essential that the Association should become a permanent institution. The Council in their report point out, that "it will be evident to every business man that such permanency can only be secured by the provision of ample capital, as by that means alone can the establishment of the Association as a commercial success be established." They therefore realise that the work must be placed on a business footing as soon as possible, and they expect that next year they will not only be able again to report a large increase in the quantity of cotton grown, but also that decided progress has been made towards commercial success by the earning of dividends. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has taken such a lion's share in the development of the cotton growing industry in conjunction with the British Cotton Growing Association in the Colonies in which we are more particularly interested, that we may avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing the gratification which will be felt throughout the West Indies at the announcement that the Government have decided to renew the grant for the upkeep of this admirable organisation for a further period of five years. Though the grant will be on a rather reduced scale, and the terms somewhat modified, it is a matter for the utmost satisfaction that the many representations which have been forwarded by the West India Committee from the various West Indian Colonies to the Colonial Office have served their purpose. In another column will be found particulars regarding the terms of the grant, from which it will be seen that during the coming five years the Imperial Department of Agriculture will be gradually set free from its leading strings, with the object of securing its continuance with the support of the Colonies themselves when the present grant expires, a laudable object which we hope will be realised, believing as we do in the utmost importance, in the case especially of the smaller Islands, of there being a central agricultural organisation and authority.

SINCE we called attention in our columns to the subject of the alleged slavery in San Thomé and Principe the question has attracted considerable attention in Switzerland, in which country a large amount of cacao is used, the *Signal de Genève* and the *Journal de Genève* having both been ventilating the matter. In the former our recent articles have been reproduced in full, and the attention of Swiss confectioners drawn to the question as to whether the San Thomé and Principe cacao is slave grown in the true sense of the word or not. The statements in the Swiss papers called forth energetic replies from MR. CONSUL BASSO in the *Journal* and MR. ALMADA NEGREIROA in the *Signal*, in which MR. NEVINSON'S statements on the subject were indignantly challenged. We have now received from MR. NEGREIROA, whose letter to us on the subject we reproduce, a copy of a "Memoire Justificatif," which appears to have been issued semi-officially by the Portuguese Government, in which it is stated

that this labour system, both as regards the recruiting and the conditions of labour on the estates, is conducted on strictly humanitarian lines, the welfare of the labourers being looked after in every respect and safeguarded by regulations which official agents see are carried out. But, as our contemporary, the *Signal*, points out, we want facts not phrases, and at present our faith in the facts set out by us is unshaken. The articles of Mr. NEVINSON in "Harper's Magazine" contained statements from personal observation as to the slave trade in the Portuguese Colonies, which were supported by all the weight of that important publication. In our own *West India Committee Circular* we have given corroborative evidence from a gentleman who resided for many years in Portuguese West Africa. Further, in Mr. F. S. ARNOT'S book "Garenganze," heart-rending accounts are given by eye witnesses so recently as 1900-4 of the slave caravans from the Zambesi, which travel *viâ* Bibè to the coast, whence they are shipped to San Thomé. On p. 63 the writer says, "Although I make this entry with the setting sun, I have still vividly before me a sad, heart-rending sight—a slave caravan on the march. This travelling mass of humanity had been months on the road. An hour ago I could not have trusted myself to write of the harrowing sights The porters from Bibè were carrying on in secret an infamous traffic in slaves." Again, "one caravan passed us yesterday, the native traders having nothing but slaves for sale." M. ALFRED BERTRAND, the well-known explorer, also, writing to the *Journal de Geneve*, expresses a hope that the Portuguese authorities will proceed to a serious inquiry into what occurs in this regard in the new countries which stretch to the north-west of Lorenzo Marques, to the west of Barotseland, and in Angola. As matters now stand, we have the strongest evidence to show that in the Portuguese Colonies on the mainland a slave trade of the worst description—and not the less objectionable because it is carried out under the aegis of tacit official recognition—is still going on. Why should this cease at the coast? Is it likely that the suffering slaves of Portuguese Angola become the contented, prosperous labourers, well-paid, well-fed and repatriated, of the plantations of Portuguese San Thomé and Príncipe, which the semi-official "Memoire Justificatif" of the Portuguese Government would have us believe, and which M. NÉGRÉROA maintains? The more the matter is looked into, the more the necessity of a searching and unbiassed official inquiry becomes apparent. On the one hand we have strong evidence, from reliable eye-witnesses, that a species of slave trade actually exists; and on the other, the mere statements from semi-official sources that the labour system is carefully supervised and humanely conducted. The large quantity of cacao which is consumed in this country coming from San Thomé and Príncipe demands that some steps be taken to settle this vexed question, and set the mind of the conscientious consumer at rest.

AT the instance of the Grenada Agricultural Society the West India Committee in June last requested the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to advise His Majesty's Consuls in the chief cacao producing countries of the world to procure the fullest and most complete information possible regarding the production of cacao and the methods of cultivation prevailing, the destination of exports, and other such matters which could prove of value to cacao planters in British possessions. SIR EDWARD GRAY, who, it will be remembered, spent several months in the West Indies in 1897 as a member of the Royal Commission, readily acceded to this request, thus evincing the interest which he takes in the welfare of our cacao growing Islands, one of which—Dominica—was his headquarters on that occasion. As a result we are now able to give the first of a series of special reports from his Majesty's Consuls, which, we venture to think, will prove of great interest to those of our readers who are interested in the great cacao planting industry. In a recent issue we commented upon the fact that the cacao production in the West Indies was not showing anything like the same rate of increase as that in other parts of the cacao producing world, and the information which we are now able to give will, we hope, act as a stimulus to our planters by showing them what is being done in other countries in this respect.

SIR CHARLES JAMES TARRING.

Sir Charles James Tarring, who has just received the honour of Knighthood, occupied the position of Chief Justice of Grenada from January, 1898, until last year, when he retired. Sir Charles Tarring is the son of Mr. John Tarring, architect. He was educated at the City of London School and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1868, and M.A. in 1883. He was called to the Bar as a Member of the Inner Temple in 1871. From 1878 to 1880 he held the important position of Professor of Law in the Imperial University of Japan, and three years later he became Judge of H.B.M.'s Supreme Consular Court at Constantinople, which post he held until 1897. He is the author of many publications of note, including "Chapters on the Law relating to the Colonies," a review of the third edition of which appeared recently in our columns; "Analytical Tables of the Laws of Real Property"; "British Consular Jurisdiction in the East"; and a "Practical Turkish Grammar." Sir Charles Tarring is a Member of the West India Committee.

THE "SHARK PAPERS."

Among the many objects of interest in the Institute of Jamaica, few possess greater attraction than the famous "Shark Papers," of which we give an illustration on another page. The story of them, as narrated by Mr. Frank Cundall, the cultured Secretary of the Institute, is briefly as follows: The brig "Nancy," of 125 tons, owned by Germans by birth but naturalised citizens of the United States, left Baltimore for Curaçoa on July 3rd, 1799, commanded by Thomas Briggs, her cargo consisting of dry goods, provisions and lumber. She put in at Aruba, and proceeded to Port au Prince, in Hayti, and having carried away her maintop mast she was making the best of her way to the Isle of Ash, or Isle la Vache, a small Island off the south-coast of Hayti, when on August 28th she was captured by H.M.S. "Sparrow," a cutter commanded by Hugh Wylie, and sent in to Port Royal with another prize, a Spanish cruiser. A "libel," or suit for salvage, was brought in the Court of Vice-Admiralty at Kingston on September 9th, 1799, by George Crawford Rocketts, Advocate-General, on behalf of Hugh Wylie, Esq., Commander of H.M. cutter "Sparrow," against "a certain Brig or Vessel called the 'Nancy,' her Guns, Tackle, Furniture, Ammunition, and Apparel, and the Goods, Wares, Merchandise, Specie, and effects on board her, taken and seized as the property of some person, or persons, being enemies of our Sovereign Lord and King, and good and lawful prize on the high seas, and within the jurisdiction of this Court." A claim for the dismissal of the suit with costs was put in on the 14th of September, backed by affidavits, in which, as it subsequently transpired, Briggs and Schultze perjured themselves freely. While the case was proceeding, Michael Fitton, acting Lieutenant, produced on the same day certain papers which he had found in a shark caught off Jacmel, while he was cruising in the "Ferret," a tender of H.M.S. "Abergavenny," the flagship at Port Royal. He was cruising in company with Wylie, who was in command of the "Sparrow" cutter, another tender of the "Abergavenny." They had gone out with the object of earning, for the stationary flagship, a share of the prizes which were constantly being taken by the cruisers. On rejoining after an accidental separation, Fitton invited Wylie by signal to come to breakfast: and while waiting for him the shark was caught, and the papers were found. When Wylie came on board the "Ferret," he mentioned that he had detained an American brig called the "Nancy," Fitton thereupon said he had her papers. "Papers?" answered Wylie, "why I sealed up her papers and sent them in with her." "Just so," replied Fitton, "those were her false papers; here are her real ones." These papers, together with others of an incriminating nature, found on the "Nancy" some time after her capture, concealed in the captain's cabin, "so hard drove in that it was with difficulty they could be taken out," and in a cask of salt pork—led to the condemnation of the brig and her cargo on the 25th of November, 1799. It may be mentioned here that about three years before the "Nancy" had been captured by a French privateer, and carried into Guadeloupe, and there condemned as American property. The old court-house of Kingston, in which the case was tried (now used for domestic purposes) is still standing at the south-west corner of Hanover and Harbour Streets. The shark's jaws were set up on shore, with the inscription "Lieut. Fitton recommends these jaws for a collar for neutrals to swear through." The actual papers found in the shark lay until 1890 (with the affidavit of Lieut. Fitton) in the archives of the Court of Vice-Admiralty, where are many other documents of great interest connected with Jamaica's early history. They are now placed in the Institute of Jamaica. They consist of letters written in German, and are wrapped in another piece of paper, on which is written a memorandum of their authenticity by John Fraser, who was then Surrogate in the Court of Vice-Admiralty. Copies have been made for reference of all the papers now in the Vice-Admiralty Court concerning this strange case, and from them have been gathered the particulars given above.

In the United Service Museum, London, is the head of the shark which swallowed the papers.



THE FAMOUS SHARK PAPERS.

The strange story of how these papers were found in a shark's maw, off Hayti, and how they led to the condemnation of the "Nancy" brig, is told by Mr. Frank Cundall, the Secretary of the Jamaica Institute, where the documents are now preserved, on another page of the *West India Committee Circular*. The Memorandum which accompanies the shark papers runs as follows:—

"Papers found in a shark's maw by Lieut. Fitton, "Abengavenny" Tender. These papers were delivered to me by Lieut. Fitton at the time of his swearing to his affidavit in the Cause, Adv. Gen. Wylie & al. vs. The Brig Nancy."

J. FRASER, Surrogate. 24 September, 1790.

Lieutenant Fitton's affidavit, shown above, reads as follows:—

Jamaica SS.

In the Court of Vice-Admiralty,
The Adv. Gen. : ex rel. Wylie et al.
vs.
The Brig Nancy, &c.

Michael Fitton Esquire being duly sworn maketh oath and saith that the Tender of His Majesty's Ship of war Abengavenny then under the command of the deponent being on a cruise off Jamaica in the island of San Domingo on the thirteenth day of August last, discovered a dead bullwhisk surrounded by sharks, which he had towed alongside the said tender for the purpose of catching the said sharks. And this deponent saith that having caught one of the said sharks and found it on board the said tender, he ordered some of the crewmen to separate its jaws and clean them, as the said shark was larger than common, which the said deponent did, whilst others opened the said papers he discovered a letter of a recent date from Corcega, and as it occurred to this deponent they might be useful at the trial of the said vessel detained by some of His Majesty's cruizers, he had them dried on deck, and this deponent saith that having been informed that His Majesty's Cutter Sparrow has sent down to this island to prize a certain Brig or vessel called the Nancy and supposing the papers so found as aforesaid might be useful at the trial of the said vessel called the Nancy he caused the same to be washed up and delivered them to one of the Surrogates of the Honourable Court without any fraud, abridgement, addition, extraction or embowishment whatsoever.

Taken and the truth thereof sworn to before me this 24th day of September, 1790.

J. FRASER, Surrogate.

MICHAEL FITTON.

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that another case somewhat similar, though fraught with less dramatic results, occurred some years since at Kingston, when a well-known resident by the harbour shot a crocodile, and found in it the collar of his wife's favourite cat!

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

It will be of interest to our readers to know that the number of Members elected to the West India Committee during the current year already exceeds the figure for 1905, a state of affairs which must be considered extremely satisfactory. As has already been pointed out, by virtue of Rule IV., the subscriptions of Members elected during November and December of this year will not be renewable until January 1st, 1908. The next election will take place on Thursday next, November 22nd. It is hoped that Members will endeavour still further to strengthen the Committee by introducing suitable candidates for election. It should be added that the minimum subscription is one guinea per annum, and that there is no entrance fee.

THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The King has approved of the honour of knighthood being conferred on Mr. Charles James Tarring, late Chief Justice of Grenada, and among other recipients of honours on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday are Mr. James Richmond, M. Inst. C.E., Director of the Jamaica Government Railway, and Mr. Robert Henry McCarthy, Collector and Surveyor of Customs and Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Trinidad and Tobago, both of whom become Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. We are glad also to see the name of Mr. Pietro James Michelli, Secretary of the Seaman's Hospital Society, in the list of honours, as being appointed Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, in recognition of his work on behalf of the London School of Tropical Medicine. To all these gentlemen we offer our sincere congratulations.

BRITISH BEET AND THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

At the meeting of the Council of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture, held on the 6th November, Mr. Courtney Warner, M.P., in the chair, a resolution was brought forward to the effect that "This Council hopes that the Government will give its attention to the growth of sugar beet in the United Kingdom, and that it would support the Sugar Convention." Lord Denbigh, in speaking on the subject, pointed out the desirability of establishing a beet industry in this country. At the present moment the Government were more or less committed to denounce the Sugar Convention, as soon as its period had expired. He wanted to urge the influential agricultural associations to bring pressure to bear on the Government, and ask them for an assurance that when the Convention came to an end they would not agree to any provision that would admit of the re-establishment of cartels, as the latter would do away with any chance of sugar being grown and manufactured in this country. Further discussion on the resolution was adjourned until the next meeting.

CANE SUGAR OR BEET?

BY F. I. SCARD, F.I.C.

(Concluded from p. 535).

The machinery used for evaporation and crystallisation with both cane and beet is, to all intents and purposes, identical, that of the beet industry requiring, however, more elaboration than that for the cane. As there is with the beet no refuse available for fuel purposes as with the cane, coal has to be used for power supply. On the whole it may be said that, although the extraction of the juice in the first instance requires more power and expense in the case of cane, the subsequent working is simple as compared with that for the beet. Again, the molasses, or residual and other liquor after as much of the sugar is extracted as possible, is not available for a potable spirit in the case of beet, as with cane, where rum is manufactured, on account of its objectionable character. Both are utilisable, however, for cattle food, but it cannot be imagined that any beast with a proper sense of taste would touch the beet product after having partaken of food prepared with cane molasses. Peat moss is now being used with the beet molasses as an absorbent for the purpose, and fine "megass," or rice meal, with cane molasses.

The position of the two classes of sugar may be summed up by saying that as the sweet flavour of the sugar-cane is greater and more agreeable to the palate than that of the sugar beet, so is the product obtained from them, and this difference is intensified by the dissimilarity in processes of manufacture:

that in the case of beet, as I have already said, tending not only to destroy its flavour, but also to produce objectionable features in itself. The interesting point is that cane juice, containing the same quantity of sugar chemically as beet juice, is infinitely sweeter to the taste. There is no question about this. It is a *rich* sweetness which is peculiar to the sugar cane, and this opens up the problem as to whether the greater part, if not the whole of the so-called sweetness of sugar, is not due to other constituents of the juice present than a quality of the cane-sugar itself. Molasses from raw cane—treacle—is, as we all know, sweet to an intense degree, although it does not contain anything like the amount of cane sugar that the raw sugar does. Certain it is that the more sugar is refined, the more it loses its quality of sweetness, and it may be mentioned that in one instance where sugar was successively crystallised from alcohol and washed with ether to secure purity, the resulting product, although in the form of a fine powder and exhibiting all the chemical and physical properties of cane-sugar, was quite devoid of taste. On the other hand saccharin, which is perhaps the sweetest body known, is prepared synthetically from bodies which can in no possible manner be called sweet. The fact of the matter is that the property of sweetness is physiological,* and as such involved in more or less obscurity, and its why and wherefore cannot be specified with the exactitude of a chemical or physical quality.

Perhaps, however, the most forcible way of bringing home the point of the superiority of cane sugar over beet, is to compare the raw products from which the refined sugars are prepared. It is difficult to believe that a silk purse can be prepared from the ear of a sow, and it is just as difficult to realise that as good a product can be obtained from the offensive raw beet as from the sweet smelling cane sugar. This is recognised by the bee, one of the highest authorities on matters saccharine, who in his particular branch of confectionery refuses beet, but is partial to cane sugar.

The dietetic value of Cane Sugar.

It is not a question of polarisation or of chemical analysis, but of a physiological property of as delicate a nature as a nerve sensation, and how and by what this is brought about does not concern us. The facts are that cane juice is sweeter than beet juice, that raw cane is pleasing while raw beet is the reverse, and from these the most elementary mind will come to the only conclusion possible, that the sugar product of the former is better than that of the latter. Hitherto nothing has been said as to the relative value of the two sugars as a food supply. Taking the refined sugar of both descriptions and looking at them from the point of view merely of a supply of "carbohydrate" material to be assimilated and stored up in the liver as "amyloid substance" or animal starch—whatever its ultimate destination may be—there would probably be nothing to choose between the two. When, however, the raw sugar is come to it is quite another story. The raw beet, as already mentioned, is "impossible" as a human food supply, and any organic virtues other than those of sugar it might have possessed, have been destroyed by the process of manufacture. With raw cane sugars, however, especially muscovadoes, a certain amount of the other organic constituents of the juice is present, and the restorative properties of these are well-marked. It is recorded that Holbein, the swimmer, in his attempts to swim the Channel, chose sandwiches made with *muscovado sugar* as being the most sustaining diet under the circumstances—practical evidence on the subject of the greatest value. The West Indian Island negro, during the heavy work of cane-cutting, &c., in the crop season, lives almost entirely on sugar-cane—and is in far better condition at the end of it than at the beginning. It would appear that it is not so much or merely the sugar as the presence of some other constituents of the juice which produce a result which would not be produced by the chemical sugar alone. A parallel instance to this is afforded by the use of lime juice as a prophylactic for scurvy, citric acid by itself—the essential principle of lime juice—being of little or no use. Again, raisins, dates, &c., are well known as sustaining alimentary agents, but the sugar which they contain, and which constitutes the bulk of them, would be of little value without the remainder, and *vice versa*. The value of cane juice in consumption has already been mentioned. Muscovado sugar is the nearest approach to it, and with children, where a high sugar diet is of the great importance, muscovado or raw cane alone should be used.

"Demerara" and its imitators.

While on this subject there is just one point I should like to bring forward, and that is the indifference of housekeepers in many instances to the authenticity of the sugar bought by them. Demerara crystals, the generic term for West Indian crystallised grocery sugar, were first manufactured about 1860, and soon gained a position in the market, being preferred for general purposes to the muscovado, the only kind of raw sugar previously used for consumption. This led to their being imitated by the beet refiners here, white beet crystals being actually coloured with a yellow aniline dye for the purpose. These are attractive to the eye, and that is all. They have none of the aroma and flavour of the true yellow crystals, which, as already said, are due to the juice characteristics which

* See par in *West India Committee Circular*, Vol. XXI., p. 174. "Is Saccharin a Poison."

have been carefully preserved during manufacture. A simple washing with water will at once remove the golden colour, and leave the white beet crystal in all its hideous nakedness. It is to be feared that, apart from the often more attractive appearance, the question of price frequently influences the selection of the imitation description, and the question suggests itself: How is it that refiners can afford to refine beet, colour it, and sell it at a lower figure than the colonial makers of the real crystals can. The reply to this is that in the first place raw beet is cheaper to refine than raw cane, and was until 1903 further cheapened by the bounty system, and that Demerara sugar, on account of essential manufacturing conditions, is more costly to produce than the ordinary refining crystals. Further, as a high-class sample cannot always be turned out, it naturally follows that the high-class Demerara crystal is not always available, and a lower grade, although quite as good dietetically as the high-class, is not so pleasing to the eye of the consumer as the bright yellow imitation. Were, however, the latter to realise how his true interests lie in the cane variety there would be no demand for the imitation variety, no matter how bright and pleasing it might appear. Consumers in their own interests should help to bring this about by insisting on their being supplied with cane-sugar—whether it be the old-fashioned muscovado, Demerara sugar, or “pure cane” loaf sugar.

At the present time more than half of the total sugar production of the world is beet. Of the 12,137,907 tons which represented the sugar for 1905-6, 7,237,366 tons were beet, 6,953,649 tons of which were grown on the Continent, and the balance almost entirely in the United States, principally in the west. Canada has a small industry of about 10,000 tons, but from the ready access of this country to British-grown cane, the industry is not likely to assume any large proportions. Cane-sugar which amounted to 4,900,621 tons for the same year, is grown in most of the tropical and semi-tropical countries of the world; the West and East Indies, Mauritius, Java, Hawaii, Queensland, Egypt, tropical South America, all contribute towards the cane supply. As regards consumption the United Kingdom last year consumed about 1,719,000 tons of sugar, 1,455,000 tons of which were beet, and only 244,000 cane. Of the 600,000 tons or more which represents the exports of the British Colonies, it is a curious fact that not more than 120,000 tons came to the Mother Country, and it has been used as an argument by the opponents of the Brussels Convention—the Convention which removed Continental bounties and rendered inoperative the trust combines, that its ratification has not resulted in British Colonial cane-sugar coming into the Mother Country to a greater extent than before. This is not due to the Convention, but rather to the preferential treatment given by Canada to British grown sugars. In pre-Convention days the West Indian refining sugar went to the United States, where the countervailing duty imposed on bounty sugars put it on a fair footing with beet, while the Indian countervailing duties did the same for Mauritius sugar. The effect of the abolition of the bounties has been, however, to attract cane-sugar to the United Kingdom, and thus displace beet to the great advantage of the consumer. It may be taken as an accepted fact that under natural conditions cane-sugar can be landed at the consuming centres at an equal cost to beet, in fact the growth of this industry since the Brussels Convention removed bounties and unfair competition has demonstrated this, and with the continuance of fair trade in this respect there would be every prospect of cane-sugar taking the place of beet in this country, to the great advantage of all concerned.

CACAO REPORTS.—I. BAHIA.

In a special report forwarded to the West India Committee by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Morden C. Harbord, Acting British Consul at Bahia, Brazil, states that cacao is grown in the districts of Valencia, Nova Boipeba, Taperoa, Barcellos, Jequié, Camamu, Barra do Rio de Contas, Ilhéos, Olivença, Una, Cannavieiras, Belmonte, Santa Cruz, Porto Seguro, and in the valley of the Rio Mucury in this State. The trees attain a height of from 15 to 40 ft., and are generally planted in low ground near the rivers, or on the sides of the watersheds, from seeds or young plants, at a distance of 8 to 13 ft. apart in parallel lines. When first planted the young trees are usually surrounded by shade trees, such as the banana, to avoid too much sun. They require little care beyond cleaning the ground and pruning. The trees flower in January for the first crop, and continue generally until July for the second or principal crop. The variety called “Pará Cacao” has the smallest bean, next comes the “Common Cacao,” whilst the largest kind is the “Maranhao.” The crop is marketed from April to December, and the finest qualities come from Cannavieiras and Belmonte. The beans are allowed to ferment three to five days, and are then usually exposed to the sun on wooden trays running on rails to the stove in case of rain, for five or six days, when if dry enough they are bagged in sacks of 60 kilos each for shipment to Bahia, to be exported. Very few stoves for drying are used, and their employment should be more general. Cacao cannot be stored any length of time, as it is liable to become weevilly and mildewed if the weather be damp. By far the greater quantity of Bahia cacao comes from Ilhéos, but does not obtain the highest prices owing to inferior quality. More care should be taken in the preparation to obtain an even colour and size.

The production during the crop year from April to March in bags of 60 kilos has been as follows:—

1902-3	1903-4	1904-5	1905-6	April to Oct. 9, 1906
293,484	245,747	304,442	318,000	160,000 (about).

The countries to which the exports of cacao went during 1905 were:—

	Bags		Bags
Hamburg and options	79,972	Havre and options	46,890
Bremen	1,475	Bordeaux	19,164
Copenhagen and Christiania	3,706	Marseilles and options	8,419
Southampton and options	3,009	Trieste and Fiume	2,950
Liverpool	4,144	Genoa and Naples	550
Bristol	7,506	Montevideo and Buenos Ayres	8,742
London	1,693	New York	68,958
Amsterdam	9,759	Lisbon	10
Rotterdam	3,800	Coast wise	567
Antwerp	6,080		

COTTON IN ST. VINCENT.

In his reports on the Botanic Station and Agricultural School of St. Vincent, Mr. W. N. Sands gives the results of the manurial experiments in connection with cotton cultivation. The experiments were duplicated on six different estates in the Island, but owing to various causes, results were obtained from three estates only. The manures used were pen manure; cotton seed, kainite and superphosphates; nitrate of soda, kainite and superphosphates; nitrate of soda and superphosphates; kainite and superphosphates; salt: salt, nitrate of soda, kainite and superphosphates, copper sulphate; Copper sulphate; nitrate of soda, kainite and superphosphates. "As to the value of the manure applied," says Mr. Sands, "a small gain was observed in the yields from plots that received manure containing nitrogen, but in no case was the estimated monetary value of the increased yield of seed cotton commensurate with the cost of the manures and their application, taking the average weight of lint to weight of seed-cotton as 27.5 per cent. On the other hand, if it had been found possible to apply manures such as pen manure and crushed cotton seed when the land was being prepared for planting, better results might have been obtained." The total area in cotton cultivation was 790 acres, a much smaller acreage than the previous year, but this Mr. Sands considered as being better in every way, as much greater attention was given to the cultivation of suitable lands. 121,174 lbs. of lint were ginned, but the crop would have been greater if more labour had been available for picking.

THE BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The second annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association states that excellent progress has been made during the past twelve months. The total capital of the Association will shortly be £247,273, being an increase of £61,328 during the year. Disappointment is, however, expressed that the cotton trade has not more readily recognised in a practical way the necessity of supporting the work by subscribing the required capital. The whole of the capital, namely £500,000, will be required very shortly, and the question is giving the Council much trouble and anxiety.

A scheme had been drawn up which would fall equitably on employers and operatives, and under this 60 per cent. of the capital had been subscribed by the spinners and manufacturers, and 23 per cent. by the employees and operatives. The Council state that they have every reason to hope that the loss on working, which had been greatly reduced, will be further reduced next year, and that in 1908 they will be able to show an even account, and possibly a profit. If sufficient capital is placed at their disposal, and if the work is proceeded with on business lines, there is every reason to believe that in a few years' time the Association will achieve a commercial success, namely, the earning of dividends.

During the year cotton to the value of £270,000 had been grown under the auspices of the Association, and the year's production in the West Indies was estimated to reach the value of £100,000. In West Africa nearly 10,000 bales had been produced this season, and the industry in Lagos was already a commercial success. The Council urgently appeal for more capital to develop the cotton cultivation of West Africa, stating that the expenditure next year in that region will be £50,000, while in 1908 probably £100,000 will be barely sufficient. The Council are strongly of opinion that a turning point has now been reached. The time for experiment has passed. The case is proved. All the cotton Lancashire requires can be grown within the limits of the Empire. If, however, the industry is to be made an absolute success, it will require fostering for many years, and it is, therefore, essential that the Association should become a permanent institution. This, they state, can only be

secured by the provision of capital, as by that means alone can the establishment of the Association as a commercial success be assured. The Council have, therefore, determined that, so far as is compatible with the objects to be attained, every portion of the work must be placed upon a business basis as soon as possible.

Details of the work accomplished in India and the several Colonies accompany the report. In India 20,411,000 acres are now devoted to cotton, and the crop in 1905-6 amounted to 3,240,000 bales. It is now practically established that Egyptian cotton can be successfully grown in India, and as fully 1,000,000 acres are available for it, provided irrigation works are carried out, it is confidently expected that Sind will supplement the Egyptian crop.

The great progress made in the West Indies in 1905 has been surpassed in 1906. Not only has the quantity of cotton grown largely increased, but the quality has been well maintained, and in many cases much improved. The planters have obtained good prices for their cotton, the better growths fetching 2d. to 3d. a pound over similar grades of American-grown cotton.

Sir Daniel Morris estimated the exports of West India Sea Island as follows:—

	Bales.		
1904	1,740	...	£30,056
1905	2,800	...	63,291

It is shown in the report that 4,042 bales of West Indian cotton passed through the hands of the Association in 1906, and realised £68,674, as compared with £28,331 for 1,746 bales in 1905. The oil plant sent to Barbados is now running, and giving satisfactory results. This should improve the profits of the planters, as it will enable them to obtain a better price for their seed than by exporting it, with the further advantage that the oil cake can be retained for feeding purposes, and thus return to the land what has been taken out of it. The Council have continued the grant of £300 for the services of an additional expert, and a further £100 has been specially voted for St. Kitts and Antigua. A sum of £100 has also been granted to the Bahamas for experimental and other work. The President, Sir Alfred Jones, has most generously given a number of gold and silver medals as prizes for the best cotton produced this season in each of the principal Islands. The ginning factory at St. Vincent, put up at the cost of the Government and the Association, has been taken over by the planters, and is being run as a small co-operative company. A largely attended Conference was held in Manchester on August 29th, 1906, when Sir Daniel Morris, in a most interesting address, gave a full account of the cotton growing industry in the West Indies, which is now thoroughly established on a commercial basis, and is certain to be largely extended in the future to the mutual advantage of the Lancashire cotton spinners and the West Indian planters. Negotiations are in progress for a special cotton trip to the West Indies, which will enable Lancashire spinners to visit the cotton Islands and inspect plantations under cotton, and also the ginneries and oil mill at work.*

The progress in West Africa has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the Council, and the industry is now established in Lagos on a commercial basis. In a year or two equally good results may be expected in Northern Nigeria, and also on a smaller scale on the Gold Coast, but in Sierra Leone and Southern Nigeria much patience will be required before really satisfactory results can be looked for. The experience of the past year fully justifies the policy originally laid down, namely, that the only practicable way to develop cotton growing in West Africa is by its establishment as a native industry; in other words, the native will do better work when farming on his own account than when working for wages on a plantation owned by Europeans.

The cotton crop in British Central Africa in 1904-5 was to a great extent a failure, but notwithstanding this partial failure a substantial quantity of cotton was produced, and cotton headed the list of exports. In South Africa the Association has been unable to take any active steps, but advice and assistance have been readily given, and there is every prospect of the establishment of cotton growing as a permanent industry. A small ginning plant put down in Mombasa, British East Africa, has been worked with satisfactory results, and a representative of the Association reports most favourably on the possibilities of an immediate and large extension of cotton cultivation there. The quality of the cotton so far produced is of the Egyptian type, and is exceedingly good. The report concludes by stating that the Association has definitely established the fact that cotton in sufficient quantity, and of every quality required for Lancashire's needs, can be produced within the Empire. The time has now come for everything to be put upon a commercial basis, and this is merely a question of capital.

AGRICULTURE IN ST. LUCIA.

In the Report of the Experimental School and Experiment Station for the year ending March 31st, 1906, Mr. J. Chisnall Moore speaks of the "dwarf" or Chinese banana (*Musa Cavendishii*) as thriving remarkably in the rich alluvial valleys of St. Lucia, and efforts were being made to encourage its cultivation in view of the prospects of cool storage shipping to England in the near future. No cotton was grown at the Experimental Station for the year, but 1,800 lbs. of lint from plots

* We regret to learn that the proposed visit has been abandoned — E.D.

on private estates were ginned and baled for the owners. Some very fine Sea Island cotton was grown on the Cap estate near Gros Islet, and yielded 28.4 per cent. of its weight in lint.

An experiment was made for the purpose of observing the effect produced on the yield of yarns by the use of plants of different sizes and from different parts of the tubers, which showed that the yield of a yarn crop may be considerably influenced by the size of the "sets" planted, the whole tubers weighing 1 lb. giving 10.2 tons per acre, while the whole tubers weighing $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. only gave 7.6 tons.

Mr. G. S. Hudson, reporting on the estate experimental seedling cane work, says that B 208 and D 95 were supplied to the five principal sugar estates. The former gave on four estates a return varying from 39 to 15 tons per acre as against a return of 25, 24, and 15 tons for the Bourbon, while D. 95 gave an estimated range of 15 to 35 tons, the estate giving the best yield of B 208 yielding badly with D 95, and *vice versa*.

Improved sugar machinery to the value of £10,000 had been imported during 1904 and 1905, and during the same period four small abandoned muscovado sugar estates re-started work.

As regards cacao the history of the Soufrière plot on La Perle estate is interesting. This plot was taken over in an unhealthy and failing condition in January, 1901. It has since been cultivated and manured, principally with sulphate of ammonia, basic slag, pen manure, &c., and the return after four years has risen from nothing to 1,081 lbs. of cured cacao per acre. It has thrown off all disease, and has given a net profit of £24 for the acre plot for the last year. The average yield throughout the Island is 300 lbs. of cured cacao per acre, and Mr. Hudson strongly advocates more intensive cultivation than is usually employed. Some encouraging experiments had been made with rubber, and it was hoped to test the market with a shipment on a commercial scale this year.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE IN THE WEST INDIES.

The close connection of Canada with the West Indies is in no way better seen than in the employment of Canadian capital in connection with tramways. Halifax capitalists have been the pioneers in Southern tramways, operating successfully nearly all the electric fighting power and tramway plants in the cities of the West Indies, Brazil and Mexico, and the profitable outcome of their enterprise speaks well for the manner in which these have been conducted. The Halifax Syndicate commenced their operations in Port of Spain, Trinidad, and two years after completion was earning 7% on its capital. The system consists of twelve and a half miles of track with complete power and lighting plant, and extension is proposed to take place. In Georgetown, Demerara, the lighting and tramway lines were originally taken over by Montreal capitalists, but the Halifax interests operating in Trinidad purchased the property, which is now working on a profitable basis. This group of capitalists are also interested in Cuba, where they own and operate the electric lighting plant in Camagney, formerly Puerto Principe, and are now turning their attention to Puerto Rico, where the Puerto Rico Railway Company, with its head office in Halifax, owns the tramway service through San Juan and the suburb of Santurce to Rio Piedras, with the entire lighting service. In Jamaica and Havana the electric lighting and tramway interests are controlled in Montreal, and the working of these have been marked by success. The financial and commercial ties between the West Indies and Canada have been much strengthened by these successful enterprises.

VERY MANY YEARS AGO.

Our First African Colony.

In 1786 the British Government endeavoured to establish a settlement at Sierra Leone with a few hundred captured slaves and some whites, but it proved a failure. In 1791, however, a chartered company was formed to create a definite Colony from it. When the Bill establishing the company was before the House of Commons, the West India Committee took great exception to it, inasmuch as it proposed to establish a very extensive territorial settlement with an unjust preference over the West Indies. The new Colony was not to be subject to any of the restrictive laws which bound the import and export trade of the old Colonists, and no check was provided to prevent contraband or in any respect to protect the other branches of the trade of what was then called the British Empire. It must be remembered, that apart from portions of India and Canada, the West Indies were practically at this period our only possessions over seas, and inasmuch as the consumption of sugar in Great Britain was below their production, any scheme which would tend to increase the supply of sugar and rum, especially under more favoured trade conditions than in the case of the West Indies, was calculated seriously to prejudice their interests. A deputation was accordingly appointed to wait on Mr. Pitt, who, on the representation of the Committee, deferred the further consideration of the Bill until after the interview. The Committee's meeting of May 17th, 1791, contains the following resolution on the subject to be presented to Mr. Pitt.

"That the Proprietors of Lands in the British West Indies, incited by their firm reliance

upon the good Faith of Government, in adhering under all circumstances to the spirit of that reciprocal monopoly upon which the Commercial regulations between the Parent Country and her Colonies are founded, having by the employment of very large British Capitals and by their own industry, carried the cultivation of the said Islands to so great an extent, that their products of sugar, Rum, Pimento and Coffee at present exceed the consumption of Great Britain and Ireland: they conceive, in case it should be judged proper to establish a settlement at Sierra Leone in Africa, that the culture of the Sugar Cane and the Manufacture of Sugar, Melasses, and Rum from the same, as also the growth of Coffee and Pimento in the same, ought to be prohibited upon the same principle, that the culture of Tobacco in Great Britain and Ireland, and the importation of Foreign Rice into the same, were prohibited for the encouragement of the Southern North American colonies while connected with Great Britain, and likewise that the exportation of those articles from the said African settlement should be prohibited, since the same may otherwise be raised and fraudulently introduced therein from other parts, to the injury of the British West Indies."

The deputation accordingly waited upon Mr. Pitt, who answered that he apprehended an agreement with the views of the West India Committee would be easy on the terms mentioned, and that the matter might be arranged by prohibiting the export of sugar, rum, pimento, &c., by the Sierra Leone Colony. The Sierra Leone Company was a failure, and in 1807 the Colony was taken over by the Crown.

THE CONDITION OF BRITISH HONDURAS.

The British Honduras *Clavion* of a recent date devotes no less than six columns to an "open" letter under the *nom de plume* of "Vincit amor patriae," addressed to the new Governor of that Colony, Colonel Swayne, in which advice is tendered in a friendly and paternal spirit as to what his attitude towards the Colony and its people should be during his Government. After being chided, more in sorrow than in anger, for confining his greetings at his first appearance in public to "public servants and those who regard themselves as the high and mighty of the land," Colonel Swayne is reminded that he will require "all the power of your chivalrous nature and full concentration of your mind" to combat "the domineering subtleties of pedantic sophists" on the one hand, and "the hypocrisies of sycophants and social mushrooms" on the other. Speaking of the Legislative Council, it is recommended that the political life of the unofficial members should not be more than two or three years. As they are now being watched by the people, and are "seriously criticised with an intelligent discernment," the writer thinks they will be all right and has great hopes of that "august body." Great exception is taken to the manner in which questions have been answered by the Government in the Legislature, and an appeal is made to His Excellency to see that his Government is open and above board, and "not guilty of even the semblance of tergiversation or political turpitude." The exceptionally favourable condition of the Public Chest, there being a surplus of \$210,000 and a loan sanctioned for £100,000, is alluded to, and the Governor is exhorted to see that the several schemes for the welfare of the Colony are not hung up. The Public Works Department comes in for considerable condemnation, and \$100,000 is given as a conservative estimate of the waste in this department during the last eighteen years. "How long," says the writer, "is such stupendous incompetence to serenely pursue its harmful way?" We may say *en passant*, however, that we consider that British Honduras has done very well if only \$2,200 per annum has been thrown away in this direction, judging from the records of other Colonies! As regards Colonel Swayne's reported statement that he intended to take steps to stamp out yellow fever in the Colony, great alarm is expressed. It is considered that energy had better be devoted to developing the Colony, and His Excellency is implored not "to bathe in the waters of Professor Boyce's ideas," whom the writer evidently looks upon as an extremely unreliable individual, to say the least of it; but surely the eradication of a malady of the nature of yellow fever is a fundamental step towards the general development of the Colony, and certainly would not interfere with it! The prevalence of this dreaded pest in the past has had much to do with the non-development of the West Indies. The "high-handedness" of the Colonial Secretary is the concluding point brought to the notice of the new Governor, and the latter is recommended to be on his guard as to him, as "his masterful, rude and dictatorial manner requires a firm, restraining hand." The letter, if somewhat dictatorial, is meant well, and should give the new Governor a considerable insight into the difficulties of his position. To reconcile the conflicting interests of parties in a small Colony like British Honduras is no small thing.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Winston Churchill, in reply to Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, on Nov. 12th said: The continuance of

a grant from Imperial Funds in aid of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies has now been guaranteed by His Majesty's Government for a period of five years from April 1st, 1908. The sum provided during the first of the five years will be £14,420, and the annual provisions will be progressively diminished so as to reduce the contribution to £7,000 in the last of the five years. From the 1st of April, 1907, the expenditure of the department will be curtailed so far as the Commissioner of Agriculture finds reasonably possible, and the Commissioner will, with the Secretary of State's approval, endeavour to obtain progressively increasing contributions towards the cost of local agricultural institutions from such colonies as may be able to afford them. Representations as to the importance of the continuance of the work of the department have been received by the Secretary of State.

NATURE NOTES.

BAD BEES AND BEET. The bee-keepers in the Isle of Wight have suffered the loss of quite half of their stocks in consequence of the outbreak of a new and highly infectious disease among the bees in that district. It is supposed to be a form of bee paralysis, the chief symptoms being constipation and loss of the power to use the wings. Possibly the bees were fed on beet sugar!

RAT VIRUS AS BAIT. In St. Lucia an experiment has been made with the view of destroying rats by means of "rat virus." In 1904-5, previous to using the virus on the Errard Estate, the proportion of rat-eaten cacao collected was 2½% of the whole crop. In 1905-6, after using the virus, the proportion of rat-eaten cacao rose to 4½% of the total crop. In every case the bait was eaten.

MYBORE RUBBER. According to the *Times of India* the Government of Mysore have passed orders regarding the grant of land in the Province for the cultivation of rubber as a result of the late conference with coffee and other planters on this subject. The conditions are tentative and intended primarily for the benefit of local applicants, who will be granted not more than 500 acres free of assessment for the first five years, but thereafter there will be an upset price of Rs. 10 per acre payable within five years. A list of lands suitable for rubber cultivation is to be drawn up at once by the Conservator of Forests. Excepting any sandal wood, the planters will be free to clear forests with State assistance, if necessary. After the full upset price has been paid, title deeds will be issued, until which, no alienation can take place on pain of the withdrawal of the grant.

DECAYED ORANGES. The *Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society* contains a summary of the principal points of the investigation of the causes of decay in oranges in shipments in 1906, by the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. The loss from decay in oranges amounted to \$1,000,000 or more. The decay is caused by a common mould which usually enters an orange that has had its resisting powers weakened in some manner or other. The average injury from clipping the orange with the clippers or shears in severing it from the tree has been about five to eight per cent. in 1906. In 1905 it averaged fifteen to twenty per cent. The injury from stem puncturing has probably not been greatly reduced in 1906; this type of injury is the result of leaving the stem of the orange too long. When the fruit has been handled with great care the loss from this cause does not amount to more than two or three per cent, but it often reaches twenty or thirty per cent., there being much more loss from this cause in washed than in dry brushed fruit. With oranges placed in the most favourable conditions for decay, viz., for two weeks in warm moist rooms, unwashed fruit apparently free from mechanical injury, decay appeared in 1.5 per cent.; washed fruit, apparently free from mechanical injuries, 4.0 per cent. decay; washed fruits, apparently free from mechanical injuries, 12 per cent., mechanically injured fruit (clipper cuts, punctures, &c.), 36 per cent. decayed.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Financial position of Trinidad.

The revenue of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago for the year 1905-6 was £847,953, as against £811,614 for the previous year. This increase is due to the fact that the Colonial Government assumed the management of the widows and orphans' fund, the amount standing to the credit of which was transferred to general revenue. The credited shortage of revenue therefore amounted to £36,339, as compared with 1904-5, the heaviest decreases being under the head of interest £14,183, and Customs £6,066, due to dullness of the asphalt trade.

The expenditure, on the other hand, for the year 1905-6 reached the sum of £860,981, as against £810,258 during the previous year. This increase is, to some extent, due to the changes made in the immigration accounts, which formerly closed on the 3rd September, but which in this year were brought into line with the financial year of the Colony, which closes on the 31st March. This accounts for £30,937 of the increase, the actual increase being £28,755. Roads and bridges,

£11,378, and police, £8,825, are the principal items of extra expenditure. The assets of the Colony exceeded its liabilities by £68,608 on the 31st March, 1906, as against £90,636 on the 31st March, 1905, and £89,280 on the 31st March, 1904. The public debt amounted to £1,086,533, towards the redemption of which the accumulated sinking funds amounted to £105,883.

The following table gives the revenue and expenditure and imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
1901-2 ...	£712,394	£731,160	£2,651,600	£2,448,651
1902-3 ...	788,404	737,045	2,672,087	2,472,181
1903-4 ...	804,440	818,860	2,526,450	2,275,441
1904-5 ...	811,614	810,258	2,629,051	2,479,274
1905-6 ...	847,953*	869,981	3,303,611	3,168,706

The total value of imports and exports for the year, inclusive of bullion and specie and transshipment trade, was £6,472,317, the largest amount on record. The total value of imports, exclusive of bullion and transshipments, amounted to, was £3,303,611, as compared with £2,629,051 in 1904-5, and £2,526,450 in 1903-4. The principal items of increase were flour, £23,500; fish, £9,000; butter substitutes, £6,600; boots and shoes, £5,000; oxen, £4,500; manure, £3,600; and preserved milk, £3,500. Decreases are shown in the imports of cacao, £25,600; timber, £40,000; hardware, £25,000; meats, £13,800; cement, £8,600; machinery, £8,300; and coal, £7,000.

The total value of the exports for the year amounted to £3,168,706, which is much in excess of the returns for the two previous years. This is due to the fictitious inflation of the figures by the inclusion of the exports of bullion and of the transshipment trade. Deducting in each case the figures for bullion and transshipments, we find that the value of exports was £2,118,747 as against £2,212,505 in 1904-5 and £2,082,766 in 1903-4.

The values of the principal items of exports showing increases were: cacao, £142,000; balata gum, £37,000; bullion and specie, £30,000; timber, £900; and coconuts, £7,000. Decreases were shown in the values of sugar, £270,000; asphalt, £30,000; molasses, £7,000; coffee, £6,800; and rum, £4,800.

The acreage in Crown lands sold during the year amounted to 12,780, as against 16,207 acres in 1904-5 and 12,407 in 1903-4.

The sugar crop of 1905-6 was an extraordinarily good one, the highest yield recorded on several estates having been exceeded. Low prices, however, discounted the heavy return of produce, most of which was not shipped until after the close of the financial year, and will consequently appear only in next year's returns. The total value of sugar exported during the year was £452,866, as compared with £723,048 for 1904-5, when prices were abnormally high.

The cacao crop was also a very fine one, the value exported amounting to £1,196,450, as compared with £1,053,880 for the previous year. The total amount of cocoa produced in the Colony was 48,416,256 lbs., as compared with 40,753,776 lbs. in 1904-5 and 36,154,048 lbs. in 1903-4. As in the case of sugar, however, the prices obtained were low.

Grenada's dependence on Cacao.

On account of the unexpected collapse of the cacao crop, both in quantity and price, following on a shortage on the previous crop, the financial results of Grenada for the year 1905-6 were less satisfactory than those of its immediate predecessors, the surplus assets having to be drawn upon to the extent of £1,440 to meet the expenditure of the Colony. At the date of the report the cacao crop was no less than 9,838 bags short of its predecessor. The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus	£4,585
1901-2 ...	£70,075	£65,490	4,585	
1902-3 ...	72,862	68,669	4,193	
1903-4 ...	70,265	70,113	152	
1904-5 ...	68,993	69,509	Deficit	516
1905-6 ...	69,951	71,968	Deficit	2,017

The excess of expenditure over that of the previous year amounted to £2,459. This was mainly due to more money being spent for public works in view of an anticipated increase of revenue resulting from revision of the Customs' tariff. The object of this revision of the import duties had been (a) to produce increased revenue, and (b) to make the incidence of this indirect taxation more fair by reducing duties on articles principally consumed by the labouring class, while increasing those on luxuries and articles consumed by the well-to-do of the community. The shrinkage in the quantity of imports had prevented the realisation of the object of the change, but with normal crops it was hoped that the change would prove a simple and efficient method of raising a portion of the increased public revenue which the Colony absolutely needs at this stage of its growth.

* Including the sum of £10,874 transferred to general revenue on account of the Public Officers Widows and Orphans' Fund, now managed by the Colonial Government.

The public debt still remained at £123,670, the sinking fund for its redemption amounting to £17,940. The following figures of the trade of the Colony in the last five years show that in 1905-6 there was a sharp recoil from the satisfactory conditions of 1904-5.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Volume.
1901-2	£246,567	£303,934	£550,501
1902-3	239,108	310,602	549,710
1903-4	235,440	283,565	519,005
1904-5	256,269	321,766	578,035
1905-6	237,256	283,955	521,211

The principal cause of this has been already mentioned, viz., the low price and quantity of the cacao crop, and it may be here added that the other important staple products of the Colony, spices and cotton, also yielded diminished values. The shortage in crop was attributed to the unequal incidence of the rainfall for the year, and the unsatisfactory prices were undoubtedly attributable to the largely increasing influx of West African cacao (the slave-grown cacao of San Thome and Principe) in the home market, which largely affected the sale of the lower grades of West Indian cacao. Improved methods of cultivation and curing continue to occupy the close attention of planters, and the introduction of Gordon's drying apparatus on some of the leading estates deserves special mention, as it is probably the best of its kind on the market at present.

The crop of spices had been satisfactory, 8,862 cwt. being exported in the calendar year 1905, 7,947 cwt. of which were nutmegs. This contributed about 10% of the exports, as against 85% for cacao. The cultivation of cotton is confined to Carriacou, where it has never ceased to be grown, and where there is a hopeful future for it. The crop of 1905 was one of the smallest known for many years, this being due to the abnormally showery weather prevailing when the trees were setting the bolls.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Tobacco and Sugar in Mexico.

The exports of leaf tobacco average about 1,500 tons, and the failure of the Pinar del Rio crop in Cuba was expected to develop the exports of Mexican leaf for the manufacture of genuine Havana cigars. The exports of sugar had risen from 2 tons in 1901-2 to 38,701 tons in 1904-5, and a still greater increase is expected to be shown for 1905-6. The bulk of the Mexican sugar goes to Liverpool.

Cacao consumption in Holland.

The French Consul-General at Amsterdam reports that owing to the increased price of sugar the chocolate factories have not been making such large profits as formerly. The Dutch people are beginning to take to the use of chocolate in powder, which has had such a vogue in other countries, and as a consequence many of the local factories have been obliged to add to their plant. The factories now enjoy direct steamer communication with St. Thomas, Java, Trinidad, Venezuela and Amsterdam, for the transportation of their cacao.

The Sugar Trade of China.

Sugar was the principal import in 1905 with a total of 5,500,089 cwts., of the value of £3,402,741. It was made up of brown, 2,191,387 cwts.; refined, 1,783,815 cwts.; white, 1,269,924 cwts.; and candy, 254,963 cwts. This was an advance of 1,038,705 cwts. on the figures for 1904, and 1,889,197 cwts. ahead of the average of the previous five years. The total export of sugar from China amounted to 618,108 cwts., and the greater part of this small quantity is doubtless included in the above import; but the bulk was Java sugar which has undergone treatment at Hong-Kong.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service Company's R.M.S. "Port Kingston" left Jamaica, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 26th, and reached Avonmouth on Tuesday evening, November 6th. The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" left Barbados on Wednesday, October 31st at 5 a.m. and arrived at Southampton at 6.45 a.m. on Monday, November 12th. Among those who returned by her were Mr. J. L. Agostini, Mr. William Bowring, and Miss F. Tripp. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

Scarcity of Labour in Antigua.

The "record" September with its rainfall of 12.22 inches on many estates, had been followed by a very still and hot October with a variable rainfall. The canes on the whole looked very well when the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner wrote on October 27th, but difficulty was experienced everywhere in getting enough labour to weed them. The Gunthorpe's factory was receiving the co-operation of an

increasing number of muscovado estates, and should probably next year be able to turn out a crop worthy of its fine machinery. At Bendal's 4,700 tons of peasant canes had been bought for the crop, or about eight times as much as last year, and the acreage of this cultivation was increasing. The area in cotton had greatly increased this year and looked well generally; the caterpillars, however, were present in great numbers and Paris Green trade was flourishing in consequence.

Cotton Growing in Barbados.

Since the last mail, hardly any rain had fallen, but the bright suns had been of great benefit both to canes and cotton, after the copious rains of the first fortnight of the month. On October 28th, the date of the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne's letter, it was felt that a return of good showers would be welcome, and it was hoped that the Island might be spared, what had been only too prevalent of late years, a dry November. A good deal of cotton was being picked, and it was hoped that the new factory would shortly be opened to receive it. Meanwhile the old one was available. The canes were very healthy, and were under a good growth. The "Love Vine" mentioned in Mr. Alleyne's last letter was being seriously taken in hand, and there did not seem to be any chance of its spreading widely. Some cotton growers, in spite of the advice given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, had insisted on keeping ratoon cotton, and fields might be seen infested with red maggot and other diseases, which were a menace to their neighbours. Arbor Day was to be kept this year on November 9th, and the Botanical Department had provided a large number of interesting trees for gratuitous distribution. It was intended to plant these around the schools, and other open spaces, if possible by the children themselves, so that they might learn to take care of them and cultivate them.

The death was recorded with regret of Mr. W. Crabbe Hutson, at Bushy Park, St. Philip, an estate of which he had charge of for 41 years in the employment of the Daniel family. Mr. T. Burt Evelyn, a large Attorney and Proprietor, had also been called away at the advanced age of 87. He claimed to be descended from John Evelyn, the famous diarist, and called his residence Wotton, after the dwelling place of his celebrated ancestor. Both these gentlemen were highly respected, and their deaths would leave a sad gap in the ranks of the older planters.

Dominica still anxious about Mails.

The mails by the last boat from England had not yet arrived from Barbados when Mr. E. A. Agar sent us his usual fortnightly letter on October 25th, as the "Yare" had ceased to run down to Barbados every week. It did not appear sound policy to maintain only a monthly steamer for the Northern Islands; not only was the inconvenience immense to all sections of the community, but the loss entailed must be considerable. To take, for instance, the incipient trade in limes with London; shippers generally had been warned against continuing to ship without advices from home. These advices were still in Barbados, and another fortnight must elapse, when conditions might have again altered, before they could be acted upon. It was hardly to be hoped that fresh capital would be attracted to Islands deemed only of sufficient importance to support one steamer a month from England; and it might also tend to throw their trade more into the hands of America. With regard to the "Yare," it was satisfactory to know that she would continue to run round the Island for a time at any rate after the expiration of her contract. If Mr. Agar remembered rightly, the chief object of obtaining a coasting steamer was stated to be to aid the development of the windward district by ensuring a regular means of transport. It was obvious that the extended contract, terminable at three months' notice, reduced the "Yare" to a temporary convenience. Cacao was coming in, but the pickings before Christmas were likely to be less than last year; the continued fine weather had allowed drying to go on uninterrupted. The hurricane season might now be considered to have safely passed, but in the interests of the insurance scheme it was perhaps to be regretted that the West Indies escaped so entirely. Those numerous planters who "waited and saw" would now congratulate themselves that they kept their premiums in their pocket, and the finest scheme ever introduced into that part of the world might die from lack of support. The electric light in Roseau was now entirely satisfactory, as far as the illumination was concerned, and the town had never been so well lit. The installation, however, was still subject to occasional accidents, as presumably were all installations under untried conditions, but these accidents were becoming rarer and would doubtless cease before long.

The Heavy Rains in Grenada.

Writing on October 26th, Mr. C. Falconer Anton stated that when the Governor and Lady Llewelyn left for England by the previous mail, there was a large gathering of officials and others, while a guard of honour and the Government band were in attendance. Immediately after the steamer left her moorings, the band left and took up a position at a point under Fort George, where, after a salute of 17 guns from the battery, they played "Auld Lang Syne" as the steamer ran out of the harbour. Lady Llewelyn was the recipient of a large number of beautiful bouquets of flowers from the ladies, a goodly gathering of whom were also present to say goodbye.

The cable ship "Henry Holmes," after an absence of about three weeks, returned to St. George's on October 16th and had remained there since. The heaviest rains for many years fell during the early days of October, as much as five inches in ten hours in some parts of the Island, but for the past nine or ten days there had been no rain to speak of, and the heat was intense. The cacao planters were again fearing that the young pods would suffer if it continued dry much longer.

The suitability of Guiana for Limes.

Refining crystals had weakened, and not more than \$2.05 to \$2.07½ could be obtained when Mr. J. C. McCowan closed his letter on October 27th. The weather was hot and dry, and while favourable for reaping operations, good showers were wanted for younger cultivation. A meeting of the Board of Agriculture had been held, at which the Acting Governor stated that Mr. Bennett, who had visited the Colony on behalf of an English syndicate in connection with a possible lime industry, had reported to his principals very strongly in favour of the Colony for lime growing. In his (Mr. Bennett's) opinion British Guiana stood head and shoulders above the other places in the West Indies he had visited—and those included Trinidad, Jamaica, and Montserrat—as regards the quality of the fruit, the soil, and the general conditions.

The delayed Railway Schemes in Honduras.

The Hon. A. R. Usher, writing on Nov. 20d, said that the news of Mr. C. T. Hunter's death was quite a shock to all in the Colony, as they were looking for his return at any moment, and understood that his railway scheme was in a fair way of being carried through. A resolution had been passed by the Legislative Council with reference to the Stann Creek Railway, in order to strengthen the hands of the Colonial Government. The excuse given by the Government for not doing anything in this matter was that the Colonial Office had not yet appointed an engineer to carry out the work, which it was understood they were requested to do some time ago. It seemed that everyone was agreed that the scheme should be carried out, and the delay was now apparently being caused by the Colonial Office. Nothing was to be done in respect to the Punta Gorda railway at present.

The telegraph question was another matter which was hanging fire. It was proposed to connect their local telegraph line at the Hondo Bar with the Mexican line on the other side of the river. It was understood that the Mexican Government were agreeable to this, and the matter was now under consideration by the Post Office authorities at home. It was, however, proposed that some temporary arrangement should be made, so that messages might be forwarded in the meantime, pending a definite understanding between the two Governments.

The British Honduras Government had called for tenders recently for the conveyance of the mail between the Colony and a port or ports in the United States, Canada, or the United Kingdom, but it was believed that only one tender had been received from the United Fruit Company, who were under contract now for the conveyance of the mails to New Orleans, and who received a subsidy of \$12,000 per annum for the service and were exempted from all dues. As, during the summer months, owing to the Quarantine regulations, no passengers were taken from the Colony by the United Fruit Company's steamers, the Colonists were anxious to subsidise some other line, and would be glad to get a Canadian line to tender. Even if the tender of the United Fruit Company were accepted in the meantime, it was thought the Government would be prepared to pay a small subsidy to a Canadian line, and it was hoped that this might be brought about. With the Stann Creek Railway in operation, it was expected that there would be a great deal of fruit for shipment from the Colony, which might be an inducement for a Canadian line to go to British Honduras.

Jamaica Crop Estimates.

In an interesting letter Mr. J. L. Ashenheim gave an estimate of the crops for the statistical year ending 31st March, 1907. In Jamaica there are no estimates of crops, either official or otherwise, on which to base calculations. It must be borne in mind that Mr. Ashenheim's estimates are for what will be exported during the period named above, and not for what will be reaped, it being impossible to get at the latter correctly; but taking one year with another, except in very exceptional years, the yearly exports will fairly represent the yearly reaping, as balances brought over from the previous years "ordinarily" can be said to equal balances left over in the year that may be under review. The following were the actual figures for 1905-6 and 1906-7:—

Articles and Quantities.	1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906.	2nd April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905.	Articles and Quantities.	1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906.	1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905.
Coffee, cwts. ...	83,910	50,724	Cotton, lbs. ...	75,307	14,210
Cocoanuts, No. ...	7,101,054	4,065,443	Ginger, cwts. ...	17,075	20,032
Cocoa, cwts. ...	32,587	22,237	Pimento, cwts. ...	89,667	143,627
Bananas, stems ...	14,748,642	8,982,040	Sugar, tons ...	12,523	11,256
Oranges, No. ...	72,691,493	76,570,211			

Basing his estimate on the above, Mr. Ashenheim arrived at the following estimate for 1906-7:—

Sugar, tons : 14,500 to 15,000.	Ginger, cwts. : 16,000, based on reports that planting is declining yearly.
Coffee, cwts. : 50,000, based on report of short crop.	Cocoanuts, No. : 6,000,000.
Cocoa, cwts. : 60,000, based on report of good crop	Cotton, lbs. : No possible means of arriving at any rational estimate.
Bananas, stems : 17,000,000	
Pimento, cwts. : 77,000	
Oranges, No. : 55,000,000, based on report of bad crop.	

Judging from the ascertained exports from the 1st of April to the 13th of October, 1906, which showed 168,820 lbs. exported to that date, against 38,484 lbs. for the same period of 1905, it can only be concluded either that there has been a blight to the 1906 crop or that the impetus given to cotton growing in Jamaica is on the wane.

For the reasons given above, these estimates must be received with some amount of caution, as they represent only forecasts, and, of course, the estimates are based on good weather, reasonable rains, and no blows or hurricanes. Sugar is consumed locally largely out of each crop reaped. This is an unknown quantity, but may be estimated at between 7,000 and 8,000 tons per annum at least, and this quantity has to be added to the sugar exports to get an idea of the production. Some coffee is consumed locally, but not to a great extent.

It was rumoured that the United Fruit Co., had made an offer to purchase the Jamaica Railway; but the rumour was not confirmed when the mail left. On October 29th, the Quebec Lands were sold to Mr. E. R. Grabow for £2,500, and it was hoped, therefore, that the proposals for erecting a large hotel on that site would be proceeded with. £100 of the sum was payable immediately, and the balance in six month's time. The Jamaica Cricket Council had accepted an invitation from Trinidad to send a cricket team to that Island.

Crop estimates from St. Kitts.

Writing on October 21st, Mr. A. D. C. Adamson said it was early yet to estimate the sugar crop for next season, but given average conditions for the continuation of the growing period and during reaping season, the Island should turn out 13,000 tons of sugar, and a cotton crop of from 500 to 550 bales (400 lbs. each). Since last mail the weather had been fine with good showers and hot sunny days without much wind. A special meeting of the Agricultural and Commercial Society was held on October 19th to meet Sir Daniel Morris, who had just returned to the West Indies *via* Canada. He gave a most interesting account of his doings, both in England and in Canada, and his work in both places in furthering the interests of their staples should be of great use. The following is an extract from a report on the first picking of cotton sent home by Mr. Adamson:—

"St. Kitts generally suffers in name owing to the large proportion of catch crop and ratoon cotton, otherwise we think your Island would compete successfully with St. Vincent as regards price. Although it may pay you to grow a catch crop, as many are doing, for sale at a lower price, the yield has an immature appearance and is not appreciated by consumers."

In spite of the above remarks the cotton was valued at 18d. Sir Daniel Morris suggested that the planters should give up the word "catch" crop and use the word "alternate," and this seemed to be a good idea. There was practically no such thing as ratoon cotton in St. Kitts.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis, on October 12th, a resolution was moved by the Hon. S. L. Horsford, and passed unanimously, requesting the Governor to lay before the Secretary of State for the Colonies the desire of the Council that the mail contract should be amended at the earliest possible date, so as to ensure a regular and close connection, as formerly, between the Northern Islands and the fortnightly main line of the Royal Mail service between the Mother Country and Barbados, and stating that the Presidency would be prepared to contribute therefore the sum of £400 per annum by way of subsidy.

St. Lucia's complaint about the Mails.

Mr. Sydney D. Melville, writing on October 29th, complained that the arrangement made with the Royal Mail Company was very unsatisfactory. The "Eden," as she did not connect with any ocean mails, was useless for mail passengers and letters, and the "Yare," which under the arrangement it was understood would bring down their outward mails from Barbados, had ceased to do this, and their last outward mails had to be sent by chartered schooner at further expense to the Colony, so that what they were paying £400 per annum for was practically the fortnightly service of the "Yare" to Barbados, whereas St. Vincent, for £300, got a better and far more convenient service. The weather was dry, but the crops promising.

Mr. George S. Hudson, in a letter of the same date, said that the dry and fine weather was a welcome change from the previous exceptionally wet weather, and while having a marked beneficial effect on both the sugar and cacao crops, would also materially tend to hasten shipments of cacao home. His remarks on the cacao experimental cultivation are included in our summary of the report of the experimental station given elsewhere in this issue.

The cotton crop begins in St. Vincent.

In a letter dated October 27th, Messrs. D. K. Porter & Co. reported that the weather since last advices had been very fine, and just what was wanted to ripen the cotton, the picking of which would be general in another ten days or so. Arrowroot digging on several estates had also begun, so that there should be no complaint on the part of the labourers for want of work, and everyone who was willing should have no difficulty in having a small surplus to spend on themselves at Christmas time.

Mr. Sands, writing on October 28th, also stated that the fine, bright, and dry weather had benefited the crops, cotton especially. The spell of wet weather experienced at the beginning of the month had, however, favoured the development of the "Anthraenose" disease in some places. On most estates the bolls were holding well, which was a good feature. The stallion donkey and Ayrshire bull imported by the Imperial Department of Agriculture arrived in the Island by the last Royal Mail steamer, and were for the present stationed at the Agricultural School. The writer had been away from Kingstown for the past ten days on a tour of inspection of the allotments on the Land Settlement estate of the Linley and Cumberland valleys.

Trinidad cacao again rising.

We were informed by the Hon. G. T. Fenwick, C.M.G., from his letter of October 29th, that the past fortnight had been one of excessive heat and drought. This, which had not been altogether disadvantageous for the sugar estates, was very unwelcome to cacao proprietors, more especially at the present moment, when the new leaves remained unmaturing. Receipts from the country continued very small, and the few lots offering had been keenly competed for. The U.S. America continued to attract shipments on a speculative business, and prices in consequence had again taken an upward turn. Some bids had been made from the Continent, but at prices that were altogether uninteresting, and no new business had resulted. Venezuela had not supplied a single bag during the fortnight; there were, however, a few small lots still to come forward. First pickings of the new crop should be offering in Trinidad towards the end of November or early in December.

SHIPMENTS.

Total at last report	...	...	...	127,431	Trinidad.	30,748	Venezuela.	
Oct. 13th.—S.S. "Hellas"	...	...	...	—	..	400	..	Europe
" 13th.—S.S. "Olinda"	...	...	...	10	..	—	..	Canada.
" 16th.—S.S. "Trent"	...	...	...	108	..	—	..	Europe
" 18th.—S.S. "Thornby"	...	...	...	23	..	80	..	..
" 20th.—S.S. "Prinz Willem II"	...	...	...	136	..	—	..	..
" 22nd.—S.S. "Maracas"	...	...	...	704	..	456	..	New York.
" 25th.—S.S. "Oruro"	...	...	...	5	..	—	..	Canada
Totals to date	...	...	...	128,407	..	31,684	..	

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Mosquitoes and Malaria.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I have read with interest the letter on malarial prophylaxis in your last issue as regards mosquitoes. Having travelled through the marshy districts of Central Africa and the wilds of British Guiana, I have always found that a good agent to rub on the skin as a preventive against mosquito bites is a mixture of equal parts of citronella, kerosene and coarsely cut oils, with a small proportion of carbolic acid. The liquid smells only of citronella, and if applied, effectually keeps off mosquitoes.

Yours, &c.,

ONCE BITTEN.

Labour in San Thomé and Príncipe.

Monsieur,—Mon ami M. H. Smith, du *Tropical Life*, a eu l'obligeance de m'envoyer votre journal du 6 Nov., courant, dans lequel je trouve un article se rapportant au sujet, mille fois démenti, de l'esclavage dans les îles de San Thomé et Príncipe.

Mr. Runciman, sous-Secrétaire au Foreign Office, a dévoilé, à la Chambre des Communes (le 28 Octobre dernier) le secret du rapport attendu du Consul Nightingale. Ce rapport assure, et c'est vrai, que les nègres sont "bien traités" à San Thomé et Príncipe.

Mais—puis qu'il fallait, après ces bons traitements, un autre Cheval de Bataille—Mr. Runciman, d'accord avec Mr. Nightingale, a parlé de rapatriement, dans l'Angola, de ces nègres bien traités à San Thomé.

C'était déjà fait. L'agence Reuter distribuant aux journaux, le 1er courant (Voir: *Morning Post* et autres), une dépêche officielle, de Lisbonne, dans laquelle on constatait que les planteurs de San Thomé et Príncipe avaient repatrié, le mois précédent, 72 nègres travailleurs des rois. Qu'est-ce qu'il manque donc, pour que vous criiez que San Thomé, 3 îles plus petit que la Trinité, produise beaucoup plus?

Quel rapport y-a-t-il entre l'étendue d'une colonie et leur production rationnelle? Aucun. Mais vous attribuez ce fait à l'esclavage de San Thomé: et Mr. Nightingale, et Mr. Runciman, et le Gouvernement Portugais, vous opposent un floquent démenti.

En ce qui concerne mon opinion, je vous renvoie au journal de Genève, que je vous expédie en pli s. par. Votre singulier argument me force à vous écrire, pour remettre les choses au point.

J'espère que vous accuserez réception de ma lettre et de mes documents.

Et j'ai l'honneur de me sousscrire,
40, Rue Rochechouart, Paris

Votre Serviteur dévoué,
ALMADA NEGREIROA.

OUR LIBRARY.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library. Such gifts will be duly acknowledged from time to time in this column.

The International Sugar Journal. The issue of this monthly publication for September contains an interesting paper which was read in 1878 before the Brighton Meeting of the Social Science Association on the subject of "Foreign Bounties on Exports" — which originated in the bounty then being paid in France on the export of loaf sugar. Although the fight was then only between the French and Dutch sugar refiners, and the bounty on loaf sugar alone, the author of the paper saw even then that bounties injured our Colonies. Every ton of refined sugar coming into Great Britain meant a ton of raw sugar shut out. Dr Wiechmann contributes the first part of an article on "Electro-decolorisation in Connection with Optical Sugar Analysis," and several reproductions of interest appear, including a paper on the "Cause of Cobb's Disease of the Sugar Cane," by Mr. E. F. Smith.

The Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Vol. IV, No. 3. London: Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, rs. This number contains reports and investigation on "Sansevieria fibres from British East Africa," "Rubber" from Uganda, "China Clay from Queensland," "Tobacco" from British Honduras, &c. As to the Honduras tobacco the valuation was about 40 per lb. for cigar purposes; but, although the tobacco was ripe and well fermented, it was too dark for cigar requirements, while the texture was too heavy. It was also too pungent to be used alone. "Judging by the samples," the valuers say, "we are of opinion that with experience in growing and handling the tobacco, there should be a ready market in this country and on the Continent for Honduras leaf." Interesting articles are given on "Recent Developments in German East Africa," "Production and Uses of Oil of Turpentine," "Classification of Coal," &c., and on the whole the issue contains useful and instructive reading.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

CABLE BREAK. The usual-crop time break in the Demerara-Trinidad cable took place on Sunday last, and British Guiana is now cut off from cable communication with the outside world.

INACCURATE. We have it on the best authority—that of his Lordship himself—that the Earl of Rosebery does not propose to visit the West Indies this winter, as it has been stated in the Press that he intended to do.

MOLASCUIT. It has been decided to admit the cattle food Molascuit, "consisting of vegetable fibrous matter with crude molasses," into the Australian Commonwealth free of duty. Indirectly, the West Indies will benefit from this decision, as it will reduce the competition between Javanese and West Indian Molascuit in European markets, a new opening for the former being thus provided.

"OVER-SEAS." The new monthly journal, *Over-Seas*, which has now reached its sixth number, devotes a special illustrated article to the West India Committee, its origin and work. Judging from the number of advertisements which adorn its pages, as well as from the general tone of this Colonial journal, which is admirably got up on art paper, we should imagine that it is proving a successful venture.

HELPFUL HINTS. It is with great satisfaction that we are able to announce that the suggestion contained in the *West India Committee Circular* of June 27th last with regard to the circulation of the admirable little pamphlet on Tobago, "Hints to Settlers," has been adopted, and that it has been decided by the Government of Trinidad to distribute 500 copies among the headmasters of the public schools in England. The West India Committee has addressed a letter to the Government of Trinidad, offering their services to facilitate the distribution of the pamphlets, and to furnish information regarding the Colony to intending settlers.

OUR VISITORS. The Hon. C. Macaulay Browne and the Hon. Francis Watts, who leave for Grenada and Antigua respectively to-morrow, have been among the callers at the West India Committee Rooms since we last went to press. Other visitors have been Mr. F. Everington, who has now returned to Dominica, Mr. Alfred N. Dixon and Mr. H. J. Rudolf, of Jamaica, Mr. D. G. Garraway, of British Guiana, Mr. John W. A. Maginley, of Antigua, Mr. E. D. R. Clarke, of Trinidad, and Mr. Crump, of Grenada, in addition to the usual complement of inquirers. Among distinguished visitors to the West Indies during the coming season will be Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., and Lady Treves, who leave Southampton in the *Atrato* on December 19th.

COTTON REPORT. Messrs. Wostenholme & Holland state in their last report, dated November 5th, that American Sea Island cotton has continued to advance, but owing to there being no stock of West Indian there was no business to report. The quality of the Carolina crop left much to be desired, and they therefore hoped to obtain very handsome prices for West Indian this season. Sea Island crop accounts from America were not favourable, and planters were holding their cotton back. During the

fortnight ended November 15th, 17 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Medium fine is quoted in Liverpool 6.45d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 14½d. per lb.; medium fine, 15½d. per lb.; fine, 17d. per lb.; and extra fine, 22d. per lb. Prices paid 4.75d. to 8.50d.

THE W. I. CLUB. A pleasing feature was introduced into the series of West Indian Club dinners on Wednesday, November 14th, a concert arranged by Mr. Arthur N. Lubbock, who presided, following the usual loyal toasts. A most enjoyable evening resulted, and it was not until the small hours of the morning that proceedings were brought to a close with "God Save the King." Among those present were: Mr. D. W. Allport, Mr. J. M. Baguley, Mr. H. Berger, Mr. E. J. Cason, Mr. W. Pitt Chatham, Mr. J. W. Clark, Mr. C. E. Davies, Mr. Sinclair Dunn, Mr. A. W. Farquharson, Mr. R. L. Forbes, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. R. A. J. Goode, Mr. A. D. Goffa, Mr. N. R. Mackinnon, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. A. M. Nathan, Mr. G. A. Cave-Orme, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. F. I. Scard, Mr. R. Schult, Mr. W. P. B. Shephard, Mr. W. P. Simon, Mr. E. Sturridge, Mr. H. D. Swan, Mr. W. T. Thorn, Mr. J. S. Westwood, and Mr. Lucie Whitaker.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Tues., Nov. 6.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston," from Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth—The R.M.S.P. "La Plata," outward, arrived Barbados 6 a.m.—88% Beet, 8s 8½d., quiet.
- Wed., Nov. 7.—Mr. Lloyd George, M.P., spoke at Rochester on Tariff Reform—The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco," homeward, passed Bonta Ferrara—Beet, 8s. 9½d., steady.
- Thurs., Nov. 8.—Lord Elgin received a deputation from the British India Defence Association of the Transvaal, who protested against the Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance—The R.M.S.P. "Trent," outward, passed Ushant 8 a.m.—The R.M.S.P. "Atrato," outward, arrived New York 10 a.m.—Beet, 8s 9½d., quiet.
- Fri., Nov. 9.—The King's birthday.—Lord Mayor's Day (Sir William Treloar, Lord Mayor of London).—Letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Secretary of the Congo Reform Association, sympathising with their efforts to ameliorate the condition of affairs in the Congo, published.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., steady.
- Sat., Nov. 10.—Lord Harewood presided over a meeting in York in support of the appeal for £50,000 for rebuilding Selby Abbey.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 9½d., steady.
- Sun., Nov. 11.—A Boer raid into Cape Colony reported.
- Mon., Nov. 12.—The King and Queen of Norway arrived in England.—All night sitting of the House of Commons.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., steady.
- Tues., Nov. 13.—Lord Halsbury and Mr. Birrell spoke at the Colston Banquets at Bristol.—Mr. R. Jebb read a paper on "Imperial Organisation" at the Royal Colonial Institute—Earthquakes reported to have occurred in Jamaica—Beet, 8s. 9½d., flat.
- Wed., Nov. 14.—Visit of the King and Queen of Norway to the City.—Beet, 8s. 9½d., quiet.
- Thurs., Nov. 15.—Lady Selby, wife of the ex-Speaker of the House of Commons, died.—Debate on Chinese Labour in the House of Commons—Beet, 8s. 8½d., easier.
- Fri., Nov. 16.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
- Sat., Nov. 17.—The Boer raiders, Ferreira and all his followers captured.—Armagh bye-election Mr. C. Moore, K.C. (U.), 4229, Mr. L. Crawford (Ind. U.), 1433: majority 2796—Beet (morning call), 8s. 9½d., steadier.
- Sun., Nov. 18.—Bomb outrage in St. Peters, Rome.
- Mon., Nov. 19.—Rumours of despatch of troops to Jamaica denied.—Beet, 8s. 9d., easier.

COMING EVENTS.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

- Nov. 27th to Dec. 1st.—The West Indian Produce Association exhibits at the Food and Cookery Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall.
- Dec., 4th and 5th.—Show of West Indian Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall.
- Dec. 8th.—Lecture on the West Indies, by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, at Northfield, Birmingham.
- Tues., Dec. 11th.—Lecture at the Royal Colonial Institute by Mr. Arthur Beckett on "The Colonial Press."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Tuesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

J. C. H. & Co.—Previous to October 1st, 1905, no distinction was made in the exports from Trinidad between

asphalt from the Pitch Lake and asphalt from the neighbourhood of the lake. Now, however, they are differentiated as "Crude Lake Asphalt" and "Crude other than Lake asphalt."

Jones.—Arrowroot in the commercial sense is generally understood to be the product of *Maranta arundinacea*. The product of *Canna edulis* is sold under the name of "Tous-les-mots," and also as "Queensland Arrowroot." Bermuda arrowroot has the highest value in the market, but the cause of the enormous difference in value between that and the ordinary arrowroot is uncertain, as the starch contents are much the same in each.

Seedling Canes.—The first experiment in growing sugar canes from seed in the West Indies was conducted by the Hon. J. W. Parris at his estate "Highlands" in Barbados in 1859. He planted over 4½ acres with canes raised from these original seedlings, and their yield of sugar was estimated at over 4 lbs. to the acre. But certain objectionable characteristics presented themselves, and the cultivation of these canes was abandoned. Successful experiments were subsequently conducted by Professor J. B. Harrison and Mr. Bovell. The more recent history of seedling cane results in British Guiana and the West Indian Islands you are, of course, acquainted with.

Early Worm.—Your inquiry reminds one of the old riddle about which came first, the chicken or the egg—happily, though, it is not such a poser. Cotton was one of the first crops cultivated in the West Indies, and an inferior and uncultivated perennial plant of it is found in most Islands. It is presumed that the cotton worm has always existed in such Islands feeding on this plant, which is probably a debased type of that first cultivated. The plant being quite wild, scattered, and few in number, the cotton worm did not multiply rapidly, and it was kept down by its natural enemies. As soon as Sea Island cotton was introduced and large areas were planted, the worm rapidly spread. Mr. W. N. Sands tells us that most plants cultivated on a large scale suffer from insects peculiar to them in the same manner.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Hon. N. R. McKINNON, K.C., Acting Solicitor-General, British Guiana, has arrived in England on leave of absence. The King has approved of the appointment of the Hon. J. CHALLENGER LYNCH to be a member of the Legislative Council of Barbados.

Mr. WILLIAM CUDDEFORD, Auditor of the Windward Islands, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from December 4th next.

The Hon. Sir THOMAS CROSSLEY RAYNER, K.C., Attorney General, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from October 1st.

Mr. J. J. DE BOISSIERE, late of the Colonial Secretary's Office, Trinidad, has left the Island to take up an appointment as Junior Assistant Treasurer in Northern Nigeria.

During the absence on leave of the Hon. J. E. M. Salmon from St. Lucia, Mr. C. F. Condall has been appointed an Official Member of the Legislative Council of the Colony.

The Governor of Barbados, Sir GILBERT CARTER, and Lady Carter returned to the Island on October 5th, by the S.S. "Parima" from America, where His Excellency spent his holiday.

Mr. A. L. C. LABORDE, once a leading cricketer of Barbados, and late Postmaster of the Colony of Lagos, has been promoted a District Commissioner of Southern Nigeria, and to officiate in the Central Province.

The Hon. A. P. P. MACKAY has been appointed, by Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual and Signet, a Member of the Executive Council of British Guiana, in the room of the late Hon. J. H. de Jonge.

An extension of leave of absence for four months, from November 11th, has been granted to Professor J. B. HARRISON, M.A., C.M.G., &c., &c., Director of Science and Agriculture and Government Analyst, British Guiana.

The vacant office of Second Puisne Judge of Trinidad and Tobago, which was offered some time ago to Mr. ALEXANDER D. ROSELL, Chief Magistrate of the Gambia, has been accepted by him. Mr. Russell had occupied his late appointment for the past eight years.

SOME WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 6 per cent. (changed on October 19th, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.

The Trinidad Petroleum Company.

A Company was registered on October 19th, with a capital of £30,000 in £1 shares to develop certain oil properties in Trinidad. The Directors are Mr. Corbet Woodall, Hon. Thomas Cochrane, M.P., Mr. Lockhart D. Carson, and Mr. A. Duckham.

Banana Flour Company.

A Company has been registered under the name of Pattinson's Banana Fruit Foods Limited, for the purpose of manufacturing banana flour and utilising this for the preparation of various specialities, such as banana oil, custard powders, jelly powder, etc. The capital is £30,000 in 30,000 £1 shares, of which £9,000 in fully paid shares are to be paid to the vendor, while the whole of the balance is offered to the public.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The Directors in their interim report for the half year ended June 30th, 1906, state that the development of the Company's business continues, and that the improvement referred to in previous reports has been fully maintained. Reference is made to the new steamers "Amazon," "Araguaya," and "Aragon," and the development of the South American and Australian trade. The Company's passenger and cargo services to Mexico, which had been discontinued for many years, have recently been re-established by the steamers employed on the Cuban route extending their voyages to Mexican ports. The twin-screw steamer "Salor," built by Messrs. Harland & Wolff, has been purchased, and with her sister vessel the "Segura" and the "Severn," provide a regular passenger service to Cuba and Mexico. A contract was made on the 16th August last with the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the resumption of part of the West Indian intercolonial Mail service, but the Court continue to give careful consideration to the demands of the West Indian Colonies for a more extensive regular connection with the Company's Transatlantic Main Line Steamers at Barbados or Trinidad. The Share Capital has now been converted into Preference and Ordinary Stocks, and the Stock Certificates for that portion

not previously converted are in course of preparation. The Court, while having due regard to economics wherever practicable, are continuing their policy of augmenting the fleet and of improving the organisation of the Company's business on all its routes.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.,

The Directors of this Company in their report for the six months ended June 30th last, which will be presented to the shareholders at the fifty-ninth ordinary general meeting at Winchester House at 12 o'clock to-morrow, states that the amount to credit of revenue is £36,999 8s. 2d., against £32,773 13s. 11d. for the corresponding half-year of 1905. The expenses have been £25,680 17s. 11d., against £23,230 9s. 8d., leaving a balance of £11,318 10s. 3d., to which is added £1,772 4s. 11d. interest on investments, and £1,047 5s. 6d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £14,138 0s. 8d., with which it is proposed to pay 8s. per share on the First Preference Shares (being 4s. balance of Arrears to 31st December, 1905, and 4s. on account of Dividend to 30th June, 1906), which will absorb £13,825 4s., leaving a balance of £312 16s. 8d. to current half-year's account. The traffic receipts for the six months show an increase of £4,324 17s. 7d. as compared with those for the corresponding period. The expenses of repairing cables charged to Revenue amount to £9,958 1s. 10d., as compared with £8,363 0s. 7d. for the corresponding half-year. There has also been a special expenditure of £7,650 for the charter of S.S. 'Cambria,' and £10,620 12s. 9d. for the cable used by her in restoring and partially renewing some of the interrupted cables referred to in the last Report. Both these amounts have been charged to the Reserve. The Directors are of opinion that this expenditure has resulted in strengthening the whole system. The question of increasing the Reserve Fund, which now stands at £93,596, has been under the consideration of the Directors; but, in view of the state of the revenue, they do not propose to make any addition to that Fund at present.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 15th. "Very dry, rain wanted."
British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co.), November 14th. "Some rain has fallen generally since last message." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd), November 15th. "Showery and unsettled." (Messrs. Curtis, Campbell & Co.), November 19th.) "No rain worth speaking of since last message." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ending November 7th, **KINGSTON**: "1st, rainy; 2nd, 3rd, fine; 4th to 6th, stormy; 7th, rainy. **PORT ANTONIO**: 1st to 7th, rain."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), November 12th:—Sister Maria Alvarez, Sister Isabel Alvarez, Sister de Beauval, Mr. Hugh Roberts, Captain Matthew Barkley, Mr. C. A. Gibbs, Mr. H. Champion Jones, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rubiano, Mr. W. Bowring, Mr. J. L. Agostini, Mr. and Mrs. Gustavo Fischer, Dr. D'arcy Irvine, Dr. W. Kenny, Miss F. Tripp, Mr. J. G. Boulcott, Mr. H. D. Huggins, Mr. W. A. Walsgrove, Dr. R. S. Romaine, Mr. N. R. McKinnon, Dr. E. G. Fonseca, Mr. W. K. Miley, Mr. H. C. Cooke, Mr. C. Waite, Mr. A. J. Walker, Mr. G. Kayne, Mr. Sydney Pontifex, Captain, Mrs. and Master Macaulay, Mr. E. Adams, Mr. Abdul Wabed, Mr. Moguljan, Mr. F. G. Koog, Mr. E. Koski.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Orinoco" (Capt. T. R. Pearce), November 21st:—Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Manning, Miss Gooding, Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher, Mrs. Tredgold, Mrs. McEwan, Mr. W. Clarke, two Misses Clarke, Mrs. Scabrook, Miss Woolcombe, Col. and Mrs. Bridges, Mr. Michael Barrett, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Wilson, Miss Humberley, Rev. J. W. Binnie, Mr. and Mrs. de Grandville, Mr. A. Kolerich, Dr. Geo. H. Masson, two Misses Berkeley, Mr. Boissy, Mr. H. T. Ross, Mrs. Colvin, Mr. D. A. MacIntyre, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Alexander, Rev. Wallace Smith, Miss E. Scott, Miss A. Bell, Dr. Francis Watts, C.M.G., Mr. Charles Blacker, Mr. Robert Kerr, Mr. Jno. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. J. May, Mr. Joseph Connolly, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Glab, Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., Mrs. Browne, Mr. Hadden, Mr. Sutcliffe, Mr. Rance, Miss Connolly, Miss Summers, Mr. D. Fogarty, Miss Geary.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), December 5th:—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Miss E. Holt, Miss E. Mather, Mrs. Grant Blunt, Mr. C. A. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Collymore, Mrs. Staddock, Mr. and Mrs. John A. and Master Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Garner, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashley Bovell, Mr. and Mrs. George Longstaff, Messrs. H. and F. Wollmer, Mr. Roland Bateman, Mr. Roger Schunck, Dr. Von Winckler, Mr. Thomas Garroway, Mr. l'Aiquebelle, Miss Hepburn, Mr. Esdaile, Miss Thalme Wylie, Sir. W. K. Cumming, Bart., Mr. H. Scabrook, Miss H. Thompson, Mrs. E. C. Wilson, Brigadier Nehemiah Glover, Mrs. Glover, Miss E. Glover, Master E. Glover, Miss A. Glover, Mrs. Tredgold, Mr. Rafael A. Reyes, Mrs. de Reyes, Master Alvaro Reyes, Miss Miranda, Mr. C. Stanley Musgrave, Mr. G. Hawer, Mr. Walter Ashton, Hon. and Mrs. W. S. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hamlyn Nott, Mrs. F. Fowler, Mr. Albert S. White.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), December 19th:—Mr. Eric H. Streatfield, Major Edward Bocher, Mr. Charles Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hargreave and son, Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., Lady Treves, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Tennant, Miss Jane Tennant, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Hoad, Mr. E. S. Ruano.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons) November 6th:—Miss M. de Alcazar, Mr. H. Gurney, Mr. Robert Johnstone, Mrs. and Miss Oliver, Mr. A. W. Greenwood, Mr. C. D. Ingram, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lane, Mr. R. Pashley, Mr. J. S. Robertson, Coy. S.M. Cooper, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Carubi and seven children, Mr. James Dawson.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), November 17th—Jamaica:—Mr. H. E. Borough, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Browne and child, Mr. F. E. Bates, Miss E. Buckley, Mr. Cresswell, Mr. J. F. Colliss, Miss Davy, Mrs. and Master Eves, Mr. Finzi, Miss Groat, M. A. Gray, Mr. V. Hoskings, Mr. P. W. Hay, Mrs. and Miss Hastings, Mrs. Hunter, Mr. H. C. Heselton, Mrs. Jay, Mr. W. G. Kirby, Hon. Dr. J. and Mrs. Errington Ker, Mr. Geo. W. Kay, Dowager Lady Lyveden, Miss and Master Lyons, Capt. C. R. Leslie, Miss W. Loveland, Mr. E. F. B. Lacon, Major, Mrs. Master and Miss McGillycuddy, Col. E. D. Malcolm, Miss E. Moser, Mr., Mrs.,

Master and Miss Pringle, Mrs. Richmond, Mrs. Ros, Mrs. Sale, Mr. S. L. Schloss, Capt and Mrs. Stuart, Miss Stuart, Miss Spencer, Miss M. Geddes-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. C. Syer, Miss R. Sharim, Rev. F. and Miss Stewart, Hon. J. R. Watson, Mr. W. W. Walker, Mr. A. L. Watson. **Bermuda** :—Mr. F. J. Brown, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. C. D. Durnford, Lt.-Col. Frewen, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Hamilton, Mr. Stuart Hamilton, Master Frederick Hamilton, Miss M. F. Haycock, Mr. W. W. Jones, Miss Mathison, Mrs. Neave, Miss N. H. Roberts, Mr. L. E. Starmer, Staff-Surgeon and Mrs. H. W. B. Shawell, M.B., M.A., Miss Trott.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Our readers are reminded that the latest date for the despatch of Christmas letters and parcels to the Colonies, are as follows :

Destination.	Letters, &c.		Parcels.	
	Date of despatch to secure arrival about (see footnote)		Date of despatch to secure arrival about (see footnote)	
	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.	Christmas Day.	New Year's Day.
Bahamas	Dec. 5	Dec. 19	*Nov. 30	*Dec. 14
Bermuda	Dec. 8	Dec. 8	*Nov. 30	*Dec. 7
British Honduras... ..	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	*Nov. 23	*Nov. 23
West Indies (British), Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts	Nov. 21	Dec. 5	Nov. 20	Dec. 4
Barbados, Dominica, Demerara, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, and Trinidad	Dec. 5	Dec. 5	Dec. 4	Dec. 4
Jamaica	Dec. 5	Dec. 14	Nov. 30	Dec. 14

* Despatched from Liverpool the following day.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Nov. 21	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Orinoco"	Nov. 20, mdn't.
" 22	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool ...	Leyland Line	"Albanian"	" 21, 6 p.m.
" 27	Demerara	Liverpool ...	Liverpool Line	"Bryssel"	" 26, 6 p.m.
" 30	Barbados (for St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica), Grenada, Trinidad and Demerara	Dartmouth ...	Direct Line	"Saba"	" 30, noon.
Dec. 1	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"	" 30, 6 p.m.
" 5	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	Dec. 4, mdn't.

In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Nov. 21	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"
" 26	The West Indies	Southampton ...	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"
Dec. 5	Jamaica	Avonmouth ...	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Royal"

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica. -		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 1904	1905	Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 1904	1905	April 1 to Oct. 31 1904	1905	Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 1904	1905	Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 1904	1905
Sugar	49,824	49,141 Tns.	66,380	59,310 Tons.	8691	6870 Tons.	506,113	299,930 Bgs. & Bcls.	...	...
Molasses	61,034	38,349 Pns.	2970	2124 Casks.	...	...	2881	2887 Pns.	...	...
Rum	11,823	11,130 Pns.	990,565	754,124 Galls.	266	178 Trcs.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasscult	102	164 Bcls.	...	...
Oleo	1230	349 Pns.	...	...
Coffee
Cacoonuts	52,128	244,171	3,091,272	2,837,966	9,897,375	8,234,447	...	...
Copra	14,999	9167 Bags.	...	...
Cotton	16,882	38,484 lbs.	...	...	...	...
Cotton Seed	174,343	94,302 Tons.	...	...
Asphalt
Oranges	30,268,382	38,800,513	...	...	...	...
Bananas	10,692,548	20,141,929 Stms.	...	...	...	...
Pimento	47,157	51,957 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	73,810	75,637 ozs.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diamonds	2077	2036 carats.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rice	953,639	30,795 lbs.	...	...	...	...	...	...

457 692 Bcls.
63 94 1/2 Bcls.
47 50 Cases
3 12 Bags

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—Fluctuations in the price of 88% beet are taking place as usual, but the business doing in the speculative market is confined to trifling lots, the stringent position of the money market keeping in check any expansion in this direction. The statistical position of sugar for later on in the season, say in the early spring and summer, is undoubtedly sound, but for the moment with the beet crops in full swing and the near approach of another Cuba crop, together with the 6% Bank rate, Refiners and the Trade are not likely to change their hand to mouth policy, a line of action little calculated to cause any immediate advances in prices. The beet roots are all secured, and so far as Convention Europe is concerned may produce 700,000 tons less sugar than last year when all worked up. The Cuba crop promises a yield of somewhere about the same size as in 1906, if labour troubles do not arise, which is quite possible. Other large producing Countries seem to be fairly well off, so that with a decent Consumption we do not seem in front of any overplus of sugar, and prices are undoubtedly low. In a large article like this it is absolutely impossible to suggest a definite forecast, but it seems reasonable to conclude that the second half of the campaign offers a brighter prospect than the first half, in which we are now engaged.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 19th November were as follows:—November, 8s. 9½d.; December, 8s. 9½d.; January/March, 8s. 11½d.; May, 9s. 1½d.; Aug., 9s. 3½d., and Oct./Dec., 1907, 9s. 0¾d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	1,660,000	1,680,000	1,530,000	2,050,000	1,910,000	
United States	130,000	210,000	130,000	100,000	180,000	..
Cuba... ..	—	110,000	—	120,000	70,000	..
Afloat	60,000	60,000	110,000	110,000	70,000	..

Total 1,850,000 2,060,000 1,770,000 2,380,000 2,280,000 ..
 Quotations of 88% Beet, 19th Nov. :— 8s. 9½d. 8s. 4d. 13s. 10½d. 8s. 6d. 7s. 10d.

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—An improved demand for yellow crystallised has again set in, and fair sales have been made within the range of 16s. to 17s. 6d., being firmer prices, raising the value of average prices to 16s. 6d. Deliveries, notwithstanding the dull state of the sugar trade, continue highly satisfactory and are referred to at foot. The nominal value of a 96 centrifugal cargo to Refiners is 10s. 3d., on floating conditions.

Molasses Sugar continues in good demand for the lower grades from 11s. to 11s. 6d., duty paid, but grocery kind only sell in retail at irregular prices. The value of 8½ test is somewhere about 8s. 3d. in bond, on floating terms.

Muscovado.—There is nothing passing in grocery kinds, the quotations of which range from 14s. to 15s., duty paid. To Refiners 8½ test is worth about 9s. in bond on floating conditions.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	Tons.
Imports	47,000	34,000	37,000	21,000	56,000	
Deliveries	43,000	36,000	42,000	36,000	38,000	..
Stocks, 29th Oct.	13,000	8000	7000	13,000	30,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 19th Nov. :—	16s. 6d.	15s. 0d.	22s. 9d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 3d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 10 months :

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Home Consumption	2,080,000	2,920,000	2,970,000
Stocks 31st Oct.	6,880,000	7,750,000	9,170,000
Stocks in London, 12th Nov. :			
Jamaica	8400	8500	10,200
Demerara	2700	4800	5500
Total of all kinds	17,900	21,000	24,100
			27,800

In the absence of any supplies of Demerara in Importers' hands business remains suspended, and it is not possible to give any quotations. Arrivals are due next week, and we shall then know on what basis business will be resumed. Jamaica is steady, Standard Home Trade Marks being difficult to buy at 2s. 2d. Leewarda and other Foreign kinds, like Demerara, are nominal. Home Consumption, according to the Board of Trade Returns printed above, remains normal.

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 10 months :

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Imports	20,500	19,800	23,200
Home Consumption	17,000	16,600	16,900
Stocks 31st Oct.	3700	4800	5800
Stocks in London, 12th Nov. :			
Trinidad	9200	17,600	25,700
Grenada	3900	9100	8000
Total of all kinds	49,800	68,800	84,100
			56,500

This Market is starved for supplies, as will be seen by the figures printed above. The trifling lots of West India available have been absorbed by our smaller manufacturers at again higher prices, but the larger ones are enabled to resist the advance. The quotations now given are only for retail lots, and must be considered quite nominal for cocoa in quantity: Trinidad fair collected, 75s., Estate Marks, 70s. to 82s.; Grenada fair, 66s., fermented, 68s. to 72s. From other Islands Native cocoa is worth about 65s., and fermented up to 72s. Consumption in this country shows no expansion, see Board of Trade Returns printed above. Stocks, however, need replenishing.

Sundries.—**Coffee:** quiet, unchanged, good ordinary Jamaica, 42s. **NUTMEGS:** steady, with good sales of West India including, 58's at 2s. 3d., 68's at 1s. 2d., 76's at 1s., 90's at 8d., 106's at 6½d., 120's at 5½d., 130's at 5½d., and 154's at 5d. **MACE:** steady, with sales of good pale, 1s. 6d., and fair to good red, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. **PIMENTO:** quiet, fair value, 2½d. to 3½d. **Arrowroot:** steady, with small sales of good manufacturing St. Vincent at 2½d. **GINGER:** steady, ordinary to good ordinary Jamaica sold at 57s. to 59s., and middling, 53s. to 64s. **Lime Juice*:** CONCENTRATED, £22 5s. to £22 10s. **HARD PRESSED,** 3s. 6d. **DISTILLED OIL,** 2s. 4d.

* Per favour of Messrs. Scrutton, Sons & Co

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No. LXXXI.



The Most Rev. Enos Nuttall, D.D.
Archbishop of the West Indies.

The West India Committee Rooms,

13 SERPENTINE LANE, LONDON.

Dec. 3rd, 1906

Telegram: "CARIB, LONDON." Telephone: 8642 CENTRAL.

WE regret to notice that the curious confusion of ideas regarding the sugar tax and the Brussels Convention is still in evidence in certain quarters. The *Mineral Water Trade Journal*, in its issue of November 17th, speaks of the disastrous effect of the sugar tax as being emphasised by the Sugar Convention. "Say what you will," says the *Journal*, "the critics of our demands cannot deny that the delivered price of sugar is at this moment more than 4s. per cwt. beyond what it was in 1899-00, when there was no duty." As a matter of fact, at the corresponding period in 1899 and 1900 the price of German granulated delivered was 11s. 8½d. and 12s., while the price to-day is 15s. 6d., the difference being *less*, instead of *more* than the amount of the tax—in direct contradistinction, therefore, to the statement of our contemporary—in spite of the Brussels Convention. We are glad, however, to see that the mineral water interests at last recognise that we are in accord with them on the subject of the removal of the tax, but regret the motive which they impute to us, viz., that the West India Committee, by co-operating with the confectioners, "will thus reconcile the sugar using industries of Great Britain

co-operating with the confectioners, "will thus reconcile the sugar using industries of Great Britain

to the operation of the Convention." Let us once for all impress upon our contemporary that the Sugar Convention and the sugar tax have no relation whatever to one another, and that we have never taken up any attitude with regard to the tax other than that of approving of it as a temporary measure. It was levied as a contribution towards the cost of the Boer war, and it has served its end. There is, therefore, no more need for it until—and we trust this will never be the case—another such emergency arises. The Brussels Convention has also served, and is still serving, a valuable purpose, that of putting a stop to an unjust competition based on protection and monopoly, on bounties and cartel-trusts in an important industrial commodity, between foreign countries and Great Britain and the British Colonies. We had thought that the bogey of this International Agreement having raised the price of sugar had been dissipated by the irrefutable evidence on this point which has during the past twelve months been brought forward by the West India Committee, but judging from the statements to which we have taken exception above, it seems as though this were not the case. Let us put the matter clearly once for all. The price of sugar in this country has *not* been raised by the Convention; all that the Convention does and can do is to eliminate the influence of bounties and cartels on the average price of sugar. What the Continental bounty and cartel system did do was to upset the natural adjustment of the supply and demand of sugar *throughout the whole world*, thus causing excessive variations in price against the interests of every industry dependent on sugar, as well as the interests of all direct consumers. This balance the Brussels Convention restored. Surely the confectionery and mineral water industries of this country would not wish their industries conducted on such a perilous basis as that of the price of sugar being regulated, not by the natural cost of production, but by the caprice of foreign protectionists? We would draw the attention of those who by advocating the withdrawal of Great Britain from the Convention are operating towards the return of the old bounty and modern cartel-trust systems, to a letter of Mr. WALLWYN P. B. SHEPHEARD in 1878 to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, which we reproduce elsewhere. In that letter Mr. Shephard urged that "a fundamental and unassailable principle of free trade demanded that natural advantages of soil, situation, climate and industrial skill should govern production and distribution, thereby reducing cost of production to a minimum, and, by free competition, securing to the consumer the full benefit of such natural advantages." It is well that this principle should be borne in mind at the present juncture. Meanwhile the Brussels' correspondent of the *Times* makes it perfectly clear that no official intimation as to withdrawal from the Sugar Convention has as yet been made by the British Government; nor, we understand, does anything in this connection appear in the agenda paper of the Permanent Commission, the next meeting of which is fixed for the 10th inst. From the extract from the *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*, which we give in another column, it is manifest that the German sugar producers would view our withdrawal with satisfaction, but the French with regret.

THE excerpts in our last issue from the letter of our British Honduras correspondent, Mr. A. R. USHER, outlined the present position of affairs as regards the development of that Colony by means of railway, telegraphic and steamer communication, and we wish we could point to greater action on the part of the Government in this direction. As matters now stand, there are three railway schemes contemplated—the frontier scheme, which we have all along advocated in these columns and in agitating for which the late Mr. C. T. HUNTER took such an active part, running from Belize, the capital, to the Guatemalan frontier; the Stann Creek railway line, originally advanced by the Home Government as a means of developing a banana industry, and as a substituted measure for the frontier scheme, starting from Stann Creek, a small hamlet on the coast, and running inland for twelve miles or thereabouts, lying to the north of Belize and the Punta Gorda line. As regards the first of these—the frontier line—the negotiations concerning which we have every reason to understand were approaching a satisfactory conclusion at the time of Mr. HUNTER'S death, it will, we

much fear, owing to that sad event be postponed for a while. We, sincerely trust, however, in the interests of the Colony, that in the case of such an important project, it will merely be a case of postponement and not abandonment. The Stann Creek Railway scheme is now being held back in an unaccountable way. The funds have been voted by the Legislature, the line has been surveyed, and the excuse given by the British Honduras Government for delay in starting work—an excuse which, by-the-by, is more of an explanation than an excuse—is, that the Colonial Office has not yet appointed an engineer to carry on the work! With the view of expediting matters, the Legislative Council have passed a resolution impressing upon the Government the desirability of commencing the Stann Creek Railway at once, so, if there should be any further delay, the fault will lie solely at the door of the Colonial Office. A further resolution which was agreed to was to the effect that the consulting engineer's fees should be kept as low as possible, a very necessary point when the experience of the West Indian Colonies as to the Crown Agents' charges is borne in mind! The Punta Gorda scheme is not likely to be dealt with at present; in fact, with the Stann Creek Railway in progress in the immediate future, and, we hope, the frontier railway later on, the hands of the Colony will be fairly full. Telegraph connection with the Mexican line on the other side of the Hondo River is still hanging fire, and delay in this matter again seems to be due to the procrastination of the authorities at home. In these days, a Colony without adequate telegraphic communication, is in every way placed in an unfortunate position, and its commercial development severely hampered. Any Colony not supplied with efficient mail and cable communication with the outside world must inevitably fall behind. We sincerely trust, therefore, that the connection between the British Honduras and Mexican line will soon be an accomplished fact. This is a striking instance of the way in which the exaggerated *festina lente* policy of home officials is prejudicing Colonial development. The other matter with which our correspondent deals is that of mail communication. The local Government called for tenders in the earlier part of the year for a five years' service to carry out mails between the port of Belize and other ports in British Honduras to some port or ports in the United Kingdom, Canada, or the United States, either weekly, fortnightly, or monthly. On September 30th, the time limit for tendering, only one tender had been received—from the United Fruit Company—but as during the summer months, on account of the U.S. quarantine regulations, no passengers are carried by these steamers, the Colonists are, naturally, anxious to subsidise some other line, and it is thought that the Government, even although the tender of the United Fruit Company be accepted, will be prepared to pay something for a Canadian line. We should be glad to see the present Line running from this country to the West Indies, extending its itinerary to British Honduras, and this willingness of the Government of the latter Colony might prove the basis of a definite arrangement.

IN another column we give a brief report on the scheme for the insurance of buildings and estates in the West Indies against damage by hurricane, which was arranged at the beginning of this year by MESSRS. HENRY HEAD AND Co., at the suggestion of Mr. H. HESKETH BELL, the late Administrator of Dominica. The idea being a comparatively new one, the volume of business has naturally been rather small, planters not being as yet accustomed to insure against risks of this kind, although they have for many years past been calling out for some such arrangement. Mr. E. A. AGAR, one of our Hon. Correspondents in Dominica, has gone so far as to express disappointment that the Island passed through the last hurricane season without the occurrence of any cataclysm which might serve as a warning to those planters who were holding aloof from the scheme, and while on the one hand we must congratulate Dominica on escaping disaster, we cannot help feeling a considerable amount of sympathy with Mr. AGAR's argument, as a moderate "blow" would have served to impress upon planters the importance of insuring and not waiting to close the stable door until after the departure of the proverbial horse. So far, the volume of business, as might be expected, considering the

antecedents of the scheme, has proved to be larger in Dominica than in the other Islands; but the difficulty there, as elsewhere, is that planters unfortunately have very little money to spare, and consequently many pursue the usual method of going on in the hope that everything will turn out right, without putting by a reserve to meet contingencies, a policy the dangers of which it is unnecessary to enlarge upon. But the price of Dominica staples is now high, and money will begin to circulate more readily in the Island. Plantations will become more valuable, and the planter whose estate is devastated by a hurricane will, we imagine, receive no sympathy, practical or otherwise, if he has failed to prepare for the inevitable rainy—we might say stormy—day. Undoubtedly the payment of a premium must involve some sacrifice, but it should be borne in mind that it enables the planter with safety to spend all the money he has got in the extension of cultivation. The chief objection so far raised to the insurance proposals as at present formulated appears to lie in the fact that the underwriters will only insure with what is called an excess clause, that is to say, they require the planter to bear a certain percentage of loss in any event. We understand that the object of the underwriters is to protect the planters against disasters, and it must be clear from a business point of view that a continuous stream of small claims would in no time run away with all the premiums. Further, it is obvious that in the case of buildings it is undoubtedly more satisfactory that the owner should risk losing a small amount himself, as it is only in accordance with human nature that a man should take a little more trouble to prevent damage when he knows that his own pocket will be affected. Hurricane insurance cannot be compared with fire insurance. Under ordinary circumstances a fire should not and does not occur, and the premium is accordingly calculated on the basis that there will only be a small number of fires. Sooner or later, however, hurricanes are sure to occur, and underwriters have, therefore, to provide for the inevitable and calculate the premium accordingly. If all claims were to be paid in full, it is only reasonable to suppose that the premium would have to be higher than it is, just as in the case of insurance of cultivation, which the underwriters are prepared to accept at the premium of 40s. %, returning 5s. for no claim, and paying claims in full, provided that they amount to at least 5 %. We are credibly informed that in the Fiji Islands, where arrangements for insurance have also been concluded recently, planters are required to pay higher rates than those prevailing in the case of the West Indies, and our friends in the latter Colonies may therefore take heart and realise that they are being favourably treated. We hope most sincerely that the scheme will not be allowed to drop, as so many in the West Indies are, through lack of support.

ELSEWHERE we reproduce the reply of SIR EDWARD GREY to a question asked in the House of Commons as to MR. CONSUL NIGHTINGALE'S report on the San Thomé labour question, to which M. ALMADA NEGREIKOS alludes in his letter on the subject in our last issue. It is seen that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs does not consider that the Consul's report on the subject is sufficiently explicit to render it ready for publication as yet. SIR EDWARD GREY says: "This and other information which has been received, or is expected soon, will be brought to the notice of the Portuguese Government, in the hope that they will take steps to remedy the evils that exist." We have thus evidence from an undoubted source that evils exist of a sufficiently serious character to justify representations to a friendly power—representations which constitute interference in domestic affairs which could only be justified by actual slavery conditions. We sincerely trust that the Portuguese Government will recognise the position, and that the international obligations regarding slavery, on which such representations must be based, will be fulfilled.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF THE WEST INDIES.

The Most Reverend Enos Nuttall, D.D., Archbishop of the West Indies and Bishop of Jamaica, was ordained deacon and priest by the Right Rev. Reginald Courtney, D.D., Bishop of Kingston, Jamaica, in 1866. He was placed in charge of St. George's, Kingston, Jamaica, and for



Photograph by

(ALFONSO E. ARFALLA)

A GROUP OF BAMBOOS,
(Bambusa Gigantea).
THE BOTANICAL GARDENS, TRINIDAD.

fourteen years he carried on with great vigour the work of a large and highly organised town parish. In 1870 the Jamaica church was disestablished and disendowed, and at that critical time Mr. Nuttall, as he then was, took a leading part in the establishment of a sound financial system for the Church's manifold activities throughout the diocese. In July, 1880, on the death of Bishop Tozer, Mr. Nuttall was elected by the Synod to the Bishopric of Jamaica. He proceeded to England and was consecrated Bishop in St. Paul's Cathedral on St. Simon and St. Jude's Day, October 28th, 1880. In 1893, on the death of Bishop Austin, of Guiana, he was elected by the Bishops of the Province to the Primacy of the West Indies, and in 1897 he, in common with the Primates of several other provinces, assumed the title of Archbishop, at the request of the Pan-Anglican Conference of Bishops at Lambeth. Since his ordination in 1866 Archbishop Nuttall has been foremost in every important religious, social, educational and philanthropic movement in the Island, and he has taken a deep and practical interest in all that concerns the material as well as the spiritual welfare of the people. His Episcopate will be especially noted for the masterly skill with which the church has been guided during the difficult transitional period that has followed the Disestablishment Act of 1870, when state aid was suddenly cut off, and the church became a self-supporting organisation. As legislator, administrator, organiser, educationalist and social reformer, he has brought many tasks of high importance to a successful accomplishment, and as a preacher and teacher his influence and power are no less distinguished. In matters agricultural also, the Archbishop has always taken a keen and lively interest, and his opinion on such subjects is always eagerly sought. He is a prominent member of the West India Committee.

A GROUP OF BAMBOOS.

The subject of our full-page illustration in the present issue is a magnificent group of bamboos in the Botanical Gardens, Trinidad. The Giant Bamboo (*Bambusa* or *Dendrocalamus gigantea*) grows easily in the Trinidad climate. When fresh stems make their appearance, they grow very rapidly. Careful observation and regular measurement have shown that they lengthen at the rate of about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. per hour, and attain their full growth in about three months! It will be remembered that Mr. J. H. Hart, the Trinidad Commissioner at the Colonial Exhibition of 1905, exhibited four of these enormous bamboos, which were over 80 ft. high, and were a constant source of attraction. Owing to their great length much difficulty was experienced in getting the bamboos to the Crystal Palace, where they have now a permanent resting-place.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, November 22nd, Mr. Spencer H. Curtis presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
J. & R. TENNENT, Ltd.	Owen Philipps, M.P.	Frank W. Ker.
EDGAR R. EVERINGTON.	Francis E. Everington.	Howard K. F. Smith.
J. E. McCLEAN (Dominica).	L. P. Wrench.	C. H. Grell.
PERCIVALE R. K. ESDAILE (Dominica).	E. L. Marshall.	D. Mackintosh.
HON. N. R. MCKINNON, K.C. (British Guiana).	F. J. Morris.	F. I. Scard.
H. B. LEGGATT.	C. Macdougall.	W. A. Wolseley.
DR. ESTEBROOKE (Trinidad).	F. N. Martinez.	Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.
P. J. MACKIE.	Cyril Gurney.	H. A. Trotter.
DAVID DELBANCO.	Ed. Kynaston.	Edward Anderson.
MAJOR F. MACLIVER ROOME.	C. H. Ward.	Spencer H. Curtis.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

In order to ensure a regular Intercolonial connection being maintained with the R.M.S.P. Company's transatlantic steamers at Barbados, the "Eden" is leaving Barbados to-day for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara, so that she may form a connection with those Colonies and the homeward steamer "La Plata," due to leave Barbados on December 11th. The "Eden," by this arrangement, will also be able to meet the outward steamer "Magdalena" at Barbados and convey the mails to St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara. To make a connection with the "Magdalena" homeward at Barbados on January 15th it is proposed to retain the Intercolonial steamer at Demerara from the 5th until the 12th January, despatching her on that date (12th) for Grenada and St. Vincent, arriving at Barbados on January 15th. It is suggested to make the homeward connection at Barbados on January 15th the steamship "Yare" should leave Dominica on the 13th instead of the 6th January.

In addition there will be the cost of fruit and vegetable planting, but the crop may be considered to off-set this. The expenses for the second year will be:—

Replanting when required	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£
Weeding during 12 months	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
									96
									116

The expenses for the third and following years will be for weeding about £50. The yield of coffee should be about 10 quintals (1,000 pounds) per carrea (1/10th of a caballeria) in the third year, and from 20 to 25 quintals after that. The cost of picking, drying, husking and marketing the coffee will be from 7 cents to 9 cents per pound, and it will sell for from 16 to 22 cents per pound. Cacao will begin to bear about the eighth year, and a good average crop will be from 1,800 pounds to 2,000 pounds per 7/8th of a caballeria, or from 540 pounds to 600 pounds per acre, though specially good land may yield more. The cost of picking, husking and sacking is small, not much over 1 cent per pound, and the price obtainable in Santiago is about 10 cents per pound. One great advantage which cacao possesses over coffee is that the crop matures, and can be gathered during more than half the year; while coffee must be gathered as it is ripe, and it is often very difficult to obtain the requisite labour to do this. A well-established cacao plantation requires very little weeding or care, and the trees will continue to bear for from 60 to 70 years. Cacao also commands a good price in the world's market, and does not depend, as does coffee in Cuba, on a purely local market, and an import duty of 8 cents per pound. A favourite way to establish a plantation in Cuba is on the "colonos" system, whereby the proprietor assigns a certain quantity of land to the cultivator for a fixed term of years, with or without small advances for the purchase of seed, &c. The cultivator shares the crop with the proprietor after the land comes into bearing, and on turning it back to the proprietor upon the termination of the contract, which is usually for 7 years or longer, he receives a certain sum—about £20 per carreau (3 1/2 acres) for the land in cultivation. An established plantation is worth from £1,000 to £1,600 per caballeria according to situation, &c.

EXPORTATION OF CACAO DURING THE YEARS 1903, 1904, AND 1905

Countries.	1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Weight. lbs.	Value. £	Weight. lbs.	Value. £	Weight. lbs.	Value. £
United States and Puerto Rico	3,974,455	81,834	3,796,308	80,228	2,216,213	44,800
Great Britain and Possessions	270,688	5,530	207,427	3,803	119,735	2,463
France	60,100	2,180	364,782	7,984	332,862	7,060
Germany	475,964	12,526	815,040	16,271	72,027	1,540
Spain	755,734	18,366	648,640	17,722	832,164	22,220
Austria	—	—	—	—	22,382	515
Mexico	37,011	960	56,766	1,195	115,038	2,965
Holland	—	—	—	—	121,030	2,704
Italy	—	—	43,972	880	66,253	1,426
Morocco	—	—	14,005	326	—	—
Total	5,600,952	121,396	5,945,940	128,409	3,897,704	85,093

THE BRITISH COTTON GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester presiding over the annual meeting of the British Cotton Growing Association at the Manchester Town Hall on November 20th, said that it was not wise to depend for our raw material on one country alone, and he only hoped the people of Lancashire, who were more interested than anybody else, would see to it that the Association was well supported. Sir Alfred Jones, who proposed the adoption of the Annual Report, a summary of which has already appeared in the *West India Committee Circular*, said how much they regretted the absence of Mr. J. A. Hutton, who was unfortunately indisposed. He thought that the work that had been done far exceeded anything which was expected. There was no doubt that if the Association progressed as it had done in the past they would in a short time be able to provide Lancashire with a new supply of cotton, which would to a very great extent free them from any possible "cornering" on the part of the market. There was no doubt that in the West Indies and in Africa there was an enormous area suitable for growing cotton. The West Indies had worked very well on their own account, and had received a good price for their cotton. Dealing with the proposed visit of cotton spinners to the West Indies, he said that he proposed calling on Sir Daniel Morris, the Commissioner of Agriculture, saying that the Association would welcome in Manchester in May next a deputation of planters from the West Indies, so that a conference could be held in this country. The Lord Mayor of Manchester had kindly offered to

* Values have been reduced from dollars to pounds sterling at \$5 to the £1.

entertain the visitors and members of the Association to a banquet at the Town Hall. Mr. J. E. Newton, Chairman of the Council, emphasised the importance of Lancashire coming to the assistance of the Association in order that the work should not be limited. Mr. William Howarth and Mr. B. Crapper supported the resolution, and the report was duly adopted. Sir Alfred Jones was re-elected President of the Association, and the Duke of Marlborough, Sir W. H. Houldsworth, Sir F. Forbes Adam and Mr. Alfred Emmott, M.P., Vice-Presidents, and the retiring members of Council having been re-elected, the proceedings were brought to a close with the usual complimentary resolutions.

WEST INDIA CABLE COMMUNICATION.

The following letter was addressed by the West India Committee to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 19th last:—

My Lord,—We have approached your Lordship on various occasions with regard to the question of cable communication with and between our West Indian Colonies.

2. We believe that it is now generally recognised that the present cable system, except in so far as Jamaica is concerned, is extremely unsatisfactory and costly. The matter has been the subject of resolutions adopted by the principal West Indian Colonies and British Guiana, and also by the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire at their recent meetings. Having regard, moreover, to the great importance to merchants and planters of a regular and reliable means of communication, the West India Committee, who have already expressed their views to your Lordship on this subject in a Report which was forwarded to the Colonial Office on January 5th last, and subsequently to the principal Colonial Governments, feel that no excuse is necessary for addressing you again on this subject.

3. It will be within your Lordship's recollection that in the Report referred to, the West India Committee expressed the opinion that an improvement of the existing state of affairs could best be attained:

(a) By laying a new cable from Bermuda to Barbados.

(b) By laying new cables from (1) Barbados to Trinidad, and (2) from Barbados or Trinidad to Demerara.

(c) The establishment on an efficient basis of a connecting cable between the Windward and Leeward Islands and Barbados, with a reduction of the message rate to 4s. 2d. per word.

4. The suggestions contained in the Report commended themselves to the majority of the West Indian Colonies, and it is, therefore, with some concern that we have learnt that the proposals for laying the new cables are likely to be set aside in favour of a system of wireless telegraphy, which, though possibly suited for short distances for intermittent periods, and where the quantity of messages is not heavy, appears as yet insufficiently developed to be of practical utility for commercial purposes.

5. We have been at pains to enquire into the working of wireless telegraphy in different parts of the world, and have been unable to find one single instance in which it has been in continuous use for commercial purposes for any period of time. On the other hand, since the year 1900, forty-eight new cables have been laid, with a total length of 63,344 nautical miles, between many places which might have been considered suitable for wireless telegraphy, which would, they venture to think, hardly have been the case if the adoption of the latter at a lower cost had been considered advisable. Moreover, we are assured that during heavy rains or high winds wireless is generally useless, and as the West Indies are subject to both, your Lordship will realize how important it is that the merchants should not have to depend on this means of communication alone.

6. We venture, therefore, to hope that your Lordship will again give the Report of January 4th, 1906, your most earnest consideration. Your Lordship will, we believe, do us the credit of believing that in making these representations to you, we have only the welfare of the West Indies, in which our members have so large an interest at stake, at heart, and that you will, therefore, be pleased to allow the West India Committee to be kept fully informed as to any further negotiations which may be undertaken with a view to ameliorating cable communication.

7. As regards the financial aspect of the question, we have already pointed out to your Lordship our views as to the claim which we feel the West Indies have on the Imperial Government for some assistance towards establishing an efficient cable, but we might add that in the event of such assistance not being forthcoming, it still might be possible to establish new cables on some basis of guarantee.

Trusting that your Lordship will be pleased to give this matter your earnest consideration,
We have the honour to be, &c.,

NEVILLE LUBBOCK, *Chairman.*
ALGERNON E. ASPINALL, *Secretary.*

To the above letter a reply has been received from Lord Elgin, dated November 26th, to the effect that the question of cable communication with the British West Indies is now under consideration by a committee, and that pending their final recommendations, he can make no statement on the subject. In this connection it may be mentioned that the Demerara-Trinidad Cable, which was interrupted on November 18th, was restored on November 27th.

THE ECONOMICS OF THE BOUNTY QUESTION.

In the discussions which arise regarding the Sugar Question, it is well that the principles for which the West Indies have contended should not be allowed to be obscured by side issues. The following letter addressed by Mr. Wallwyn P. B. Sheppard to Sir Stafford Northcote, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, on June 27th, 1878, on behalf and by request of a deputation of sugar operatives, summarizes in a striking manner the economic principles which Mr. Sheppard, as Honorary Adviser on Economic and Treaty points to the Workmen's Association, formulated and on which the subsequent agitation was conducted. After considerable discussion the Trade Unions adopted in 1888 absolute prohibition instead of countervailing duties as the penal sanction. After referring to the proposed deputation of sugar refining operatives which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had agreed to receive, Mr. Sheppard wrote:—

Being materially interested in our tropical sugar cultivation, I have for many years had my attention directed to this question. I crave, therefore, your kind consideration of a few points I would most respectfully urge in favour of a countervailing duty, which I would remind you, Sir, was the remedy provided by the Sugar Convention of 1864.

You, Sir, must, I am afraid, admit that diplomacy has failed to redress the grievance. Hence fiscal action demands attention; because it can hardly be conceded, as consistent with sound commercial policy, that our free-trade industries are to be diverted by aggressive foreign protection from their natural sphere of operation in this country.

A fundamental and unassailable principle of free trade demands that natural advantages of soil, situation, climate, and industrial skill should govern production and distribution, and should form the basis of all competition, thereby reducing cost of production to a minimum, and, by free competition, securing to the consumer the full benefit of such natural advantages.

I ought to apologise for reminding you, Sir, of such a trite economic truth. But there are those who ignore this principle which vindicates free trade, and, when our sugar industry, in reliance on it, asks for redress against State subsidies to rival producers, view their just appeal with suspicion and contempt as a demand for protection.

The export bounties, which check the harmonious working of our sugar industry on free-trade principles, flow from the treasuries of foreign States. As the bounty enters our market it compels its equivalent from the English free-trader as the condition of his competition.

Impose a countervailing duty, and the bounty is intercepted for the revenue. The consumer loses what he was not entitled to, and the taxpayer gains. Probably the bounty is stopped.

This is free trade, with free competition on the basis of natural advantages.

On the other hand let the bounty operate on our markets; the consumer pockets it so long as the English producer can maintain the competition by providing the equivalent. This equivalent of the foreign subsidy operates as a tax on his profits, already adjusted to a minimum by free-trade competition. Consequently our free-trade producers are gradually supplanted in their own markets by foreign protectionists.

This surely is not free trade.

It is interesting to note that one of the most eminent of modern Economists, F. W. Taussig, Professor of Political Economy at Harvard University, in referring to the Brussels Sugar Convention Act of the Imperial Parliament and the opposition to its passing, wrote in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (Boston, U.S.A., 1904), of which he is the editor:—

The situation was so exceptional that even a convinced free-trader might accede to this drastic mode of ending it. The bounty system was certainly a greater violation of the principle of free-trade than the prohibition, or taxation, of bounty-fed imports.

THE MAIL QUESTION.

Many complaints continue to be received from the Northern Islands regarding the inadequacy of the mail arrangements—a subject to which frequent reference has been made in the *West India Committee Circular*—and it is generally recognised that nothing short of a second intercolonial steamer can meet the case, and thus give satisfaction. It may be convenient to recall that the present agreement between the Crown Agents and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company provides for a fortnightly service between Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada and British Guiana, and for a four-weekly service between Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Antigua, Nevis and St. Kitts. Mails are carried

between these Colonies free of charge, but the carriage of mails from Barbados to England is paid for by the Colonies from which the mails are despatched, as they have been since the termination of the general contract. In consideration for this service the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company receive a subsidy at the rate of £17,500 per annum, of which one-half will be paid by the Imperial Government, the other half being divided between the Colonies concerned in accordance with the following scale:—

British Guiana...	—	—	—	£3,650	St. Lucia ...	...	...	...	£400
Barbados ...	—	—	—	3,200	St. Kitts-Nevis ...	...	...	...	200
Grenada ...	—	—	—	700	Dominica ...	...	...	...	200
St. Vincent ...	—	—	—	300	Montserrat ...	...	...	...	100

The contributions paid by the several Colonies are approximately based upon the proportion paid by them under the former contract. Jamaica and Trinidad have not been called upon to make any contribution, since they are not included in the new services, and it has been decided to allot no share of the cost to Antigua, since Lord Elgin feels that doing so would be merely to throw a greater burden on the Imperial Exchequer through the medium of the deficit grant. In the cases of St. Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis, the proportions payable have been reduced by one-half in recognition of the fact that the service to these Colonies is only a four-weekly one. This arrangement came into force on August 28th last. It is terminable at three months' notice on either side, but the votes have been passed to cover the period until March 31st, 1907. There are very good grounds for believing that after that date an agreement will be arrived at which will prove more generally acceptable to the Colonies concerned.

HURRICANE INSURANCE.

The scheme for insurance of buildings and estates in the West Indies against hurricanes and earthquakes may now be said to be definitely established, and it is stated that a fair amount of business has been done with the majority of the Islands subject to these disturbances. As the scheme owes its origin to the energy of Mr. H. Hesketh Bell, the late Administrator of Dominica, it is not surprising to learn that it is in that Island that it has been most warmly taken up. Messrs. Henry Head & Co. state that their correspondence was interfered with owing to the inadequacy of the mail arrangements, and they express themselves confident that the volume of business would have been considerably larger but for this. As an instance of it they say that in response to the wishes of planters, an alternative rate was obtained for the insurance of cacao and limes involving the payment of claims in full in the event of the damage amounting to the fixed sum in the policy, but owing to the delay caused by the lack of mail facilities, the new terms did not reach the planters till the hurricane season had well begun. The only claim so far lodged has been for five acres of cotton on an estate in St. Kitts, which was damaged by the blow of September 1st, and on which the loss was paid according to the scale agreed upon, immediately on receipt of reports from the owners and our representatives.

In St. Lucia and St. Vincent no business at all has been done. In Barbados and Antigua there has been a steady demand for the insurance of buildings, and in Jamaica we understand that though there have been a good many enquiries no actual business has been transacted. Owing to the great difficulty of assessing the damage, there is, we understand, no prospect at present of underwriters taking bananas, and everybody's attention is at the moment turned to this kind of cultivation. It is hoped that next year there will be a large increase of business, and that it will be possible to make a further distinction between various types of buildings. Messrs. Head have been endeavouring to obtain statistics as to the damage done to the various buildings by hurricanes, but meet with great difficulties in getting any reliable information. Considerable objection has been raised in some quarters to the insurers requiring the insured to bear a small part of the loss themselves, but Messrs. Henry Head & Co. point out that it should be borne in mind that the object of the insurance is to protect those who insure against disaster, and by making them bear a certain amount of the loss themselves, a lower rate of premium is quoted than would otherwise be required. Should it prove in the future that this rate is too high, it may be reduced; but at present there is no precise information to demonstrate that this is the case. Even assuming that buildings of, say £1000 value are insured for fifteen years without any claim being made, the insurers will only have received the sum of £150, and they very possibly would be called upon at the expiration of the fifteen years to pay at least some £500 or £600. Sooner or later a hurricane must come and heavy claims will follow in its train. It is useless to compare this insurance with fire business, as in the latter case the premium is based on the probability of there being no claim at all.

GERMANY AND THE SUGAR CONVENTION.

The attitude of the German Government towards the Brussels Sugar Convention is one regarding which there has been considerable difference of opinion, and the *Deutsche Zuckerindustrie*

throws some light on the subject. This important paper, which is the leading organ of the German sugar industry, dealing with a recent article in the *International Sugar Journal*, says that for many years past it has closely examined the arguments adduced by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman and his friends against the Sugar Convention, and has shown how hollow they are. Since then nothing has occurred to support the theory of the English opponents to the Convention. On the contrary West Indian sugar has steadily gained ground in England, and the British refiners are beginning successfully to compete with their Continental rivals not only in England but also abroad. On their part the British confectioners have good cause to be satisfied, the imports of sugared products from abroad having fallen off, while the export of similar commodities has shown itself to be more prosperous than ever. Dealing with the cost of sugar, our contemporary goes on to say that since the Convention, prices, after a rise which was unfortunately only temporary to nine marks per quintal, have remained below the level of those which prevailed during the period before the Convention. Surely, then, it adds, these facts might with good cause be invoked by German sugar manufacturers against the Convention, and it goes on to state that the *Sugar Journal* above referred to, in pretending that it is characteristic that German sugar producers, after being clearly opposed to the Convention, are to-day firmly convinced of its general utility is not in any way in accord with the opinion which rules in German sugar circles, and it reiterates that the German sugar industry has no reason to follow England in endeavouring to obtain the extension of the Convention. Our old friend, M. Georges Dureau, in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, dealing with these statements, considers that they fully confirm his interpretation of the attitude of the German sugar industry towards the Convention. Germany, by reason of its low cost of production, of its strong position on the world's market, and of the high Customs tariff which would protect its industry in the event of the rupture of the international agreement, does not in any way dread that event. In the case of France, adds M. Dureau significantly, it is quite another matter.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

Labour Conditions in San Thome.

Sir Brampton Gordon on October 28th asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he would lay upon the table of the House a report received from Consul Nightingale, as to his recent visit to the Islands of San Thome and Principe, to inquire into the condition of contract labourers recruited for service therein, with other correspondence bearing on the recruitment of natives in Angola for that and other service in Portuguese territory; and whether he will inform the House as to action taken or contemplated by His Majesty's Government with a view to fulfilment of international obligations entered upon by the Portuguese Government as regards the suppression of slavery and slave trading. Sir Edward Grey's answer was: "A report from Consul Nightingale has been received, but it was not written in a form for publication, and it deals only with part of the question. I may say generally that the conclusion is that the labourers in San Thomé and Príncipe are well treated, but it is doubtful whether the provisions for repatriation under the new regulations have hitherto been made effective. This and other information which has been received or is expected soon will be brought to the notice of the Portuguese Government, in the hope that they will take steps to remedy the evils that exist. When this has been done, and a reply received, I will see whether papers can be laid.

NATURE NOTES.

HINT TO THE WISE. Paris green, according to the *Maritime Merchant*, is a lime on which much higher prices are expected to rule for next season, as arsenic, the principal ingredient of it, is both scarce and dear. Cotton growers and other agriculturists in the West Indies who use much of this will do well to lay in a good stock.

RAMIE FIBRE. Mr. D. Edwards Radcliffe, who is already well-known as the champion of ramie cultivation, is the Hon. Secretary of a new organisation called the Ramie Growing Association, which has been formed to foster the growth of this fibre-producing plant throughout the Empire. The prospectus of the Association can be seen at the West India Committee Rooms.

WHY NOT WEST INDIES? Mr. Vice-Consul Kingcome, of Cebu, in the Philippines, reports that planters have been giving considerable study to maguey, and as, according to their estimates, it promises better results in many districts than either tobacco or sugar, quite a large acreage has been planted with it. Should the experiment prove as anticipated this should develop into an important industry.

A CONTEMPORARY. The *Tropical Agriculturist* for October contains the report of an interesting lecture delivered at the recent Ceylon Rubber Exhibition on "Rubber Vulcanisation," by Mr. Kelway Bamber, a continuation of Mr. H. Wright's article on "Cacao Cultivation in Ceylon," an account of

"Tobacco Cultivation in Jaffna," by A. Charavanamuttu," "Lessons in Alimentary Botany," by Mr. J. C. Wilks, and other matters of great interest.

COMMISSIONERS' TOUR. On his return to the West Indies from Canada the Commissioner of Agriculture visited St. Kitts, Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent, in each of which Islands he conferred regarding agricultural matters with various people concerned. He found the prospects of the sugar crop distinctly good, especially in the Northern Islands, and the cotton fields were looking extremely well. Even in St. Lucia people were taking a keen interest in agriculture, and there were signs of greater attention being devoted to sugar, cacao, and limes, while there is prospect of cotton being taken up there on a moderately large scale next year.

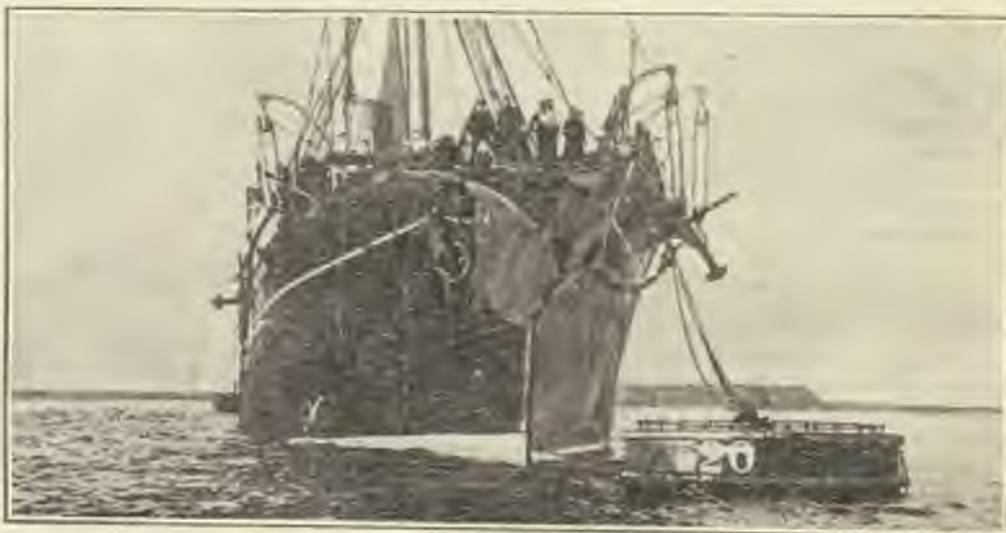
THE ACCIDENT TO THE "ORINOCO."

The following interesting account of the collision between the R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" and the N.D.L. "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse," on November 21st last, has been sent to us by one of the passengers on board the former vessel. He gives a graphic description of what occurred, and shows how what might have been a most serious disaster was averted by the display of presence of mind in the emergency:

Most of the passengers of the "Orinoco" were at dinner, when about 7.25 p.m., the sudden reversing of the engines followed by a slight shock caused an interruption,

and immediately upon this came a succession of more violent shocks, causing glasses and ornaments to fall from the tables. Upon this, most of the passengers hurried upon deck, anything like a panic being arrested by the presence of

mind of the stewards, particularly of the chief steward, Mr. Temple, who were emphatic in their declarations that there was no cause for alarm. The steadiness of the stewardesses also calls for comment, while the persistent efforts of the doctor to induce passengers to keep calm were of the greatest service, though it must be said that he was compelled to develop a most artistic vein of untruthfulness, appearing to suggest that *contretemps* of this kind



The damaged Orinoco.



The broken plates of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse

were of every day experience, and quite insufficient to cause any interruption at dinner.

Once on deck it was evident that the "Orinoco" had struck the "Kaiser Wilhelm" near the starboard bow, but the nature of the injuries of either ship could not even be seen, though, as the ships parted, the appearance of a large gash

in the side of the "Kaiser Wilhelm," made easily visible by the light within, rendered it evident that the damage to her, at least, was serious. This impression was accentuated by the fact that she soon began throwing up rockets as signals of distress.

For some minutes it was impossible to know what injuries the "Orinoco" had received and the extent of the damage, a good deal of confusion being thus caused, which, however, was far from being a panic among the passengers, who, together with most of those connected with the ship who were not actually employed in some duty relating to the accident, provided themselves with life-belts and awaited developments. Most of the officers were engaged in work arising from the injuries to the ship, and irregular and undisciplined attempts were made to lower the boats, while among the firemen something which may be described as very much like panic developed in some parts of the ship. There was an absence of adequate control of most of the boats which would have been grievously prejudicial had it been necessary to take to them on account of serious injury to the ship. By this time, however, the lights of small steamers in the immediate neighbourhood of the damaged ships tended to restore confidence.

Two boats were lowered, one of which contained some ladies, one or two male passengers and some of the ship's crew; in lowering one of the boats a lady was thrown into the sea but was quickly rescued. Other boats were prepared for lowering, or partially lowered, but the work was not done in a reassuring manner. Of two boys, belonging to the ship's crew, who jumped over-board, one was recovered, but the other was drowned. Two other members of the crew also appear to have been drowned.

After a short period of suspense word was passed round that the ship had received no damage below her water-line and that there was no danger; upon this the excitement soon subsided, and all were engaged in comparing notes and congratulating one another on their fortunate escape. The band resumed playing with commendable vigour, and fears rapidly subsided. In a short time the "Orinoco" was moored to a buoy inside the harbour, while the tender "Seine" was alongside to establish communication with the shore, when numberless telegrams and letters were hurriedly despatched.

It will be difficult for laymen to form a correct opinion as to the cause of the disaster, for the question of the rule of the road is intricate; it is, however, complained of in some quarters that large steamers such as the "Kaiser Wilhelm" assume an aggressive attitude, and trusting to their might and speed terrorise smaller and slower craft. In this particular instance the "Kaiser Wilhelm," coming out of the harbour, appears to have attempted to cross the bows of the approaching "Orinoco," and failed.

The "Kaiser Wilhelm" was struck on the starboard side by the "Orinoco's" bowsprit about 20 feet from the stern, which it did not penetrate, appearing to have broken off. This forward movement of the "Kaiser Wilhelm" caused the force of the impact to be felt further and further astern, and the stem of the "Orinoco" crashed through the side of the "Kaiser Wilhelm," smashing a roughly triangular hole about 35 feet long and 15 feet high, this fortunately did not reach to the water line. The clipper stem of the "Orinoco" undoubtedly greatly minimised the gravity of the collision, for the force of the blow was expended high above the water, so that neither vessel was damaged below the water-line. The bows of the "Orinoco" are completely smashed in their upper part, but the stern itself appears to have sustained little damage.

The passengers remained on board the "Orinoco" until Friday, when they went ashore, and having been provided with luncheon by the R.M.S.P. Co. at the Hotel d'Angleterre, about 3 p.m. went on board the S.S. "Lydia" which had been chartered to transfer them to Southampton.

Even this voyage was not uneventful, for some delay was caused by fog, so that it became necessary to anchor for some time off the Needles, and later in going up the Solent the fog again thickened, so that the "Lydia" missed the channel, and was, for a time, fast on the mud. On arriving at Southampton the passengers were met by the officers of the Royal Mail Company who showed them every attention and provided them with accommodation at the London and South Western Hotel, pending the completion of arrangements for their sailing.

Our illustrations of the damaged ships are from photographs by M. Bissonnier, of Cherbourg, which were kindly lent to us by the Editor of the *Daily Graphic*.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The Agricultural future of St. Lucia.

The removal of the troops had rather a serious effect on the revenue of St. Lucia for 1905-6; but Mr. P. C. Cork, the Administrator, in his report on the Blue Book of the Colony is able to show that the year was a good one for trade as the business of coaling was very brisk, and the general exports were in excess of those for many years past. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure and the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.		Total.
				General.	Bunker Coal.	
1901-2	£67,365	£67,486	£382,652	£77,871	£110,196	£188,067
1902-3	72,193*	69,408	326,324	73,458	84,295	157,753
1903-4	66,008	70,691	351,086	105,983	63,506	169,489
1904-5	69,273†	65,508	370,706	101,449	70,581	172,030
1905-6	61,877	62,521	285,987	109,028	102,626	211,654

The expenditure included certain sums paid out of the Imperial Grant for Agriculture and the Reclaimed Lands fund, and taking these into consideration the excess of expenditure over revenue amounted to £100 only. The surplus at April 1st, 1905, was £23,189 5s. 3d., and although the expenditure was, as shown above, slightly in excess of the revenue, it had been augmented by accretions of interest to £23,314 10s. 5d. on March 31st, 1906. To this should be added a sum of £1,009 12s. 5d. set aside as a fire insurance fund on public buildings. Sugar and cacao continued to be the principal products grown for exportation and native food stuffs for local consumption. The quantity of cacao exported was larger than in any previous year, being 9,468 bags of 200 lbs., valued

* Including Imperial Grant of £3,000 in aid of the sugar industry.

† Including refund by Imperial Government of £3,085 12s. 3d., being the cost of coal shed.

at £38,041, as against 6,679 bags, valued at £29,008 in 1904. The evidence seems to point to a moderate but steady increase of the area under cultivation in recent years, and it is the most hopeful sign for the future prosperity of the Island which I have observed. Many of the plots have, however, a neglected appearance, indicating a want of proper cultivation and pruning, and the reports of the Agricultural Instructor show that in cases where the Department of Agriculture has taken over patches of cacao in bad order for experimental purposes and devoted proper attention to them, the yield speedily increased and satisfactory returns were obtained. If the people could be induced to assimilate the lessons taught by these experiments, the exports would probably be doubled in two or three years. The community, however, appears to be intensely conservative and somewhat suspicious of suggestions, and it may take some time to convince them generally of the truth of the results established by the experiments conducted under the direction of the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture. A series of meetings was arranged, at which lectures were to be delivered, and Mr. Cork hoped that an endeavour would be made to arouse greater interest in the subject, so that all persons engaged in the cultivation of the soil might have impressed upon them the material benefit to be derived from an intelligent application of the teachings of experience to the cultivation and preparation of their crops. The Agricultural Instructor, Mr. G. S. Hudson, is quoted as saying, in connection with cacao, that the comparatively low average return of 307 lbs. per acre is due here, as elsewhere, to neglect of cultivation on the part of the uneducated peasant proprietors, who as a class probably do not obtain more than 2 cwt. per acre, while the more intelligent planter may get an average of 5 to 6 cwt. The latter yield is distinctly good as an average over a large area, though it is not unusual for certain favoured cacao spots to yield 12 cwt. or more. The experiments with rubber were continued, and nine Central American rubber trees (*Castilloa elastica*) of various sizes, growing at the station, were tapped in August, September, and November; also a number growing in the cacao fields at the Errard estate. Samples of the prepared rubber were submitted to experts in London for valuation and report. The best samples in biscuit form were valued at 5s. per lb., a second quality not sufficiently dried at 4s. 6d., and the scrap was classed as "good black" and valued at 3s. 9d. per lb. Mr. Moore, the agricultural superintendent who conducted the operations, states that as the result of the experiments it is estimated that well-grown trees of about twelve years of age will yield 2 lbs. of cured rubber per tree. Mr. Cork reviews in an interesting manner the policy adopted in the past with regard to the development of the Island, referring to the Cul de Sac Factory, East Indian emigration and the making of roads. In his general remarks Mr. Cork expresses doubt as to whether the downward tendency in the imports due to the withdrawal of the troops, has as yet been arrested. The Colony has suddenly been thrown on its own resources by the discontinuance of large annual Imperial expenditure, and the income of the people had *pro tanto* been decreased.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

Sugar and "Guayule" in Mexico.

The export trade in sugar from Mexico has practically ceased to exist. Last year the amount exported rose from £259,418 in the previous year to £571,745, and as already pointed out, 85% of this found its way to the United Kingdom. In 1905-6, however, the price of sugar on the British market was so low that it did not pay the growers in Mexico to export it to the United Kingdom, the consequence being the almost entire cessation of the exports of this commodity. The product of the guayule tree figures for the first time among the exports. It appears to be a form of cactus extract used in considerable quantities for mixture with rubber. An export tax was imposed on it in the Budget Bill, 1906-7, and it is expected that with the enormous demand for rubber throughout the world the production of guayule will have considerable development.

United States and the Philippines.

For the first time since their occupation by the United States the value of the exports from the Philippine Islands in 1905 exceeded that of the imports into the Islands, the surplus amounting to £680,844. The increase in value and quantity of the four leading exports—hemp, sugar, copra and leaf tobacco—was the principal factor in this result. Hemp to the value of £4331,469 was exported during 1905, an increase of £142,634 over that of the previous year. Raw sugar valued at £1,015,374, an increase of £396,827 over that of 1904, was exported. This increase is attributable largely to the rise in price of sugar, the excess in weight being only 21,000 tons. Leaf tobacco shows an increase of upwards of 1,000,000 lbs. in weight and £75,578 in value, the amount for 1905 being £273,482 as compared with £197,904 for the previous year. The export to Spain was valued at £173,350, and to Austria-Hungary £77,293. A slight falling off is observed in the cigar trade, the value being £178,512 as compared with £201,179 for 1904.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. "Port Henderson" left Kingston, Jamaica, on November 8th and arrived at Avonmouth on November 21st. Among the passengers by the R.M.S.P. Co.'s S.S. "Tagus," which left Barbados at midnight on Tuesday, November 13th, and reached Southampton at 9 a.m. on Monday, November 26th, were Mr. T. W. Wilkinson, who has acted on several occasions as our Hon. Correspondent in Barbados, Mrs. Wilkinson, and Mr. F. Nunez Martinez. We extract the following notes from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

The Worm in Antigua.

Writing on November 8th, the Hon. A. St. G. Spooner said that the feature of the present cotton crop was the epidemic of cotton worms which had visited every estate on which cotton had been planted, resulting, in many instances, in serious loss in spite of the liberal and rapid application of Paris Green. On most places it was impossible to dust the whole area affected with Paris Green in time to save the plants. A visitation of this kind would make planters careful in future about putting in a larger area in cotton than they could deal with in an emergency of this kind. The cane crop was coming on well, the weather being hot and windless, with frequent showers. A continuance of this weather would bring about a good crop.

On Saturday, November 3rd, Mr. Thomas Foote, Jun., son of the Hon. J. F. Foote, of "Gambles," and grandson of their venerable planter, the Hon. T. D. Foote, was married to Miss Baynes, daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Baynes, Puisne Judge of Trinidad.

Still dry in Barbados.

In his letter dated November 11th, the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne recorded with regret that they had had no rain whatever since October 16th, and the check was almost as bad as that from September 1st to 23rd. At first, the sunshine after the heavy rains was distinctly beneficial to the canes, but the past ten days' sun had tried them terribly, and if the rest of the month should be dry the effect would be disastrous.* It was curious how frequently of late years a dry November, which formerly used to be their wettest month, had wrecked all their hopes of a fine crop. Here and there a few estates had had light showers, but there were many which could not show a fraction of an inch for the fortnight. Arrows were covering the fields, and the yams and eddoes were almost ruined. The cotton had suffered least of anything, and good pickings had been made on many fields. In a postscript added on November 12th, he stated that some light showers were falling, with appearances of more.

Sir Daniel Morris returned from his extended tour through the Islands on November 9th, and was warmly welcomed. The Governor gave his usual official dinner on the King's birthday, and in the morning reviewed the new-formed Yeomany and the local forces on the Savannah. The same day was kept as "Arbor Day." The Botanic Department had made provision for a liberal supply of young trees, and advantage was taken of them to plant many vacant places, and around schools especially, with the intention of making the children take an interest in their culture and growth.

The Legislature was to meet again on the 13th, the day the mail left. There had been a great mortality among infants and children from dysentery. The trade winds were blowing, and it was beautifully cool.

The Gold Exports from British Guiana.

We are informed by Mr. J. C. McCowan, who wrote on November 9th, that the writs for the coming elections had been issued, and the returning officers had fixed the dates for nomination. Except in one or two instances every seat was going to be contested.

There had been a fortnight of intensely hot and dry weather, and it was feared that the expectations formed as to a heavy crop were not going to be realised. Juice throughout the Colony had been wretchedly poor, and although there was now an improvement in this, a good deal of the crop had already been reaped. There had been a further decline in crystals, and only \$1,92½ could be obtained.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held on October 29th for the purpose of considering a communication from the Government relative to all supplies being obtained through the Crown Agents, as the result of a suggestion from the Colonial Office, and the following resolution was agreed to:—

"THAT this meeting protests against any alteration in the present method of obtaining supplies, and against any interference with the prerogative of the Combined Court which the proposals of the Secretary of State for the Colonies referred to, and further that orders for supplies should be held over until after the next meeting of the Combined Court."

* Since this letter was written we have received a cable message to the effect that there had been "fine rains generally throughout the Island."

Strong opinions were expressed against more of the work of the Colony going into the hands of the Crown Agents than could be possibly helped.

Mr. T. Sidney Hargreaves, Secretary of the Institute of Mines and Forests, has forwarded to us the return of the gold, forest, and mining exports from British Guiana for October, with which, for the purpose of comparison, we give those for September:—

	October, 1906.	September, 1906.
Gold	11,500	11,806 ozs.
Diamonds	80	810 carats
Timber, Greenheart, &c.	1,137	861 cub ft.
Lumber	2,126	4,966 ft.
Charcoal	5,599	4,871 bags
Shingles	246,000	164,050
Wallaba and hardwood posts	231	84
Woods, Virewood	573	280 tons
Gums, locust, &c.	2,059	345 lbs.
Balata	190,097	169,738 lbs.
Rubber	214	— lbs.

Discrimination with limes in Dominica.

Mr. E. A. Agar expressed the opinion, in his letter of November 15th, that the article in the *West India Committee Circular*, No 211, regarding the present working of the mail service, was strong, but not too strong; Dominica now depended on some stray steamer from Barbados to bring on the letters from home in time to catch the return mail. There would be complaints as to the smallness of some of the limes shipped to England until the trade was sufficiently assured for the various marks to be distinguished. It was useless trying to persuade the small growers and buyers to take the slightest care in shipping or buying; they would eventually lose enough to make them stop, but until then it was to be feared that immature and damaged fruit would continue to arrive in London. Sir Daniel Morris gave a most interesting address to a public meeting on October 30th. The most important statements he made were with regard to the continuance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for a further five years, though on a reduced grant, and the strong sentiment he had observed in Canada to enter into closer commercial relations with the West Indies, and Sir Daniel urged them to pay great attention to sending produce to the various exhibitions in the Dominion. The Treasury returns to August 31st showed a substantial increase in the revenue, with but a slight increase in expenditure. The weather for the past fortnight had been extraordinarily dry.

Rains in Jamaica.

Continuous rains had been falling throughout the Island, which it was hoped would not continue, as some fine weather was needed. November 8th, when Mr. Ashenheim wrote, opened fine in Kingston, with a higher barometer. Up to the moment, he did not think any great damage had been done, except possibly some damage to the coffee crop in Manchester.

Cotton in Montserrat.

Writing on October 29th, Mr. Conrad Watson stated that the weather for the past week had been hot and dry, and the cotton fields, which were suffering from an excess of moisture, had benefited by it. Cotton was being picked from fields which were planted early, and the lint seemed to be of good quality. The cotton expert, Mr. Thornton, arrived at the Island on October 28th, and Sir Daniel Morris was expected on the 31st. There had been a general but mild attack of the cotton worm, but the usual remedies had prevented any damage. It was to be regretted that Jamaica Lad, the stud-horse of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, died at Montserrat on October 22nd.

A cotton instructor in Nevis.

Writing on October 29th, Hon. C. A. Shand stated that since last advices the weather had had a tendency towards "dry," and rain was required, especially in those districts where the first planting of cotton was affected adversely by the exceptionally heavy rains of September. The cotton worm had been very troublesome, but was being battled with by applications of Paris Green, which the small growers were using with more persistence and confidence than heretofore. Taking the Island as a whole, the crops looked far more promising now than at the same time last year. Sir Daniel Morris had made arrangements with a Mr. Moloney to come down to Nevis on the R.M.S. "Eden," on October 31st, to act as local cotton instructor among the small growers, so as to give them every chance of raising their crops upon the most rational lines. At present their crude methods and want of knowledge made them a danger, not only to themselves but also to their immediate neighbours.

In a subsequent letter from Mr. Shand, dated November 7th, the weather was reported to have been excessively hot and dry during the past week, and rain was much wanted. It would, he said, be awkward if drought were to set in, as this was a critical time for both cane and cotton.

Favourable weather in St. Kitts.

Since last advices the weather had on the whole been favourable to growth, though more rain

would have been welcome on most places; the cane crop, however, looked promising when Mr. A. D. C. Adamson wrote on November 2nd. Brighton estate had had 4.81 ins. of rain for October, as against an average of 7.61 ins. for the last ten years. The cotton crop was coming in pretty generally. Since last writing, a good many places had had a lot of bother with caterpillars.

Agriculture in St. Lucia.

We have received a letter from Mr. Sydney D. Melville, dated November 12th, in which he states that the Hon. E. DuBoulay has now returned to the Island. Sir Daniel Morris spent several days in St. Lucia, and addressed a public meeting on general agricultural topics, speaking also on the growing importance of Canada as a market for West Indian produce, strongly urging that endeavours be made to take advantage of it. Now that the military expenditure had ceased, it was to be hoped that greater attention would be paid to cultivating the soil, and there appeared a tendency in this direction.

A spell of dry weather has been experienced, and some rain was wanted. The canes were promising, but in some districts the cacao trees showed signs of disease, and an officer, the entomologist, from the Imperial Department had just arrived to investigate it.

Writing on November 10th, Mr. George S. Hudson said that the fine and dry weather during the past fortnight had benefited most crops, but canes were arrowing so freely as to materially reduce crop prospects.

Sir Daniel Morris arrived in St. Lucia on November 4th, and remained four days, holding a public meeting on the 7th, when in announcing the continuation of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for a further five years he strongly advocated commercial co-operation between the West Indies and Canada. He also dwelt on the importance of good agricultural methods in St. Lucia, this Colony being now largely dependent on her exports since the withdrawal of the troops. The meeting was a successful and well attended one. Sir Daniel also visited the Roseau Valley district, meeting several planters there whose cacao trees were attacked by disease, and inspecting the affected area. The trouble was pronounced by him to be largely due to an attack of "thrips" defoliating the cacao trees, and the entomologist of the Department was immediately cabled for to deal with the outbreak. At a meeting of the Experiment Committee of the St. Lucia Agricultural Society, Sir Daniel advocated for sugar planters the trial of the seedling cane D 525 for heavy clay soils, plants of which he promised to supply. The reports on B 208, introduced last year into St. Lucia by the Agricultural Department, were highly satisfactory. He was pleased to see lime planting was now being seriously undertaken in St. Lucia, and recommended a large extension of this cultivation. Questioned on the suitability of *Castilleja* rubber as shade in cacao plantations, Sir Daniel promised, after taking evidence on the subject in the other Islands, to give the Society a definite opinion shortly.

St. Vincent Arrowroot.

When Messrs. D. K. Porter and Co. wrote on November 12th, cotton picking and arrowroot digging were pretty general throughout the Island, but there was still a cry from the merchants and shopkeepers that their sales did not respond to the money being spent on labour. The weather was all that could be desired for reaping purposes, although, according to Mr. W. N. Sands, a few showers would help arrowroot reaping operations. Arrowroot was now being dug on most estates. Mr. Sands went on to say that the cotton crop was coming in well and ginning would be started in a few days. From June to October no less than 72.34 inches of rain were recorded at the Botanic Station—an average of 14.47 inches per month. The cotton had stood this rainfall very well considering, showing that the plants were getting well acclimatized. The general character of samples of lint examined lately appeared to be of good quality, and no deterioration was noticed where the best seed had been sown. The officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture were selecting special plants for seed on four estates in different parts of the Island. Sir Daniel Morris called at the Island on his way to Barbados, and the Honourable Darnell Davis, of Demerara, also paid a short visit. The Administrator a few days previously paid a visit to the Leeward District on a tour of inspection of roads, Crown lands, &c. His visits to outlying districts were much appreciated.

Crop Prospects in Trinidad.

The excessive heat and drought reported in the Hon. G. T. Fenwick's last letter had continued during the fortnight to date, November 12th; it had helped on the arrowing of the canes for coming crop, but had been felt severely by the young canes. Cacao planters were beginning to fear that it would be the means of causing further damage to young fruit. The change of leaf was now over and they had lost about 50% of their young fruit. The trees, however, were again flowering, and given fair weather should take on fruit anew. The first pods of new crop cacao should be picked during the current week, and towards the end of the month they hoped to see these

pickings offering for sale in Trinidad. Deliveries were still very small, and prices continued to advance. With no arrivals from Venezuela, the Trinidad market remained entirely bare of these descriptions.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Total at last report	...	128,407	Trinidad.	31,384	Venezuela.
Oct. 29th.—S.S. "Orinoco"	...	16	"	—	Europe
" 31st.—S.S. "Canada"	...	38	"	250	"
" 31st.—S.S. "Maraval"	...	960	"	191	New York
Nov. 1st.—S.S. "Prins Willem III."	...	99	"	9	Europe
" 6th.—S.S. "Schaumburg"	...	200	"	—	"
" 7th.—S.S. "Orinoco"	...	5	"	—	Canada
" 7th.—S.S. "La Plata"	...	—	"	50	San Francisco
Totals to date		129,725		31,584	

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

To popularise the West Indies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

SIR,—I am happy to record the unabated interest that is being taken in the photographs obtained last February and March during my visit to the West Indies. Looking up the records, I find since I started exhibiting them on my return that over 200,000 people have been to see them in London and other towns, and the enthusiasm and applause with which they have been received conclusively show that these Colonies have got a hold on the British public, not only through their historical association but the beauties of their surroundings. The result of my first visit has spelt success in popularising the Colony; what the result of my second visit, on a more ambitious scale, will be is mainly dependent on the facilities given me. I still feel that I have as yet done imperfect justice to these Colonies which deserve so much attention, as I am confident that the West Indies, if better known to us at home, would be far more appreciated and visited for health and pleasure during our dull and dreary winter, and I trust my efforts to acquaint those who know so little about them with our lovely Colonies, will assist in creating a desire to pay them a personal visit.

I am, &c.

ALFRED J. WEST

We are glad to learn that Mr. West's delightful entertainment has been so well patronised, and to be able to make the announcement that arrangements have now been made for Mr. West to leave Southampton on January 2nd, 1907, in the R.M.S.P. "Thames," and that on this occasion he hopes to visit not only all the British Islands, but also British Guiana. Mr. West has been furnished with letters of introduction by the West India Committee, under whose auspices the present entertainment is being held, and we hope that our readers in the West Indies will do all they can to assist Mr. West and make his tour a pleasant as well as a useful one.—ED.]

OUR LIBRARY.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the Blue books of British Guiana and St. Lucia for the year 1905-6, the Ceylon Handbook and Directory for 1906-7, and the Keeper's Book by P. J. Mackie. A review of the latter will appear in our next issue.

Sugar Machinery. Vacuum Pans. We have received from the Mirrlees Watson Company, Ltd., a pamphlet dealing with specialities in connection with vacuum pans and their fittings. The pamphlet is elegantly got up on art paper and contains illustrations of the most up-to-date vacuum pans, pumps, &c., recommended by them and supplied to their customers.

West Indian Bulletin, Vol. VII., No. 3. This publication, obtainable at the West India Committee Rooms, price 6d., contains an excellent paper on "Fermentation Changes in Muscovado Sugar," by Dr. Francis Watts and Mr. Tempany, which we commend to the attention of planters; reports on manurial experiments with cacao in Dominica, and cotton in the Leeward Islands and Barbades, which have already been dealt with in these columns. A useful summary of the present position of the attempts to utilise atmospheric nitrogen for agricultural purposes is also given, and the number altogether affords very interesting reading.

Notes upon the Island of Dominica, by Symington Grieve. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1906. To intending settlers and also to visitors to Dominica this volume should prove exceedingly useful. The author visited Dominica in January last with the object of studying the flora and fauna of the Island, and, at the suggestion of the Chairman of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, of obtaining as much information as he could regarding the Island as a field for British settlers. Mr. Grieve made good use of his time, and when he left Dominica he was told that he had seen more of it in the time at his disposal than anyone who had previously visited the Island. He explored the primeval forest, visited the Boding Lake, and made a close study of the climate, the life, and the various industries of the Island, and the result of his enquiries are given concisely and in an interesting manner. Mr. Grieve deplors the fact that there has been no reliable survey of the Island in recent years; but with the aid of sketches prepared by the Colonial engineers he has succeeded in bringing the best available map into conformity with recent developments, which have recently been very rapid. The book is well illustrated by seventeen half-tone illustrations reproduced from photographs by the author, Mr. Frank H. Rowntree, and Mr. Samuel H. Davies, and in an appendix full particulars regarding the acquisition of land in Dominica, and the tariff of import duties, are given. We hope that some day Mr. Grieve will pay a visit to other of the Islands whose bibliography is scanty, such as Tobago, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent, each of which is, like Dominica, capable of immense development. Mr. Grieve's book is certainly calculated to do a great deal of good.

NOTES OF INTEREST.

GREETINGS:

As the present issue of the WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR should reach the West Indies at the Festive Season, the Editor takes this opportunity of wishing his readers in the Colonies "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

A "CALL."

Dr. W. J. von Winckler of the British Guiana Medical Service, was called to the Bar as a Member of the Inner Temple on November 19th.

RESIGNATION.

Sir Montague Ommanney is about to resign the Permanent Under-Secretaryship of State for the Colonies, after being associated with the Colonial Office for thirty years.

IMPERIAL GUESTS.

The British Empire League is raising a fund for the entertainment of the delegates to the approaching Colonial Conference, as it did in 1897 when the Prime Ministers came for the Diamond Jubilee, and again in 1902 when they came for the Coronation.

A JAMAICA "CENTRAL."

Serge Island Estate and Garbrand Hall, in St. Thomas-in-the-East, Jamaica, have been acquired for the purposes of a Central Factory by a Canadian Syndicate. The machinery at Serge Island is quite modern and up-to-date, and adequate to take off the canes of the two estates.

COTTON IMPORTS.

During the fortnight ended November 29th, 23 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool 6.85d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 16½d. per lb.; medium fine, 17½d. per lb.; fine, 19d. per lb.; and extra fine, 24d. per lb. Prices paid 5½d. to 22d.

SIR ALFRED'S TOUR.

Although the visit of the representatives of the British Cotton Growers' Association to the West Indian Cotton Islands will not take place, Sir Alfred Jones and his party are leaving for Jamaica by the "Port Kingston" on December 29th, calling at Barbados to pick up the delegates to the annual Agricultural Conference to be held in the former Island in the middle of January.

DR. GRIEVE'S DEATH.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Dr. Robert Grieve, C.M.G., late Surgeon-General of British Guiana, which was announced on the 21st ult. Dr. Grieve, who at the time of his death was sixty-seven years of age, retired in 1894. He first went out to British Guiana in 1875 as Medical Superintendent of the Berbice Public Lunatic Asylum.

WEST INDIAN CLUB.

The Hon. Arthur C. Ponsonby presided at the fortnightly dinner of the West Indian Club on Nov. 28th. Among those present were Sir Thomas Crossley Rayner, K.C., Attorney-General of British Guiana, Mr. Neil R. McKinnon, K.C., Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Mr. Arthur a'Beckett, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. F. J. Morris, Mr. G. H. H. Pile, Mr. F. Shelford, and Mr. Charles Wilson.

TRUSTS & CONFERENCES.

Mr. Owen Cosby Philipps, M.P., Chairman of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., and, as an organ of his party naively describes him, "One of three tall brothers who are the admiration of members and visitors at Westminster," has been appointed a member of the Committee which is to enquire into Shipping Trusts and Conferences, and their effect upon the trade of Great Britain and our Colonies.

BOAT VOYAGE.

Among the passengers by the R.M.S.P. "Tagus" leaving to-morrow, are the Hon. W. Peter of St. Lucia, who has been a frequent visitor to the West India Committee Rooms, and Mrs. Peter; also Mr. W. Ashley Bovell and Mrs. Bovell, and Mr. F. J. Morris, formerly of Peter's Hall in Demerara, who is taking over the management of "Fortres Park" in Trinidad. The Hon. W. S. Robertson and Mrs. Robertson sail in the "Atrato" on December 19th, as well as Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Kaye, who are returning to Barbados.

"BLUED" SUGAR.

The United States Pure Food Commission is now making trouble for the United States sugar refiners. The commission has decreed that no mineral blueing substance shall be used in bleaching sugar, and if this decree is carried out, granulated and other sugars produced in the States will hereafter have a distinctly yellowish tinge. Sugar chemists say they use four pounds of mineral blueing to every million pounds of sugar, and instead of this being adulteration, it is merely purification by a thoroughly healthful process.

MEMORIAL TO MR. HOGG.

In our next issue we hope to give an illustration of the very beautiful statue erected at the head of Langham Place to the memory of Mr. Quintin Hogg, the founder of the Polytechnic. It will be remembered that Mr. Quintin Hogg was Deputy-Chairman of the West India Committee, a position which he resigned in May 1898, owing to his severing his connection with estates in British Guiana after many years' valuable service to the Committee. The statue was unveiled by the Duke of Argyll.

YELLOW FEVER.

A telegram has been received from the expedition of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, which has been in Brazil since the beginning of 1905, with the object of making research into yellow fever. It states that the expedition has just been successful in proving that chimpanzees can be infected with yellow fever by means of the *Stegomyia* mosquito. This discovery will be of the highest importance to those carrying out investigations into the disease. Both the doctors of the expedition contracted yellow fever themselves in the earlier stages of their investigations.

A MEDAL FOR WIPA. The West Indies were represented at the seventeenth Food and Cookery Exhibition at Westminster last week by the T. K. Bellis Turtle Co., Ltd., and Mr. John Lusty, who, both *hors concours*, having previously won the highest award, displayed every kind of turtle product, and the West Indian Produce Association, who showed a large variety of West Indian produce, for which they were awarded the Gold Medal. The Exhibition, which was extremely well-attended, was opened by the Duchess of Albany, and the jury included such eminent culinary experts as the King's and Prince of Wales' chefs.

PLANTERS AND PUPILS. Being constantly asked for the names of planters willing to receive pupils or visitors on their estates for a small premium or weekly payment, it has been decided to insert advertisements from such planters for the nominal sum of 10s. per annum in a special column which will be provided for this purpose. It is believed that this will be the means of placing intending settlers into communication with the planters in the West Indies, and will prove of mutual advantage, and from the number of enquiries which have been received, there is no doubt whatever that this arrangement will prove advantageous if generally supported and taken up.

A BIRTHDAY HONOUR. In the list of birthday honours given in our last issue, there should have been included the name of Mr. William Hyndman Jones, Chief-Justice of the Straits Settlements, upon whom a knighthood has been conferred. Sir W. H. Jones, as he now becomes, is the only son of the late Mr. William Henry Jones, who was for many years with Mr. Elliot G. Louis and the late Mr. Allan Belfield, one of the representatives in Barbados of Messrs. Thomas Daniel & Co., and for several years a prominent member of the House of Assembly of that Island. The new Knight has held many official appointments in Barbados, St. Lucia, Tobago and Jamaica.

NEW COTTON SILK. A growing industry on the Continent is the manufacture of imitation silk from cotton. The cotton is treated with sulphuric acid, as in the manufacture of gun-cotton, and by a secret process the latter is spun into a silky fibre which can only be distinguished by chemical means from the real article. Any fabric made of silk is closely imitated in this, and not only is the wear excellent, but the articles can be washed without detriment. The inflammability which prevented the adoption of the industry in this country has now been got over by a special process, and the entire cost is one-third that of silk. The use of cotton as a substitute for silk should become general.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

- Tues., Nov. 20.—The R.M.S. "Port Henderson," from Jamaica, arrived at Avonmouth.—Sir Edward Grey received a deputation on the subject of the Administration of the Congo State.—88% Beet, 8s 8½d., steadier
- Wed., Nov. 21.—Collision between the outward R.M.S.P. Co.'s "Orinoco" and the "Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse" at Cherbourg.—Mr. Arthur J. Balfour took up the freedom of the City at Grocers Hall.—Beet, 8s 9½d., steady
- Thur., Nov. 22.—Mr. Fielding's speech on the Canadian Tariff reported in the *Times*, p. 5.—Meeting of the Executive of the West India Committee.—The R.M.S.P. "La Plata," outward, arrived New York, noon.—The R.M.S. "Port Royal," homeward, left Kingston.—Beet, 8s 9½d., quiet
- Fri., Nov. 23.—The third volume of the report of the Tariff Commission dealing with Agricultural Industries issued.—Beet, 8s 9½d., firm
- Sat., Nov. 24.—Lord Desborough announced that the fourth celebration of the new series of Olympic games would be held in London in 1908. (West Indian sportsmen, please note).—Soap Trust ended.—Monument to Mr. Quintin Hogg unveiled in Langham Place.—The R.M.S.P. "Orinoco" from Cherbourg, arrived Southampton, 8.30 a.m.—Beet, 8s 9½d., quiet
- Mon., Nov. 26.—Mr. Sydney Barton indicated that steps would be taken to reduce the postage on periodicals to Canada.—Inaugural banquet of the General Committee of the Franco-British Exhibition, 1906.—Beet, 8s 9½d., steady
- Tues., Nov. 27.—The formation of "The Central Emigration Board" to encourage emigration from the United Kingdom to our Colonies, with Sir C. Kinloch Cooke as chairman, announced.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent," outward, left Colon, 9 a.m.—Beet, 8s 10½d., steady
- Wed., Nov. 28.—Mr. Arthur Balfour spoke on the Educational Bill at the Constitutional Club.—Huddersfield bye-election: Mr. Sherwell (L.) elected, receiving 5,762 votes, against 5,422 for Mr. Williams (Lab.) and 4,844 for Mr. Frazer (C.).—Debate on the administration of the Congo State opened in the Chamber at Brussels.—The R.M.S.P. "Atrato," homeward, left Barbados, 9 a.m.—Beet, 9s 0½d., steady
- Thur., Nov. 29.—Statement in the *Times* regarding the Sugar Convention.—R.M.S.P. "Magdalena" sailed from Southampton for the West Indies.—The R.M.S.P. "La Plata," homeward, arrived Jamaica, 3 a.m.—The R.M.S. "Port Kingston," outward, passed Turk's Island.—Beet, 8s 11½d., steady
- Fri., Nov. 30.—The new Liverpool Cotton Exchange opened.—Mr. Fielding's Budget statement in the Dominion House of Commons reported in the *Times*, page 5.—Beet, 9s 1d., firm
- Sat., Dec. 1.—The Queen's Birthday.—R.M.S. "Port Henderson" left Avonmouth.—Beet, 9s 0½d., quiet
- Mon., Dec. 3.—Beet, 9s 0½d., steady

COMING EVENTS.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

- DAILY (Sun. excepted)—Mr. West's animated photographs of the West Indies at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, at 3 p.m.
 Dec. 5th (to-morrow)—Show of West Indian Fruit at the Royal Horticultural Hall (last day)
 Dec. 8th—Lecture on the West Indies, by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, at Northfield, Birmingham *
 Dec. 11th—Lecture at the Royal Colonial Institute by Mr. Arthur A. Beckett on "The Colonial Press."
 Dec. 12th.—West Indian Club dinner to His Excellency the Hon. Ralph Williams, C. M. G. Sir James S. Hay, K. C. M. G., presiding.
 Dec. 18th—Lecture on the West Indies by Mr. A. Clifton Kelway, at Tilbury.*

* We shall be glad to forward tickets for the above lectures to any members desiring to have them.—En.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Tuesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

Gourmet.—A pleasant recipe for serving grape-fruit is to cut the fruit in two, remove the core, and loosen the juicy part with a spoon, and to add Maraschino and ice to taste.

H. L. F. (Uganda).—Before the system of ascertaining the saccharine content of sugar by polarisation was inaugurated, the system generally used for assessing the duties was on the basis of colour, and a standard was set up in Holland, every year bottles of sand of different grades of colour to represent sugar being distributed among brokers and merchants, the lightest being taken as 20 and the darkest as 7, the former being practically white. As the colour of sugar is only on the surface of the crystals, and as the latter vary in size this test is quite unreliable as to the amount of colour present, unless the sugar is ground to powder before comparison.

Uncanny.—We expect that the bird you mean is the Canje pheasant, or Hoatzin, known scientifically as *Opisthocomus cristatus*. In British Guiana it is called "Hanna," or "Stink-bird," on account of the strong odour which it exhales, while, according to Bates, the natives of the Amazon have named it the Cigana, or Gipsy. It inhabits portions of British Guiana, notably the Borbice district, especially along the banks of the Canje creek, whence the name of Canje pheasant, it is also found in considerable numbers along the Amazon Valley. There is but a single species, and on account of its anatomical peculiarities this was regarded by Huxley as the type and sole member of a group named by him the *Heteromorphæ*. One or two points in its anatomy are worthy of notice, viz., the almost entire absence of a keel or breast bone, and the enormous crop, which is divided into two portions. Very young birds have a claw on the wing, sufficiently developed to enable them to creep about. When fully grown this claw is lost, and the only trace left is a small bony knob. It frequents the low growing trees and bushes near creeks and lagoons, and, according to Bates, feeds on various wild fruits, especially the sour Goyava (*Psidium*), and is also said to devour the fruit of the arborescent arum (*Caladium arborescens*). When alarmed it makes a harsh grating hiss. If the crop is removed immediately after death very little of the unpleasant odour remains. Moulting appears to take place about January. The Hoatzin is said to be polygamous; the nest is built in trees, of sticks loosely placed above one another, with soft material on the top, the eggs are three or four in number, of a dull yellowish white colour, profusely marked with reddish blotches and spots.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

HIS HONOUR J. S. UDAL, Chief Justice of the Leeward Islands, has returned from leave of absence and resumed his duties.

HON. J. J. NUNAN, Barrister-at-Law, B.A., LL.B., Acting Attorney-General, British Guiana, is acting also as Solicitor-General until further orders.

MR. WILLIAM EDWARD BECKLES has been elected Mayor of the Borough of Arima, Trinidad, for the ensuing year, and Mr. EDGELL JOHNSTONE is to be Mayor for San Fernando.

MR. JOHN DRUMHELL, Barrister-at-Law, Stipendiary Magistrate, Georgetown Judicial District, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence.

HON. E. F. HATTON, M.D., Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the Asylums on Richmond Hill, St. Lucia, has returned to the Colony and resumed the duties of his office.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor of Trinidad has been pleased to appoint CAPT. CHARLES J. DYKE, Northumberland Fusiliers, to be his Aide-de-Camp and Secretary, and CAPT. A. ARNAULD DE BOISMERE to be extra Aide-de-Camp.

The Rev. A. P. BERRELY, B.A., Rector of St. Philip's, Barbados, was inducted by the Bishop as Rector of St. Michael's and Dean on November 7th. He is succeeded in the rectory of St. Philip's by the Rev. Thomas Gardner, now Vicar of St. Paul's.

SOME WEST INDIAN SECURITIES.

The Bank Rate stands at 6 per cent. (changed on October 19th, 1906), and Consols (2½ per cent.) are quoted 86½.

Demerara Electric Company.

The gross earnings of the Demerara Electric Company for the month of October, 1906, amounted to \$11,363, and the net earnings to \$4,817. This brings the increase in gross earnings to \$1,250.00 over the corresponding month of last year, and in net earnings of \$1,664.22.

Pattinsons' Banana Fruit Foods, Ltd.

It is intended that this Company, to which reference was made in the last *West India Committee Circular*, should act

as pioneer to a larger Company when the business is increased to such an extent as to justify it. It may be mentioned that the specialities produced include the following: banana flour, banana oats, banana custard powders, banana "Excel" cocoa, banana cake and pastry flour, banana blanc mange powders, banana and other jelly powders, and banana health salts.

The New Colonial Company, Limited.

The ordinary general meeting was held on Nov. 29th at the offices, 20, Eastcheap. Sir Nevile Lubbock, who presided, said that during the period under review there had been an apparent loss on their sugar estates in British Guiana, Trinidad and Puerto Rico of £35,161, but, on the other hand, they had made a profit of £22,913 on their general commission and agency business. The whole of that profit was in reality made out of the estates, and therefore it was only fair to set it against the loss of £35,161 before arriving at the net result of the year's operations. Even then the figures were very unsatisfactory, although the position was not so bad as it might appear at first glance. In the first place the price of both sugar and rum had been very low, and therefore he did not think they could have hoped, in any case, to make both ends meet during the past twelve months, either in Trinidad or Demerara—certainly not in the latter with the crop they had there. Other circumstances had also caused the expenditure to be higher than usual. The special outlay on the Windsor Forest estate in connection with remodelling the drainage was unavoidable, but its effect had been to improve the properties and thus save money in the future. They had not had, for the past five years, a normal state of affairs in regard to sugar, but he believed that they were just getting to it now. He moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Sir John H. Morris. Dr. Moody thought that the accounts must be regarded as extremely disappointing, particularly as many of the company's estates were known to be very good ones. He believed that their misfortunes were due to two causes—namely, under cultivation and unsatisfactory methods of extracting the sugar from the cane. The chairman, in reply, said that the estates were worked to the best advantage with the company's limited resources, and that the manufacture though not so perfect as it might be, was good. A first-class absolutely modern milling plant for one of these estates only would cost £3,000, and there were nine estates.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Ltd.

At the 59th Ordinary General Meeting which was held at Winchester House on November 21st, Mr. Walter B. Kingsford presiding, stated that in the current half-year, up to the present, there had been a substantial increase in the traffic receipts—a circumstance all the more encouraging from the fact that this half-year was usually the inactive period of the Company's financial year. In their last report reference was made to the directors having chartered the cable steamer "Cambria" to assist the Company's repairing steamer in overtaking the exceptionally heavy work of restoring some of the cables which had been broken by earthquakes, as the Board thought. The cost of the charter of the "Cambria" and of the cable used by her in effecting these special repairs and renewals had amounted to £18,270, which had been charged to reserve. The Directors felt that this expenditure was properly chargeable against the reserve fund and also that the money had been well expended, as it had undoubtedly resulted in strengthening the main cables of the system. They would like to be in a position to increase the reserve fund, but in face of the fact that they were unable at present to keep pace with the arrears of cumulative dividends on the preference shares—which were payable out of the first available profits—they had decided not to add to this fund for the time being. He thought he might venture to say that the outlook of the West India Colonies seemed to be a little brighter than had been the case in the past few years, owing to a slight revival in the agricultural interest. Sugar was now fetching much better prices, and there seemed to be some hope that cotton would become a staple product in the near future. He noticed a paragraph in the *Times* of the 2nd inst. to the effect that delegates of the British Cotton Growing Association, with several Manchester spinners, proposed visiting various West India Colonies next month. He mentioned at their last meeting that there were grounds for uneasiness as to the effect of the Company's well-being of certain projects which were then under the consideration of the Colonial Office, and he read the letter which he had addressed to the Secretary of State protesting against certain statements which had been made by the Governor of the Windward Islands. He was very glad to state that the Colonial Office dissociated itself from those statements. In other respects the Directors had done everything in their power to protect the Company's interests, and they had reason to believe that their efforts had not been fruitless. President Roosevelt was at present on a visit to the Isthmus of Panama, and was to return by way of Porto Rico. The Directors had given instructions that special facilities were to be afforded to the President for transmitting his telegrams at both those places. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and the payment of the dividend recommended. Mr. Henry Holmes seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller), November 29th. "Fine rains generally throughout the Island." **British Guiana** (Messrs. Henry K. Davson & Co.), November 26th. "Weather favourable for cultivation in Berbice." (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), November 26th. "Heavy rains have fallen generally since last message." November 29th. "Weather dry, some rain would be acceptable." (The New Colonial Co., Ltd.), November 30th. "Weather is dry." **Jamaica** (The Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd.), week ended November 21st. **PORT ANTONIO**: "Fine." **KINGSTON**: "Fine."

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Tages" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), November 26th.—Mr. P. R. Applegate, Mr. E. V. Salaman, Mrs. Blanche and three children, Miss and Master Langdon, Mr. Ramon Khadra, Dr. and Mrs. Gomez and family, Mr. Paul W. Jauch, Mr. G. Lewis, Mr. H. Smith, Mr. R. Short, Mr. Paul Lacroix, Mr. H. H. Lawrence, Mr. J. H. Laing, Col. Stanley Bird, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. David D. Stiven, Mr. Martinez, Mr. P. G. Bennett, Mr. H. E. Bate, Mr. A. Pacheco, Mr. Redman.
SAULTS per R.M.S.P. "Magdalena" (Capt. C. E. Down), November 29th.—Mr. A. Kobrich, Mr. Chas. E. Blacker, Mr. John H. Goodwin, Mr. Alex. Hadden, Mr. Geo. E. Chambers, Mr. John J. May, Mrs. May, Mr. G. S. Manning, Mrs. Manning, Miss M. L. Gooding, Mr. C. S. Pitcher, Mrs. Pitcher, Mr. A. Clarke, Miss E. Clarke, Miss I. Clarke, Miss Woolcombe, Dr. Francis Watts, C.M.G., Mr. Jas. A. Sutcliffe, Rev. J. S. Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, Miss M. Hombersley, Dr. Geo. H. Masson, Mr. D. A. MacIntyre, Mrs. Hariss, Mr. Alfred Glah, Mr. C. H. Rance, Miss A. Summers, Miss Geary, Mr. Harold G. Bayly, Mr. de Grandville, Mrs. de Grandville, Mr. H. Doisy, Mr. A. W. Jensen, Hon. C. Macaulay Browne, C.M.G., Mrs. Macaulay Browne, Mrs. McEwan, Mr. Michael Barrett, Mr. F. Berkeley,

Miss G. Berkeley, Mr. H. T. Ross, Miss E. Scott, Miss A. Bell, Rev. J. W. Binnie, Mr. Rbt. Kerr, Mr. W. Fogarty, Mr. Salomon Guapas, Rev. Wallace Smith, Rev. T. Gerbier, Mr. Marshall, Dr. W. J. Von Winckler, Mr. De Wind.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Tagus" (Capt. R. H. Stranger), December 5th.—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dason and Niece, Miss E. Holt, Miss E. Mather, Mrs. Grant Dient, Mr. C. A. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Collymore, Mrs. Haddock, Mr. and Mrs. John A. and Master Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Garner, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ashley Howell, Mr. and Mrs. George Longstaff, M. H. Wollmer, Mr. F. Woolmer, Mr. Roland Bateman, Mr. Roger Schunck, Mr. and Mrs. Dangerfield, Miss Bussey, Miss Locke, Miss Low, Miss Watson, Mr. C. d'Almeida, Mr. Thomas Garraway, Mr. l'Aiguebelle, Miss Hepburn, Mr. P. R. K. Eadale, Miss T. Wylie, Sir K. W. Cumming, Bart., Mrs. Sealbrook, Miss H. Maude Thompson, Mrs. Wilson, Brigadier Nehemiah Glover, Mrs. Glover and family, Mr. and Mrs. Rafael A. Reyes, Master Alvaro Reyes, Miss F. Miranda, Mr. C. Stanley Musgrave, Mr. G. Hauer, Mr. Walter Ashton, Mr. R. Hamlyn Nott, Mrs. Nott, Mrs. Fowler, Mr. Albert S. White, Mrs. Cox, Mr. Geo. Grant, Mrs. Van Roushult, Dr. Ricardo Paros, Miss Chambers, Mr. Arthur J. Russell, Hon. W. Peter, Mrs. Peter, Mr. Herbert Cobb, Major Edward Pelham Smith, Mr. Thos. Ponsonby, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cavaux, Dr. and Mrs. Thompson, two Misses Cadman, Miss N. Miers, Mrs. Saunders, Mr. Geo. Grashorn, Mr. W. A. Grotorex, Mr. Fowler, Mr. and Mrs. R. Maldonado, Mr. Restrepo, Mr. Walter Mars, Rev. George Arthur Taft, Miss I. Watson, Miss D. Locke, Mr. and Mrs. John Heaton and daughter, Mrs. Young, Hon. Granville Ponsonby, Miss Mattenberger, Mr. Bielich, Mrs. Tredgold.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), December 19th.—Mr. Eric H. Streatfield, Major Edward Beecher, Mr. Charles Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hargreave and son, Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., Lady Treves, Mr. E. S. Ruano, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Tennant, Miss J. Tennant, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Head, Mr. J. Lemmermann, Hon. W. S. and Mrs. Robertson, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Kaye and three children, Major I. R. King, Col. the Hon. E. A. Falk and Mrs. Falk, Mr. C. Romero, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Clarke, Mr. Sidney W. Clarke, Mr. Albert White, Mr. Thomas Rayner.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Service Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe) November 21st:—**Jamaica**:—Rev. H. C. Alcock, Mr. E. P. Beresford, Mr. A. M. Bullock, Mr. Dawe, Mrs. Dawe, Mr. C. Farmer, Mr. Harris, Mr. W. J. McLean, Master C. Nosworthy, Master A. Nosworthy, Nurse Manley, Mrs. Richards.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Henderson" (Capt. W. R. Rowe), December 1st:—Mr. Sidney Adnitt, Mr. Frank Adnitt, Mr. F. G. Adnitt, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Butler, Rev. F. Bavin, Mr. E. Carr, Mr. R. H. G. Pigg, Mr. A. D. Goffe, Mr. J. McHutchon Dobbie, Mrs. Dobbie, Commander Hall, R.N., Mrs. Hall, Miss Hughes, Mrs. D. L. Low, Dr. James Mullin, Mr. J. McCrae, Misses McCrae, Mr. and Mrs. W. Neild, Miss Pritchard, Mr. Ray Rivett, Mr. E. C. Russell, Dr. F. N. Scotland, Mrs. and Miss Sharp, Miss M. Teichmann, Mrs. Webster Wedderburn and child, Mr. H. Canti, Mrs. J. Clarke, Mr. P. Macfarlane, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Recart, Mr. F. S. Shorter.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Part of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 5	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Tagus"	Dec. 4, mdn't.
" 13	Barbados (for Demerara and West India Islands)	Liverpool	Harrison Line	"Director"	" 12, 6 p.m.
" 15	Demerara	Liverpool	Liverpool Line	"Thordis"	" 14, 6 p.m.
" 15	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M. Co., Ltd.	"Port Royal"	" 14, 7 1/2 p.m.
" 19	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"	" 18, mdn't.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Part of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Dec. 10	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"
" 18	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M. Co., Ltd.	"Port Kingston"

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE FROM THE WEST INDIES.

	Barbados.		British Guiana.		Jamaica.		Trinidad.		Grenada.	
	Jan. 1 to Nov. 3 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Nov. 3 1906	1905	April 1 to Oct. 28. 1906	1905	Jan. 1 to Nov. 10 1906	1905	Oct. 1 to Nov. 10. 1906	1905
Sugar	40,864	47,043 Tons.	78,505	59,770 Tons.	8797	7449 Tons.	507,143	560,093 Bags & Brls.	...	...
Molasses	81,036	38,653 Pns.	3067	3124 Casks.	...	...	2076	2887 Pns.	...	...
Rum	13,864	71,130 Pns.	1,002,840	758,594 Gall.	1308	349 Pns.	...	...
Cattle Food and Molasses	9089	5940 Tons.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cacao	28,017	40,147 lbs.	30,593	17,326 Cwts.	21,075,690	13,000,605 lbs.	2365	4753 Bags
Coffee	17,919	17,948 "	...	...	...	...
Coconuts	52,288	251,971	4,188,472	3,035,606	10,545,828	9,329,917	...	...
Copra	16,882	38,484 lbs.	16,334	6895 Bags	...	...
Cotton
Cotton Seed
Asphalt
Oranges	28,580,000	46,150,073	...	...	...	...
Bananas	11,021,270	10,450,540	...	...	...	...
Pimento	40,100	55,004 Cwts.	...	...	...	...
Spice
Gold	27,506	79,423 ozs.	...	...	...	...	607	953 Brls.
Diamonds	2097	4696 carats.	...	...	...	...	74	73 Cases
Rice	1,193,839	39,195 lbs.	...	...	...	...	11	22 Bags

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—The beet root crops in Convention Europe are turning out less favourably than some people expected, and F. O. Licht has made a further reduction in his estimates of 50,000 tons. The probable final out-turn seems likely now to reach 600,000 tons less than last year, a large amount of displaced sugar indeed, taken in conjunction with the uncertainty as to how the Cuba crop will show up in the face of the difficulties possible in the labour department of the Island, and also how the portion of the canes influenced by the recent cyclone will work when cut. There are features in sugar for the second half of this season which may produce a better range of prices than those now before us, and this is finding justification in the slowly growing strength of the Market, which slight at present, may become more pronounced in two or three months time. Speculation is confined at present to only trifling lots which are turned over at a fraction profit whenever the chance offers, no real position on a large scale being taken up by any one at present. Refiners and the Trade continue their hand to mouth policy in buying, and it is satisfactory to be able to record a slowly improving range of prices, with these two important elements rendering no assistance.

The moment's prices of 85% beet are:—Dec., 9s. 0½d.; Jan/March, 9s. 3d.; May, 9s. 5½d.; Aug., 9s. 7½d. and October/December, 1907, 9s. 2½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Europe	1,680,000	1,720,000	1,560,000	2,090,000	1,900,000	Tons
United States	140,000	210,000	120,000	100,000	180,000	..
Cuba... ..	—	80,000	—	120,000	60,000	..
Afloat	30,000	30,000	70,000	90,000	40,000	..
Total	1,850,000	2,040,000	1,750,000	2,400,000	2,180,000	..
Quotations of 85% Beet, 3rd Dec. :—	9s. 0½d.	8s. 3½d.	14s. 0d.	8s. 4½d.	8s. 0½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—There is a good demand for properly made yellow crystallised within the range of 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d., and free sales have been made at these prices. Inferior grades from 15s. 6d. to 16s. are difficult to move. The value of average qualities remains fully 16s. 6d. The value of a 96 centrifugal cargo to Refiners is about 10s. 3d. on floating terms in bond, to a shade over.

Molasses Sugar.—There is a good demand on the spot for low qualities from 11s. to 11s. 6d. Afloat, 89 test is worth about 8s. 3d. in bond.

Muscovado.—There is little doing, grocery kinds remaining about 14s. to 15s. For 89 test to Refiners about 9s. is the value in bond on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan. :	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	
Imports	47,000	36,000	38,000	22,000	57,000	Tons.
Deliveries	44,000	37,000	44,000	38,000	40,000	..
Stocks, 26th Nov.	12,000	8,000	5,500	12,000	29,000	..
Quotations of average qualities, 3rd Dec. :	16s. 8d.	15s. 0d.	21s. 8d.	15s. 9d.	15s. 6d.	

Rums.—Stocks in London, 26th Nov. :	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.		
Jamaica	8,000	8,100	9,800	—	10,100	Puns.
Demerara	2,400	4,300	5,100	—	6,000	..
Total of all kinds	17,200	20,100	22,900	—	27,000	..

Business in Demerara has not yet been resumed, the samples of the recent arrivals only now coming up. Quotations, therefore, cannot be given with any accuracy. Jamaica is firm, with a quotation of 2s. 3d. for Standard Home Trade Marks. Leewards and other Foreign kinds are nominally worth 11d. to 1s. 3d.

Cocoa.—Stocks in London, 26th Nov. :	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	
Trinidad	8,000	15,100	24,500	13,100	Bags.
Grenada	3,800	9,500	11,000	7,100	..
Total of all kinds	48,500	65,000	80,800	52,400	..

A further considerable advance has taken place in prices, the necessities of some of our smaller manufacturers compelling them to buy the limited arrivals of British West India that are taking place, at any cost. There is also a continuance of the speculative enquiry, which is, however, a less reliable feature, and the future of the market is full of uncertainties. In the meantime the small sales recently made have been on the following basis: Trinidad fair collected, 81s., Estate Marks, 83s. to 86s.; Grenada fair, 71s., fermented, 73s. to 75s. From other Islands Native cocoa is worth about 70s., and fermented, 72s. to 74s.

Sundries.—COFFEE: fairly steady, good ordinary Jamaica, 42s. NETMEGS: a good business doing in West India. Recent sales include 68's at 11d., 79's at 9d. to 9½d., 94's at 8d., 100's at 6½d., 113's at 6d., 126's at 5½d., 140's at 5d., and in shell at 4d. MACE: steady, good pale sold at 1s. 8d.; fair pale and reddish, 1s. 5d.; fair red, 1s. 4d., and broken, 11½d. to 1s. 2d. PIMENTO: quiet, value, 2½d. to 2¾d. CINNOR: slow, Jamaica common 53s. to 58s., middling to fine, 60s. to 85s. ARROWROOT: a small business done on the basis of 2½d. for good manufacturing St. Vincent. LIME JUICE*: Concentrated, £21 12s. 6d. Distilled Lime Oil, 2s. 4d. Hand Pressed, 3s. 6d.

* Per favour of Messrs. Serroton, Sons & Co

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OUR CELEBRITIES.

No LXXXII.



The Most Rev. P. V. Flood, O.P., D.D.
Archbishop of Port of Spain.

The West India Committee Rooms,

15, SEETHING LANE, LONDON,

Dec. 17th, 1906

Telegram: "GIBB, LONDON." Telephone: 6843 CENTRAL.

THROUGH it is not customary to issue a Christmas number of the *West India Committee Circular*, we have in the past been in the habit of taking the opportunity of the *Circular* published nearest Christmas Day for conveying to our many readers in all parts of the world—and it may be mentioned that our publication now finds its way to India, Canada, Australia, Mauritius, East Africa, Natal, Egypt, Madeira and Peru, as well as to the West Indies—the compliments of the season. This we now do most cordially, and we may add the wish that the coming year—1907—may show a still further improvement in the condition of our West Indian Colonies. The past year, of the principal events in which our usual retrospect will be given in our next issue, has been one of increased activity, and once more we have to thank our many readers for the support which they have accorded to us, and which has enabled us still to advance along the path of progress. When the next Report of the West India Committee is published, it will be found that the number of new members elected during the year 1906 will again exceed that of the previous year, but we are by no means satisfied

... of the previous year, but we are by no means satisfied

as yet, believing, as we do, that there is still a large number of estates' proprietors and others interested in the West Indies who have not yet joined the ranks of our organisation. Union is strength, and in this connection we are proud to learn that a proposal is, according to the *Daily Mail*, on foot for forming an East India Committee on the lines of the West India Committee, and that the proposals are being warmly taken up in Calcutta. The possibility at once suggests itself of the formation of similar bodies for all our principal groups of Colonies. The speeches by the many notable representatives of the Colonial newspapers at the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, when Mr. ARTHUR W. A'BECKETT delivered his interesting address on the Colonial Press, all seemed to be in the direction of deploring the lamentable lack of interest taken in Colonial affairs in this country, and in this connection, while Mr. A'BECKETT's suggested "Guild of the British Imperial Press," and the "Imperial Intelligence Union" suggested by SIR SANDFORD FLEMING in his address before the Eighty Club on July 20th, 1906, for disseminating Imperial information over all-British cables, must commend themselves to the Imperial-minded, the suggestion of the formation of Committees—call them what you will—akin to the West India Committee, with a possible central organisation on which representatives of each Committee would sit, could not fail to be of material assistance in bringing about the ends which are sought. This is a matter to which we shall refer at some future date, when full particulars of the proposals formulated in Calcutta are received, and pending that we may well congratulate our readers on having brought the Committee to a position of influence and importance, on a par with what it was when the West Indian Colonies were the Colonies *par excellence* of Great Britain; and after all, it is the members of a body who constitute it and it is the members of the body who make it, and we may, therefore, properly conclude by expressing the hope that during the coming year they will not relax their efforts, but still further strengthen the status of the Committee.

SINCE the first Colonial Conference was called by Lord Salisbury in 1887 its scope has steadily widened. From a body of delegates it has developed into a council of responsible statesmen, and its meetings are to become periodical instead of intermittent. A further extension, however, is urged by those who understand the dynamics of Imperialism. Up to now only the autonomous Colonies have been represented at the Conferences, and this is apt to narrow the perspective at a vital point. To commercial expansion on the grand scale three factors are essential—manufacturing power, temperate products, and tropical products. The first of these is embodied in England, the second in Canada, Australasia, and South Africa, the third in the tropical dependencies of the Empire. To create harmonious working relations between these three sources of wealth is the aim of true Imperialism. But so far only two of them have been heard at the Colonial Conferences. The third is voiceless except through the heads of departments in England. Our tropical possessions in Africa are not sufficiently matured to claim representation; while India occupies a special position. There remains the small, but important class of Colonies, semi-autonomous, or under the direct control of the Colonial Office, which furnish a unique type of British expansion overseas, the former uniting in themselves all the features of a tropical dependency with a certain measure of self-government. These are more than mere outlets for trade; they are Colonies in the true sense of the term. The most valuable of them are the West Indies and British Guiana, and it is these which should be directly represented at Colonial Conferences, not as a matter of grace, but of right. In the first place their wealth and strategical position largely contributed to the rise of England as a commercial and maritime Power. In the second place, after one of the most remarkable struggles against adverse circumstances ever recorded in economic history, they are again becoming a vital factor in international competition. For it must be remembered that, if the black population preponderates in the West Indies, the white communities

have roots in the soil, the growth of centuries. It is, on this account, in our own interest as well as theirs, that the Government should give them a voice at the coming Conference. There are vast questions in connection with the consolidation of the Empire, in the settlement of which they are destined to play no insignificant part. Already they are on the way to free us from dependence on America for Sea Island cotton. Moreover, to the British Atlantic system they are as essential commercially as they are strategically to the Empire as a whole, for the same economic causes that force the United States to annex tropical possessions, are driving Canada into preferential arrangements with the West Indies. On the opening of the Panama Canal they will be to Australia what Gibraltar and Malta are to India now. Therefore, until they are represented at the Conference, its functions cannot be perfectly performed. The autonomous States can always make themselves heard, but the semi-autonomous and the Crown Colonies cannot. Hence a question may be settled without any reference to their interests, and, in consequence, the result works badly from the Imperial point of view. That their standing and prospects will be enhanced by the recognition of their right to a place in the Conference is not the least of its many advantages, and no Colonies have deserved it more. It is high time that the oldest and most historic of all the King's Dominions oversea should speak to the Mother Country without official intervention—and the Conference is the means.

THE effect of the Canadian Tariff Revision, as announced by MR. W. S. FIELDING, the Minister of Finance, in his recent budget speech in the Canadian Parliament, may not prove entirely satisfactory to the sugar interests of the British West Indies. The preference given to British sugars, is, it is true, still kept at the same figure, but the introduction of an "intermediate" tariff for use in commercial negotiations with foreign countries is a new feature. Canada has the right to fix her own tariff, and thus by her own legislation to settle the conditions on which she will trade with other countries; these, however, are terminable at any moment. More permanent conditions can only be secured by treaties of commerce with foreign countries, which can only be made through the Imperial Government. Any concessions made by Great Britain to any one country would, under the "most favoured" nation clause of existing treaties, have to be extended to other countries. As matters now stand, therefore, Canada has armed herself with a weapon which she contemplates using as and when circumstances require, so as to extend her area of trade; and if this be done with a foreign sugar-producing country under the "intermediate" tariff, a further supply of sugar on preferential terms is at once obtained. This preference, although not so great as that given to British grown sugar, would nevertheless diminish the British advantage. Owing to the demand for sugar in Canada being less than the British West Indian supply, the difference between the general and the preferential tariffs, which constitutes the preference, rarely enters the market price. This is, of course, quite in accordance with natural laws. The growing consumption of sugar, however, in Canada, has led to hopes that in the near future the adjustment of supply and demand will tend to such market prices as will give a legitimate share of the preference to the British sugar growers and refiners. Now there is the probability of further supplies of preferential sugar—even though at a lower preferential rate—coming to modify this hope, and debar the British West Indies from deriving the full advantage in point of price from the preference to which it was looking forward. Fortunately, however, the increase in the duties on raw sugar—which means that the difference between the British preferential and the general tariff is greater than before—will diminish the prospective evil. Under the old tariff this amount was $23\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 lbs. for 96° sugar, under the new it will be $28\frac{1}{2}$ cents. The preference to a foreign country under the intermediate tariff would be $10\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 100 lbs., which would practically reduce the British preference to 18 cents—or $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents less than it is at present. As long as the duty on refined sugar remains at its present figure the tariff is not likely to give cheap sugar to the Canadian people and so increase the consumption more rapidly, and the

Canadian refiners seem to be able to combine and thus buy and sell for their own exclusive advantage, which tends to neutralize the preferential benefit intended for the British sugar interests. Anyhow they have control of the situation at present in the absence of organized selling. Another important point in the new tariff is that, to obtain the preference, shipments will have to be made to Canadian ports. As Montreal is closed for the winter months, a position of considerable disadvantage is thus produced for the bulk of West Indian sugar shippers.

In the article devoted to the "Homeward Mail" in our last issue reference was made to the strong feeling with regard to the Crown Agents and their conduct of Colonial business matters which was recently voiced in a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of British Guiana on the subject of the proposed increase in their dealings with that Colony, and in this connection we now refer our readers to MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL'S reply to MR. WALKER'S question in the House of Commons as to the position of the Crown Agents in their intromissions with the Crown Colonies. The evasiveness and insufficiency of MR. CHURCHILL'S answers were probably apparent to no one more than that gentleman himself, and constitute a justification of the attitude which has been for many years taken up towards the Crown Agents by the Colonies affected. It is unfortunately only too well-known a fact that any transaction involving money expenditure which is in the hands of our Crown Agents means a serious loss to a Colony on account of the extravagance of the cost and charges—and it is not too much to say that the development of many a Crown Colony has been retarded on the one hand from the Conservative attitude shown by the Crown Agents, and on the other from the unwillingness of the Colonies concerned to embark on any enterprise involving a large expenditure with which the Crown Agents have to do. Unfortunately the Crown Colonies proper are not, as a rule, in a position successfully to contest the position, and it is left for the semi-autonomous Colonies, such as British Guiana, where the Combined Court claims the right to control the direction of public spending, to take up the cudgels and decline to have their public chest handed over to the unchecked and extravagant expenditure which dealings with the Crown Agents invariably involve. Were the history of the dealings of the Crown Agents with the West Indies written, it would open the eyes of the public to the extent to which, in the way of official patronage and ill-considered expenditure, these Colonies have been exploited, and would afford an explanation of why the development of the larger Colonies has been kept back, and the position of the smaller depreciated in the past. If ever there was a Government which should endeavour to conduct public affairs on an open footing by breaking down prejudicial tradition and monopoly, it is the present, and yet we find MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL shielding an official institution which has by its own acts proved itself unfit for modern requirements, and to the accusations against which he gives practically no defence. When an official, who after many years' actual connection with the Colonial Office has held the post of Governor in two of the largest of the West Indian Colonies, enters the lists in support of the Colonies in their struggle with the Crown Agents, as SIR AUGUSTUS HEMMING has done, it is quite time the true position of things is recognised. Instead of that, not only is the subject shelved by the Colonial Office in the House of Commons, but efforts are actually made, by bringing pressure to bear on the local administration, to hand over privileges of the Combined Court of British Guiana to the Crown Agents. All this strengthens the claim of the West Indies to representation at the coming Colonial Conference.

THE King has again been graciously pleased to show the interest which he takes in our West Indian Colonies by accepting a representative collection of fruit from the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica, and it is safe to say that his action will stimulate planters, and at the same time interest the general public in this country in the oranges and limes of the beautiful Island in the West. It was a matter for regret that more of the West Indian Colonies did not see their way to fall



DOMINICA AT THE SHOW OF COLONIAL FRUIT.

The King was graciously pleased to accept specimens of each of the fruits shown above, and the remainder among the leading London Hospitals

in with the proposals of the West India Committee and forward exhibits for the recent show of Colonial fruits at the Royal Horticultural Hall, but it was admitted on all sides that the show was one of unequalled excellence, and what was perhaps the most satisfactory feature of it, the judges were emphatic in their praise of the fruit, which showed a marked improvement over that displayed at the first Colonial fruit exhibition in 1904. The chief reason that so few of our West Indian Colonies were represented appears to be purely financial. They pointed out that they had no funds for the purpose and consequently could not participate, and this leads us to ask whether, now that the Permanent Exhibition Committees, which, in accordance with a suggestion made in our columns in January 1905, have been established in practically all the West Indian Islands and the formation of which met with the support of Lord Elgin and the assistance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, a sum of from £50 to £100 might not be placed on the estimates of the various Colonies in order to enable these committees adequately to carry out the work entrusted to them. It is obvious that without funds the committees will not be able to take action with regard to any of the exhibitions to be held during the coming year, and we earnestly appeal to those of our readers who are members of the Legislative Councils of the various Colonies to take action in this direction. It is surprising how much may be done for a small outlay, and it is no secret that the expenses of the recent display of Dominica fruit did not exceed £15, which included an immense amount of circularising of a practical character; and in estimating the good done by an exhibition of this sort our readers should consider what it would cost to insert the equivalent of the many notices which have appeared in the Press in the way of ordinary advertisements.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF PORT OF SPAIN.

The Most Reverend Patrick Vincent Flood, Archbishop of Port of Spain, was born in Ireland, and made his preliminary studies in St. Mel's Seminary, Longford, and his theological studies in the Dominican College of the Minerva, Rome, where he was ordained priest in 1867. After his ordination he served for twenty years on the Mission in Ireland in churches of the Dominican order, to which he belongs. In 1887 he was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of Port of Spain, and succeeded, on the death of his predecessor in March, 1889, to the Archbishopric of the See. Not only is Archbishop Flood a churchman of the highest ability, but a congenial companion. Among all classes and sects he is extremely popular, and he is a highly esteemed Member of the West India Committee.

THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Executive held on Thursday, December 6th, Sir Henry K. Davson presiding, the following were elected Members of the West India Committee:—

Name.	Proposer.	Seconder.
WILLIAM C. BLOE.	H. A. Trotter.	R. Rutherford.
R. P. GOPPE.	S. G. Woods.	A. D. Goffe.
W. LLEWELLYN WALL (Montserrat).	D. S. Blake.	William Gillespie.
FRED SHELFORD.	The Hon. A. C. Ponsonby.	R. Rutherford.
H. S. HENRY & SON.	L. Devenish.	Hon. G. T. Panwick, C.M.G.
H. SOPER COX.	F. I. Scard.	A. N. Lubbock.

We may remind readers that by virtue of Rule IV. of the West India Committee, subscriptions from new members elected during the last three months of any year are held as on account of the year beginning on the following January 1st. Thus, members elected during the current month, will, on paying their subscriptions (which are due on election) not be required to renew them until January 1st, 1908. Full particulars regarding Membership and application forms for Candidates may be obtained from Algernon E. Aspinall, Secretary, the West India Committee, 15, Seething Lane, London, E.C.

SUGAR-BEET IN ENGLAND.

Interesting experiments have been carried out in Dorset and Somerset in connection with sugar-beet growing. The beet seed was obtained from Germany, and the farmers set aside half an acre each

of their mangold land for the purpose of the experiment. Owing, however, to the cultivation of beet being slightly different to that of mangolds, the return was not quite so good as it might have been.

The results compared with those obtained at Magdeburg were:—

	Magdeburg (Germany).	Sherborne.	Limington.	Podymore.	Bradford Abbas.
Average weight of root with leaves, in grammes	1,276	2,040	1,863	1,783	2,160
Average weight without leaves	544	975	817	942	1,008
Specific gravity of juice	1,081.5	1,084	1,078	1,090	1,081
Quantity of sugar in 100 parts juice	17.23	17.40	16.70	18.40	17.20
Quantity of non-sugar (salts)	2.37	2.70	2.20	3.20	2.20
Quotient of purity (available extract)	87.91	86.56	88.35	85.19	88.65
Quantity of sugar in 100 parts of the roots	14.85	16.10	15.90	16.80	16.20
Days growing	—	157	143	158	144
Tons per acre (estimated)	—	12	12	16	15

The yield per acre is lower than what was obtained in Essex, where however, the area of the plot was less and the roots weighed. In the latter case the weight per acre amounted to 18 tons. The experiment emphasises the fact that sugar-beet can be grown in England, but unless the yield per acre can be brought up to the Essex standard it is to be feared that the pecuniary aspect of a sugar industry based on such returns would not be encouraging.

THE COLOUR OF CACAO SEEDS.

Mr. Herbert Wright in the *Tropical Agriculturist* says that the colour of the seeds of cacao varies from white to deep purple in the same fruit or in fruits from different varieties. Generally the seeds of the Nicaraguan and Caracas varieties are white, those of the Forastero types white or purple, in varying intensity, and those of Amelonado and Calabacillo all deep purple. There is, however, a great variation in the number of white seeds in the first mentioned varieties, and more often than not the cacao trees on plantations in Ceylon possess fruits with white and purple seeds, or with all the seeds purple. It is very rare that all the seeds in the fruits from one tree are white, even with the Caracas and the more recently introduced Nicaraguan forms, and much of the unevenness in the finished product is to be attributed to this unfortunate variation. Mr. Wright gives the following as the proportion of coloured beans in various descriptions of cacao:—

Variety of Cacao.	Fruits with white seeds only.		Fruits with purple seeds only.		Fruits with milked seeds purple and white.		Percentage number of white seeds in fruits.		Percentage number of distinctly purple seeds in fruits.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.		
Nicaraguan	48.2	18.8	33.0	64	36					
Caracas	57.9	1.8	40.3	84.7	14.2					
Forastero	00.0	18.4	81.6	37.4	61.8					
Amelonado	00.0	100.0	00.0	00.0	100.0					

COFFEE IN INDIA.

At the end of 1905 there were 212,832 acres of land under coffee in India, all, with the exception of 196 acres, in Southern India. The production of coffee is restricted for the most part to a limited area in the elevated region above the south-western coast, the coffee lands of Mysore, Coorg, and the Madras districts of Malabar and the Nilgiris comprising 86 per cent. of the whole area under coffee in India. About half of the whole coffee-producing area is in Mysore, where there were 101,319 acres in 1905; while in Coorg there were 48,215 acres; and in the Nilgiris and Malabar about 33,000 acres. Some coffee is grown in other districts in Madras, principally in Madura, Salem, and Coimbatore, and in Travancore and Cochin. It is grown also, but on a very restricted scale, in Burma, Assam, and Bombay.

	Area under Cultivation (Calendar year).	Reported Production (Calendar year).	Exports (Fiscal year)
	Acres.	Lbs	Lbs
1901	260,884	15,585,003	28,564,704
1902	237,379	30,140,255	30,146,480
1903	228,815	28,054,402	32,620,448
1904	215,233	29,081,614	36,920,464
1905	212,832	31,178,716	40,340,384

It is noticeable that while the area has been steadily diminishing, the exports, which account for nearly the whole of the crop, have risen in each of the last five years, and were larger in the fiscal year 1905-6 than in any of the previous sixteen years.

PINE-APPLE CULTIVATION.

Mr. Robert Thomson, writing in the "Journal of the Jamaica Agricultural Society" for September, states that if the soils of Florida were anything like the soils of Jamaica, it is safe to say that pine-apples would not be cultivated there at all. The soil in which they are planted consists of 96 to 98 per cent. of silica. The growers furnish all the food by fertilizers which bring forth luxuriant crops. This kind of soil is so congenial, that the plants from time to time endure great vicissitudes of temperature, darkness under cover, and smoke from hundreds of fires to protect them from frost. This soil is a mystery, chemically and physically. "Just how it is that the pine-apple can thrive in such soil that seems to be exceedingly deficient in all the necessary qualifications of good land, has not been explained. It will probably be necessary to institute careful physiological experiments with the plant itself before the matter shall be thoroughly understood." Mr. Thomson was struck with one remarkable feature of this soil. On examining a large pine-apple field that had been some months before uprooted in order to prepare the land for replanting, he saw many hundreds of small rejected suckers which had been cast away over the land, actually bearing fruit! In other words, these suckers yielding fruit had no connection with the soil, other than lying on the surface. He arrived at the conclusion that this phenomenal productiveness was due to the great depth of the bed of sand, probably 50 feet, which issued moisture from its huge mass, on the principle of capillary attraction. Mr. Thomson's remarks suggest that the fine sandy savannahs with which British Guiana abounds within easy access might be used for growing pine-apples. Good pines grow readily on them, and with suitable manuring and treatment good results should be obtained.

OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Dr. Higgins and Jamaica.

In the "West India Committee Circular" of November 6th last, an account, taken from the minutes of the Committee, was given of the engagement of a Dr. Higgins, a scientist of repute, to proceed to Jamaica and devote himself to the improvement of the sugar and rum manufacture, and as no further news of this gentleman and his work appeared in the minutes, we requested our readers to supply us with any information on the subject they might be able to gather. In response to this, Mr. Frank Cundall, the Secretary of the Institute of Jamaica, has forwarded us an extract from "Dallas' History of the Maroons" (Lon. 1803):

"In the year 1796, Dr. Bryan Higgins, a physician of great reputation on chemical subjects, was induced to leave his family and a considerable establishment in London for a time, and to visit Jamaica to employ his knowledge in the service of the Island, by improving the manufacture of the principal staples, sugar and rum. In Dr. Higgins' memorial to the House of Assembly, he states that he had discovered certain processes by which sugar might be made whiter, purer, and intrinsically more valuable; rum rendered more grateful and salubrious, and valuable; the loss by the drainage of molasses prevented; and the fuel used more effectually, and more economically managed. His offers were accepted by the Assembly, and committees were appointed for each county, to attend in making his proposed improvements. The Doctor remained several years in the island, devoting his talents to the service of it. His improvements consisted in the structure of the coppers, which was calculated to prevent any waste of fuel, and to accelerate the boiling of the sugar, and was considered as being very favourable to the improvement of the quality. The construction of the trash-house recommended by him was found to prepare the trash for use infinitely sooner than had ever been known before. His process for meliorating the quality and increasing the quantity of rum, gave the greatest satisfaction: it is easy, simple, and economical, and it prevents the noxious quality and offensive smell of new rum. The distiller, by setting his vats or cisterns by the hydrometer, and the scale adapted to it, acts with certainty and precision, so that no sweets are wasted, and, on an average, about a seventh or eighth of the sweets are saved; and by the use of the ley of the stoke-hole ashes, and other means recommended, the spirit is so rectified as to attain the desired perfection."

In addition to the thousand guineas a year for his three years' engagement from the West India Committee, the Jamaica Government paid him one thousand four hundred pounds a year, and when his health broke down in 1801 and he was compelled to return to England, presented him with one thousand pounds. Although his work must have been of a satisfactory description, his plans of improvement appear to have been adopted by few and continued by fewer still. In the "Bibliographia Jamaicensis" the entry occurs—"503. Observations and Advices (on the manufacture of Sugar and Rum) by Bryan Higgins, M.D. St. Jago de la Vega, 1797-1803." There is, however, no copy of the book in the Library of the Jamaica Institute. Should any of our readers come across a copy of this work, it would be interesting to know how far Dr. Higgins anticipated the teachings of subsequent years in respect of the manufacture of sugar and rum.

THE RECENT FRUIT SHOW.

The sixth show of Colonial Fruits under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, which was held in their spacious Hall at Vincent Square, Westminster, on December 4th and 5th, was admitted on all sides to be the most successful of the series. The principal exhibitors on this occasion were British Columbia—who made a grand display of apples, which arrived in perfect condition after a journey of 5,000 miles,—and the West Indies. The latter was represented by the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica, who were awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society for their display of Citrus Fruits; the West Indian Produce Association, who received the Gold Medal for preserves; the Royal Mail Steam Package Company, who gained a Silver Gilt Knightian Medal for a general display of fruit; the Norbrook Canning Company of Jamaica, who also received a Silver

Knightian Medal for Canned Preserves; Mr. Muirhead, of Jamaica, and Messrs. Aston, Gardner and Co., who already gained the highest award at a previous exhibition. The chief features of the Dominica stand, of which an illustration is given on another page, were the navel and seedless oranges and the fresh limes, which, with other oranges of many varieties—Portugals, citrons, lemons, grape fruit, shaddocks, and giant shaddocks—were set out to advantage in baskets, relieved with crotons and palms. The fruit was all in excellent condition, and in marked contrast to that received from Jamaica, the bulk of which was, unfortunately, reduced to pulp and quite useless. The Dominica Exhibit was made of practical value by the display of large yellow posters extolling the merits of fresh limes in bold green type, and the distribution of some hundreds of leaflets inviting visitors to ask for them and use them instead of lemons. Moreover, specimens of the fruit were freely distributed from barrels supplied by the Atlantis Fruit Company.



A Novel Idea for Showing Limes.

The West Indian Produce Association, who were awarded a Gold Medal for preserves, also showed a quantity of fruit at the recent Colonial Show. Limes were shown in the striking manner depicted above on a board surrounded by bamboos.

The West Indian Produce Association made a brave show of oranges, limes, preserves, Jamaica and Trinidad cigars, and every conceivable kind of West Indian produce, which were zealously guarded by a negro from "Ruinveldt," British Guiana, in picturesque attire. The exhibit, which covered a run of no less than 180 feet of tables, with an area of 720 square feet, did infinite credit to Mr. C. A. Philip, who was the recipient of many congratulations upon his energy and enterprise. The canned preserves of the Norbrook Canning Company, which he also displayed to great advantage, were very favourably commented upon by the jury, who, however, were inclined to urge that in future they should be put up in glass and not in tins.

Regarding the exhibits as a whole, the jury, which included many notabilities in the fruit handling world, spoke in a most encouraging strain. What pleased them most was the remarkable all-round improvement shown in the selection, the putting-up, and the display of the produce, which alone would amply justify the Royal Horticultural Society in holding these purely Colonial shows. At the close of the exhibition the Dominica fruit, which was still in first-rate order, was repacked, and at the request of the Permanent Exhibition Committee of Dominica, forwarded to the following London hospitals: Bartholomew's, St. George's, Bethlehem, St. Thomas', Charing Cross, Middlesex, London, and Guy's; while, mindful of the King's suggestion on a previous occasion, several boxes were also sent to the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, the East London Children's Hospital, Her Majesty's Hospital for Sick Waifs, and the Ragged School Union.

A box containing specimens of each of the fruits exhibited was forwarded by the West India

Committee to Buckingham Palace, and the King was graciously pleased to accept it, together with copies of the literature regarding the Colony, a compliment which cannot fail to be appreciated greatly in Dominica. The King's gracious letter has been framed, and will be forwarded to the Island, together with the award card; and when it is engraved the Gold Medal will, it is hoped, still further stimulate a colony which is already one of the most enterprising in the West Indies.

While it is to be regretted that a sufficient number of Colonies did not respond to enable the Committee to carry out their proposal for a special Press visit overnight, the West India Committee desire to acknowledge the very generous assistance given by the Press at home and abroad on this occasion, the loyal efforts made by Barbados to secure the co-operation of her neighbours, the generosity of the little Island of St. Kitts in forwarding a contribution towards the expenses, and the kindness of the Royal Mail Steam Package Company and the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service in carrying exhibits freight free.

ST. VINCENT FREE LIBRARY.

As the result of the memorial from the inhabitants of St. Vincent, which the West India Committee forwarded to Mr. Carnegie, soliciting a donation for the establishment of a Free Library, Mr. Carnegie has kindly consented to provide £2,000 for that object, subject to the local Government's guarantee to contribute £75 per annum—in addition to the £50 per annum which the Kingstown Board will provide. This guarantee, we are glad to be able to state, has been given by the local Government, and will be approved by the Secretary of State.

FRANCE AND THE CONVENTION.

"The question of Customs tariffs," says M. G. Dureau in the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, "is more than ever the order of the day in Europe. The position of the French Sugar Industry in this respect is, as is well known, fixed by the Brussels Convention. But the period of the latter ending on August 31st, 1908, and the British Government appearing resolved to denounce it, the point is raised, not without reason, in sugar circles, as to whether the opportunity should not be taken to adopt special precautionary measures to meet the case when the international agreement shall have been dissolved. It should not be forgotten that, on the day the agreement comes to an end, Germany and Austria-Hungary can apply, *ipso facto*, without the help of any fresh legislation, their old prohibitive customs tariff, while France would have to legislate anew."

The danger of the situation has been recognised by the Chamber of Commerce of Cambrai, who have passed a resolution calling the attention of the Government to the advisability of the revising, on a precautionary measure, the French sugar duties, so as to put them on all fours with Continental competitors, and so to be safeguarded in any eventuality. What France should do, says the *Journal*, is to establish a sufficiently high Customs tariff to be able to defend the interests of the sugar industry with success. The Customs Commission has just decided to address all interested bodies as to what modifications of the tariff of 1892 would further their interests, and as the replies will be returned to the Commission before February 1st, 1907, the opportunity will be a good one for the sugar industry to express its views. Every day the result of Great Britain's prospective withdrawal from the Convention is being more and more foreshadowed, and it is quite easy to see that the Continental sugar industry looks forward to a renewal of the old pre-Convention days.

LECTURE ON THE COLONIAL PRESS.

Mr. Arthur W. a'Beckett, Past President of the Institute of Journalists and the Newspaper Society, read an interesting paper at the Colonial Institute on December 11th, the subject being the Colonial Press. The chair was taken by Lieut.-General Sir Bevan Edwards, and there was a large attendance. Mr. a'Beckett dealt with the Press of the various Colonies of the Empire in turn and expressed the hope that a Society would be created in the interests of inter-Colonial journalism under the title of "The Guild of the British Imperial Press," with the professional motto of "The pen is mightier than the sword," and gave it as his opinion that there are few papers issued from Fleet Street as keenly alive to the interests of the Empire as those in the Colonies. Referring to the West Indies, the lecturer spoke of the admirable tone of the West Indian papers, and paid a compliment to the *West India Committee Circular*. At the conclusion of the lecture, representatives of the Press of Australia, Canada, the West Indies and other Colonies expressed their approval of the sentiments and suggestions of this interesting lecture.

MR. QUINTIN HOGG.

In unveiling the statue of Mr. Quintin Hogg, which has been erected at the junction of Regent Street and Langham Place, nearly opposite the Polytechnic, of which he was the founder, the



Mr. Quintin Hogg.

This beautiful group of statuary, sculptured by Mr. Frampton, representing Mr. Quintin Hogg reading to two London boys has been erected at the junction of Regent Street and Langham Place. We are indebted to the *Sphere* for the photograph from which this illustration has been reproduced.

for his long continued and valuable services to the Committee. The statue bears the inscription: "Quintin Hogg, 1845-1903, erected by the members of the Polytechnic to the memory of their founder."

DINNER TO THE HON. RALPH WILLIAMS.

The Hon. Ralph Williams, C.M.G., the new Governor of the Windward Islands, was entertained at dinner by the West Indian Club on Wednesday, December 12th. Sir James S. Hay, K.C.M.G., who was Governor of Barbados when Mr. Williams was Colonial Secretary of that Island, presided, and there was a full attendance, including Mr. Arthur a'Beckett, Brigadier-General W. A. Collings, Mr. L. de Mercado, Mr. C. Cary Elwes, Mr. D. G. Garraway, Mr. W. A. M. Goode, Mr. R. A. J. Goode, Professor J. B. Harrison, C.M.G., Mr. Arthur Johnson, Dr. Lockett, Mr. T. C. Macnaghton, Mr. A. E. Messer, Mr. A. McD. Nathan, Mr. Thomas Platt, Hon. A. C. Ponsonby, Mr. J. Rippon, Mr. R. Rutherford, Mr. Howard Smith, Mr. G. Moody Stuart, Dr. E. Sturridge, Mr. J. S. Westwood, Mr. E. T. Whitaker, and Mr. Algernon E. Aspinall. Letters of regret at their inability to be present were read from Sir R. B. Llewellyn, late Governor of the Windward Islands, Hon. W. Peter, member of the Legislative Council of St. Lucia, Sir Cuthbert Quilter, Bart., Sir Henry Davson, Mr. W. Mitchell-Thomson, M.P., Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P., and Mr. W. Ashley Bovell. After the usual loyal toast, Sir James Hay proposed the health of

the guest of the evening, referring to the zealous manner in which Mr. Williams had assisted him when he was Governor of Barbados, and administered the Government during his absence on various occasions. Mr. Williams, in responding, referred to the pleasure it gave him to learn that his former chief was to be in the chair. It gave him, he said, great pleasure to be returning once more to the West Indies, and he hoped that during his term of office as Governor of the Windward Islands he would be on as friendly terms with all classes of the community as he had been in Barbados. He had, he said, implicit confidence in the loyalty of the natives, and though from a social, sentimental and pecuniary point of view, he regretted the withdrawal of the British troops from the West Indies, he reminded those present that the chief function of an orderly body was to provide against disorder, and added that the West Indies should be well able to organise and maintain their own forces for the preservation of internal quietude. There were many difficulties in the way of providing the necessary machinery, but when he went out to his post he hoped to be able to overcome them. Referring to the Imperial Department of Agriculture, he said that he believed that it had proved to be one of the greatest factors towards furthering the prosperity of the West Indies; but he emphasised the importance of the Colonies taking upon themselves some part of the burden of maintaining the department. Dealing with the question of communication between the Islands, he said that it was essential that the steamer and telegraphic facilities should be ample.

THE LATE SIR ALEXANDER ASHMORE.

It is with great regret that we have to record the death of Sir Alexander Murray Ashmore, Lieut-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, which occurred on Friday, December 7th, after an operation for appendicitis. Sir A. Ashmore was the son of the late Mr. Charles Townshend Ashmore, of Nevern Square, S.W., and was born in February, 1855. After a short time at Cambridge, at the age of twenty-one he entered the Ceylon Civil Service as a writer, becoming police magistrate in Panvila in 1878, and, after holding other appointments in the Western and Central Provinces, Commissioner of Requests and police magistrate at Kandy in 1891. Three years later he left Ceylon to become Acting Colonial Secretary on the Gold Coast; in 1895 he was appointed Receiver-General and Chief Collector of Customs and Excise in Cyprus; in 1900 he was transferred to British Guiana as Government Secretary, before taking up which appointment he served on the Transvaal Concessions Commission in South Africa and London; and two years ago he returned to Ceylon as Lieut-Governor and Colonial Secretary. In British Guiana, both as Government Secretary and as Acting Governor, Sir Alexander Ashmore showed great administrative ability, and it was confidently hoped that some day he might return to the West Indies. He received the C.M.G. in 1900, and the K.C.M.G. last year. As in Ceylon, so also in the West Indies will he be lamented by a large circle of friends.



The late Sir Alexander M. Ashmore. K.C.M.G.

WHITE LABOUR IN QUEENSLAND.

The substitution of white for coloured labour in Queensland, according to the *North Queensland Herald*, of October 15th, was causing considerable apprehension as to the reaping of the cane crop.

Especial inducements were being held out to attract white labour, and considerable expense involved in doing so. The first four years' working of the bounty for white labour sugar only resulted in 30 % of the sugar being thus produced. Alteration of the law may lead to another 30% earning the bounty if the labour supply is adequate for it, which is much doubted, and next year the loss of 4,000 Polynesians will have to be made good. One theory has been proved by this tropical experiment, and that is that a sugar industry cannot be worked in the tropics by white labour without liberal outside financial assistance. When the bonus goes—this amounts to £2 per ton—the industry goes as well.

WEST INDIAN INTERESTS AT WESTMINSTER.

The Brussels Sugar Convention.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman informed Mr. Essex (L. Gloucester, Cirencester), on December 7th, that no opportunity for giving twelve months' notice of withdrawal from the Brussels Sugar Convention would arise until next autumn. In these circumstances he had nothing to add to the declaration made by the Government during the debate on the subject.

The Crown Lands of British Guiana.

Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent) asked on December 11th what measures had been adopted in British Guiana to improve the condition of the labouring classes; and whether, in view of the recent strike disturbances, he would consider the expediency of placing the Crown lands within the easy reach of the working population, and so encourage the general development of the Colony. Mr. Churchill: In view of the agitation that occurred last year in Georgetown, the Governor of British Guiana in March last appointed a representative Commission to inquire into the best means of inducing the unemployed in the Colony and those who have not the means to obtain land in the ordinary way to settle upon the land, and ultimately to acquire ownership in it. The Colonial Government have recently voted funds for carrying out experimentally the proposals of that Commission. The Secretary of State is advised that every facility is given to those desirous of obtaining Crown lands by purchase, and that no amendment of the existing Crown lands regulations is necessary to enable the working population to obtain such lands on reasonable terms.

Cacao from San Thomé and Príncipe.

In reply to a question on November 12th from Mr. Mitchell-Thomson as to the quantity of cacao imported into Great Britain in each year during the past ten years from San Thomé and Príncipe and the British West Indies respectively, Mr. Lloyd George said that the direct imports of cacao into this country from San Thomé and Príncipe are included in the official records under the general heading of Portuguese West Africa, and no separate statistics of such imports are therefore available. Practically the whole of the cacao coming from this district reaches the United Kingdom via Portugal, and is included in the aggregate shown from the latter country. The institution of a "Consignment Account" in 1904 has, however, enabled the figures for the last two years to be given separately. The following figures, which include also those for British Guiana, are the only ones available:—

Year.	PORTUGAL.		PORTUGUESE WEST AFRICA.		BRITISH WEST INDIA ISLANDS.		BRITISH GUIANA.	
	Imported lbs.	Consigned lbs.	Imported lbs.	Consigned lbs.	Imported lbs.	Consigned lbs.	Imported lbs.	Consigned lbs.
1896 ...	5,579,892	—	—	—	17,409,013	—	122,438	—
1897 ...	1,441,414	—	—	—	15,772,460	—	173,531	—
1898 ...	6,925,332	—	2,395	—	15,274,518	—	84,711	—
1899 ...	8,675,881	—	—	—	15,114,192	—	91,504	—
1900 ...	11,883,124	—	—	—	20,465,964	—	100,474	—
1901 ...	13,511,787	—	261	—	15,676,896	—	73,799	—
1902 ...	13,620,197	—	—	—	19,981,794	—	80,463	—
1903 ...	14,037,142	—	—	—	15,427,711	—	115,350	—
1904 ...	14,523,385	7,428,893	—	7,063,109	18,606,668	20,143,523	35,777	71,112
1905 ...	14,672,796	8,770,029	—	5,890,415	17,013,761	17,373,981	1,038	69,622

NOTE:—The accounts of the consignments were not established until the 1st January, 1904.

The Crown Agents and the Colonies.

In replying to Mr. Walker's postponed question regarding the position of the Crown Agents, Mr. Winston Churchill gave singularly inadequate and evasive replies. He said that while there was no wish to keep back any useful information, the Secretary of State considered that it was still unnecessary to supplement the information given in 1904, and in reply to Mr. Walker's question as to whether the consulting engineers to the Crown Agents, or their representatives, have any financial interest in railway construction that is carried out upon their recommendation, and, if so, what has been the amount of their remuneration from this source, how it is assessed, and from what fund it has been paid, Mr. Churchill stated that the firms of consulting engineers employed under

the Crown Agents to advise the Crown Colony Governments on railway construction or on other public works have no financial interest in such railways or works beyond the remuneration actually paid for such services.

The Organisation of the Crown Agents.

In reply to further questions put by Mr. Walker, on December 13th, Mr. Churchill said: It is obviously desirable that appointments to Government services should be made either by competitive examination or by selection after standard examination. The Secretary of State will consider whether such a reform can be conveniently effected in the system of appointment to the staff of the Crown Agents' Office. But the questions connected with such a change are complex, and no decision can be taken upon them at present; and the Secretary of State must not be taken as admitting that there is any lack of efficiency. Mr. Walker further asked whether, seeing that the funds available for the maintenance of the Crown Agents' Office are drawn in part from Protectorates which are largely financed by grants in aid from the Treasury, he would arrange that the House should not again, until it has a practical and efficacious right of control, be asked to sanction expenditure which will go in part towards the maintenance of the Crown Agents' Office.

Mr. Churchill: The system under which the Crown Agents transact business provides for a complete audit of the accounts of grant in aid to Colonies by the Comptroller and Auditor-General as well as for the observance of all the checks by which the Secretary of State exercises control over the Crown Agents. If the House does not regard this control as practical and efficacious, expression will no doubt be given to its opinion upon some convenient opportunity. Mr. Walker also asked whether the consulting engineers to the Crown Agents had anything to gain by recommending the construction of railways; whether they or their representatives were employed and received remuneration for their services in connection with the construction of railways which had been undertaken upon their recommendation; and, if so, what had been the amount of their remuneration from this source during the last ten years, how was it assessed, and from what fund or funds had it been paid. Mr. Churchill: The consulting engineers employed on behalf of the Crown Colony and Protectorate Governments advise only on such schemes as are referred for their advice by the Colonial Governments with the sanction of the Secretary of State. They do not recommend schemes in any other sense than that they state the merits or demerits of any project upon which they are called upon to advise from an engineering point of view. Should the Secretary of State decide that any scheme shall be carried out after the consulting engineers have advised, their further advice is, if advice is necessary, utilised in connection with its execution. The course followed is the ordinary practice whenever professional advice in any branch is sought either by Governments or by private individuals. How far it may be possible or expedient to furnish a return of the nature desired requires further consideration.

NATURE NOTES.

COTTON IN THE EAST. Sea Island cotton has been experimented on in the Straits Settlement, and the results show that that variety, as well as the Egyptian, is unsuitable for that country.

THE RUBBER BORER. In Olokemeji, in Southern Nigeria, the cultivation of *Castilloa elastica* has proved a failure; the plants have been exterminated by a boring beetle, identified as *Inosia leprosa*. The India-rubber tree, *Ficus elastica*, appears to have done well, and its cultivation is being greatly extended.

RUBBER IN CEYLON. The Ceylon Government, says *Commercial Intelligence*, is reaping the benefit of the rubber boom. A big sale of Crown land, suitable for rubber growing has just been held, and record prices were obtained. Altogether some 10,000 acres were put up for sale, and Rs. 600,000 (£40,000) were realised. The competition among buyers was of the keenest, and some of the best land offered brought three times as much as the upset price fixed.

THE CURRY-CURRY. Perhaps the most striking of the many beautiful birds of British Guiana is the scarlet ibis, or curry-curry, as it is known locally. When young the plumage is grey, but it subsequently changes to a brilliant scarlet. The muddy foreshore overgrown with courida, is its haunt, and when the tide goes down these brilliant scarlet objects stand out vividly against the neutral tinted background. On the wing they form a striking contrast to the bright blue sky.

PINE-APPLE DISEASE. On a pine-apple plantation recently started in Trinidad, it was found, says "J. H. H." in the *Trinidad Mirror*, that many fruits refused to develop, exuded a large quantity of gummy matter, and finally became deformed, and rotted away long before arriving at a mature stage. It was discovered that these were attacked by the larvæ of an insect, which gains access to the interior by means of the open flower. From its appearance it has provisionally been referred to the family of *Lycnida*. As these insects fly by day the remedy is to catch and kill them.

COTTON IN NIGERIA. It is thought that the official returns for 1904 as to cotton grown in Nigeria are misleading on account of seed cotton being mixed up with lint cotton. But anyway there is an increase of 42% in the value of the cotton exports for 1905-6. The present Governor, Sir W. Egerton, K.C.M.G., proposes to introduce rough hand gins, such as are used in India, with the idea that the small native growers should gin their own cotton. The native ginners and weavers are very expert, and with the most primitive appliances turn out results equal to anything that complicated machinery can produce in Europe.

CACAO THREAD DISEASE. Nearly two years ago, says the *Trinidad Bulletin*, a little alarm was occasioned by the discovery of a fungus "thread disease" on cacao trees in Trinidad, but a recent examination of the same spot showed that the disease, although present, had not spread in the least. The following is an extract from the report of the officer who found the disease, and who re-inspected the spot during the month of September last. "The disease was found only on a few branches, just where it had been first seen, but it had rather diminished than increased, and it had not appeared in any other part of the estate."

COTTON IN INDO-CHINA. The cotton cultivation question in Indo-China, according to the *Journal d'Agriculture Tropicale*, is a question of irrigation as far as Cambodia and Laos are concerned. At the latter place besides being a question of mud fertilisation, the labour problem would also require solution. Besides these two countries, it is also of a certain importance in North Annam, where crops are often compromised by premature rains, in Binh-Thuain, in two provinces at the west of Tonkin, and in the province of Barin in Cochin China. Cambodge cotton amounts at present to about 7,000 tons per annum. Although of short staple, it is notable for fetching in Hong Kong upwards of 2 dollars more per picul (132 lbs.), than the Indian variety.

CANE "BLIGHT." According to Mr. Hart, the "blight," which has caused a considerable amount of apprehension among sugar planters in Trinidad, is due, in the first instance, to the attack of an insect belonging to the family *Ceropidae* and the genus *Thomaspis*. The roots of the cane are attacked, and the canes suffer in proportion. In several instances the perfect insect was attacked by a fungus, which in the ordinary course, is probably one of its natural enemies. To assist in checking the ravages of the insect it may be found useful to dress the roots of the cane with an application of quick-lime, soot, wood-ashes, or any other substance which may be inimical to the insect while harmless to the cane. In badly affected places it is deemed advisable to burn the whole surface of the land immediately after the crop is taken off.

MORE MILLIONS. Thanks to the statements in the *West India Committee Circular* as to the destructive effects of the little fish called "millions" and belonging to the species *Girardinus* on mosquitoes, which were brought to our notice by Mr. C. Kenrick Gibbons, will be interested to learn that at the Titchfield Hotel in Jamaica, where the water tanks have been supplied with these fish, there has been a marked diminution of fever in the neighbourhood, the "millions" evidently accounting for the mosquito larvæ. Mr. Hart, in the *Trinidad Bulletin*, mentions that in addition to the fish known as "millions" mentioned above, a fish belonging to the genus *Haplochilus* also feeds not only upon mosquitoes, but also upon the *Girardinii*. Should, therefore, it be desirable to use the latter to keep down mosquito larvæ in ponds, fountains, &c., it is important that no member of the *Haplochilus* genus be present. This is extremely important in connection with the question of malarial prophylaxis, the subject of which being ventilated in these columns. It should be mentioned that the millions were conveyed to Jamaica by Captain Farmer, of the R.M.S.P. "Trent."

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The finances of the Bahamas Improve.

The revenue for the year ending March 31st, 1906, amounted to £77,273, an increase of £6,182 over that of the previous year, and of £3,022 over the average for the preceding five years, £5,321 13s. 4d. of this arose from increase in importations of alcoholic liquors and other goods. The expenditure amounted to £70,256, as against £69,825 the previous year, or an increase of £430, and a decrease of £6,334 on the average annual expenditure for the preceding five years. The following table of revenue and expenditure shows the steady and marked improvement in the financial position of the Island—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1901-2	£77,780	£81,135	£3,355 Deficit
1902-3	72,442	74,674	2,172 "
1903-4	71,377	74,038	2,661 "
1904-5	71,112	69,825	1,287 Surplus.
1905-6	77,273	70,256	7,017 "

It is satisfactory to note that the official acceptance of the American gold dollar as 4s. 1d. and the silver as 4s. had not produced the financial trouble anticipated, and that this was largely due to the

spirit in which the Bank and those opposed to the change loyally accepted the situation. The total value of the imports for the year, excluding specie, was £291,953, £217,054 of which were from the United States; £62,978 from the United Kingdom, and £3,950 from Canada; an excess of £8,462 over the previous year. Exports were valued at £222,905, or £27,969 more than in 1904; £204,293 of this represented the produce of the Colony. Of these, those to the United States were valued at £141,149, or an increase of £13,087 over the preceding year; to the United Kingdom £12,520, or a decrease of £4,293 on the preceding year; the exports to Canada had increased from £264 in 1904 to £2,568 in 1905-6. The bulk of the exports consisted of sponges, which were valued at £113,753, Bahamas, or sisal hemp, coming next with £37,522. The decrease in the value of exports to the United Kingdom was in sponges and turtle backs. The pineapple canning industry accounted for 162,118 dozen pineapples during the year, an increase of 9,000 dozen. 20,412 acres of sisal hemp were stated to be in cultivation, and the increased output 366 tons. A botanical and experimental station under the auspices of the newly created Agricultural Board, and experiments with Sea Island cotton, cassava, tobacco, pineapples &c., started. The pineapple industry was reported to be rapidly declining, owing to poor soil, the red spider, the want of new stock of plants, and the use of unsuitable fertilizers, but the Board of Agriculture would probably put matters on a better footing. The sponge industry was increasing, 180,000 lbs. more being exported than in 1904. Enquiries were being made with the view of securing the services of an expert to make scientific investigation into the question of the variation in time of growth of different varieties of sponge.

St. Vincent's diminishing deficit.

The report of Mr. E. J. Cameron, the Administrator of St. Vincent for the year 1905-6, shows that the revenue of the Island, omitting the Imperial grant connected with the Department of Agriculture and other Parliamentary grants, amounted to £24,928, £2,480 in excess of the figures for the previous year, while the expenditure was £24,625, or £603 less than that for 1904-5. Corresponding figures for the last five years are:—

Year	Revenue.	Expenditure.	
1901-2	£23,705	£26,149	£2,444 Deficit.
1902-3	25,931	25,758	173 Surplus.
1903-4	20,944	26,657	5,713 Deficit.
1904-5	22,448	25,228	2,780 "
1905-6	24,928	24,625	303 "

For the year 1905-6 and succeeding years the interest of the invested balance of the Eruption Fund, amounting to £750, is included in the general revenue.

The value of the exports for the year amounted to £69,097, showing a decrease as compared with the previous year, while the imports, £53,078, were greater to the extent of £1,166 than in 1904-5. This is mainly due to the cotton industry, the value of the cotton exported having risen from £900 in 1903-4 to £8,280 for the year under review. Live stock and vegetables showed an increase over the previous year of £1,083 and £1,205 respectively. On the other hand the value of the sugar exports had declined from £9,777 in 1904-5 to £3,793. Arrowroot, still the principal export, showed £20,522, practically the same as for the preceding year.

The values of the imports and exports for the last five years were:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1901-2	£74,919	£51,987
1902-3	79,123	44,094
1903-4	77,853	38,174
1904-5	74,236	31,902
1905-6	69,097	53,078

It is gratifying to see that the exports are gradually approaching in value to the imports, an indication of the improved economic condition of this sorely-tried Colony.

The Administrator, while speaking encouragingly of the agricultural progress of the Island, regrets that the Grenadines' Whale Industry has again been somewhat of a failure, in spite of more than the usual number of whales being visible for the season, and attributes it to the islanders being less active than formerly, or to the younger generation being less expert than their forbears.

On the whole it may be taken that St. Vincent shows distinct signs of emerging from the general depression caused by the severe set-backs it has received of recent years from eruptions and hurricanes.

CONSULAR REPORT.

Beet Sugar in Uruguay.

The Republic of Uruguay have passed a Bill providing for a bounty on sugar to the extent of \$50,000 in the first year, \$40,000 in the second, \$30,000 in the third, and \$20,000 in the fourth and fifth, after which it will cease. The bounty is conditional on a producer turning out 300 tons of

sugar in the first year, 400 in the second, 600 in the third, 1,100 in the fourth, and 1,500 in the fifth, and he is obliged to cultivate not less than 695 acres of beetroot, for the development of which industry the Bill is principally designed from the first year. Until the end of 1915 the difference between the customs and excise duties will not be less than 3 cents per lb. for raw sugars, and 3.5 cents for refined.

THE HOMEWARD MAILS.

The R.M.S. "Port Royal" left Kingston, Jamaica, on November 22nd and arrived at Avonmouth on December 5th. The R.M.S.P. "Atrato" left Barbados at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, November 28th, and reached Southampton at 5.10 p.m. on Monday, December 11th. Among the passengers of the latter were Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque and his son. We extract the following notes of interest from the letters of our Hon. Correspondents:—

The state of the crops in Barbados.

No heavy rain had fallen since October 16th, and the amount recorded for November up to the 25th, when the Hon. Forster M. Alleyne wrote, was very small. A few places in St. John's and Scotland had received as much as 5 or 6 inches, but the general amount was from 3 to 4 inches. This was a great disappointment, for planters were hoping that a good November would bring up the ratoons in Christ Church and St. Philip's. St. John's did not seem to have suffered from want of rain at all, and the crops there (including ratoons) were excellent. During the past week light showers had been frequent, and they had done much good in keeping the canes moist and green. When Mr. Alleyne closed his letter, the weather was beautifully cool, trade winds generally prevailing.

The news of the continuation of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for a further period of five years, aided by a substantial contribution from the Imperial Government, had given the greatest satisfaction. The Commissioner of Agriculture attended a meeting of the Agricultural Society on November 23rd, when Professor d'Albuquerque read the report of his and Mr. Bovell's experiments on seedling canes during the past year. The annual Agricultural Show was to be held this year at the house and grounds of Queen's House on December 12th.

The Elections in British Guiana.

We are informed by Mr. J. C. McCowan, who wrote on November 23rd, that the names of the new Members of the Court of Policy are as follows: Mr. George Garnett and Mr. P. Dargun, Georgetown; Mr. M. A. Gonsalves, East Demerara; Mr. A. B. Brown, West Demerara; Mr. R. G. Duncan, N.W. Essequibo; Mr. P. N. Brown, S.E. Essequibo; Mr. J. P. Santos, Berbice; Mr. C. P. Gaskin, New Amsterdam; and an addition for the Combined Court; the Hon. A. P. Mackey, Georgetown; Mr. J. Wood Davis, Demerara; Mr. S. E. Wills, Berbice; Mr. A. A. Thorne, N.E. Essequibo; Mr. F. Dix, S.E. Essequibo.

The sugar market was weaker, and only \$1.85 was spoken of on the 23rd. Grinding operations were in full swing, but the quality of the juice was still poor. The weather for the first part of the fortnight had been dry, but during the week they had had some very good rains, which had been of great benefit to the May and June canes.

At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society on November 15th, the question of the representation of the Colony at the Liverpool Colonial Exhibition was under consideration. Mr. Howell Jones made some interesting remarks regarding the preparation of orange, lemon, lime oils, and fibre rope, and he also strongly advocated the Colony adopting the local rubber tree, *Sapium Jenmani*, rather than sending outside for *Hevea brasiliensis* and other forms of rubber. In a letter to the *Daily Chronicle* subsequently, Mr. Bartlett, the Government Botanist, controverted the latter views, and considered that although *Sapium* gave a good commercial rubber, little was known about it, and that *Hevea* in the present state of knowledge offered a better chance of success.

The accounts of the Georgetown cricket club, which had been published, showed a satisfactory state of affairs, receipts amounting to \$4,447. The takings at the bar increased by \$228. The actual expenditure for the past season amounted to \$3,965, and it was estimated that at September 30th, 1907, there would be a total surplus of \$2,953.

The prospects of Dominica limes.

It was a satisfaction wrote Mr. E. A. Agar to see limes regularly quoted in the trade circulars and the *Produce Markets Review*. Dominica can supply limes practically all the year round; from February to May inclusive good matured fruit is scarce as a rule, but can be obtained. But as the interior of the Island is planted up where the rainfall differs, this difficulty will probably disappear, and also, as far as experience goes, picking the fruit before it is ripe gives the tree a tendency to continuous bearing rather than to produce defined crops. Near the coast, limes produced during the "off" months are smaller, and probably slightly more acid, on account of the lesser rainfall.

The Governor, Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott, was in the Island on an official visit, and was likely to remain for a week. Mr. Agar regretted to announce the death of Mr. Philip F. Cox, J.P., of Belvedere Estate, on November 14th, under peculiarly sad circumstances. Mr. Cox left his house as usual in the morning to superintend the work of the estate, and as he failed to return a search was made, and his body eventually recovered from the sea at the foot of a high cliff near which he was last seen. It is presumed that while taking a short cut along a dangerous path his foot slipped, with fatal results. Mr. Cox went to Dominica some twelve years ago, and had always been recognised as a very capable man, a reputation he fully bore out on the few occasions on which he cared to bring himself prominently before the public. It was his able paper on praedial larceny before the Agricultural Society which started the agitation that induced the West India Committee to ask for a Royal Commission on the subject, and which had resulted in their present Praedial Larceny Act, and Mr. Cox's excellent work in connection with hurricane insurance was too well known to require further mention. Few travellers, whether residents in the Island or visitors, were allowed to pass Mr. Cox's residence without partaking of his hospitality.

Ample rains had fallen during the past fortnight.

The Jamaica Fruit Contrast.

Mr. J. L. Ashenheim reported that nice, sunny weather was being experienced, which was much wanted after the rains, and formed ideal weather for the growing crops. A company for the manufacture of jippi-jappa hats had been formed in Kingston, and a factory was being located in Port Royal Street. A meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, with the Governor in the chair, had been held, and a letter from Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co. expressing disappointment that the 600 ft. and 700 ft. of space reserved for Jamaica fruit in the "Port Kingston" and "Port Henderson" respectively had not been utilized, and a committee, consisting of Mr. Craig, Mr. Muirhead, and Dr. Pringle, was appointed to go into the matter.

A letter had appeared in the papers from a Baron Gustave de Corioles, in which was advocated the establishment of central sugar factories to ship concentrated juice, prepared so as to make white sugar of the first quality, instead of raw sugars.

First Rubber Shipped from St. Lucia.

The first shipment of *Castilleja* rubber from the Colony came home from the Colony by the same mail as Mr. George S. Hudson's letter, which is dated November 26th. Mr. Ballou, the Entomologist of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, had again visited the Colony to investigate the effects of "thrips" on unhealthy cacao trees. The Agricultural Society lately sold at auction an imported Hereford bull, which for four years had done good service in the Island, in order to make room for fresh importations of pedigree stock. Three Toffenburg goats were recently imported by the Society from Barbados.

Since last mail the weather had been favourable to crops, light rains being interspersed with sunshine.

The progress of Cotton in St. Vincent.

Mr. W. N. Sands reported on November 25th that the weather had been favourable during the fortnight for the reaping of arrowroot and cotton picking. Arrowroot was now being dug on most estates. At the present time much information as to yield was not obtainable, but from what Mr. Sands could gather the crop was not likely to be a heavy one. Cotton picking was in full swing also, and so far no trouble had been encountered in the matter of labour. The high price obtained for their best cotton was always a matter taken hold of by agitators in order to stir up labour difficulties, but when it was remembered that, owing to the heavy rainfall of the Island, the proportion of first-class quality, and that the rate paid for picking was the usual one throughout the West Indies, and at such rate more money could be earned per day than at any other local industry, agitations in favour of higher rates could not reasonably hold ground at the present time. It was to be hoped, however, that there would be no trouble, for if everything went well this season, instead of having in 1533 acres, planters should have in double this area next season, and instead of an estimated output of 600 to 700 bales only—1500 should and could be the number—then the Island would be in a fair way towards regaining its prosperity. The important work of selecting special cotton plants for seed had been carried out on five estates by the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. This work was of the utmost importance if the quality of their cotton was to be kept up. The rise in price of cotton this season augured well for growers.

Crop Conditions in Trinidad.

The adjourned debate on Mr. McCarthy's report on the labour question was on the agenda paper for the meeting of the Legislative Council held on November 5th, but it was again postponed indefinitely.

The Hon. G. T. Fenwick, writing on November 26th, said that the past fortnight had continued dry and hot until within the last two or three days, during which there had been some nice showers, and as yet no damage to young fruit has been reported. New crop pickings seemed to have begun on the largest estates; these, however, had been very small, and receipts from the country were in consequence far less than was anticipated. With London recording another rise during the current week, prices which were already very high had again moved up. Venezuelas, of which some fine lots arrived, had also met with advanced prices. From the Continent there had been some bids at fair prices, but no business had resulted, buyers in the Colony not seeming at all willing to make contracts at the moment for futures.

		SHIPMENTS.			
Totals at last report	...	129,725	Trinidad	37,584	Venezuela.
Nov. 12th.—S.S. "Grenada"	...	1,599	"	262	"
" 13th.—S.S. "Tagus"	...	15	"	—	New York.
" 17th.—S.S. "Prinz Fred Hendrik"	...	105	"	34	Europe.
" 17th.—S.S. "Venezuela"	...	50	"	—	"
Total to date	...	131,491	"	37,880	"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Sugar Canes in Egypt.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I notice in a recent number of your *Circular* reference made to the sugar cane, in which its original habitat is given as the far East. I have seen up the White Nile, starting from about 250 miles south of Khartoum and reaching as far as Lake No. growing on the banks of the river, vast quantities of what the Arabs called "oom soof," and which I was told was a species of wild cane. The bases of the leaves envelop the main stem, while the whole plant is covered with fine hairs which easily rub off. Is this the true cane? If so, the fact would point to its being indigenous to Egypt.

I am, &c.,

L. LOAT.

[Mr. W. G. Freeman informs us that the growth our correspondent refers to is not a species of sugar cane, but a reed, *Panicum pyramidale*, a near relative of the guinea grass which is so extensively cultivated in the West Indies for fodder.—ED.]

Mosquitoes and Malaria.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR.

Sir,—I note under "Letters to the Editor," in the *West India Committee Circular* of November 6th, one on "Mosquitoes and Malaria," and it is strange that so many imagine that all of the West India Islands are places where all kinds of noxious insects have their home. I can honestly say that no healthier Island exists than Jamaica, which has been my home for the past seven years; and mosquitoes are an unknown quantity in almost every section of this beautiful country, and as for malaria, no one ever thinks about such a disease; our houses are built for ventilation, and if mosquitoes were so bad as some imagine, we would have to construct our abodes on the same plan as our unfortunate friends who live along the coast of Florida, where I resided for eleven years, and where mosquitoes made life unbearable from May until October, and to allow a door or a window to be left open in that country meant torture even when not asleep; and during the *days* in Florida, a Palmetto brush would have to be kept going to prevent thousands of them literally eating one up. During my residence in Jamaica I have never been troubled with these pests, and we sleep without nets and the windows wide open at all times; on the whole living in this Island is very pleasant, and becomes more enjoyable after the first year so soon as one's blood becomes thinner, as one does not then feel the heat so much.

Poor Jamaica is many times hally spoken about, and she does not deserve one-tenth of the uncharitable things that are said about her. This Island is destined to become of considerable importance in the next few years, and if we had the proper class of settlers who would *mine and work* and produce many staples that are remunerative, Jamaica would be better off; but it seems that young men of to-day are afraid to soil their hands and wear shabby clothes, and whilst they are living and wasting their opportunities at home, Jamaica is missing the prosperity that they would, in a measure, assist in bringing to one of the most beautiful Islands on earth.

These same young men will say they have no capital. If they can manage to save enough to feed themselves for a couple of years they need but little else save their hands and energy, and if there is a willingness to make a success, they will in time find that their labour has been productive, and with economy success will have been attained, but after all it depends on the young man, and if he is easily discouraged, my advice is to remain at home and never venture out alone.

I suppose I shall be asked to point out some plan by which a young man can make a start in Jamaica without capital, but that will necessitate too long a letter, and the plans I would propose would not meet with favour from one young man in one hundred—the struggle will be too hard, and if these same young gentlemen cannot accept my recipe, I will again caution them to remain away from the Isle of Springs.

November 21st, 1906.

Very truly yours,

G. L. LUCAS.

OUR LIBRARY.

We shall be glad to receive copies of publications regarding the West Indies, and photographs of scenery or of local events of topical interest for our Library.

The *International Sugar Journal*. This publication for December has a short article on the Canadian Sugar Question, in which it is pointed out that the duty on refined sugar is out of all proportion to that on raw, to the great

advantage of the refiner, who further gains from the operation of the preferential tariff, through the supply of British raw sugar being greater than the demand. Dr. F. G. Winchmann gives a further contribution in connection with "Electro-Decolorization." Mr. W. E. Desplace summarizes Dr. Maxwell's "Report on the Government Central Sugar Mills of Queensland," while Mr. Edwin F. Smith's paper from the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association Bulletin on the "Cause of Cobb's Disease of the Sugar Cane" is concluded. An extremely interesting article is by H. Pellet, who deals with a recent article of Mr. Prisms Gaurling on the "Composition of the Fibre of the Sugar-Cane," and its value as fuel, in which it is pointed out that although the theoretic heat value of megass is practically the same, its actual fuel value differs.

The Grenada Handbook, Directory and Almanac, 1907. London: Wyman & Sons, Ltd. We have before had occasion to praise this admirable publication, which, if only it had an alphabetical index, would be a model of what a Directory should be. Ably edited by the Hon. Edward Drayton, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, it contains everything that is worth knowing about Grenada and the Grenadines. We have submitted it to a careful scrutiny in order to test its accuracy, and it has emerged without a stain on its character. Among the useful features which appear are lists of the flora and fauna of the Colony, and there is also an annotated schedule of the 120 and odd trees and shrubs growing in Grenada which are of medicinal or economic value. The frontispiece in this, the twelfth issue of the Directory, is of more than usual interest, representing as it does, Mr. James Gordon-Bennett and party at Government House with the first motor car which has ever set wheel in Grenada. There is also a plan of the boundaries of the Grand Etang Crown Lands, prepared by Mr. J. Landreth Smith, the Government Surveyor.

The Keeper's Book, by A. Stodart Walker and P. Jeffrey Mackie. Edinburgh: G. A. Morton. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Ltd. This excellent work, which has now run into a fourth edition, contains, in addition to the matter supplied by the authors, special chapters by experts on the subjects of which they treat. It is, as the title denotes, written especially for keepers, and from the delineation of the attributes of the ideal keeper, to a chapter on the subject of "Baksheesh," gives information on almost every imaginable point which comes under the head of the duty of this valuable class of the community. Not only are practical hints supplied on all descriptions of sport, but points in law in connection with a gamekeeper's duties, and the manner of dealing with vermin, are succinctly laid down. Apart from the well-known abilities of the authors to treat on the subject which they have themselves taken in hand, the fact of Lord Douglas Graham, Capt. H. Shaw Kennedy, Dr. Charles Reid, John Lamb, P. D. Mallock, Tom Speedy, Henry Lamond, and others being contributors is an additional guarantee of the value of the matter supplied. The work is dedicated "To all good keepers who know their work, and to all indifferent ones who do not;" but we should like to add that the work should be in the hands of every devotee of gun and rod in this country.

MR. PUNCH ON THE WEST INDIES,



COLD COMFORT.

Visitor to the West Indies (who has been warned against bathing in the river because of alligators, but has been told by the boatman that there are none at the river's mouth). "By Jove, this is ripping! But, I say, how do you know there are no alligators here?"

Boatman: "Well, you see, sab, the alligator am so turr ble feared of the Shark!"
(By permission of the proprietors of "Punch").

NOTES OF INTEREST.

VOLUME XXI. With the present issue Vol. XXI. of the "West India Committee Circular" is completed and with the next number, which will be the first of Vol. XXII., the index will be published. Special lettered binding cases can be obtained, post free, 2/6, and readers can have their copies bound for the inclusive charge of 3/- on sending them to the West India Committee Rooms.

STILL ANOTHER. The Trinidad-Demerara cable was interrupted at 8.30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 3rd, but communication was restored at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5th.

FOR OUR COLLECTION. We have to thank the Rev. L. B. Thomas, of Nevis, for some very interesting small photographs of the Agricultural Show held this year in that Island.

AD HOMINEM. In a spirited letter to the *Signal de Genève*, M. Negreiros, protesting against the statements made regarding the labour question in San Thomé and Príncipe, refers to the West India Committee as a "Comité de quakers de Londres."

DUTY FREE. Under the terms of the amended Canadian Tariff, oranges, limes, and lemons formerly dutiable at 25 cents a box of 2½ cubic ft. capacity, are to be admitted into the Dominion free of duty. Uncleaned rice or paddy is also placed on the free list.

CORRECTION. Owing to an obvious printer's error, Sir Nevile Lubbock, in our report of the annual meeting of the New Colonial Company, is stated to have said that the cost of a modern milling plant for sugar estate work was £3,000—instead of £30,000.

CACAO CONTENTS. The cacao of some of the most important factories in Holland has been found, says the *World's Commercial Products*, to contain 29% to 30% of fat, 14% to 18% of albumenoids; 3% to 6% of ash; 4% to 5% of water; 0.6% to 1.5% of theobromine; the rest consisting of starch.

COTTON IMPORTS. During the fortnight ended December 13th, 32 bales of West Indian cotton were imported into the United Kingdom. Good medium is quoted in Liverpool 6.50d. per lb.; West Indian Sea Island, good medium, 18½d. per lb.; medium fine, 19½d. per lb.; fine, 21d. per lb.; and extra fine, 25d. per lb.

CANADA AND THE W.I. A party of Canadian commercial men will visit the West Indies this winter in the interests of trade between Canada and the British West Indies. The gentlemen composing the deputation will sail by Messrs. Pickford & Black's steamer the "Olenda," leaving Halifax on the 15th of February next. There is no doubt that the delegates will be well received in the West Indies, and it is hoped that improved commercial relations will result.

APPOINTMENTS. The attention of those of our readers who require managers, overseers, engineers, clerks, &c., for their estates, is called to the list of applicants for such appointments, which appears on page viii., of this issue. Full particulars regarding the insertion of advertisements under the heading "Appointments Wanted," or "Estates, &c., for Sale," can be obtained from the Advertisement Manager, the West India Committee Rooms, 15, Seething Lane, E.C.

PLANTERS AND PUPILS. Being constantly asked for the names of planters willing to receive pupils or visitors on their estates for a small premium or weekly payment, it has been decided to insert advertisements from such planters for the nominal sum of 10s. per annum in a special column which will be provided for this purpose. It is believed that this will be the means of placing intending settlers into communication with the planters in the West Indies, and will prove of mutual advantage, and from the number of enquiries which have been received, there is no doubt whatever that this arrangement will prove advantageous if generally supported and taken up.

AUSTRIAN SUGAR. The results of the working of the two Austrian sugar factories, the Rohrbach Refinery and the Boemische Zuckerindustrie Gesellschaft at Prague, show considerable loss on last year's working, the deficit for the former being 242,531 crowns (£10,104) and for the latter 405,722 crowns (£16,902). These figures, says the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, appear to justify fully the formation of the Austria-Hungarian cartel which has recently been formed. The creation of this cartel has had the effect of a motion being brought forward in the Chamber of Deputies on October 5th last, to lower the excise tax of 38 crowns per 100 kilos to 26 crowns on sugar in loaves and cubes, and to 10 crowns on other sorts, the object being to paralyse attempts to raise the price of sugar artificially by cartels. In discussing the matter, Dr. Korytowski pointed out that although the Government were powerless to repress cartels, the Brussels Convention had limited their action by reducing the Customs duty to 6 fr. per 100 kilos, and that the working of any agreement among the refiners would be limited by this figure, there being no relation between the operations of the cartel and the amount of the excise tax. He regretted that the conditions of the finances would not admit of any reduction on the latter, and he did not think that the increase in consumption would compensate the Government for lowering the tax.

THE EDITOR'S DIARY.

Under this heading we record the principal events of general interest from a West Indian standpoint, which occur during the fortnight under review, with the object of facilitating reference to the newspapers received by the mail, and of keeping our readers across the sea posted as to current events.

Tues., Dec. 4.—Court Martial on Lieut. Collard in connection with the Portsmouth mutiny concluded.—Sir Lewis Mitchell on the Cape to Cairo Railway at the Society of Arts.—Colonial fruit exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall.—80% beet, 9s. 2d., quiet.

Wed., Dec. 5.—President Roosevelt's message to Congress given in the *Times*.—British Preference proposals passed the Dominion House of Commons.—The R.M.S. "Port Royal" arrived at Avonmouth.—Beet, 9s. 1½d., steady.

- Thur., Dec. 6.—Banquet of the British Cotton Growing Association in Manchester.—Beet 9s 1½d quiet
 Fri., Dec. 7.—Shocks of earthquake reported to have occurred in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Barbados.—Beet, 9s. 1½d., quiet.
 Sat., Dec. 8.—The R.M.S.P. "Trent," homeward, left New York, 3 p.m.—Beet (morning call) 9s. 0½d., quiet
 Mon., Dec. 10.—Nobel peace prize awarded to President Roosevelt.—The R.M.S.P. "Atrato" arrived Southampton.—The R.M.S.P. "Magdalena" outward arrived Barbados 6 p.m.—Beet, 8s. 11d., quiet
 Tues., Dec. 11.—Mr. Arthur W. Beckwith's lecture on the Colonial Press at the Royal Colonial Institute.—Beet, 8s. 11½d., steady.
 Wed., Dec. 12.—New constitution of the Transvaal published as a Parliamentary paper.—The R.M.S.P. "La Plata" homeward left Barbados 8 a.m.—Beet, 8s. 10½d., easier
 Thur., Dec. 13.—Peregrinary dissolution of the Reichstag by the Kaiser.—Beet, 8s. 10d., dull.
 Fri., Dec. 14.—The King and Queen of Norway left London on their return to Norway.—The West Riding judgment reversed by the House of Lords.—Beet, 8s. 8½d., quiet.
 Sat., Dec. 15.—The R.M.S. "Port Royal" left Avonmouth.—The Great Northern, Focadilly and Brompton Railway opened.—Trams on the Embankment in London started.—Beet (morning call), 8s. 8d., quiet
 Mon., Dec. 17.—Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.'s new steamer "Salaga" launched.

COMING EVENTS.

Under this heading we shall be glad to insert notices of forthcoming meetings and fixtures likely to be of interest to those connected with the West Indies. The co-operation of our readers is invited.

DAILY (Sun. excepted)—Mr. West's animated photographs of the West Indies at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, at 3 p.m.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Under this heading we shall endeavour to answer any questions which may be put to us on matters of scientific, commercial or agricultural interest in connection with the West Indies. Readers asking such questions are requested to mark their envelopes "Enquiries." Every effort will be made to print the replies to questions sent in before Friday, in the issue of THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR published on the following Tuesday. Correspondents requiring an answer by post are requested to enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for reply.

W. A. R.—Macknight's work on "Food for the Tropics" gives the Pomelo as being another term for the Shaddock, but it is more commonly applied to the grape-fruit in the West Indies

Tourist.—You need have no fear in connection with the West Indian climate. As a whole, even taking into consideration what is commonly known as the sickly season, and the enormous infant mortality from neglect, the death rate is little, if at all, above that of the United Kingdom. In the winter months the climate compares favourably with any in the world.

THE WEST INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

We invite the assistance of our Members with a view to making our record of movements of Civil Servants, in and connected with the British West Indies, as full and complete as possible.

Mr. N. Cox, Commissary of Taxation, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for six months from November 19th.

The Hon. N. DARNELL DAVIS, C.M.G., Auditor-General, British Guiana, has returned to the Colony from leave of absence and resumed the duties of his office.

The Governor has been pleased to recognise **Mr. S. H. McCORMICK** as Acting Consul for Panama during the absence from Barbados of **Mr. F. N. MARTÍNEZ**.

During the absence from St. Vincent of the **Hon. J. C. PORTER**, **Mr. THOMAS R. NAIK** has been appointed to act as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. W. F. SMART, L.R.C.S., &c., Government Medical Officer, British Guiana, has been granted an extension of leave of absence for three months from December 25th next.

His Excellency the Governor of British Guiana has received a Warrant under His Majesty's Sign Manual and Signet for the re-appointment of the **Hon. B. HOWELL JONES** and the **Hon. D. M. HUTTON, K.C.**, to be Members of the Executive Council of the Colony.

THE MAILS.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), December 10th.—**Mr. C. W. Anderson**, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Master d'Albuquerque, **Mr. Bishop**, **Mr. E. G. Clairmonte**, **Mr. Juan de Gutierrez**, **Rev. W. H. Parker**, **Mrs. G. C. de Rinzev** and child, **Mr. H. S. Smith**, **Mr. Seni**, **Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Watson**, **Mr. H. Woodall**, **Mr. T. M. Macdonald**, **Mr. A. Bartet**, **Mr. and Mrs. A. Carrigosa**, **Mr. L. Platon**, **Mr. A. Vidal**, **Mr. A. Contini**, **Mr. Bernard**, **Mr. L. H. Callender**, **Mr. Abdul Ghotur**, **Mr. E. Jiminus**, **Mr. A. Kilbane**, **Mr. P. C. Ash**, **Mr. O. Bengtson**, **Mr. T. Collins**, **Mr. Cole**, **Mr. O. Kilberg**, **Mr. S. Matthews**, **Mr. T. Olsen**, **Mr. W. E. Plowman**, **Mr. G. F. Robinson**, **Capt. W. C. Smith**, **Mr. J. Madahl**, **Mr. N. Nilsen**, **Mr. J. Pedersen**, **Mr. G. Pedersen**, **Mr. S. Thorsen**.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Atrato" (Capt. H. J. Boby), December 10th.—**Mr. Eric H. Streatfield**, **Major Edward Beecher**, **Mr. Charles Freeman**, **Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hargreave** and son, **Sir Frederick Treves, Bart.**, **Lady Treves**, **Mr. E. S. Ruano**, **Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Tennant**, **Miss J. Tennant**, **Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Shepherd**, **Mr. and Mrs. Hoad**, **Mr. J. Lemmermann**, **Hon. W. S. and Mrs. Robertson**, **Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Kaye** and three children, **Major J. R. King**, **Col. the Hon. E. A. Palk** and **Mrs. Palk**, **Mr. C. Romero**, **Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Clarke**, **Mr. Sidney W. Clarke**, **Mr. Albert White**, **Mr. W. Emery Stark**, **Mrs. Young**, **Col. Fredk. H. Ward**, **Mrs. Kirkland**, **Mrs. String**, **Mr. C. A. Bartlett**.

Mr. Wilhelm Jurgens, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Venables Kyrke, Mr. Joo. W. Taylor, Mrs. Langlands Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Porter, Miss J. Tracy, Miss G. Bateman, Mr. Ferdinand T. Bishop, Mr. Gutierrez, Mr. Percy A. Arthur, the Hon. Thos. Cochrane, M.P., Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Emil Burton, Mr. Richard Sellers, Mrs. G. Tait, Miss M. Tait, Mr. H. Boon, Mr. Frederick H. L. Morgan.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per "R.M.S.P. "Thames" (Capt. Rudge), January 2nd, 1907.—His Excellency Ralph Williams, C.M.G., Mrs. Ralph Williams, Miss D. Dean, Mr. Hamilton Dean, A.D.C., Mr. Thomas Fitzherbert, Mr. Arthur Chamberlain, Miss M. Chamberlain, Mrs. Nettlefold, Mr. Edward Packard, Mr. E. B. Jarvis, His Honour Mr. Justice Smith, Mrs. Smith, and three children, Miss Mann, Mr. Norman Lamont, Miss Landale, Mr. Paul von R. Garozynski, Major-Genl. Jas. C. Dalton, R.A., Captain Vandaleur, R.A., Major Edwin B. Cook, Col. and Mrs. Hickman Morgan, Captain Chas. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Crush and two children, Miss Lamont, Mrs. Oliphant and child, Miss G. Hambury, Rev. Canon Sloman, Mrs. Sloman, Col. Sir H. Hozier, Mr. G. W. Wolff, M.P., Miss May, Sir T. C. Rayner, K.C.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S.P. "Trust" (Capt. A. D. Dix), January 16th.—Mrs. C. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. C. Grieve, Mr. Walter Shepherd, Miss G. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. F. Morgan, Miss F. W. Burton, Mr. Rolt Boyle, Mr. G. E. S. Fryer, Mr. Fryer, Junr., Major and Mrs. Montgomerie, Mr. Charles Parke, Mr. J. Ivelaw Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Obregon, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Burton, Lt. Col. H. G. Barrowes, R.F.A., Miss Murley, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Kennaway, Rev. Edward Sutton, Miss Sutton, Gen. Sir Oriel V. Tanner, K.C.B., Lady Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. Ridwale, Mrs. O'Neale, Mr. P. J. Whitaker, Rev. Father Hyacinth L. Koss, Mr. Geo. Moody Stuart, Mr. Nathaniel Ross, Mr. Chas. T. Maw, Miss J. Maw, Mr. Paul Van Tieghe de Ten Bergha, two Misses Herry, Mr. H. B. Phillips, Professor J. P. d'Albuquerque, Master d'Albuquerque, Major Chas. C. W. Vesey, Miss da Costa, Mr. H. W. Hartridge, Dr. and Mrs. Argyll Robertson, Mr. Wm. B. Scott.

The Imperial Direct West India Mail Co., Ltd.—HOME ARRIVALS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), December 5th.—Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Gooden Chisholm, Mr. E. G. Ford, Mrs. J. Douglas Miliken, Mr. C. F. Rawson, Serg. and Mrs. Hornby, C. S. M. McKenzie and Wife, Mr. John Shaw, Mr. J. Williams.

SAILINGS per R.M.S. "Port Royal" (Capt. Owen Jones), December 15th. **Jamaica**—Mr. B. Avery, Dr. C. Van den Biesen, Mr. J. H. Clerk, Mrs. Clerk, Mr. W. S. Campbell, Mr. E. W. Cooke, Lieut. A. H. Dixon, Mr. H. H. Etheridge, Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P., Rear-Admiral E. C. Hulton, R.N., Mrs. Hulton, Mr. A. E. G. Hulton, Mrs. Lopez and two children, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Mackenzie, Miss Orrett, Mr. and Mrs. Potter, Mr. A. H. Pearce, Miss Lawrence Tate, Mrs. Vickess, Mr. C. Bryan, Miss C. Coverley, Mr. Godfrey, Mr. J. T. Loncke, Rev. Martin, Mr. Masters, Mr. R. B. Nicholson, Mr. C. H. Bailey.

OUTWARD BOOKINGS per R.M.S. "Port Kingston" (Capt. J. G. Parsons), December 29th. **Jamaica**—Mr. A. J. G. Austin, Mrs. Austin and Child, Captain and Mrs. Abel, Miss Bles, Mr. Louis O'Connell, Mr. T. W. Carr, Miss Copeland, Miss Cotterell, Miss Cousin, the Right Hon. the Earl of Dudley, the Countess of Dudley, Mr. A. N. Dixon, Mr. I. J. Davis, Mr. W. Howell Davies, M.P., the Hon. E. Ellis, Mr. Crum Ewing, Miss Crum Ewing, Mr. Ford, Right Hon. Arnold Foster, M.P., Mrs. Arnold Foster and child, Mrs. A. Gill, Mr. H. Gaze, Mr. Hutton, Rev. W. Head, Miss Head, Miss Huxtable, Miss F. Eleanor K. Hall, Mrs. W. H. Kerr, Mr. E. H. Hudson Kmahlan, Rev. B. J. Lower, Miss Landale, Miss Leigh, the Hon. Alex. McDonnell, Mr. J. E. Mackenzie, Master W. Munn, Master D. Munn, Mr. James Parkinson, Mr. H. Ormely, Mr. J. H. Havard Protheroe, Mr. A. Pawsey, Miss Pawsey, Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G., Mrs. Pearson, Captain W. W. Rhodes, Mr. Louis Rivett, Mr. H. J. Rudolf, Miss D. Randall, Mrs. and Miss Rae, Mr. C. H. Rugg, Dr. Thomas Savage, Mr. M. C. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. Sidebottom, two Misses Sidebottom, the Hon. Mrs. French and Child, Mr. Todd, Miss Vaughan, Lieut. A. C. Ward, Mrs. Ward, Mr. Wright, Mrs. Wright. **Barbados**—Mr. W. Abbott, Mrs. W. Abbott, Miss Carter.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.

Outward Mails.

Date.	Destination.	Port of Dep.	Company.	Packet.	Closing for Letters in Ldn.
Dec. 19	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica, and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Atrato"	Dec. 18, noon
" 22	Barbados and Trinidad	Liverpool	Leyland Line	"Barbadian"	" 21, 6 p.m.
" 22	Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad	"Dartmouth	Direct Line	"Statia"	" 21, noon.
" 28	Barbados, Trinidad and Demerara, and other West India Islands	Glasgow	Direct Line	"Salybia"	" 27, 6 p.m.
" 29	Barbados and Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Kingston"	" 28, 16 p.m.
Jan. 2	Barbados (for St. Vincent, Grenada, and Demerara), St. Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"Thames"	Jan. 1, noon

* Letters to be addressed per private S.S. "Statia" via Dartmouth.
 † Letters to be addressed per private S.S. "Salybia."
 ‡ In E.C. District up to 8 p.m.

Homeward Mails.

Date.	Where From.	Port of Arrival.	Company.	Packet.
Dec. 24	The West Indies	Southampton	R.M.S.P.Co.	"La Plata"
Jan. 2	Jamaica	Avonmouth	I.D.W.I.M.S.	"Port Henderson"

WEATHER TELEGRAMS.

Barbados (Messrs Wilkinson & Gaviller), December 13th. "Weather all that can be desired.
British Guiana (Messrs. Booker Bros., McConnell & Co., Ltd.), December 10th. "Some rain has

THE PRODUCE MARKETS' SUMMARY.

Sugar.—The one important question which is affecting the Market at the present time is the Cuba crop now started. Extravagant guesses are being made by authorities in the Island, suggesting a possible yield of 1,500,000 tons, or say 300,000 tons over last year. This may possibly prove correct if they have six months favourable weather and if the labour question does not upset their optimistic views, two very important items in such a question as this. To gauge the extent of a beet root crop to be worked in three months, after the first month's results have become known, is not an impossible task, but to fix the amount of a tropically grown crop needing six months for its production is a task that should tax the prophetic spirit of the most venturesome of writers. This is the more difficult in the case of this season's Cuba crop, for apart from the question of the weather, the uncertainties surrounding labour leave many loopholes through which half a million tons could easily slip. It will be wise, therefore, to watch with a jealous eye all that takes place in that Island during the progress of the crop, for on that depends the course of prices for the spring and summer of next year. In the meantime Refiners and the Trade continue their hand to mouth policy in buying, and will doubtless do so for a long time to come. With fluctuations, 88% beet marks a decline of 4½d for the fortnight.

The quotations of 88% beet on the 17th December, were:—December, 8s. 7½d.; January/March, 8s. 10½d.; May, 9s. 0½d.; August, 9s. 2½d., and October/December, 1907, 8s. 11½d., all free on board, Hamburg.

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

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons
Europe	2,920,000	2,970,000	2,630,000	3,150,000	3,000,000	
United States	130,000	180,000	110,000	100,000	150,000	
Cuba... ..	—	60,000	—	120,000	50,000	
Abroad	30,000	10,000	40,000	70,000	50,000	
Total	3,080,000	3,220,000	2,780,000	3,480,000	3,250,000	
Quotations of 88% Beet, 17th Dec. :—	8s. 7½d.	8s. 2d.	13s. 9½d.	8s. 4½d.	8s. 2½d.	

Vacuum Pan Sugar.—Deliveries continue large, as will be seen by the statement at foot, and the excellent quality of the Demerara sugar arriving this season has proved very attractive to the Trade, and has readily been absorbed at prices ranging from 16s. 6d. to 17s. 9d., raising the value of average qualities to 16s. 9d. The duties, too, have been generally low, some of the best not exceeding 3s. 5d. This is especially satisfactory in the face of the fact that refined *importations* are selling at 15s. 3d. The value of a 95 centrifugal cargo to refiners remains about 10s. 3d. on floating terms in bond.

Molasses Sugar.—Dark qualities testing 76 to 78 are in excellent demand from 11s. 6d. to 12s. duty paid, but grocery kinds go off slowly. The value of 89 test to arrive is about 8s. 3d. in bond on floating conditions.

Muscovado.—Grocery kinds are nominally worth 14s. 6d. to 15s. duty paid, and 89 test to Refiners about 9s. in bond on floating terms.

West India Figures since 1st Jan.:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons.
Imports	49,000	33,000	40,000	23,000	58,000	
Deliveries	47,000	39,000	46,000	40,000	42,000	
Stocks, 10th Dec.	11,000	9000	7000	12,000	29,000	
Quotations of average qualities, 17th Dec.:	16s. 9d.	15s. 0d.	22s. 0d.	15s. 9d.	14s. 9d.	

Rum.—Board of Trade Returns for 11 months:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Galls.
Home Consumption	3,498,000	3,466,000	3,466,000	3,466,000	3,466,000	
Stocks 30th Nov.	6,799,000	7,393,000	7,393,000	7,393,000	7,393,000	
Stocks in London:—10th Dec.	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Jamaica	7500	7500	7500	7500	7500	
Demerara	3100	4200	4800	4800	4800	
Total of all kinds	17,600	19,000	20,600	20,600	20,600	

Demerara is in good demand, and about 1000 puns out of recent landings have been sold at the satisfactory range of 1s. 4d. to 1s. 3½d. Jamaica continues steady, with Standard Home Trade Marks at 2s. 3d. Leewards and other Foreign kinds are quoted 1s. to 1s. 4d. Home Consumption remains stationary (see Board of Trade Returns for 11 months printed above).

Cocoa.—Board of Trade Returns for 11 months:

	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	Tons.
Imports	21,850	21,442	21,442	21,442	21,442	
Home Consumption	18,478	18,474	18,474	18,474	18,474	
Stocks 30th Nov.	3150	4216	4216	4216	4216	
Stocks in London:—10th Dec.	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	
Trinidad	7700	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	
Grenada	4000	10,300	11,100	11,100	11,100	
Total of all kinds	45,600	61,600	61,600	61,600	61,600	

On the eve of the departure of the last Mail when this "Summary" was already in print, another important advance in prices was brought about by the necessities of our smaller Manufacturers compelling them to secure the few available lots of West India cocoa then on the Market. The tone since has become quieter and the present quotations are a little uncertain, viz. Trinidad fair collected, 85s., Estate Marks, 87s. to 92s.; Grenada fair, 75s. fermented, 77s. to 79s. From other Islands Native is worth about 75s. and fermented, 76s. to 79s. There is no increase in Consumption in this country, as is shown by the Board of Trade Returns printed above. The future course of prices is surrounded by much uncertainty.

Sundries.—Coffee: dull; good ordinary Jamaica, 41s. Nussongi irregular, large sales of West India, including 62's at 1s. 9d., 68's at 1s. 2d., 74's at 1s 4d., 81's at 9d., 93's at 7½d., 100's at 6½d., 100's at 6d., 120's at 5d., and small nuts from 4½d. to 4d. Mace: steady, fair to good pale sold at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d., dark to fair reddish, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d., and broken, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d. Pepper: dull, value, 2½d. to 3½d. Annamoor: steady, fair sales of manufacturing of Singapore and Penang, £24 10s. to £25.